

AWM52
2nd Australian Imperial Force and
Commonwealth Military Forces unit war
diaries, 1939-45 War

Item number: 8/3/54

15 Infantry Battalion

January 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 18.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 JAN 45 To 2 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 784674 29 Bde. Comd Sheet 2.	1 JAN.	1600 ^{lok}	<p>report to 011600L @ A. Coy @ patrol 1 NCO 1 SEC along TUJU RIVER to 795693 report nil enemy activity in area since last visit 22 DEC @ C. Coy @ patrol 1 offr (LT CONRAN) and 22 O.R's estab ambush on track at approx 795662 N.M.S. @ B and D Coy sitma.</p>	
	2 JAN.	1600 ^{lok}	<p>Works programme 1/5 JAN. report to 021600L @ A. Coy @ patrol 1 offr (LT ^{PHILLIPS} CONRAN) and one section reached 796692 N.M.S. @ C. Coy @ patrol 1 offr (LT MATTHEW) and 21 O.R's 3 NGIB s/b 23 natives contacted party of JAPS strength unknown at 795665 @ enemy posn engaged by mortar resulti undressed @ B and D Coy sitma</p>	Appx A.
		2100 ^{lok}	<p>Message 0282 from 29 Bde :- Orders @ 15 Bn will move one coy from 787684 to 777654 to complete defensive position</p>	

2 MAR 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

2
Army Form C. 2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 2 JAN 45 To 3 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN. H.Q. 784674 29 BDE. Comd SHEET 2.	2 JAN	^{WH} continued	as ordered by comd to C.O. 15 BN. 2 JAN @ move will be effected as follows:— boy less one pl to be in position by 041600 L remaining pl after relief has been effected by A. Coy 42 BN to be in position by 051600 L.	
	3 JAN	^{WH} 0730	Abeyaya 057 to A. Coy 15 BN @ A. Coy will move from present position to 777654 @ boy less one pl will be in position by 041600 L @ pl will be in position by 051600 L after relief by A. Coy 47 BN @	
		^{WH} 1600	situp to 031600 L @ A. Coy @ 0905 L 9 pl moved from coy area to 778655 @ B. Coy @ patrol 10 pl under comd LT. MOORE moved across TAVERA lagoon found track leading from 783661 @ track followed and contact made with GIBSON patrol from C. Coy at 795667 @ Patrol then moved on to C. Coy and back to B. Coy area @ C. Coy	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 3 JAN 45 To 4 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 784674 29 Bde Comd Sub 2.	3 JAN	continued WBV	Patrol 1 off (Lt GIBSON) and 39 OR's 1 NCB sgt 10 natives left coy area 0815 hr. At 794666 JAP sniper fired at patrol advance held up pending investigation @ MOORE patrol made contact at this point apparently noise made caused JAPS to flee as Lt GIBSON patrol then moved to 794659 without any further movement seen @ Ret'd coy area 1600 L @ D. Coy siting.	
		—	Routine Order part 1 - 1/45	Appx B.
	4 JAN	1600 WBV	siting to 041600 L @ A. Coy @ coy less 7 pl in position 778654 7 pl 785694 @ B. Coy @ in position 778651 @ 6 boy @ BEST patrol ret'd coy perimeter 1525 L @ at 795661 one JAP shot traces of blood found but no signs of body found @ one sec remained and remainder of pl moved fwd to track junc 795659 @ no further sign of enemy @	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 4 JAN 45 To 5 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 784674 29 Bde bond Shut 2.	4 JAN	continued <i>WR</i>	Bodies of 3 men killed 31 DEC recovered and buried at 795659 @ Equipment still on bodies @ JAPS had removed rations ammo weapons 3 pairs boots 1 pair socks 1 pair trousers and 3 berets @ D. Coy @ Coy less 18 pl in position 784677 18 pl 782665	
	5 JAN	1600 <i>WR</i>	Patrol li 1600 L @ A. Coy @ 1600 L movement from 787694 li 778655 completed Coy now complete this post @ Patrol Lt PHILLIPS and 9 pl li 770623 found bodies of 14 dead Japs killed in the action night 30/31 Dec @ 1 rifle and much equipment and documents captured @ B. Coy @ intra C. Coy @ patrol Lt GIBSON 34 O.R.'s estate ambush at loc 795661 @ one JAP sighted but escaped before any action could be taken otherwise NMS @ D. Coy @ patrol Lt COOPER 17 O.R.'s along MOORES TCK contacted C. Coy NMS.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form 2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AVST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 5 JAN 45. To 6 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ 784674 29 Ade bond Mud 2	5 JAN.	1815 <i>ph</i>	<p>Change 072 to All Coy :- Orders @ A.B.H.Q. Bn HQ coy will remain present location @ C. Coy will be relieved by D Coy @ relief to be complete by 061500L @ C. Coy less one pl will move to old D. Coy perimeter 784673 @ C. Coy one pl will provide protective ambush at 794661 to be withdrawn and at D. Coy 784673 by 061600L @ D. Coy less one pl will move and occupy perimeter 794666 @ perim will be fully developed before 061600L @ D. Coy one pl will occupy old C. Coy perimeter at 794669</p>	
	6 JAN	0915 <i>ph</i>	<p>47 BN @ occupied BASE A 770663 060915L @ further decomposed JAP bodies discovered @ total now 27 that area.</p>	
		1600 <i>ph</i>	<p>Relief to 1600L @ A. Coy @ THIRGOOD patrol contacted C. Coy retd Coy perimeter 061545L NMS @ C. Coy @ vacated perimeter by crossing 794668 coy now complete 785675 @ CONRAN patrol</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 6 JAN 45 To 6 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 784674 29 Bde bond sheet 2.	6 JAN	continued WH	contacted isolated JARS 7856 794666 withdrawn on relief sec patrol from D. Coy no com. D. Coy @ coy len 16 pl in posn 795666 16pl 794668 @ B. Coy @ predictive patrol for landing coy 47 Bn ret'd coy area 061600L NMS @ Adv Bn HQ now estab 778654 cor	
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bond sheet 2.		2010 WH	Message 077 to all coys:— ORDERS @ A. Coy @ one pl will move not before 070700L to 778648 to estab firm base @ pl will patrol from this perimeter to firm base D. Coy 47 Bn. at 770634 @ B Coy will contact A. Coy pl at firm base 778648 twice daily @ C. Coy will contact D. Coy 794668 between 070700L and 071600L mouth MOORES TRK @ C. Coy will provide carrying parties to D. Coy as req'd by Q.M. @ D. Coy will continue to develop perimeter and maintain security patrols fwd.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 6 JAN 45 To 7 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
ADV BN H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bond Shur 2.	6 JAN.	2205 <i>WRV</i>	<p>Message 079 to All Coy. : ORDERS to further to 077 @ A. Coy @ one pl will estab a defensive post BRUMBOY WING as already ordered @ one pl will patrol through BRUMBOY WING SW to contact. 47 Bn BASEA 770633 @ C. Coy pl has one sec will patrol NORTH along HARRISONS tch 795670 to 802692 @ Time out patrols 070700L time in 071600L @ 4 PL NG1B patrol 795670 to 860655 patrolling GRID LINE 78 @ remain observation creek 780639 between 070830L and 071500L @ Route out and in through B. Coy @ 5 BN @ D. Coy will provide firm base for 4 pl NG1B as required on MENDIA ROAD @</p>	
	7 JAN	0950 <i>WRV</i>	<p>Orders @ D. Coy will clear MENDIA RD of enemy to 805660 and estab a defensive post at 805660 @ Arty support at call F.O.O. D. Coy one Cp 2 Fd. REGT @ one pl to move</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. Bn. Date and Time.—From 7 JAN 45 To 7 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN H.Q. 778654 29 Bede Comd Sheet 2	7 JAN 45	continued <i>WR</i>	<p>immediately as fighting patrol followed by coy less one pl and coy B. Ech @ one pl will remain at log crossing to act as firm base @ action by coy will be offensive action and defensive posn will be estab by 071700L @ Abotian F.O.O. move with first pl @ boy will move not later than 071030L @ b. boy will be prepared to carry for D Coy as reqd @ pl at log crossing to be relieved by NG1B.</p> <p>1020 <i>WR</i></p> <p>Message 082 to A Coy @ A Coy will move to BRUMBYWING 778648 task responsible for constant patrolling SW to 47 Bn move to be compli by 071600L @ patrolling @ patrol along edge of swamp 785645 vic to river at 784639 thence along river to 47 Bn @ listening post will be manned by day and night @ A Coy under comd LACK GP @ one pl NG1B is moving to 782640 to estab a perimeter.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf Bn. Date and Time.—From 7 JAN 45. To 7 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ 778654 29 Bde Bond Mt 2.	7 JAN.	1500 <i>WR</i>	Message 083 to C.D. Coy @ Orders @ 1 pl C. Coy will move immediately to relieve pl D. Coy at LOG CROSSING to allow pl D. Coy to move fwd to D. Coy present position 795659 @ one pl C. Coy carry one days rations and will be relieved by NG1B.	
		1600 <i>WR</i>	rept. to 071600L @ A. Coy @ 1330 L Coy complete at BRUMBY WING 778648 @ B. Coy siting @ C. Coy @ Lt GIBSON 10 OR's patrolled MOORES TCK contacted 16 pl 1240L NMS @ BEST patrol ^{1 of 21 OR's} reported HARRISONS TCK not used for several months NMS @ D. Coy @ 1200L NG1B patrol in advance of D. Coy contacted JAP ambush at 794660 @ 071445L 17 pl contacted enemy and engaged @ NG1B with pl stati 1 JAP killed @ pl could not move fwd so withdrew to D. Coy perimeter present posn 794661 @	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 7 JAN 45. To 7 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ. 778654. 29 Bde Bond Street 2.	7 JAN.	continued WR	<p>own cas 3 slightly wounded enemy cas 1 killed 0 enemy fire power disclosed 1 LMG 2 OSMG 6 rifles 0 07^{13.50} 18 pl with 3 inch mortar moved out along track as taken by 17 pl 0 071745 L 16 pl after relief by 13 pl arrived coy perimeter 0 at 071745 L 17 and 18 pls ordered to return to coy perimeter reaching there at 071800 L 0 pls report that when mortar bombs fell enemy moved fwd & scattered 0 D. Coy complete now dug in 794661.</p> <p>1800 WR</p> <p>Abonage 084 to all bay 0 vidua 0 A. Coy patrol area bounded by 780650 EAST along SOUTH bank TAVERA to 785647 0 SE to 787644 0 SW to 780640 0 NW to coast at 778643 thence along coast to 775650 0 listening post maintained day and night between 780640 and 774649 0 3 pl NG-1B by 081100 L occupy pan and relieve C. Coy pl</p>	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 7 JAN 45. To 7 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bond Sheet 2.	7 JAN.	continued <i>WR</i>	at present at log crossing and from there cut own track to O.P.'s to watch rd to MENDIA @ constantly patrol track from LOG CROSSING to TUSU RIVER @ H pl NCIB by 081100L into base at 780639 @ constantly patrol and above area bounded river junc 771632 NE along river to 785638 south along swamp to 787638 south to 786624 west to river 773630 NW along river to junc 771643 @ patrolling NCIB commence 081100L and constant contact to be maintained to nearest Bn HQ @ 1815 <i>WR</i> Manage 085 to B. C. HQ BN HQ and QM @ Dicks @ B. Coy will move to 65 E.W. Grid and estab a def. posn contacting with flanks coast and BRUMBY WING. @ B. Coy will move present posn 080800L @ occupation new area completed NOT later than 081600L @ Bn HQ and H.Q.	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Army Form C 2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 7 JAN 45. To 8 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ. 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2.	7 JAN	continued WR	protective ops will occupy area vacated by B Coy @ completed by 081600L @ C. Coy will remain present form role reserve and carry supplies to D. Coy as required by QM.	
		1955 WR	Message 090 to D. Coy @ D. Coy will continue advance along MENDIA Tek at 080800L.	
	8 JAN	1600 WR	pickup at 1600L @ A. Coy @ local patrol only NMS @ B. Coy @ Coy now complete at 779649 @ C. Coy @ LT CONRAN rec patrol along MOORES Tek contacted D. Coy NMS @ D. Coy @ 080600L D. Coy less 17 pl moved out along MENDIA Tek from posn at 794661 17 pl remaining that posn @ at 081015L first pl struck opposition at 802655 own cas 2 killed one wounded @ Enemy str not estimated but he disclosed one LMG and 4 rifles @ at 081115L one rec from 18 pl	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 8 JAN 45 To 8 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bomb Shut 2	8 JAN	continued 1930	<p>went to left flank engaged enemy with unobserved results enemy still in that pos. a boy now digging in at 802655 a enemy is still 50 yds fwd sitting on top of bodies of 2 killed recovered with weapons a Buried 802655.</p> <p>Message 092 to All boys: Order a B. Coy one full sec to report Lt HAYNES 090730 L to escort native train carrying to log crossing a One pl C. Coy will carry from log crossing to fwd D. Coy perimeter 802656 and 795661 a D. Coy will hold present perimeter and deny areas held to the enemy a 17 pl at 795661 will relieve one pl at 802656 pl relieved will take over 17 pl perimeter a A. Coy continues task 8 JAN a B. Coy development perimeter occupied 8 JAN a HQ by motor and m.c. will remain present pos a two det The a gun to report B Coy perimeter by 081600 L</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 9 JAN 45. To 9 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ. 778654 29 Bde band Sheet 2.	9 JAN.	1006 <i>WR</i>	Message 0342 from Bde :- To commemorate the excellent work done by 15 Bn along the MENDIA Rd. the log crossing 795669 will be known as PEELER POST, and when captured the fwd coy perimeter at 804659 as D. Coy outpost @ the following additional place names are notified @ GREGORY TERRACE @ rd from 778654 to 770633 @ RUTHERFORD Pt. 770633.	
		1100 <i>WR</i>	Message 094 to D. Coy 3 PL NGIB @ ORDERS @ D. Coy will continue to advance along MENDIA track to 805660 and develop a defence post to be denied to the enemy @ 3 pl NGIB will move south of MENDIA track by right flank of D. Coy to locate any track leading south and to move round to cut MENDIA TRACK behind enemy.	
		1600 <i>WR</i>	pickup to 1600 L @ C. Coy @ 0700 L section patrol along	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2418. (Adap ed.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 9 JAN 45 To 9 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ. 778654 29 Bde bond Sheet 2.	9 JAN	continued <i>WR</i>	<p>MOORES TCK to contact 17 PL ^{1115L} rtd. NMS @ D. Coy @ JAP position contacted 50 yds along track from 802655 @ 16 pl pinned JAPS with fire while 18 pl tried flanking movement to the left covered 50 yds and then forced back on to track by swamp 16 pl then moved up to 18 pl @ JAP counter-attacks covered by LMG and snipers in trees @ D. Coy estimated to be up against main str of enemy which is sitting along the track @ Enemy cas unknown own cas 1 killed 3 wounded @ One bun gun lost with one partly filled magazine @ Efforts to regain bun unsuccessful @ D. Coy to withdraw 50 yds in rear of 802655 and estab perimeter for night @ Area 802655 to be fully trapped @ A. Coy B Coy local patrolling.</p> <p>1630 Message 096 to A.C.D. Coy 3PI NG16 @ A. Coy will relieve</p>	

WR

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 9 JAN 45. To 9 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour,	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN HQ. 778654 29 Bde bond Shurt 2.	9 JAN	continuing <i>WR</i>	<p>D. Coy at 804655 with coy less one pl & one pl A. Coy will relieve D. Coy near perimeter at 794661 & the relief to be completed by 100800 L & D. Coy will put down mortar concentration astride track at 805656 & concentration to fall between coy perimeter and arty concentrations & 5 Bty are to bring concentrations along track between 804656 and 806659 two hundred rounds available & NOT before 100800 L & 3 pl NGIB will cross TAVERA R. move EAST then NORTH and will cut MENDIA track NOT WEST of 81 NS grid line by 101200 L after which time arty will not fire & Lt MARTIN 3 pl NGIB will contact WO BROWN ANGAU re crossing of river and movement EAST & A. Coy 15 BN will press on fwd on completion of arty concentrations and will clear the BOTTLENECK of enemy.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 9 JAN 45 To 9 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ. 778654 29 Bde Comd Shut 2.	9 JAN	continued 1830 0940	<p>EAST of D. Coy perimeter @ D. Coy on relief will move to C. Coy perimeter 794675 @ C. Coy will relieve A. Coy in BRUMBY WING and will move from present area 100700L @ A. Coy less one pl will move without packs.</p> <p>Message 097 to B. C. Coys @ orders @ B. Coy one pl will occupy A. Coy perimeter at BRUMBY WING morning 10 JAN by at 100700L @ will relieve one pl A. Coy @ C. Coy will provide escort for native carrier train to report Lt HAYNES at 100900L at near Bn HQ. @ C. Coy will provide one pl for carrying purposes from PEELERS POST to A. Coy perimeter on MENDAI track @</p> <p>Message 0343 from 29 Bde @ for Lt Col McDONALD @ inform @ the following units will come under comd 15 Bn as from 091200L @ 3 Pl NGIB @ one W.O. (W.O. TL BROWN)</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 9 JAN 45 To 10 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bond Sheet 2.	9 JAN	continued WR	and native carriers to be used for the supply of D. Coy OUTPOST @ W.O II BROWN is receiving a suitable carrier line area in the vic of. 780654 @ responsibility for delivery to carrier line will be by outboard motor and white labour @ role @ one @ you will be responsible for the area on the trace issued separately and for the co-ordination of defensive measures of all units therein @ two @ you will maintain contact constant aggressive patrolling towards MENDIA from D. Coy OUTPOST @ three @ you will obtain at least one PW from that area forthwith.	Trace attached as Appx. C.
	10 JAN	1600 WR	pickup to 101600 L @ A. Coy @ 0450 L coy moved from BRUMBYKING taking over from D. Coy 0830 L @ following arty and mortar concentration on enemy from A. Coy less 9 pl at 1025 L commenced moving along track @ boy less one pl reached approx	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap...)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 10 JAN 45. To 10 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN H.Q. 778654 29 bond thru 2.	10 JAN	continued WR	<p>805659 without making contact @ Land very swampy due to rise in river @ boy formed perimeter 805659 @ BREN gun and two rifles lost 9 JAN recovered @ one dead jap on track @ 9 pl holding firm base at 794661 @ numerous blood stains on track indicate enemy suffered severe casualties @ ANCAU patrol of two police boys and two guides which moved SE from 799656 across TAVERA RIVER rdtd 101215L with 54 refugee natives incl LULUAI who rdtd MENDAI for additional information @ natives report two very hungry JAPS one a sjt who swam TAVERA late PM 9 JAN were killed AM 10 JAN @ B. Coy @ no contact patrol contacted 47 BN @ C. Coy @ boy now complete at BRUMBY WING @ D. Coy @ 0830L relief effected by A. Coy @ 1230L D. Coy less 18 pl moved to 784675 in pm 1335L @ 18 pl arrived same area 1630L coy now complete at 784675.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form 9.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 10 JAN 45 To 10 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. HQ. 778654 29 Bde bond sheet 2.	10 JAN	2053 <i>BR</i>	<p>Abonage 0102 k' All day, 3 PL NGIB, QM, WO BROWN ANGAU @ vidua @ B. Coy will provide one full sec to escort native carrying train to A. Coy @ B Coy will provide loading party remaining the k' work on improvement of defensive from wiring etc @ C. Coy patrolling area bounded by 780650 east along south bank of TAVERA to 785647 @ SE to 787644 @ SW to 780640 @ NW to coast at 774643 thence along coast to 775650 @ listening post maintained day and night between 780640 and 774649 @ A. Coy will patrol from its present perimeter to A. Coy rear perimeter 794661 with one sec @ A. Coy with one pl less one sec will provide a firm base as required for patrol 3 PL NGIB @ 3 pl NGIB will patrol to 828655 along MENDIA track @ turn out NOT later than 110700L</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 10 JAN 45. To 11 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ. 778654 29 Bde Comd Shut 2	10 JAN	continued PR	TIME IN through A. Coy fwd perimeter 111600L O A. Coy will report patrol out and in O an endeavour will be made to obtain at least one PW this area O supplies to A. Coy by arrangement of QM and WO BROWN FANGAU.	
		2130 WH	Message O 103 to all boys 3 pl NGIB ; orders amendment to our O 102 O 3 pl NGIB will raid MENDIA and obtain at least one prisoner.	
	1 JAN	—	Plan for defence of present BN form	Appx D.
	7 JAN	—	Fire plan LACK FORCE - TAVERA RIVER sector	Appx E
	11 JAN	0830 MP	Message O 357 from 29 Bde : for CAPT STRUSS from comd O please convey my appreciation of the splendid work done in capture of P. Coy outpost.	
		1600 MP	situp to 1600L O A. Coy O 0830L 3 pl NGIB patrol reached	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 11 JAN 45 To 11 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Shet 2.	11 JAN.	continued. WK 1700 WK	815657 @ natives reported body of JAPS estimated strength over a pl with one LMG @ 9 pl moved fwd from A. Coy firm base along track @ N.G.I.B. sgt carried out recce but reported no JAPS in area @ searched and located 2 or 3 weapon pits and saw signs of chopping @ heard sounds of chopping and talking further along track did NOT investigate but ret'd to base @ other coy's notice. Message @ 110 to A. Coy 3 PL NGIB @ Order @ 3 pl NGIB will continue task given 11 JAN 45 @ will move out through A. Coy perimeter NOT later than 120700 L and will not return until task completed NOT later 131600 L @ P.W. will be obtained from MENDAI area A. Coy will provide one pl as firm base for NGIB patrol @ patrol will be aggressive @ L/T will be laid by firm base	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AVST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 11 JAN 45 To 12 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ. 778654 29 Bde Comd Shut 2	11 JAN	continued WH	Pl which will move out from A. Coy at 120600 L to a position at 815657 where NGIB will contact firm base.	
		1800 WH	Message 0111 to All boys 3 pl NGIB. @ further to our 0110 @ NGIB will continue patrol south bank TAVERA RIVER @ B. Coy one section escort native carrier train report to Bn H.Q. to 0120700 L. @ D. Coy overhaul present position @ B and C. Coys improve defensive position @ B. Coy one sec patrol MOOKES TCR to contact A. Coy rear perimeter	
	12 JAN	1125 WAV	Message 0364 from 29 Bde :- Warning Order @ one @ 15 Bn @ area of responsibility incl TUVU RIVER as per attached trace @ will hold with one coy the following localities 785703 - 814658 - 784674 - 778654 @	Trace attached as appx F.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form 2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. Bn. Date and Time.—From 12 JAN 45 To 12 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde band Shut 2	12 JAN.	continued 1215 AR	responsibility for area will commence at 130600L Menary 0114 to all bay BNR, BNR QM & warning order & def. posts will be occupied by coys as follows & A. Coy will withdraw to D. Coy outpost and estab perimeter on firm ground and will maintain ambushes and aggressive patrolling towards MENDAI & occupation new perimeter completed by 121600L & C. Coy will occupy area 785703 & B. Coy remain present post & D. Coy remain present location & responsibility of these areas will commence 130600L & areas will be occupied by 121600L & Bn H.Q. present location & C. Coy recce party will recce new area & mt recce party with new area 121300L & 3 pl NGIB is to revert comd 29 Bde 1200L.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 12 JAN 45. To 12 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2.	12 JAN.	1600 <i>OR</i>	sitrep to 1600L @ A. Coy @ 0905L NGIB reported contact made with Japs at 815657 no estimate of strength given @ It was found impossible to attack as land under 4 ft of water flowing at 5 knots @ A. Coy withdrew from front perimeter and established advanced boy HQ less 7 pl in posn at 802655 and rear HQ with 7 pl at 795662 @ Other boys sitnor.	
		2010 <i>OR</i>	Abeyage 0115 to All Coy, D.M. @ Orders @ A. Coy amendment to 0114 @ A. Coy will maintain ambushes along MENDIA track and further investigate JAP footprints reported by Lt WATSON ANGAU on 12 JAN on south bank TAVERA RIVER @ Capt CAVENAGH to contact Lt WATSON re this matter @ 6 boy to move to perimeter succe by O.C. Coy 12 JAN at 130600L @ B. Coy will provide 2 Affs 50 OR's	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. Bn. Date and Time.—From 12 JAN 45 To 13 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bond Shut 2.	12 JAN	continued WR	to report D.I.D. ADELE RIVER area by 131000 L @ b. bay will provide one sec for native carrying exort to report lv HAYNES B.H.Q. 130700 L	
	13 JAN	1000 WR 1600 WR 1930 WR	Message 0120 to All bay @ Warning order @ B. Coy will relieve A. Coy on the MENDIA track not before 140700 L @ relief to be completed by 151200 L. pickup to 1600 L @ 0800 L one off one sec and two native guides left bay area to set ambush at 805659 @ Two JAPS sighted both killed @ b. bay left BRUMBYWING 0605 L and moved to 785697 @ bay less 14 pl at 785697 14 pl 785704 Message 0121 to All bay, A.M. Order @ B. Coy less one pl will move to A. Coy perimeter NOT later than 140800 L @ one pl B. Coy will relieve one pl A. Coy near perimeter	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118. (Adap ed.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf Bn. Date and Time.—From 13 JAN 45 To 13 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Shet 2.	13 JAN	continued WR	<p>by 151200 L @ B. Coy contact patrol 42 BN @ A. Coy will take over B. Coy present perimeter south of TAVERA RIV with boy less one pl NOT later than 141600 L @ A. Coy will estab ambush same vic as contact with enemy 13 JAN with one pl @ This pl will remain in ambush to cover relief of A. Coy and will be relieved by B. Coy @ N.C.O. and 3 men stealthy patrol to observe enemy activity on track south of TAVERA RIVER from LOG CROSSING 803653 @ 6 boy will relieve one pl 42 BN at OXLEY'S AMBUSH by 140900 L @ C. Coy N.C.O. and 4 men patrol south bank TUVU RIVER as far as the 80 N.S. grid @ D. Coy one full section will escort native carrying train to report old rear Bn area at 140730 L @ H.Q. boy 2 del's mortar at present situated Bn H.Q. area will under</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form 2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 13 JAN 45. To 14 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2	13 JAN	contingent <i>WSV</i>	comd D. Coy and move to D. Coy perimeter by 141600 L O one mortar number will accompany A. Coy patrols for experience in jungle craft O line will not be used with patrols of section strength O line will be used with platoon patrols as far as firm base O patrols other than fighting patrols will be stealthy patrols to observe without being observed O boys will continue to fully develop perimeter paying attention to fields of fire, wiring and beach defence where applicable O H.Q. boy one det 1st/A will come under comd C. Coy to move not before 140700 L	
	14 JAN	1600 <i>WSV</i>	sitrep to 141600 L O A. Coy less one pl relieved by B. Coy less one pl O A. Coy located 777648 7pl 795661 O B. Coy less one pl in posn 802655 10pl 777648 O ambush patrol at 803657 wounded one JAP who escaped no further	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~Army Form G.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 14 JAN 45 To 14 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2	14 JAN	continued WR	contact @ C. Coy less 2 pls at 785697 14 pl 785704 15 pl relieved 10 pl 42 Bn at 789711 @ D. Coy niton	
		1750 CR	Messenger @ 128 to all coys @ Order @ patrols @ B. Coy ambush one pl 805659 and vicinity @ time out by 150700 L time in 151600 L @ NCO and three men incl one mortar number stealthy patrol along track south of TAVERA RIVER tank observation of enemy activity @ time out by 150700 L time in 151600 L @ C. Coy one pl ambush OXLEY AMBUSH AREA @ one sec south bank of TUJU RIVER as far as 803693 @ time out 150700 L time in 151600 L tank observation recent enemy activity and recon site for bridge crossing vicinity track meets river 799693 @ D. Coy one sec to TUJU RIVER north of PEELERS POST track NE.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118. (Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 14 JAN 45 To 15 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778 654 29 Bde bond Sheet 2.	14 JAN	continued WR	to TUSU RIVER @ time out NOT later than 150700L @ time in 151600L @ task observation recent enemy activity @ A. Coy complete relief of B. Coy @ one sec contact 42 Bn @ All coys improvement and further development of defensive areas.	
	15 JAN.	0745 WR	Messge 0348 from 29 Bde :- orders 15 Bn @ one @ will report NOT later than 161700L whether SISURAI 1 829653 is occupied by the enemy @ two @ what enemy if any are there between D. Coy outpost and SISURAI 1 @ three @ patrols are NOT to consist of more than 5 men @ will be prepared to stay out overnight and will be asked definite questions regarding both tracks.	
		1030 WR	Messge 0131 to B. Coy @ Orders @ B. Coy will supply two patrols @ first @ 1 sgt 3 O.R's task recon patrol along lch north	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form 3.2118
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUSTRALIAN INF BATTAL Date and Time.—From 15 JAN 45 To 15 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2.	15 JAN	continued <i>PR</i>	<p>of the TAVERA RIVER to SISIRUAI 829653 @ second @ 1 of 3 OR's tank rice patrol along the south of the TAVERA RIVER to SISIRUAI 829653 @ ANGAU will supply native guide for each patrol @ guides to report to B. Coy 151300L @ time out for patrols NOT later than 151330L @ patrols to be prepared to stay out overnight @ ANGAU natives will NOT be employed as forward scouts @ following questions will be answered by patrols and report made to this H.Q. by 161600L @ first @ is SISORUAI occupied by the enemy @ second @ what enemy if any between D. Coy outpost and SISORUAI SISIRUAI @ third @ what is condition of tracks jeepable tank going lightly or heavily laden @ fourth @ recent enemy activity in area @ fifth @ general description</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C-2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 15 JAN 45 To 15 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN HQ. 778 654	15 JAN	continued OR	of terrain @ patrols lightly equipped and line will not be used.	
29 Bde bond Sheet 2.		1515 OR	Message 0132 to All Coy. - orders @ A. Coy one sec patrol to south bank TAVERA RIVER along K 785649 thence SW to 778647 NW to 775648 thence north along track to coy perimeter @ one Ika number will accompany this patrol @ B. Coy patrols on track north and south of TAVERA complete task ordered by our 0131 of 151030L @ one pl len one sec ambush vicinity 805659 @ C. Coy one NCO and three along south bank of TUJU thence north across TUJU RIVER time out 160700L time in 161600L observe recent enemy activity on track traversed @ D. Coy one sec escort supply train 11 Fd. Coy area at 160730L @ one NCO and four men incl one	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C 2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 15 JAN 45. To 15 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde band Shut 2.	15 JAN	continued <i>OK</i>	mostan number patrol from PEELERS POST track north to TUJU time out 160700 L time in 161600 L @ all parties patrols see str or below will be recce only and will take avoiding action if enemy observed in strength greater than own @ reports be submitted thro H.Q. immediately on return of patrols.	
		1600 <i>OK</i>	at nitup to 1600 L @ A. Coy @ 0930 L one N.C.O. 9 OR's moved along coast and contacted 42 BN returned 1130 L NMS @ 1550 L 7 pl arrived coy area @ coy now complete 777648 @ B. Coy @ 10 pl effected relief of 7 pl at 1200 L @ 10 pl now at 795661 @ 0700 L one NCO and 3 men moved out to traverse track south of TAVERA RIVER returned 1500 L @ report vicinity 803653 unfordable and observed no movement on track on south side of river	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

34.

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUSTRALIAN INF. BATT.

Date and Time.—From 15 JAN 45. To 15 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN. H.Q.	15 JAN	continued	0600L 12 pl estab ambush at 805659 @ 1330L patrol	
778654		WR	one NCO 3 OR and one native guide left coy perimeter	
29 Bde Comd			to patrol track NORTH bank TAVERA to SISIRUAI 829659 @	
Sub 2.			1545L patrol moved through ST. HELENS ambush but 100	
			yds along track were fired on by JAP sniper @ one man	
			slightly wounded, he and one other man returned coy perimeter	
			NCO and remaining man holding present posn for night @	
			1330L one NCO 3 OR's 1 native guide left coy perimeter	
			to patrol track SOUTH of TAVERA to SISIRUAI @ crossed	
			river 1630L @ C. Coy @ patrol one NCO and 4 OR's along	
			south bank TUSU RIVER to 799693 report NMS @ P. Coy	
			@ patrol one NCO and 6 OR's from coy via PEELER	
			POST north east to TUSU report track not used for	
			some time.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 16 JAN 45. To 16 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bond Shul 2	16 JAN.	1530 <i>AK</i>	<p>Message 0136 to All Coy :- ORDERS of B. Coy estab patrol base one pl at 805659 from which ambush pit on main track and recce patrol no 13 one NCO 3 men will operate route NORTH then EAST 1000 yds then SOUTH to main track and observe any enemy action along track and depth of known enemy position at approx 1000 yds EAST of D. Coys outpost. This will be a stealthy patrol. Time out not later than 170600L. Time in 171600L. No 14 patrol from 10 pl perimeter will patrol with one NCO 3 men track leading SOUTH-EAST through 795656 thence 800654 thence B. Coy perimeter D. Coy one sec escort ANCAU supply as for 15 JAN No 15 patrol one NCO 3 men track leading NORTH from PEELER POST to TUJU RIVER 799691 D. Coy no 16</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 36.

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 16 JAN 45 To 16 JAN 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ 778654 29 Bde Comd Shut 2.	16 JAN	continued	patrol 1 NCO 3 men MOORES TRACK rece patrol time out 170700L @ one sig to accompany patrol to examine line @ A. Coy @ No 17 patrol one NCO 3 men rece patrol to 80 NORTH-SOUTH grid @ Tank - Location any tracks this area @ Time out 170700L Time in 171600L @ A. Coy @ No 18 patrol one NCO 3 men contact 42 Bn @ where 3 inch mortars and two pounder 3k/a guns are attached to boys at least one mortar or gun number will accompany stealthy patrols	
		1640	retreat to 1600L @ A. Coy @ nitro @ B. Coy @ 0800L patrol along north bank of TAVERA towards SISURAI held coy area @ report at 809658 were fired on by about 4 rifles one cas one slightly wounded @ later sighted 3 JAPS in trees and 1 on track @ Killed this JAP and went bush for night @	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 16 JAN 45. To 16 JAN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2.	16 JAN.	continued wk	<p> track waist deep in water and deeper still on flanks of ANGAU states this track does not lead to SISIRUAI but towards MENDIA @ ^{1025L} 0700L SGT KENNEDY 3 OR's moved through P. Coy outpost to endeavour to outflank reputed JAP posn 810655 and recce track to rear @ moved NORTH of track and reached 809661 no signs of enemy @ ground covered by water waist deep and covered with heavy growth of vines and plants and below water thick mass of roots @ Time taken to reach 809661 2 1/2 hrs @ Retd Coy perimeter 1600L @ 0630L LT. RATTRAY 20 OR's estab ambush at 805659 ret'd coy area 1600L NMS @ 1430L SGT LAURIE 3 OR's ret'd coy area after patrolling south bank of TAVERA towards SISORUAI @ patrol did not reach SISIRUAI but went 3200 yds along track from DOUGLAS </p>	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

36

Army Form C 2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN. Date and Time.—From 16 JAN 45 To 16 JAN 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN. H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Shut 2	16 JAN	continued WR	CROSSING @ track under water mostly ankle deep in parts up to the chest water moving fairly rapidly @ track is very hard to follow due to being under water and native guide is necessary @ track shows no signs of improvement by enemy and is essentially a native pad @ On dry parts of track bare footprints seen natives state some KANAKA some JAP @ one JAP sighted 500 yds along track no other contact made @ 161000 L guide said SISIRUAI still a long way off patrol comd decided to return @ C. Coy @ 0915 L 13 pl effected relief of 15 pl at 789711 @ 1030 L 15 pl arrived coy area 785697 @ patrol to TUSU RIVER reached river at 799691 but were unable to effect crossing as river is 80 yds wide and very deep. @ P. Coy @ patrol along track to PERLER post north to TUSU report NMSO	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

39.

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 16 JAN 45 To 17 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778 654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2.	16 JAN	2010 <i>WA</i>	<p>Message 0137 to All Coy. @ ORDERS @ B. Coy further to our 0136 No 19 patrol of one NCO 3 OR's will continue task given to patrol along track SOUTH of TAVERA RIVER @ patrol will be briefed by Coy comd same orders as for patrol 15/16 JAN @ This patrol will repeat will continue the task given @ Time out not later than 170700 L @ Time in not later than 191600 L @ Patrol will stay out overnight and will carry rations sufficient for period ordered @ Reports will MADE this H.Q. immediately on return of patrol</p>	
	17 JAN	0200 <i>WA</i>	<p>Message 0138 to All Coy :- ORDERS @ D. Coy less one pl will report prepare to move NOT before 170700 L @ D. Coy less one pl will relieve one coy less one pl at present located at 42 BN. perimeter at area NORTH of ADELE RIVER @ O.C. D. Coy will make recce early morning 17 JAN @ D.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2113
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUST. INF. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 17 JAN 45. To 17 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ 778654	17 JAN	continued WR	boy remaining pl will remain in present perimeter until relieved by pl 47 Bn.	
29 Side Land Sheet 2.		1145 WR	Message 0139 to all boys @ order of C. Coy less two pls less guides present boy H.R. will occupy by 171400 L the area PEELER POST to be in posn by 171600 L @ pl OXLEY AMBUSH will come under comd D. Coy at 772635 when relieved by 47 Bn 18 JAN 45 @ B. Coy will remain in present perimeter until relieved @ F. Coy will extend present perimeter to cover area of BRUMBY WING and contact with D. Coy @ CAPT. CHAMBERS will hand over to 47 Bn @ 1st/2nd det parous from comd C. Coy and comes under comd D. Coy by 171600 L @ C. Coy will arrange with T.O. movement of stores.	
		1545	Message 0140 to All Coy :- viduo @ F. Coy patrol no 20	

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WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2113
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 16 17 JAN 45 To 17 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
15 AUST. INF. BN. 778654 29 Bde Band Sheet 2.	17	continued OR	continuation track along SOUTH bank TAVERA RIVER observe any tracks leading from SOUTH time out 180700L in 181600L @ B. Coy patrol base vic 805659 continuation day patrol No 19 ordered 17 JAN continues on 805659 1 NCO and 3 OR's track given 17 JAN @ patrol 21 NORTH of TAVERA track will be completed time out 180600L in 181600L @ C. Coy @ 1 NCO and 3 OR's patrol no 22 MOORES TRK @ 1 NCO and 3 OR's patrol no 23 NORTH to TUJU.	
		1600 WA	pickup to 1600L @ A. Coy @ contact patrol to 42 Bm report NMS @ No 17 patrol ret'd Coy area 1600L patrolled east to 791645 no tracks seen in area terrain flat alternating swamp and firm ground vegetation thinning towards EAST @ B. Coy @ No 13 patrol returned 1340L report undergrowth too heavy to permit march through swamp on NORTH of track @	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 17 JAN 45 To 17 JAN 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 778654	17	continued	No 14 patrol returned 1115 L @ report seeing set bare footprints believed to be native on track at 799653	
29 Bde bond Sheet 2			continuing NORTH along track to 796658 also saw footprints of dog going both directions along track @ both dog and bare footprints seem to have been made within 36 hrs @ C. Coy @ 1400 L C. Coy less 13 pl moved to PEELER POST in position 1545 L @ 13 pl remaining OXLEY AMBUSH 789711 @ D. Coy @ 170600 L D. Coy less 18 pl moved out of area and at 170830 L relieved D. Coy 42 BN. @ D. Coy less 18 pl now at 771636 @ 18 pl 784675. @ 1455 L 18 pl arrived boy area 771636 coy now complete this area @ patrols 15 and 16 cancelled due to mut of company.	
		1833	Message 0412 from 29 Bde :- Orders for 18 JAN @ 15 Bn @ one pl OXLEY'S AMBUSH will be relieved by one pl 47	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

43.

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 17 JAN 45. To 18 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN. H.Q.	17 JAN.	continued.	Bn and will come under comd one Coy 15 Bn at 772636	
778654		2040	Message 0141 to C. H.Q. Q.M. @ Order @ A. Coy escort	
29 Bde bond		<i>WR</i>	native carrier train report @ M BN H.Q. 180700L one full	
shut 2			sec @ C. Coy will provide one pl to repair track PEELEA	
			POST - BARGE PT 7 @ widening of log footwalk @	
			work to commence 180830 L @ H.Q. Coy 1 NCO 20 pioneers	
			repair track from BARGE PT 7 towards PEELEA POST	
		—	Lessons from recent Operations	Appx. G.
		—	Routine Orders part 1 - 2/45.	Appx H.
	15 JAN	—	Fire plan LACK FORCE	Appx I.
	17 JAN	2300	Message 0142 to B.D. H.Q. Coys @ H.Q. Coy MMC under	
		<i>WR</i>	comd B. Coy will cease to be use and will move under comd	
			D. Coy before 181600 L.	
	18 JAN	1530	Message 0143 to All Coys: - ORDERS @ A Coy @ one NCO	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2113
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AVST. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 18 JAN 45. To 18 JAN 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde bond Sheet 2.	18 JAN	continued <i>WR</i>	and 3 patrol no 24 EAST along SOUTH bank TAVERA RIVER contact B. Coy report if any tracks in area @ Time out 191600 L @ time in 191600 L @ one I/c number to accompany patrol @ A. Coy full sec native carrier escort duty report QM 190700 L at Bn H.Q. @ B. Coy maintenance of patrol base via 805699 from which ambush will be set along main track and dependant on patrol infm of patrol no 21 will be task allotted to patrol of one NCO and 3 OR's to be notified later @ continuation of 3 day patrol SOUTH of TAVERA @ C. Coy @ improvement track from PEELER POST to west towards coast @ patrol 25 of 1 NCO and 3 observation of MOORES track from PEELER POST south along track to TAVERA LAGOON at 783660 @ D. Coy @ improvement and development of defensive position @ H. Q. Coy	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 18 JAN 45 To 19 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ 778654	18 JAN	continued WR	pioneers on NCO 20 min improvement tch barge point 7 - PEELER port from beach end.	
29 Bde band Sheet 2		1600 WR	sit up to 1600 L @ A. Coy @ patrol no 20 to 80 N5 grid line reached 800644 after moving through deep swamp @ B. Coy @ patrol 21 ret'd 181640 L report track very swampy thick undergrowth and going very difficult @ reached point 500 yds east of D. Coy outpost: heard sounds of movement and believe saw one JAP @ patrol searched area but could not find any traces @ C. Coy 13 pl arrived D. Coy area 1600 L @ D. Coy plus 13 pl in position 771636.	
	19 JAN	1235 WR	Abnagz 0-146 to All Coy: - ORDERS - @ A. Coy will occupy A. Coy 42 Bn perimeter NORTH of mouth of PEELER RIVER A. Coy 15 to effect relief by 191600 L @ B. Coy less one pl will move to A. Coy perimeter at 777649 relief to be	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 19 JAN 45 To 19 JAN 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 778654 29 Bed band Sheet 2	19 JAN	continued	<p>effected afternoon 19 JAN @ B. Coy pl at 794661 to be relieved by a pl C. Coy at present under comd D. Coy by 201600L @ pl B. Coy on relief by pl C. Coy will come under comd D. Coy by 201600L @ C. Coy less one pl will relieve B. Coy less one pl at D. Coy outpost @ D. Coy will remain present location @</p>	
		1600	<p>situp to 1600L @ A. Coy @ 1500L A. Coy effected relief of A. Coy 42 Bn. @ A. Coy complete 771634 @ patrol no 24 ret'd coy perimeter 191600L penetrated 1000 yds due east of BRUMBY WING through heavy swamps but could not find any tracks leading towards B. Coy perimeter @ B. Coy @ 191100L no 19 patrol ret'd by area @ reached a point estimated by patrol leader Sgt COOPER to be 10 to 12 miles EAST of B. Coy perimeter @ approx 3000 yds from B. Coy came on village</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 47

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 19 JAN 45 To 19 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Stub 2.	19 JAN	continued OK	<p>called by natives OLD SISORUA12 @ this village is deserted @ next encountered hide-out used by natives moved on to village known to native guides as SISORUA11 with gardens and tracks apparently used by enemy @ continued and met another village unrecupid and in good order @ at SISORUA11 patrol encountered 3 groups of enemy each estimated to be a pl in strength approx 20 to 30 men in each group @ Two groups outflanked but third barred further progress so patrol comd decided to return @ He was not observed by the enemy and no physical contact was made @ B. Coy less 10 pl relieved by C. Coy less 13 pl 191448 L @ B. Coy less 10 pl now in position 785676 @ C. Coy @ No 25 patrol ret'd NMS @ Coy less 13 pl now in posn 802655 13 pl remaining 771636 @ P. Coy siting.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUSTRALIAN INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 19 JAN 45 To 20 JAN 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BN H.Q. 778654	19 JAN	1615 <i>WR</i>	Message 0147 to A + C. Coy @ orders @ B. Coy to form patrol base at 805659 @ small recon patrol NCO and three men	
29 Bde band shut 2			patrol SOUTH bank of TAVERA RIVER time out 200700 L time in 201600 L @ A. Coy security patrols and contact 42 Bn.	
		2100 <i>WR</i>	Message 0148 to All Coy: - orders @ B. Coy less one pl will take up a defensive position area 783673 by 201600 L @ one pl B. Coy will take up def. posn at PEELERS POST on being relieved by one pl C. Coy @ C. Coy less one pl has taken up a defensive posn at D. Coy outpost @ one pl C. Coy will pass from use D. Coy and take up a def. posn at 794661 @ D. Coy will remain present position until further orders @ H.Q. by 1st Lt det passed from use A. Coy to use B. Coy	
	20 JAN	1600 <i>WR</i>	sitrep to 1600 L @ A. Coy @ contact patrol to 42 Bn NMS @	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AVST. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 20 JAN 45 To 20 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information •	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778 654 29 Bde Comd Shut 2.	20 JAN	continued <i>WR</i>	B. Coy @ patrol to 26 ret'd coy area 191830L @ reached point 800 yds east of D. Coy outpost terrain same as previous reports @ C. Coy @ no report rec'd 28 patrol @ D. Coy @ nitmor Location statement as at 201600L @ Bn H.Q. 778 654 A. Coy 771634 B. Coy less 10 pl 784672 10 pl 775669 C. Coy less 13 pl 802655 13 pl 795661 D. Coy 771636 ref. 29 Bde Comd Shut.	
		1600 <i>WR</i>	Message 0151 from to all boys @ orders @ patrols @ C. Coy continue task fighting patrol 20 JAN 45 @ B. Coy one full sec escort native carrying if carrying party goes further than PEELER POST to be at 15 Am rear switch 210730L @ A.M. to inform O.C. B. Coy extent of natives carry @ A. Coy contact 42 Am @ other coys security patrol.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUSTR. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 20 JAN 45 To 21 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn HQ.	20 JAN.	—	15 AUSTR. INF. BN. O.O. 3/45	Appx. J.
778654	21 JAN.	1600	ditto to 201600L @ Bn O.Gp departed for TOROKINA	
29 Bde bond		1600	210800L @ C. Coy @ Angau patrol returned through C. Coy	
Shut 2			perimeter 21115L @ Report meeting PROCTOR patrol at area known as the gardens on route to SISIRUAI approx 826654	
			ref. 29 Bde bond Shut @ Mistaking party for enemy ANEAU patrol outflanked discovering they were our troops too late to return and make contact @ Estimate PROCTOR patrol will NOT reach SISIRUAI until 211300L @ Further reports there are less enemy at SISIRUAI than at first supposed having seen only 5 or 6 yesterday afternoon @ Other Coy notes.	
		1600	Message 0158 to All boys :- order :- patrols C. Coy PROCTOR patrol ETA C. Coy perimeter 221600L @ All Coy security patrols @ P. Coy working parties @ B. Coy escort native carriers.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 22 JAN 45 To 22 JAN 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2	22 JAN.	1600 <i>WR</i>	<p>sitrep to 221600 L @ P C. Coy @ PROCTOR patrol ret'd bog area 221200 L @ Reached approx 827654 at 211345 L did not reach SISIRUAI @ Track very difficult to follow and guides could not find track after reaching 819652 on SOUTH edge of second garden @ Track to this point mainly under water up to rock high due to overflow from TAVERA RIVER @ At this point maze of tracks leading SOUTH and then EAST several of which bore footprints some made by JAPS boots mostly bare footed @ patrol continued to move on compass bearings contacted another swamp and at 211345 L commenced return journey @ Only contact reported by two scouts of JAPS in ambush at 817653 @ Investigation revealed no JAPS seen but several footprints @ Other coys sitrep</p>	
		1700 <i>WR</i>	<p>Message 0163 to All boys :- PATROLS @ A. Coy contact patrol</p>	

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 22 JAN 45. To 22 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Land Shut 2.	22 JAN	continued <i>WR</i>	to 42 Bn @ B. Coy sec as required to escort carrier train @ b. boy pl to occupy ambush post 803659 and estab firm base @ sec stealthy patrol along the to shore NORTH bank TAVERA RIVER object to observe what enemy activity if any on track time out about ETR 1600L @ D. Coy security patrols.	
		1800 <i>WR</i>	Message 0164 to all boys @ ORDERS @ B. Coy will move to TOROKINA not before 241000L by barge to barge point 2 and thence by road @ 10 pl B. Coy will move to present B. Coy perimeter NORTH of MOUTH TAVERA by 231600L @ D. Coy 25 Bn will relieve B. Coy 15 Bn not before 240830L @ C. Coy 25 Bn will relieve C. Coy 15 Bn NOT before 241100L @ C. Coy 15 Bn will embark at barge point 7 on two ALC's at 241430L @ B. boy will embark at barge point 7 by 240930L.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

53.

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 23 JAN 45 To 23 JAN 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 778654 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2.	23 JAN.	1600 <i>wh</i>	pickup to 1600 L @ B. Coy @ 10 pl moved from PEELER POST to 783672 making coy complete this area @ C. Coy @ section stealthy patrol from firm base 805659 along track NORTH bank TAVERA RIVER where fired on by approx 6 to 8 JAPS at 809657 @ JAPS had rifles and possible LMG @ 220930 L patrol withdrew to firm base own cas 1 wounded @ 221115 L fighting patrol moved fwd from firm base to 808658 @ after mortars had ranged on JAP posn patrol moved fwd but found that JAPS had fled @ banana leaves spread on ground indicate possibility of JAPS sleeping thru overnight @ patrol ret'd Coy 221505 L @ other-logs sit'n.	
		1600 <i>wh</i>	Location statement at 231600 L @ Bn H.Q. 778654 A. Coy 771634 B. Coy 783672 C. Coy less 13 pl 802655 13 pl 795662 D. Coy 771636 @ Ref. map 29 Bde Comd Sheet 2.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUST. INF. BN.

Date and Time.—From 23 JAN 45 To 24 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q. 778654	23 JAN.	1600	<p><i>W</i> Message 0165 to All boys: - ORDERS @ B + C Coy normal security patrols during relief by 25 Pm @ A + D Coy normal security patrols.</p>	
29 Bde bond Shut 2	24 JAN	1035	<p><i>W</i> Message 0166 to H.Q. Coy A Coy D Coy @ ORDERS @ relief and movl to TOROKINA @ 2 ALC 20's NOS 1229 & 1251 ETA</p> <p>DID ADELE 250830 L @ A. Coy 25 Pm will relieve A. Coy 15 Pm @ A. Coy 15 Pm will embark by 250930 L to proceed to barge pt 2 thence by road to TOROKINA @ D. Coy 15 will embark by 250930 L to proceed barge pt 2 thence by road to TOROKINA @ Pm HQ HQ Coy B. Ech 15 Pm will embark by 251445 L @ Pm HQ close TAVERA from TOROKINA at 241400L @ Coy</p> <p>land will remain quiet</p>	
		1500	<p><i>W</i> 240945 L B. Coy relieved by D. Coy 25 Pm and moved to TOROKINA now located 635962 @ C. Coy relieved by C Coy 25 Pm</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

55.

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 AUST. INF. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 24 JAN 45 To 29 JAN 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn H.Q.	24 JAN	continued	now located 636959 @ ref. map TOROKINA 1 inch.	
630942	28 JAN	--- W2	Routine Order part 1 - 2/45.	Appx K.
TOROKINA		---	Special issue of Jungle news.	Appx L.
1/63360			Summary of 29 Bde operations	Appx M.
	25 JAN	1400	A. Coy relieved by G. Coy 25 Bn 250800L now located	
		1600	631965 @ D. Coy relieved by B. Coy 25 Bn 635962 @ Bn	
			H.Q. H.Q. Coy 630942 @ ref. map TOROKINA 1 inch.	
		1600	Location statement as at 251600L @ ref. map TOROKINA	
			1 inch @ Bn. H.Q. H.Q. Coy 630942 A. Coy 631965	
			B. Coy 635962 G. Coy 636959 D. Coy 642951.	
	26 JAN	---	G. Coy standing orders	Appx N.
			Training Instr 1/45	Appx O.
	29 JAN	---	Syllabus of Training period 29 JAN - 3 MAR.	Appx P.
		---	Lessons from recent OPS	Appx Q.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY


Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 29 JAN 45 To 31 JAN

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bn. H.Q.	29 JAN.	—	Operation Order 4/45.	Appx R.
630942 Torokina 1/63360.	30 JAN	1200	Message 0 168 to All boys: - orders of patrols of ref. map TOROKINA 1 inch of B. Coy 1 NCO 3 man line creek from 647970 to 635968 of A. Coy 1 NCO 3 from coy locality along inter-bn boundary 15 Bn/47 Bn to feature square 6597 of A. Coy contact 47 Bn 3 times per week of all coys local security patrols of these patrols will be carried out daily except where stated.	
	31 JAN	—	Overlay of 15 Aust. Inf. Bns. operations 1 JAN - 23 JAN	Appx S.


 Lt. Col.
 Commanding 15. Aust. Inf. Bn.

Note: To be treated as C.O.'s report for JANUARY 45.
One copy only, available.

15 Aust Inf Bn
~~28 Jan 45~~ 5 Feb 45

LESSONS FROM RECENT OPS - PART II(a)

1. Patrolling

(1) Strength

- (a) It was found that the small patrol of one sec or one NCO and two or three men is easier to control, easier to conceal, easier to break off when enemy contacted and can move with stealth. It can observe without being observed - therefore is more suited to recon for information as illustrated by Cpl Cooper's 3 day patrol to SISIRUAI.
- (b) The necessity to find and clean out enemy positions demands a patrol strong enough to conduct a fight on its own. (Recon, attack, consolidate ground won or withdrawal) (if fighting for information only).
- (c) The necessity to patrol over long distances, or in enemy territory requires that a patrol base from which to operate recon patrols (firm base) e.g. Pl bases established for NGIB Patrols.
- (d) As patrols of type (b) and (c) are required to fight as in (b) or establish a defensive perimeter as in (c) they demand the use of the Pl with its sp weapons.

2. Intercomm

The comd ordering the patrol requires information from the patrol of its progress, therefore must employ one of the following means of intercomm.

- (a) Wireless (was not available)
- (b) L/T
- (c) Runners

- (a) Not always reliable over long distances. Added weight.
- (b) Proved successful on all patrols infm being passed back rapidly. Reliable means.

Proved its worth on night 30/31 Dec at RUTHERFORD'S PT. Small patrols were handicapped by the need to lay line thus confining the area which could otherwise be patrolled.

Suggest therefore the line be used with Pls of Pl strength and that no wire accompany small recon patrols, in lieu SCR 535 sets where available or or runners sent back at pre-arranged times.

3. Briefing

- (a) The greatest care must be taken in briefing patrols by comds and the utmost attention paid to detail in doing so even though the detail seems to be of a very minor nature or of a routine nature.
- (b) Definite questions will be asked, the answers to which will be supplied in reports on return.
- (c) Infm must be passed to own tps, listening posts, patrols (own and those of neighbouring Unit and sub units) of timings, in and out, routes to be traversed, nature of patrol (incl strength) and action.
- (d) Every scrap of infm must be passed on to each member of the patrol as must also the task of the patrol.
- (e) Had the above detail received more attention the wounding of one member of a returning patrol by a member of listening post would have been avoided, as also, would the action of two patrols from neighbouring units in the vicinity of the BRUMBY WING, where considerable time was spent by both patrols circling to by pass. Attention to detail avoids clashes between patrols and unnecessary wounding or killing of own tps thus attaining the object of the JAP without giving the trouble.

4. Movement on tracks

- Tracks should NOT be used too frequently for the same patrols as this tends to a false feeling of security through moving repeatedly over the same ground. Suggest that parallel routes be used alternatively and out into track to observe at intervals. A lesser number of leading scouts would have been the victim of ambush had the above suggestion be employed more often.

2. Ambushes

- (1) Ambushes set were too frequently revealed to the enemy by premature springing of the trap due probably to the over-zealous and more inexperienced young soldier.
- (2) Greater care is required in setting the ambush particularly with regard to concealment. Nature is the best camouflage to man and tps must be taught to interrupt natural camouflage as little as possible.
- (3) Noise, chatter and patience must be improved and training along this line carried out.

3. Defence

(1) Wiring and Booby Traps

- (a) Wire does NOT present an obstacle unless it is covered by fire therefore tactical wire must be sited so that it is covered by the fire on fixed lines of LMG and / or BMG, the beaten zones of which fall on the enemy side of the wire. This was NOT at first fully appreciated by all sub Unit comds.
- (b) Booby Traps similarly present an obstacle only if covered by the fire of weapons in the Pl. It was found that the JAP could and did remove grenades from booby fields and later use these grenades against our tps. Booby traps of this nature should be regarded more in the nature of a warning device.

(2) Weapon Pits

Every pit dug in a perimeter must be regarded as a fighting pit from which weapons can be used offensively and any construction suggestive of a shelter must be discouraged. Weapon pits of the two man type connected by an inverted U slit found favour with tps.

(3) Offensive Action

It has been stated that "The spirit of defence ^{is} /the ~~defence~~ offence".

This should be demonstrated by the employment of aggressive patrolling with the object of killing outside the perimeter and perimeter regarded as a safe place to rest.

(4) 2" Mortar

There was for a time a reluctance to use the 2" Mortar because of tree clearance. Every avenue must be exploited by Pl Comds to employ this weapon and clearings created. In many instances the removal of two or three small trees would have enabled the use of this excellent weapon on quite a wide arc.. Its value as a smoke producing agent must NOT be overlooked (deception, indication etc).

5. Fields of Fire

In a number of cases too much clearing was carried out close to FDLs thus placing weapon pits in a killing ground and a prey to snipers. Clearing of lanes of fire must receive a high priority.

6. Pattern of Perimeters

- (a) Clover leaf was found to be effective.
- (b) The creation of a wide belt of cleared "killing area" surrounding the perimeter as at TAVERA was NOT tested by enemy action but I would have welcomed the test and suggest to Coy Comds, where time and ground permit the full development of psn, this design be employed.

7. Attack

- (1) It has again been demonstrated that the holding of the enemy in front and placing a force astride his L of C to apply the pressure from both ends will always succeed due to the bulk of his fire being sited fwd and little attention given to protection of his rear.
- (2) It was also demonstrated that frontal attack proves costly.
- (3) More use needs to be made of PIs and Coys Sp weapons (2* Mor and EY) before calls are made for heavier sp weapons.

8. Enemy Tactics(1) Ambush

- (a) JAP selected ground usually in the bottleneck formed between heavy swamp and a river and held this with a small strength.
- (b) Fired at leading scout when close up to ambush and seldom allowed the patrol into the trap.
- (c) The trick of falling a tree or placing a small bush in the track, clearing behind it and covering this clearing with cross fire was used on one occasion but it did NOT succeed as the leading scout, an old soldier, at once became suspicious, halted the patrol and after seeing the patrol outflanked the LMG killing the gunner. The few tricks known to the JAP are used repeatedly by him and knowledge of these tricks makes for successful patrolling.
- (d) The formations used were inverted V and single arm of V.

(2) Action when by fire brought down

In all instances where 3* Mors or Arty was used the JAP comes inside the opening line close to own troops. At D Coy OUTPOST this was overcome by placing 3* Mor fire and LMG fire from flanks inside and close to own tps.

(3) Use of Natives

Use of armed hostile natives against 47 Bn on JABA R.

9. General(1) Security

- (a) Adopting of immediate def on hits and pushing out security patrols.
- (b) More care in regard to concealment of empty cartons and tins etc.

(2) Rations

FOR found to be ideal for use of patrols and all tps praise this ration.

(3) Comm

- (a) Suggested sound power phones be used for control of fire on first lines in Rifle Coys at night.

3. (Contd)

(b) Line again proved its value but on occasions suffered from strong induction. Instruments suffered from magnetic sand.

(c) Pigeons reliable but containers fragile. Pigeons have limited use in rapid movement such as ops along coast to MAWARAKA.

4. Grenades 4 Sec

Suggest issue of gas checks for use with 4 Sec Grenades.

10. Dress and equipment

1. Canvas boots for patrols to prevent noise.
2. Gaiters hold water in trousers which causes noise and difficulties.
3. OSMG carrier to have basic pouch buckl. attached in lieu of present type to allow correct carrying of pack and haversack.
4. Need Gas Checks for 4 Sec Grenade.
5. Each patrol to carry (1) One canvas from Army Coy to be used as stretcher by cutting two poles in case of casualty.
6. Extra sights for 3" Mortar must be carried in Q Store. High breakage rate for bubbles.

H.H. McDonald Lt Col
(H.H. McDONALD)
Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

Comm (Contd)

Vines

(b) Within pl at night - Use of vines or sig cables with pre-arranged tug systems, in order to produce an effective, silent, speedy stand to at night and to call down def fire from pl weapons in the threatened area. This method has been tested in ops and proved successful.

Suggestion - a green fishing line be carried by each sec comd for this purpose and line so arranged to obviate false signals by tripping.

4. Grenades 4 Sec

Suggest issue of gas checks for use with 4 sec grenades.

5. Use of MMC

The use of this weapon in its proper role is not generally appreciated until pointed out that it was being used in a number of instances as an LMG on tasks which could have been allotted to LMGs. When the ability to cut its own field of fire (particularly through wild banana patches) was explained and the use of water (river stretchers etc) as fields of fire, the role of the medium MG was appreciated and tasks allotted accordingly.

Lt Col
(H.H. McDONALD)
Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

LESSONS FROM OPS PART II (b)

1. Co-operation

The closest liaison between QM and Coy Q staffs must be maintained if prompt and regular supply is to be efficient.

Full appreciation must be made of the problem confronting the QM which are many, and prompt returns and states rendered - QM must be kept in picture by sub units to enable him to plan ahead and anticipate their requirements.

2. Ammunition

Recommendations have been made in Pt III re the delivery of primaries and secondaries for mortar bombs.

Constant maintenance and examination was carried out and the general condition and performance of all types evidenced good maintenance.

3. Rations

SWPA ration proved satisfactory.

FOR was preferred by tps on long patrols, the rations being excellent and easier to carry than hard ration.

Need for some form of refrigeration revealed particularly, when Coys some distance from B Ech and times of delivery necessitated the holding of fresh commodities overnight.

Maintenance of seven days reserve in Coy Area and delivery weekly, considerably lightened the problem of sup generally.

Delivery of food, mainly bread, could be improved by wrapping or delivery in containers to obviate the passing of this commodity from hand to hand.

Heinz tin of Meat in FOR Ration often found to have appearance of being blown or tin swelled up. This caused wastage as men would NOT eat same.

4. Medical

The following Admin points have arisen from recent OPS.

- (a) Morphia Syrettes have become available and are on issue to Rifle Coys on a scale of 2 per Section. It is essential that these be carried, particularly on Section or smaller patrols.
- (b) All patrols of over one Section must include a Stretcher Bearer, who will carry the canvas of a cots folding for use as a stretcher. Failing canvas, a sewn blanket will be carried, but it is more bulky and heavier.
- (c) Blankets form a better stretcher for transport of Casualties from Coy to RAP, and their use saves the loss from Coys of stretcher canvases.
- (d) Coys must carry books of AAF A46 whenever possible, as these are essential for Records purposes.
- (e) Coy Stretcher Bearers to carry in addition to dressings, etc., sufficient essential medical supplies to last 2 - 3 days. Remainder of Coy Medical Supplies to be carried in Coy stores - 25 pounder ammunition boxes would be ideal for this purpose.

Evacuation of wounded under difficulty presented by s^r was a credit to all personnel concerned.

3. Hygiene

Adequate supplies of disinfectants and similar items (e.g. malarisol, chlorine, phenyle, sodium arsenite, etc) are essential for control of flies under difficult conditions, and these were not available.

The general hygiene of the Battalion during recent operations was on the whole satisfactory although at times it was not all that could be desired. The defects were remedied as soon as possible and as soon as conditions allowed. One of the main difficulties encountered was the very short supply of disinfectants which at times were unobtainable. As the unit had a slight surplus of W.S.P. which had been brought from the Mainland this was used as far as possible and to a very slight extent helped to solve the difficulty.

Kitchens : Taken on the whole the kitchens were satisfactory and were kept clean and all food was kept under cover as much as possible.

Latrines : Several difficulties were encountered with these, the two main ones being lack of disinfectant and the very high subsoil water level. This prevented latrines being sunk sufficiently deep but after several trials a type of latrine which gave quite satisfactory results by burning out was evolved.

Malaria & Fly Control : Here again the unit was hampered by lack of requisite materials malarisol particularly being unobtainable. However distillate was used as a substitute and proved to be a fairly good one. Small waterholes were sprayed with oil but the result was very negligible as the job of getting any satisfactory results in the control of breeding of mosquitoes was one of such magnitude as to be beyond the scope of the Unit.

Transport

An appreciation of availability essential to efficient running.

Generally availability must be accepted, except in extreme emergency, as six jeeps and trailers for general transport requirements, thus allowing the grounding of at least one vehicle each day for maintenance.

Malarial Control

Included in the adm instns issued to patrols etc. must always be the malarial stores to be carried and precautions to be taken even though much of this has developed as routine.

Similarly this applies to Scrub Typhus.

Stores

At first too much was carried in B Ech thus imposing an unnecessary strain on all means of transport.

This was remedied very early in the operations when a survey was made and stores carried reduced to a minimum a sufficient reserve being maintained.

En Q rep at Bde Ordnance dump proved an asset - similarly storemen of Coys at B Ech.

To facilitate more satisfactory handing over between units and sub units on the "Walk in Walk out" a standard scale of cooking gear carried fwd in each B required.

LESSONS FROM OPS - PART II (c)MAN MANAGEMENT(a) Spiritual

Chaplain HENRY comments on co-operation given by coy comds especially those in forward areas.

Services were held for OPD by Chaplain HOWE from 2 Fd Regt. Whilst these services were appreciated by the tps, it is felt that they would like their own Bde Chaplain, mainly because these Chaplains are always available to discuss their problems and worries.

It is realized that this is the ideal and could not always be because of operational circumstances.

(b) Morale

I am of the opinion that it has been realized that, if tps are kept in the picture regarding their job and matters in relation to their job, a definite interest is established and morale is raised since they see the results of their efforts.

FEEDING

A feature of the feeding of the Bn was that all troops had at least two hot meals per day.

The results I feel were self-evident.

The object to be attained is that your troops will at all times be given at least one hot meal a day.

When, if ever, this is not possible menu should be varied by use of FOR as we know from our own experiences that a diet of bully beef and biscuits, being uninteresting and monotonous, creates a certain depression of mind with consequent lowering of morale followed quickly by a lowering of physical efficiency.

The work of the cooks of HQ and Q staff, particularly the hard work necessitating cooking till well after midnight on Christmas Eve of the whole of the Christmas meal for the Bn, and the supply of hot Christmas dinner right up to the forward troops in contact was most creditable, and the boost to morale provides an ideal example of the value to be obtained through attention to this matter of feeding.

RELIEFS AND REST

Self-evident was the quick recovery of mental alertness, morale and physical condition of D Coy after almost continuous contact with the JAP.

INSPECTIONS

Constant inspection of men's bodies and feet by you as the pl comd should not be performed merely as a duty, but as an interest in the well being of your men.

It will be, and is appreciated, by your men as a display of interest in their well being.

Fortunately, very few instances of men being unshaven were evidenced. Maybe you have performed a first class job in the battle, maybe you are as weary as your men, but you know how a shave and a brush up, clean dry clothes, affect your morale. You, the pl comd, owe all this to your men, who have done equally as well as you and have helped you attain your object in the fight. Set the example and insist on it being followed - your men appreciate it.

Personal and general hygiene is an important factor in building up and maintaining morale and a fit fighting team.

Regular inspection of skin and feet of troops is even more important during operations than at other times. All skin and foot complaints must be treated as soon as they appear at Coy Aid Post, and must be seen by the RMO as soon as possible. Inspections are best carried out by pl comds.

15 BN LESSONS FROM OPS - PART II (c) (Contd)

INSPECTIONS (Contd)

It is essential to strictly enforce the carrying of First Aid Field Dressings, Outfits First Aid Individual, and Morphine Syrettes (when issued) at all times.

Further instruction of all ranks in the use of the above is required.

Regular warnings should be made to troops that salt water should be washed out of ears and the ears thoroughly dried after washing or swimming to avoid contracting Otitis Externa (Tropical Ear). All cases of aching, soreness, deafness or blockage of ears to be reported immediately.

WATER DISCIPLINE

Water discipline was on the whole poor. It cannot be strongly emphasised that ALL water MUST be chlorinated, and the rigid enforcement of this is vital to the health of troops.

GENERAL

Amenities

Provide your men with amenities, games etc and join with them in participation.

The troops' problems

Discuss the problems of your men (domestic, financial etc), know their families and help them with their problems.

Your interest in their welfare does not cease with the end of the war, as every comd owes it to his men to help them rehabilitate themselves in post war years.

EDUCATION

The illiterate, as well as the ambitious, need the help of the pl comd. It is not generally appreciated that you can help, but you can if you think with your men.

YMCA

The work of this branch of the service was excellent. Coffee stalls were appreciated by the men, the ever welcome anticipation and request for information and advice re further movement was appreciated by me.

NEWS

The broadcasting of news of this theatre and other theatres of operations was appreciated by troops.

Similarly a keen interest in talks on current affairs in other theatres by the Education Officer was evident. However, the work of getting the news to the troops should not all fall on the shoulders of the Education Officer. Pl comds should glean all they can from summaries of news and discuss with their men.

SLEEPING QUARTERS

Throughout the recent ops stretches and half tents were carried by coys, and it was found that the fact that the troops had a dry comfortable bed was a great boost to morale, and obviated many skin diseases and gave the men ample rest.

Lt Col
(H.N. McDONALD)
Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

LESSONS FROM OPS - PART III (a)

WEAPONS

Difficulties Encountered

How Overcome

1. Rifle

- (a) Platform spring in new rifles breaking due to faulty tempering of the steel
- (b) Warning to enemy by noise of working of bolt action when loading
- (c) Stickiness of mag platform due to roughly finished interior

- (a) Replace springs by unit armourer
- (b) Rifles carried at half cock which is the most effective safety device.
- (c) Emery paper or filing should not be necessary if care taken in manufacture

2. LMG

- (a) Carrying of tripods for fixed lines is a weighty cumbersome man load
- (b) Hard extraction on new guns
- (c) Bright surface inside flash eliminator discloses posn of gun by reflection of light

- (a) Introduction of pegs made by w/shop. These are excellent, easily portable in use enabling every gun to be placed.
- (b) By firing on largest hole of gas regulator.
- (c) Painting over bright spot

3. OSMG

- (a) Weakness of safety catch mechanism causing gun to operate when bumped
- (b) Frame type butt catching in vines etc
- (c) Bulged barrels due to amm fired when wet

- (a) Suggest type as used on Austen be adapted to OSMG
- (b) Use of wooden butt preferred by tps lighter in weight. Folding butt as on Austen.
- (c) Daily care and maintenance of amm and drying of amm in mag, if moving through swamps etc

4. 2" Mortar

- (a) Difficulty of determining tree clearance by most junior leaders and 2" mortar NCOs
- (b) Amm which had been affected by water in transit

- (a) Suggest the use of a reflector on barrel parallel to axis of barrel
- (b) Propellant charges to be delivered to units in a sealed container

5. BY Rifle

Delay in some cases in using BY Rifle

Suggest this will be overcome by carrying cup fixed to rifle, grenade in cup and cup covered with light material, allowing instant use.

6. 36 Grenade

- (a) Lack of gas checks - supplied only with 7 sec grenades

- (a) Tests were conducted using dummy training grenades without gas checks. Result - Not sufficient range, dangerous to firer. Suggest gas checks be made on issue for 4 sec grenades for use of BY rifle at low angle.

- (b) Supply of mineral jelly for maintenance

- (b) Increase and easier flow of sap.

LESSONS FROM OPS PART III(a) - WEAPONS (Contd)

Difficulties Encountered

How Overcome

7. MMG
(a) Stripless belt in sealed containers - difficulty of examination and maintenance
(b) Dampness inside container
8. 3" Mortar
Ann damp, drop shorts - danger morale of Nos
(b) Sights - high percentage of (i) broken bubbles due to heat and shock of discharge and (ii) breaking up of liquid into several bubbles
9. Tk/A 2 pdr
(a) Effect of salt air on telescopic lenses
(b) Bogging in sand with tyre pressure now in force
(c) Ann box not long enough to carry HE
(d) Leather tool box - rapid deterioration
(e) Difficulty of man handling
10. Bayonet
Free use of bayonet limited in jungle (undergrowth and vines)
11. Pistol

- (a) Better sealing of and waterproofing of tin container
(b) Exposing to sun
- (a) Pack separately primary and secondary in sealed container
(b) Suggest experiments be made to produce a liquid immune to the conditions of heat. Extra sights be made available.
- (a) W/shop repair constant
(b) Suggest low pressure or balloon tyre-car tread
(c) Being modified by IAD
(d) Suggest metal box to replace
(e) Could be overcome by mounting of piece buffer and recup on lighter chassis similar to American 7 mm

Can see no way to overcome this problem. Do not, however, suggest that the bayonet be discarded as opportunities will occur where it can be used in assault. The value of the bayonet as a symbol of the "offensive spirit" must be appreciated as also its value to sentries, in that it confers on sentries an added sense of security at night

Nil

Lt Col
(H.H. McDONALD)
Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

EQUIPMENT

Difficulties Encountered	How Overcome
1. Carriers SMG Mag - impossible to attach to shoulder strap of equipment	By attaching a buckle the same as on basic pouches
2. Basic pouches large - Snap fasteners become US with normal usage	Suggest fastening similar to fastening on web anklet
3. Gaiters - Australian pattern does not retain trousers in the gaiters in heavy country and swamps	Overcome by sewing a strap to bottom of trousers. New Australian pattern or American gaiters suggested
4. Packs and haversacks not waterproof	Made of waterproof material or contents wrapped in waterproof material
5. Carriage of bed roll on pack	Rope attached to pack was successful, but suggest web belt and buckle to be affixed to pack on manufacture
6. Matches GS - When wet through passage through swamp etc become US	Round tobacco tin with rubber sealed lid proved waterproof
7. Sig Supt -	
(a) Phones DV affected by rain and swamp	(a) Suggest modification to lid to make waterproof if type L phone NOT available
(b) Cable too heavy for patrols	(b) Issues of assault wire insulated proved most satisfactory
(c) Induction caused by many parallel lines twisted in cable fashion	(c) Rectified in some cases by lying a line on a route more widely separated
(d) Sound powered phones picking up magnetic substance in the sand	(d) Sealing of all entry to magnets by use of insulating tape
8. Clothing -	
(a) In previous ops hats fur felt were found unsatisfactory in jungle as they were continually forced off the wearer's head by jungle	(a) Berets were found satisfactory. Suggest they be made of a waterproof material
(b) Losing of tin/ buttons owing to rust affecting cotton	(b) Tin buttons to be replaced by bone
(c) Trousers bottoms protruding from gaiters	(c) Cloth strips were sewn on trouser bottoms. It is suggested that trousers as issued to armoured formation with strips be an issue
(d) Difficulty of fitting of men with comfortable trousers	(d) Generally sizes marked on clothing are not the true indication of actual size. This results in large scale alterations which could have been overcome in manufacture
9. Quick deterioration of weapons due to insufficient oil	Extra oil issued to each man. Suggested a tin similar to that carried in Bren wallet be a personal issue
10. Difficulty in keeping rations, especially biscuits, tea, sugar etc dry	US waterproof food bags were found satisfactory and were tested in user trials

LESSONS FROM OPS - PART III(b) - EQUIPMENT 15 BN (Contd)

<u>Difficulties Encountered</u>	<u>How Overcome</u>
11. Loss of grenades through NOT having a suitable carrier when basic pouches are NOT in use e.g. patrol dress	Special pouch to be made capable of being attached to both web and shoulder strap
12. Carriage of Machete	Scabbard required for Australian pattern
13. Due to wear portions of weapons become unbrowned and flash in the sunlight	Small tin paint to be carried by each section
14. Difficulty in indicating targets to FOO and CPO	Overcome by use of 2" mortar smoke. Smoke producing agent is required for small arms weapons to bring about a rapid indication e.g. use of EY rifle and 63 smoke grenade
15. No effective means of producing a smoke screen closer to own troops than that which can be produced by existing weapons	This could be overcome by the use of No 77 WP grenade, which in addition to being an excellent smoke generator is a very effective lethal weapon in itself

NOTES ON EQUIPMENT

Use of Carriers MG in Jungle : Advantages and Disadvantages -

The advantage of speed and manoeuvre which is a ~~feature~~ characteristic of the carrier in open warfare, is greatly hampered by conditions of jungle warfare. In movement the carrier is almost entirely confined to existing tracks. The light armour, which in open warfare gives protection for the crew from SA fire and enables weapons to be carried over areas swept by fire, is ineffective in jungle owing to the presence of snipers and the ease with which carriers can be ambushed by grenades.

Tk/A and Mortar Carriers

Although it is realised there is need to bring mortars and Tk A guns forward for quick support the carriers are not effective for the reasons stated in the above para.

Therefore, the use of carriers in the jungle is not recommended. The limited use of them would be confined to tracks and more open country than the type of country through which the battalion has recently operated. The tank has a definite advantage over the carrier in that it gives complete protection to crew and weapons - which the carrier does not do.

Lt Col
(H.H. McDONALD)
Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

15 AUST. INF. BN.

Q. M's REPORT FOR JANUARY 1945.

WEAPONS.

As a result of the weapons inspection by 104 Workshops reported in last months report, 8 S.M.G's Owen and 1 L.M.G. Bren, were condemned as U.S. and have been returned to R.S.D. Six S.M.G's Owen ~~and~~ have been replaced and 2 S.M.G's Owen and 1 L.M.G. Bren are as yet not to hand.

One Tk/A Gun is at present undergoing maintenance at 104 Workshops. Four M.M.G's Vickers have been evacuated to 312 L.A.D. for modification.

Generally weapons are in very good condition.

CONTROLLED STORES

While this Unit is stationed in Base Area, all controlled stores are being thoroughly checked and maintained. Otherwise there is no change from our previous report.

AMMUNITION

On relief by 25 Bn in forward area all ammunition was handed over. Unit is now carrying Scale A taken over from 25 Bn on relieving said Unit in Base Area.

RATIONS

On relief by 25 Bn all rations were handed over. Unit is now drawing rations daily from D.I.D.

Fresh bread is being received daily.

Fresh butter is being received four times weekly.

Fresh meat is being received from 3 to 4 times weekly.

Before Unit moves into further operations the F.O.R. Ration held by the Bn at the present time will be withdrawn and replaced by fresh stocks.

CLOTHING

Last issue received was much more satisfactory, as smaller sizes were received, which was a welcome change from the terrifically large sizes received by the Unit over the last three months.

GENERAL.

Taking advantage of lessons learnt in recent operations attention has been made to return stores considered surplus to requirements,

Permission is being made for Unit to be allowed to carry 7 magazines per Bren Gun instead of 25 per gun as laid down by W.E.T. and 7 magazines for S.M.G. Owen instead of 10 per gun as laid down by W.E.T.

Application has also been approved for the return of Mountings Radial A/A Vickers M.G. Mk 1.

L. J. Beirne Capt.
(L. J. BEIRNE)

Q.M. 15 AUST. INF BN.

15 AUST. INF. BN.

R. M.O.'s REPORT JANUARY 1945

Battle casualties

13 battle casualties were evacuated during the month. None was serious. A rack has been obtained which can be rapidly fitted to any jeep to carry two casualties on stretchers.

HEALTH

67 sick were evacuated as compared with 52 last month. 39 were cases of P.U.O. and about half of these were malaria. These all occurred at the beginning of the month before the increased atebrin dosage (2 per day) had had time to take effect.

Skin diseases have been uncommon, and serious cases rare.

General health deteriorated somewhat during ops, but has improved rapidly since return to TOROKINA.

HYGIENE.

Good throughout in spite of difficulties brought about by shortage of supplies of malarial, chlorosene, sodium arsenite, phenyle and flywire.

 Capt
(P.L. McNEILL)

R.M.O. 15 AUST. INF. BN.

31 Jan 45

C.O.

15 Aust Inf Bn.

TRANSPORT OFFICERS REPORT FOR JAN 45.

1. There are two phases to this months operations by unit vehicles
 - (a) Whilst the unit was in action.
 - (b) Since the unit has returned to TOROKINA.
2. During phase (a) the tracks were along heavy sand which imposed a great strain on the vehicles. Notwithstanding the heavy going all vehicles performed excellently. This was mainly due to the high standard of maintenance upon which the drivers were commended both by the Bde T.O. and by the L.A.D. Officer.
3. There was only one minor mechanical breakdown which necessitated L.A.D. attention.
4. Since arriving at TOROKINA area arrangements have been made with L.A.D. to completely overhaul each vehicle. Three vehicles have so far been serviced.
5. During the month one vehicle was transferred to Bde. This vehicle will be returned when the unit again moves.
6. The watercart now supplies water to all coys and has performed satisfactorily.
7. Due to the fact that the vehicles are working from 0730 hrs each morning until late at night and the necessity for training spare drivers, I have asked for the transport section to be brought up to full strength. If this is approved the spare drivers could return to their respective sub-units when the unit again goes into action.

B. Haynes
..... Lt.
Transport officer.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

128 / (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 6/1/1945 15A1BN (Unit)

W.E. 11/12/3 OFFRS. 33 O.R.'s. 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s. 32 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 2 3 4				5	6 7 8 9 10									
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.									
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.					
2	2	8	39	* * Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.										
				DETAIL	A.I.P.	G.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
				A.	39	1								40
				E.(1)										
				E.(2)										

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
QX43274	CAPT	HODGES E.L.	109 CCS	31 MS	EVAC 27 12 44 PLACED ON X LIST
QX35727	LT	HURNE C.C.	J. STAFF SCHOOL	31 12 44	MARCHED OUT CAENARA
VX120319	"	CAMPBELL D.L.	LMS OF 41 SOUTH	21 12 44	HQ 100ST ARMY (HIF) C/708/876/TAG OF 13. 12 44

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 15A1BN (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. 6/1/1945

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

At 0600 Hrs Saturday / 1943 / (Unit) _____
 W.E. OFFERS / O.R.'s OFFERS / O.R.'s ATT. BY W.E.

PART A—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

RANK	NUMBER	SURNAME	INITIALS	REMARKS
CAPT	QX43274	HODGES	EL	HDT
LT	QX40837	MULCAHY	J.D.	RSL APPLIED FOR
"	QX101670	JOHNSTON	MT	RSL APPLIED FOR
"	YX142225	RUTHERFORD	GA	"
<small> A.A.M.W.S. OFFICERS A.A.A.S. and Quarter-masters Lieutenants Platoon Sergeants and Privates </small>				
AWL				
LT	QX53945	TOMKINSON	JA	RSL APPLIED FOR.
TOTAL				

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para 10 of instructions for completion of form will complete Part B(1) & B(2).

PART B—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK					
Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Unit From	Date	CAUSE

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK					
Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Unit To	Date	CAUSE

PART C—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

15 AUST. INF. BN Unit

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 6/1/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
LT. COL	VX 49	McDONALD	HH	CO	YES		
MAJOR	QX 6056	PETKIE	AD		NO	ATU BY SECURMENT	
"	QX 33587	LACK	HH	2/c	YES		
"	QX 32106	PROVAN	D	4th Coy	YES		
CAPT	VX 101660	WESTWOOD	AH	7th Coy	YES		
"	VX 101549	CHAMBERS	S	2/c Coy	YES		
"	QX 33742	PROCTOR	PCR	4th Coy	YES		
"	QX 40852	STAUSS	AL	4th Coy	YES		
"	QX 40878	CAVENAGH	TJD	4th Coy	YES		
"	QX 34411	MACKRELL	MA	2nd Coy	YES		
LT	VX 70167	THIRGOOD	LR	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 104344	SINCLAIR	JW	TO	YES		
"	QX 33889	WELT	CW	2nd Coy	YES		
LT (T/CAPT)	QX 33740	BEIRNE	LJ	Q/M	YES		
LT	VX 111140	HAYNES	RH	4th Pl	YES		
"	QX 33741	LEARMOUTH	AJ	4th Pl	YES		
"	QX 43157	CONRAN	CJ	4th Pl	YES		
"	QX 42375	COUTTS	RD	4th Pl	YES		
"	QX 31734	REK	ER	4th Pl	YES		
"	QX 7360	MOORE	KW	R/NFT	YES		
"	VX 129774	ROBERTSON	JW	IO	YES		
"	VX 5315	MATTHEW	GN	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 68328	TEWKSBURY	HK	2nd Coy	YES		
"	QX 43412	M'CUROUCH	JB		NO	DET 29 Aust Inf Bde	11.12.44
"	QX 61063	BLETCHLY	DVI	4th Pl	YES		
"	QX 61062	EDWARDS	EC		NO	To be Separated from 211443	
"	VX 47591	PASSMORE	RE	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 61686	BEST	LD	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 117327	STELLEN	JJ	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 161651	CADY	A	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 6390	RATTRAY	KC	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 142225	RATHERFORD	GA	R/NFT	NO	EVAC 7th Amb	31.12.44
"	QX 33579	MOODY	WG	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 31688	PHILLIPS	GCN	R/NFT	YES		
"	VX 147453	TOMKIN	J	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 40832	COOPER	JW	R/NFT	YES		
"	VX 123878	BOWEN	BG	4th Pl	YES		
"	VX 136636	MEWING	DS	R/NFT	YES	(FOR OFFICERS EVAC HOSP SEE CHIT)	
"	VX 112096	GIBSON	KR	R/NFT	YES		
(CAPT (NAME))	VX 110259	M'NEIL	PL	R/NFT	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CHAPLAIN	QX 33743	HENRY WJ	29 BDE	9.8.45	CHAPLAIN
LT	VX 138176	OXLEY PHG		11.12.44	4th Pl
W/OFFR	B 203	WILLMORE C	4th Pl	15.12.43	WELL OFFR.
CAPT	VX 202095	M'DONNEN M	62 ADG	13.12.44	DEATH OFFR.

6. 1. 45
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Commanding 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.
Signature of Commander

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 6/1/1945.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.F.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammormen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Bangetakers	4	4	
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1						Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	4	2	2
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors	2	1	1
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters	26	24	2	Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners	6	6		Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				GROUP III.							
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Battery Surveyors							
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Butchers							
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks	1	1					
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Supply	10	11	1 amp				
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	10	10		Clerks, Technical	2	2					
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Concretors							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Cooks							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Despatch Riders							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Drivers, H.T.							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Mechanics							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photowriter				Miners				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Plumber				Moulders				Equipment Repairers	1	1					
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Farriers							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Fitters' Mates							
								Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	1	1		CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD							
					17	18									
									57	57	2				

Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively. 769 721 * 53

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

6. 1. 45
Date of Despatch

D. P. ... Lt. Col.
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

129 / (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 13/1/1945 15 A.I.B. (Unit)

W.E. 11/12/3 OFFRS. 23 O.R's. 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 32 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.	Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.					
2	2	9	40	* * Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.	ARMY	1								
				DETAIL	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
				A.	10	1								41
				E.(1)										
				E.(2)										

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
GX 35727	LT	HORNE CC		7.12.45	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS SCHOOL NOW DETACHED FOR DUTY (30th CURRICULAR 45/46 23/1/45 PART 50)
YX 120319	LT	CAMPBELL DA		A.1.45	(AS ABOVE)

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
YX 12223	LT	RATHERFORD GA	109 CCS	7.1.45	EVAC 7th Amb 31.12.44 TRANS. TO XLIST 7.1.45

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 15 A.I.B. (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. 13/1/1945

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
		N/A	

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

At 0600 Hrs Saturday 11/1/1943 (Unit)

W.E. 11/1/1943 OFFERS + OFFERS O.R.'s ATT BY W.E.

PART A - POSTED STRENGTH SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED
OFFICERS EVAC HOSP RETURN ANTIC

ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.		W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED	
NUMBER	RANK	NAME	REMARKS
QX 43274	CAPT	HODGES	E.L. ADJT.
QX 40837	LT	MULCAHY	J.D. RSL APPLIED FOR
NX 101670	"	JOHNSON	" " " "
YX 142225	"	RUTHERFORD	G.A. RNET.
AWL			
QX 33945	LT	TOMKINSON	JA PSL APPLIED FOR

PART B - PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Date From	Date	Cause

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Unit To	Date	Cause

PART C - DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Army No.	Rank	Name and Initials	REMARKS (e.g. present whereabouts if known)

Unit

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 13/1/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
LT-COL	VX 49	MACDONALD	HH	CO	YES		
MAJOR	OX 6056	PETRIE	AD		NO	RTM. SECONDMENT.	
"	OX 33857	LACK	HH	27C	YES		
"	OX 34106	PROVAY	D	27C	YES		
CAPT	VX 101660	WESTWOOD	HA	27C	YES		
"	OX 101549	CHAMBERS	S	27C	YES		
"	OX 42378	HODGES	EL		NO	X LIST	3.1.45
"	VX 33742	PROCTOR	PCH	27C	YES		
"	OX 40852	STAUSS	AL	27C	YES		
"	VX 40878	CAYENAGH	TJD	27C	YES		
"	OX 32911	MACKRELL	MA	27C	YES		
LT	VX 70167	THURGOOD	LR	27C	YES		
"	VX 104344	SIMONAIR	JW	27C	YES		
"	OX 33859	WERT	CW	27C	YES		
LT (TEMP)	OX 33740	BEIRNE	LJ	27C	YES		
LT	VX 114140	HAYNES	RA	27C	YES		
"	OX 101670	JONSON	MT		NO	X LIST	
"	OX 40687	MULCAHY	JD		NO	X LIST	
"	OX 33741	LEAKMOUTH	AJ	27C	YES		
"	OX 43157	CORRAN	CJ	27C	YES		
"	OX 43175	COUTTS	RD	27C	YES		
"	OX 35727	HORNE	CC	27C	NO	STAFF SCHOOL (ADJUTANT)	27.12.44
"	OX 35734	KELK	EF	27C	YES		
"	OX 7360	MOORE	KW	27C	YES		
"	VX 104772	ADOLATSON	JW	27C	YES		
"	VX 5315	MATTHEW	GR	27C	YES		
"	VX 15328	TEWRESQUAY	AR	27C	YES		
"	OX 43412	M'CALLOUGH	JB	27C	NO	DET 24 AUGST INF COE	11.12.44
"	OX 61053	BLETCHAY	DW	27C	YES		
"	OX 61062	F. WARD	EL		NO	To be Secondment 10.12.44	
"	VX 117391	PASSMORE	RE	27C	YES		
"	VX 64686	BEST	LD	27C	YES		
"	VX 47527	ST. ELLEN	JJ	27C	YES		
"	VX 120319	CAMPBELL	DL	10	NO	LHS of PI Southport	4.1.45
"	OX 101651	CADY	A	27C	YES		
"	OX 6390	HATTAY	RC	27C	YES		
"	VX 142225	RUTHERFORD	GR	27C	NO	X LIST	7.1.45
"	OX 33874	MOODY	WG	27C	YES		
"	VX 31666	PHILLIPS	GCN	27C	YES		
"	VX 147453	TANKIN	J	27C	YES		
"	VX 0832	COOPER	JW	27C	YES		
"	VX 128478	DOWDY	OG	27C	YES		
"	VX 136686	MENWIG	DS	27C	YES		
"	VX 112446	GIBSON	KK	27C	YES		
CAPT (WARC)	VX 114259	M'HEIL	RL	27C	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CHAPLAIN	OX 33743	HENRY NT	2480E	9.8.43	CHAPLAIN.
LT	VX 138176	OXLEY PHG	"	11.12.44	PLAINT.
WELF/OFFR	B263	WILLMORE C	YMAA	25.12.43	WELF. OFFR.

13.1.45
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Commander
15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

At 0800 hrs Saturday 11/11/1918
 W.E.H. 13. OTHERS OR OTHERS ATT BY W.E.
 Part A. Posted Strength, Strength or Reinforcements Required.

DETAILS OF ATTACHED

POSTING	WE	PS	SHR	DEF					
<u>AAMC</u> HYG INSPR	1	1							
MED DRD	2	2							
CHIROPDIST	1	1							
<u>AADC</u> SHOEMAKER	1	1							
<u>AAPS</u> POSTAL DUTY	1	1							
<u>AAPC</u> DAY CLERKS	2	1		1	1	1	HOSP RET ANTIC.		
<u>AACC</u> CATERER	1	1							
COOKS	23	21		2	2	2	APPD BOE		
	32	29		3					

Part B. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To (Serial) is Particularly Requested.

REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known)

NAME (last first)

REG'T

COMP

4/11

15 AUST INF BN Unit

Army Form W3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
129 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 13/ 1 /194 5.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
				B/FD	1	1		B/FD	17	17		B/FD	57	58	2
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assis.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangefinders	4	4	
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1						Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	4	2	2
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	26	24	2	Tailors	2	1	1
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Bollermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners	6	6		Wireman				NoD SPECIALIST			
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners				BATMEN 30 30			
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics								DRIVERS MT 12 12			
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)								ORDERLIES			
Fitters				Driver-Operator								OFF MESS 1 1			
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers								SGT MESS 2 2			
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians								HYG DUTY 4 2			
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)								LNG WS RAEN 37 34 53			
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				MMG NPS 22 22			
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers				Mortar NPS 73 70 5			
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	1	1		ORDERLIES 32 32			
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply	10	11	1	PIONEERS 32 29 0			
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical	2	2		PROVOST SGT 1 1			
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	10	10		Coach Trimmers				REGT POLICE 6 6			
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors				S. BEARERS 21 21			
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks				TARGUN NPS 19 19			
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies				WATER DUTI 2 2			
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				RSM 1 1			
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				RQMS 1 1			
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics				CSM 5 5			
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant				CGMS 2 2			
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.		2	Sur	Engine Hands, I.C.				SGT PL 25 24 1			
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	1		STOREMEN 6 6			
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	1	1		CARRIED FORWARD		17	19	CARRIED FORWARD		57	58	2	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7 and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively. 709 706 66		

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

13. 1. 45
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Signature of Commander Lt. Col.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

130 / (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 20 / 1 / 1945 15 AUST INF BN (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 12^c / 3 OFFRS. 33 O.R's. 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 32 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.					Rein'ts Required.				
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.					
2	2	8	6 28 1	* * Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.	AAMC	1								
2	2	8	39			1			AWA					
				DETAIL	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).				A.	39	1								40
				E.(1)										
				E.(2)										

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
QX61062	LT	EDWARDS KC	2 APTS	20.1.45	AUTH: Q'LD ECH AND RECORDS ROTI 15/10/44 - X LIST.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 15 AUST INF BN (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. 20 / 1 / 1945

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
NIL			

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
(Serial) No. 130

At 0600 Hrs Saturday 20 / 1 1943 15 ANST INF Bn (Unit)
W.E. 11/11/43 OFFERS 13 O.R.'s 7/19 + OFFERS 1 O.R.'s 3/2 ATT BY W.E.
PART A-POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

OFFICERS EVAC HOSP. RETURN ANTIC. W.E. INCLUDING ATTACHED

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	DETAIL	POSTING	Remarks
QX 43274	CAPT	HODGES		EL ADJT.	
NX 101670	LT	JOHNSON	Colonels	MT	RSL APPLIED FOR.
VX 142225	.	RUTHERFORD	Captains	GA	RNFT.
			Lieutenants		
			Quartermasters		
			A.A.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Officers		
			Civilian Accounting Officers		
AWL					
QX 33945	LT	TOMKINSON		JA	RSL APPLIED FOR.

QX 61662 LT EDWARDS E.C. WILL NOT APPEAR IN FUTURE

3008 AUTH: QLD ECH AND RECORDS ROUTE 15. 10. 44

QX 40837 LT MULCAHY JD WILL NOT APPEAR IN FUTURE

3008 AUTH. 3 ANST DIV 19/152 OF 14. 12. 44 HQ 1 ANST

ARMY MEMO AMS 095 6/1/45 T/FERRED P.S.L.

Serial No.	Name and Initials	Rank	Case
QX 61662	EDWARDS E.C.	LT	Auth: Qld Ech and Records
QX 40837	MULCAHY JD	LT	Auth: 3 ANST Div

PART C-DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 15 ANST INF Bn (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Serial No.	Rank	Name and Initials	Remarks (i.e. present whereabouts if known)

W.H.

15 AUST. INF. BN Unit

130 / (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 20/1/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
LT. COL	VX49	MCDONALD	HH	CO	YES		
MAJOR	QX6056	PETRIE	AD		NO	RTU EX SECONDMENT.	
"	QX3887	LACK	HH	2/C	YES		
"	QX3410	PROVAN	D	2/C	YES		
CAPT	NX101660	WESTWOOD	AH	1/2 BCoy	YES		
"	NX101549	CHAMBERS	S	2/C Coy	YES		
"	QX42374	HODGES	E L	ADJT	NO	X LIST	3.1.45
"	QX38742	PROCTOR	PCR	1/2 C Coy	YES		
"	QX40852	STRUSS	AL	1/2 D Coy	YES		
"	QX40878	TRAVENAGH	TJD	1/2 A Coy	YES		
"	QX34411	MACKRELL	MH	2/C Coy	YES		
LT	NX70167	THIRGOOD	LR	1/2 B PL	YES		
"	VX104344	SINCLAIR	JW	1/2 I PL	YES		
"	QX33889	WOAT	CW	2/C D Coy	YES		
LT (T/CAPT)	QX38740	BEIRNE	LJ	QM	YES		
LT	VX111140	HAYNES	RH	TO	YES		
"	NX101670	JOHNSON	MT		NO	X LIST	
"	QX410837	MULCAHY	JD		NO	X LIST	
"	QX33741	LEARMONTH	AJ	1/2 I PL	YES		
"	QX413157	COYRAN	CJ	1/2 K PL	YES		
"	QX43275	COUTTS	RO	1/2 R PL	YES		
"	QX35727	HORNE	CC	ADJT	NO	STAFF SCHOOL (HEARLAN)	31.12.44
"	QX51734	KELK	EF	1/2 S PL	YES		
"	QX7360	MOORE	KW	1/2 J PL	YES		
"	NX129772	ROBERTSON	JW	1/2 I PL	YES		
"	VX3315	MATTHEW	GN	1/2 M PL	YES		
"	NX68328	TEWKESBURY	AR	2/C B Coy	YES		
"	QX43442	MCULLOUGH	JB	1/2 G PL	NO	DET 29 AUST INF BDE	11.12.44
"	QX61063	BLETCHLY	DW	1/2 H PL	YES		
"	QX61062	EDWARDS	EC		NO	To be Seconded into 2 BATTLS	
"	VX117591	PASSMORE	RE	1/2 J PL	YES		
"	VX61685	BEST	LD	1/2 I PL	YES		
"	VX117527	ST. ELLEN	JJ	1/2 K PL	YES		
"	VX40319	CAMPBELL	DL	TO	NO	LHS of MI SOUTHPORT	4.1.45
"	NX161651	CADY	A	1/2 S PL	YES		
"	NX6390	RATRAY	RC	1/2 H PL	YES		
"	VX112225	RUTHERFORD	GA	RNFT	NO	X LIST	7.1.45
"	QX33579	MOODY	WG	1/2 B PL	YES		
"	WX31666	PHILLIPS	GCN	RNFT	YES		
"	NX117453	TONKIN	J	RNFT	YES	(FOR OFFICERS ETAC)	
"	V40832	COOPER	JW	RNFT	YES		
"	NX128478	BOWEN	BG	RNFT	YES	HOSP AND PLACED ON PSL	
"	NX136636	MEWING	DS	RNFT	YES		
"	NX112096	GIBSON	KR	RNFT	YES	SEE BACK)	
CAPT (AMAC)	VX114339	M'NEIL	PL	AMAC	YES.		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CHAPLAIN	QX33743	HENRY WJ	29 BDE	9.8.43	CHAPLAIN
LT.	NX138176	OXLEY PHG	"	11.12.44	ACTING ADJT
W/OFFR	B263	WILLMORE C	YMCA	25.12.43	WELF. OFFR.

20. 1. 45
Date of Despatch

H. McDonald
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

130 / (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 20/1/1945 15th AUST INF BN (Unit)

W.E. 11/1203 OFFRS. 23 O.R.'s 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s 22 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1 W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				2 ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.							
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.		Arm or Corps.		Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
			1	W.Os. Class I.							
	1		5	W.Os. Class II.				1			
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.							
		1	6	Staff Sergeants							
	3		29	Sergeants		3	1	5	10		
	22		45	Corporals		2	1	5	9		
	35		623	Troopers, Privates, etc.		1		11	12		
				Civilians counting as O.R.					22		
*	61	1	709*	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		ARMY	ARMY	ARMY	ARMY	TOTAL	29*

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail	A.I.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL
		Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							
A	445	296								741
B(1)										
B(2)										

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	29 BDE			8	29 BDE		
3	212 LAD			1	212 LAD		
4	2nd Regt			4	211 GUARD		
5	211 GUARD REGT			19	HOSP		
1	FSS			3	LEAVE		
2	ANGAN			1	RECORDS		
6	EME						
4	4701						
SONAGIVES FROM ANGAN							

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To 15th AUST INF BN (Unit) is Particularly Requested. 20/1/1945

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
NIL			

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

At 0800 hrs Saturday 20/1/1943
 W.E. 11/14/23
 OFFERS 1 O.R.'s 30/1 + OFFERS 1 O.R.'s 30/1 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Requested.

DETAILS OF ATTACHED					W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED				
POSTING	WE	PS	SUR	DEF	REMARKS	Posted Strength	Surplus to W.E.	Excluded W.E.	Reinforcements Requested
AAMC.									
HYG. INSPR	1	1			W.O.s Class I	1			
MED. ORDERLY	2	1	2		W.O.s Class II	2		1	
CHIROPODIST.	1	1			Squadron or Company Quartermaster				
					Staff Sergeants	6	1		
					Sergeants	20		3	
AADC					Corporals	43		22	
SHOE MAKER	1	1			Troopers, Privates etc.	252		32	
					Civilians counting as O.R.				
					Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part B of Page 2.	707	1	10	
AAPS									
POSTAL DUTY	1	1			A.P.S. Unit				
					A.W.S. A.M.S.				
AAPC									
PAY CLERKS	2	2							
Part C. Other ranks included in Part A Detached to Other Units.					Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.				
AACC									
CATERER	1	1						1	
COOKS	23	23		2				3	
								4	
								2	
								1	
								2	
								6	
								4	
TOTAL	22	22	2	2					

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return to (Unit) is Particularly Requested.

Serial No.	Name and Initials	Rank	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
/			

15 AUST INF BN

Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
130 / Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 20/1/1945.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers	4	4	
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1						Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Biggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	4	3	
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	20	26		Tailors	2	1	
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				By. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheeler				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners	6	7		Wireman				NON-SPECIALIST			
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners				BATMAN	35	35	
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics								DRIVERS AT 12	12	12	
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)								ORDERLIES			
Fitters				Driver-Operator								OFF MESS	1	1	
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers								SGT MESS	2	2	
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians								HYG DUTY	4	4	
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)								LAGHS RHEN	347	346	
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators								DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				GROUP III.				MALB NOS	22	22	
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Battery Surveyors				MORTAR NOS	73	70	3
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Butchers	3			ORDERLIES	32	32	
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks	1	1		PIONEERS	32	29	3
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Supply	10	11		PROVOST SGT	1	1	
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	10	10		Clerks, Technical	2	2		REGT. POLICE	6	6	
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Coach Trimmers				S. BARRACKS	21	21	
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Concretors				TAKUNAS	19	19	
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Cooks				WATER DUTY	2	2	
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Dental Clerk Orderlies				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Despatch Riders				RSM	1	1	
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Draughtsmen, Signals				RQM5	1	1	
Pattern Maker				Masons				Drivers, H.T.				CSM	5	5	
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Mechanics	3			CGMS	5	5	
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Driver Tptn. Plant				SGT PL.	25	23	2
Photowriter				Miners				Engine Hands, I.C.				STOREMEN	6	6	
Plumber				Moulders				Equipment Repairers	1	1					
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Farriers							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Fitters' Mates							
CARRIED FORWARD	1	1		CARRIED FORWARD				Gun Layers							
					17	18									
									57	65					

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

20. 1. 45
Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander
Commanding 15 Aust. Inf. Bn.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

131 / (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 27/1/1945 15th AUST INF BDN (Unit)

W.E. 11/12/3 OFFRS. 23 O.R's. 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 32 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.										
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.				
2	2	9	40	* * Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.		1								
2	2	9	40			1								
				DETAIL	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
				A.	40	1								41
				E.(1)										
				E.(2)										

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
 ** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
QX 33908	LT	HURKINS RF	12. ART. B	15.12.44	RECALLED TO BE SECONDED. INSTA 12. ART B HQ 1 AUST ARMY MEMO. FILE 587 OF 15.12.44

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 15th AUST INF BDN (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. 27/1/1945

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
			Nil.

15th Aust Inf Bn

Unit

131 / (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 27/1/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
LT-COL	VX49	MCDONNILL	HN	CO	YES		
MAJOR	OX5056	PETRIE	AD	2IC	YES		
"	OX33827	LACK	HN	2IC	YES		
"	OX4100	PROGAN	D	2IC	YES		
CAPT	OX101660	WESTWOOD	HN	2IC	YES		
"	OX101249	CHAMBERS	S	2IC	YES		
"	OX42374	HUGHES	EL	2IC	NO	X LIST	3.1.45
"	OX37742	PROCTOR	PCR	2IC	YES		
"	OX40552	STRASS	HL	2IC	YES		
"	OX40578	CHVENASH	TJD	2IC	YES		
"	OX4111	MACKRELL	MH	2IC	YES		
LT	OX70167	THIRCOOD	LK	2IC	YES		
"	VX104344	SIMLAIR	JW	2IC	YES		
"	OX33859	WORT	CW	2IC	YES		
LT (T/CAPT)	OX33740	BEIRNE	LJ	2IC	YES		
LT	VX46120	HAYNES	KA	2IC	YES		
"	OX30709	LEIGH-MONTE	HJ	2IC	YES		
"	OX10157	CONRAN	LJ	2IC	YES		
"	OX43278	COUTTS	RD	2IC	YES		
"	OX35727	HORNE	CC	2IC	NO	STAFF SCHOOL COCKENATH	21.12.44
"	OX51734	KELK	EF	2IC	YES		
"	OX7360	MOORE	KW	2IC	YES		
"	OX40772	RUBENSON	JW	2IC	YES		
"	VX5315	MATTHEW	GN	2IC	YES		
"	OX68328	TEWKSBURY	AK	2IC	YES		
"	OX43412	M'CALLOUGH	JB	2IC	NO	DET 24th AUST INF BDE	11.12.44
"	OX33908	HOPKINS	RF	2IC	NO	REU EX SECONMENT	15.2.45
"	OX40163	BRETTLEY	DW	2IC	YES		
"	VX117591	PASSMORE	AK	2IC	YES		
"	VX64576	BEST	LD	2IC	YES		
"	VX117547	ST. ALLEN	JJ	2IC	YES		
"	VX60319	CAMPBELL	DL	2IC	NO	LMS DEPT SOUTHPORT	4.1.45
"	OX101651	CADY	A	2IC	YES		
"	OX6390	KATRAY	KC	2IC	YES		
"	VX142235	RUTHERFORD	GR	2IC	NO	X LIST	7.1.45
"	OX33879	MCCOY	WO	2IC	YES		
"	OX31666	PHILLIPS	CCN	2IC	YES		
"	OX107453	TUNKIN	J	2IC	YES	(FOR OFFICERS EVAC	
"	V40632	COOPER	JW	2IC	YES	SEE BACK)	
"	OX128478	BOWEN	BF	2IC	YES		
"	OX126036	MERRINS	DS	2IC	YES		
"	OX112496	GIBSON	KR	2IC	YES		
CHPT (ARMC)	VX114229	M'NEIL	PL	2IC	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CHAPLAIN	OX33743	HENRY WJ	24 BDE	4.5.43	CHAPLAIN
LT	OX13076	OXLEY PHG	"	11.12.44	ACTING ADJT.
W/OFIC	D265	WILLMORE C	119CA	13.12.43	W/OFIC.

27. 1. 45
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Signature of Commander Lt. Col.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 17/1/1945.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitches			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Bangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Rivettors			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1						Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevadores			
Computers								Biggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	4	3	1
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	26	26		Tailors	2	1	1
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters	6	7		Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors							
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers	2						
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	1	1					
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply	10	11					
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical	2	2					
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	12	10		Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics	3						
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hand's. I.C.							
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	1					
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	1	1		CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD	7	4		Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	7	4	66

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
 (b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
 (c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
 (d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
 (e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

Date of Despatch _____

Signature of Commander _____ Lt. Col.

W.A.
APPX A

PERIOD 1 JAN - 5 JAN 45

1 JAN 45

1. WORK PROGRAMME. The C.O. has directed that the following works programme be carried out during the period laid down.

2. Serial	Date	Task	Details
1	1 Jan 45	Overhaul of Coy Fire Plan - emphasis on Beach Defence	
2		Clearing of Field of Fire	Will be completed by 1 Jan 45
3		Development of tactical and protective wiring	To be all completed by 2 Jan 45
4		Booby traps and alarm systems	1. For protection of defences- to be completed by 1 Jan 45 2. Protective tactical trapping of old Jap Posn
5	2 Jan 45	Development of wpn pits	1. Head cover, deepening, revetting and camouflaging
6	3 Jan 45	Completion of task 2. Jan 45	Amn, Water supplies, shelter bays R&P and COMD POST
7	4 Jan 45	Development communication	1. Crawl trenches 2. Comm Trenches
8	5 Jan 45	Preparation of alternative posns	1. For all automatic wpons.

P.H. O'Leary
Lt
(P.H.O. O'LEARY)
A/Asst Lt 1st Inf Bn

War Diary

APPX B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

RESTRICTED
No I/45

Lt Col H.H. McDonald 3 Jan 45 Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

1. SIGNAL WIRES

During last week serious delays to sig comms have been caused by carelessness of troops in falling trees across permanent lines routes.

Units will ensure that all ranks are instructed in the vital necessity for preservation of sig conversations.

Drastic action will be taken against all offenders. In future all sig lines will be suspended well overtracks.

2. WATER

Sub Unit Commanders will ensure that water from streams, wells etc which have NOT been previously chlorinated will NOT be drunk by any personnel under their command under any circumstances.

3. GUNS MACHINE GUN - MAINTENANCE

1. To prevent erosion of Bren Gun Breech Blocks units will ensure that as soon as possible after firing the following procedure is adopted.

"remove Breech Block, scrub face thoroughly with brush and water, hot if possible. Ensure that oil is not present at any time on the face of the breech block. Dry block and reassemble.

2. This procedure should as a minimum be carried out daily.

4. KITCHEN PREPARATION ROOMS

All Bn kitchens will utilize tents mosquito as food preparation rooms in the following manner:-

Tents mosquito will be nailed to a table on three sides enabling the cook to raise the fourth side as a flap or entrance to the food preparation room formed by tents mosquito which will be erected over the table.

5. MALARIA PRECAUTIONS

Coy Comds and Coy 2 i/c will personally check supervision by pl comds of all malaria and typhus precautions, and Coy Comds will render Certificates as detailed in signal A 266 of this IQ.

P.H. [Signature]
Lt
(P.O.G. JAMES)
A/Adjt 15 Aust Inf Bn

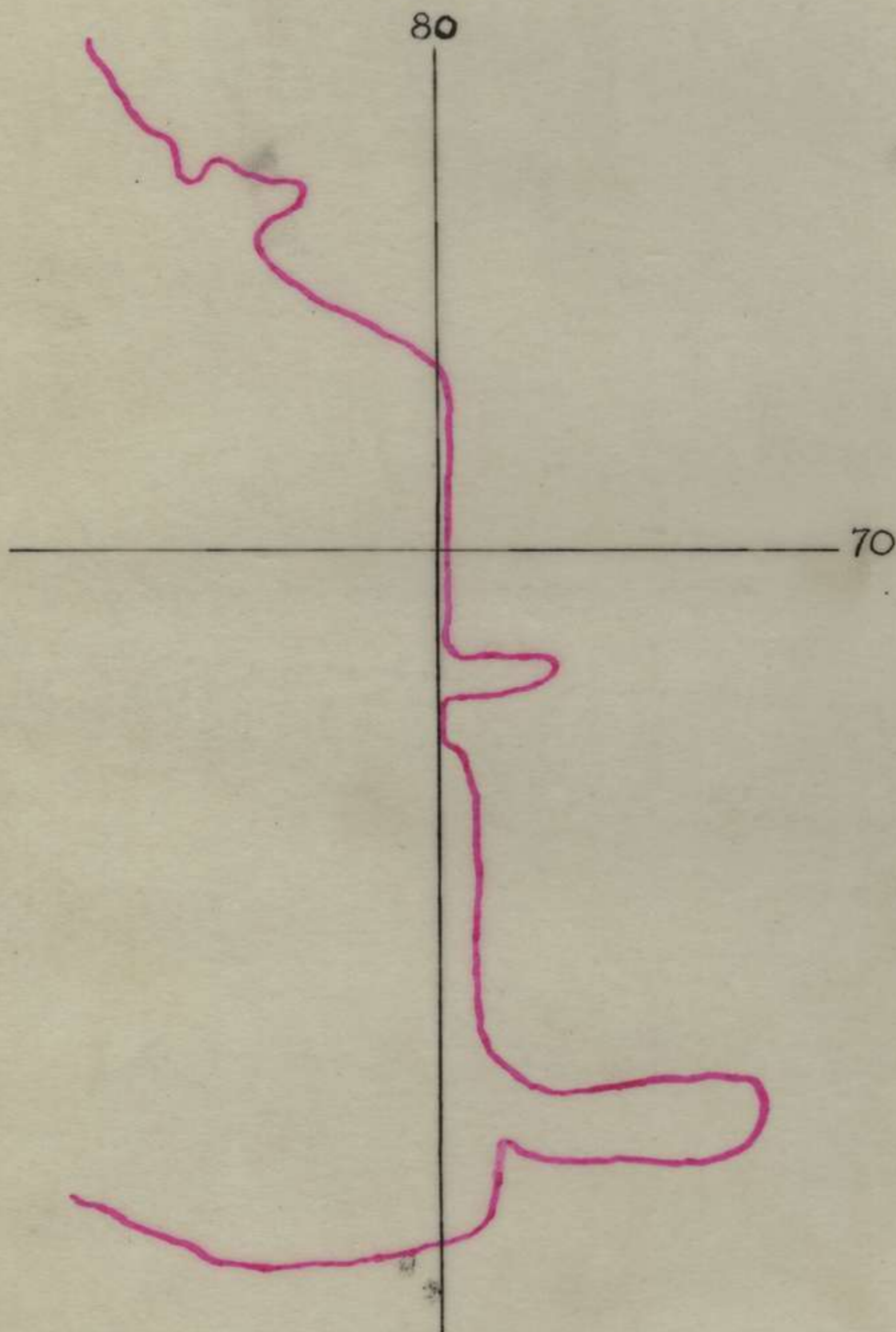
Distribution List A.

Appx - C

OVERLAY TO

MOTUPENA PT PURIATA RIVER TRACK MAP

1" to 1 mile



Area of responsibility for the co-ordination of defensive
measures of all Units under Comd 15 Aust Inf Bn.

9 JAN 45.

Copies for War Diary
1 copy adjt

Appx D

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bn
AUSTRALIA
1 Jan 45

1 copy

PLAN FOR DEFENCE OF PRESENT BN POSNS

INTENTION

1. 15 Aust Inf Bn will hold defensive posns along the coast and at the log crossing 794669 and will deny ~~xx~~ areas at present held to the enemy.

METHOD

2. Troops -

(1) B Coy with under comd one det Tk A 2 Pdr and two dets 3" Mortar will hold and defend posn south of the TAVERA River approximately 778655. One tp 6 Bty will be included in this perimeter and B Coy will be responsible for the protection of the gun site which will be fully developed as a defensive posn.

(2) D Coy less one pl and details of HQ Coy will hold area 785674. Three dets 3" mortars two dets Tk A 2 Pdr and one sec MMG will be sited in this area under Comd Bn for beach defensive role.

18 Pl D Coy will ~~xx~~ form defensive perimeter one tp 6 Bty ~~xx~~ for protection of gun site.

(3) A Coy with one det 3" mortar and one det Tk A 2 Pdr will hold area 785692.

(4) Tp 2/8 Command Sqn will hold defensive posn at 780714 and is under comd for local defence only.

(5) C Coy will deny the log crossing at 794669 to the enemy.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF POSNS

Digging

(1) All perimeter will be fully developed to the final stages of digging, revettment and cover

Wiring

(2) Tactical wiring will be ~~xx~~ erected around all perimeters particular attention being given to the prevention of grenades being lodged inside the perimeter.

Booby Traps

(3) All approaches will be Booby trapped by night and "deloused" by day. All Jap posns will be freely booby trapped by Coys and patrols if NOT to be occupied permanently by own tps.

4. Co-ordination

Tk A - 2 Pdr. The fire of 2 pdrs in ~~Bn HQ Area~~ A & B Coys will be coordinated with the tasks allotted 2 dets 2 pdrs in Bn HQ Area.

MMG One sec D Coy area will be sited as single runs to fire along beach on an arc covering A Coy and down to TAVERA River

3" Mortars 3" Mortars with beach coys will be prepared to fire on beach tasks.

ARTY

6 Bty will be prepared to fire at least one gun each tp posn on an arc covering sea a beach.

Maj PROVAN 15 Bn will coordinate ~~xxxx~~ the end of def posn at B Coy and fwd gun site and will be def comd ~~xxxx~~ area south of TAVERA RIVE

PATROLLING

- (1) Coys will maintain security patrols in their own perimeters and protect patrols fwd.
- (2) Contact Patrols
 - (1) Contact will be made by patrol from B Coy to C Coy during hours of daylight.
D Coy will maintain a listening post on North Bank of TAVERA River mouth during daylight hours.
 - (2) B Coy will contact D Coy at mouth of TAVERA River.
 - (3) A Coy will patrol to D Coy posn.
 - (4) Tp 2/8 Commando Sqn will maintain contact with A Coy.
- (3) Special patrols as ~~xxx~~ ordered.

5. COUNTER ATTACK

- (1) A Coy will retain counter attack role ~~xxx~~ rehearsed to support B Coy.
- (2) D Coy will recce and rehearse C/A role in support of F Tp 6 Bty.

ARM

- 6. RESERVE SUPPLIES - Seven days reserve of all rations will be maintained, in each posn.
- 7. MEDICAL - HAP at D Coy perimeter
RMO will arrange adequate sups to all Coys.
- 8. CARRYING PARTY - A Coy will continue to carry sups to ~~xxx~~ C Coy posn.

INTERCOMM

- 9. Bn HQ 785674.
Line to all Coys
Line will be duplicated by 11 Set to Bde.

Handwritten scribbles and faint markings.

Handwritten signature: H. McDonald
 Lt Col
 (H. McDonald)
 Comd 15 Aust Inf Bn

Appx F.

70

15 BN
AREA OF
RESPONSIBILITY

42 BN
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY 80

REF MAP:~

29 BDE COMD SHEETS

H. 15 Aust Inf B.
AUSTRALIA
17 Jan 45

1. Patrols

- (a) Wire - It has been found that patrols moving without wire are able to cover greater distances and are given greater power of manoeuvre.
- (b) Strength - The small patrol of one sec or an N.C.O. and two or three men is easier to conceal, easier to control, easier to break off when enemy contacted and can move with stealth.

Can observe without being observed and is more suited to reconceal.
The necessity to find and clean out enemy positions demands a patrol strong enough to conduct a fight on its own.

Therefore the Pl with its weapons include 2" Mortar.

The necessity to patrol over long distances or over a period of days necessitates the establishing of a patrol base from which to operate (a firm base) e.g. recent N.C.I.B. patrols.

~~Therefore the Pl with its weapons.~~

- (c) Communications - The Comd ordering the patrol requires information from the patrol of its progress.

The small patrol is handicapped by L/T for reasons stated in (a), therefore the problem of communication arises.

Suggest runners be sent back at prearranged times.

The ~~latter~~ patrol of a Pl etc and the patrol base require that line be laid as far as the patrol base.

- (d) Briefing - The greatest care must be taken in briefing patrols by Comds and the utmost attention paid to detail in doing so even though the detail seems to be of a minor nature.

Definite questions will be asked and answers supplied in reports on return.

- (e) Reports - Some patrol leaders recently have reported swamp as being impassable.

This fact has been disproved by one patrol of one N.C.O. and 3 ORs covering a distance of approximately 3200 yards through swamp waist deep for most of the journey and for a considerable distance as deep as the armpits.

Patrols will not report swamp impassable when they have traversed as in some cases a distance of only 200/300 yds up to the knees.

One patrol reported that a river could be crossed, in answer to a question re the crossing, by boat, raft, fallen tree, bridge or bridging eqpt, the only other method of swimming for some unknown reason was not mentioned.

This latter report was a waste of time and man hours as well as a waste of my time taken to read a useless report.

2. Movement on tracks - Tracks should not be used too frequently for the same patrols as this tends to a false feeling of security in the members of the patrol through moving repeatedly over the same ground.

Use parallel routes alternatively and cut into the track at intervals to observe.

When enemy positions are known and reconceal is to be carried beyond the posn known make a detour and if required reconceal back along the track thus avoiding ambush.

3. Information - Information must be passed to own tps, listening posts, patrols (own and those of neighbouring units and sub units) of timings in and out, routes to be traversed, nature of patrol and action.

This avoids clashes between own patrols and unnecessary wounding or killing of own tps thus attaining the object of the Jan 45 giving him the trouble.

4. Attack and Defence - The main point to be stressed in regard to these ops is that of the offensive spirit.

In defence every piece of wire erected, every booby trap, every weapon pit, in fact every pit must be regarded as a fighting pit.

Aggressive patrolling to kill out of the perimeter and the perimeter regarded as a safe place to rest.

The use of 2" mortar and 51 rifle grenade must be used more than they have been, both in attack and defence, and every avenue must be exploited by Pl Comds to use these weapons.

3" Mortar and Arty should not be used till all own resources have failed.

5. ADM

Rations, amn returns have been dealt with at a conference called by Maj LACK and an instruction is being issued separately re these matters.

H.H. McDON

(H.H. McDON)
Comd 15 Aust

by

Lt Col H.H. McDONALD

17 Jan 45

Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

1. SERVICE IN POST WAR CMF

Member of the AMF desirous of serving in the Post War PMF should submit their enquiries through unit HQ to higher formation.

2. IMPROPER DESTRUCTION OF SIGNALS EQUIPMENT

Instances of serious damage to permanent lines have occurred recently through carelessness of tree felling parties in dropping trees across wires.

Serious delays in communications result and valuable time is wasted in effecting repairs.

The need for care in tree felling near signal lines will be impressed on all ranks. If on investigation of damage negligence by any member is established, the charge will be dealt with by Court Martial.

3. CORRECT CHANNEL OF COMPLAINTS AND COMMUNICATIONS ON SERVICE MATTERS.

1. The use of the correct channels of complaints, as prescribed by AMR & O 289, is to members' advantage, as those channels ensure that complaints are investigated, and are referred to the authority who has power to grant any necessary redress, by the most direct means. Complaints through other than the prescribed channels, on the other hand, start at the "wrong end" of the correct channel, so that they have to be referred down to units for investigation and then back to the appropriate authority for consideration as to whether any remedial action on the complaint is necessary. The result is that, in addition to the use of incorrect channels being prejudicial to discipline, a member using those channels causes unnecessary correspondence and delay in the consideration of his complaint.

2. COs will ensure that the provisions of AMR & O 289, together with the advantage of using the correct channels of complaints thereby prescribed, are explained to the members of all units on parade at frequent intervals. The attention of members will be drawn at the same time to the provisions of AMR & O 293 and 307 (1) and they will be warned that any member failing to observe these provisions will be liable to disciplinary action.

3. Any communications on service matters made by a member through channels other than those prescribed and received at a HQ will be forwarded to the member's unit for appropriate action by the CO.

4. RELIGION AND SPIRITUAL WELFARE IN THE ARMYGeneral Principles

1. (a) The attention of all ranks is directed to the importance of religion in ~~the~~ the Army and the right of every soldier to the free practice of his religion.

(b) Freedom of worship is a right guaranteed by the constitution of the Commonwealth. This right is in no way limited by the fact that a member becomes subject to military law, but, on the contrary, is specifically preserved by the provisions of the AMR & O.

2. There is in the forces a large percentage of young men whose lives would normally be in the process of being moulded under the influence of their homes and religious institutions.

With the temporary loss of these aids and the continual challenge to preconceived ideas which is being made by the new factors associated with army life, it is doubly important that suitable opportunities should be provided for the practice of religion.

3. The personal qualities which demand a high standard of conduct at all times and which inspire courage and self-sacrifice in a crisis are by nature spiritual, not physical, and these are essential to our nation during the war and in the difficult years which must follow. Hence, attendance at religious services should not be regarded as something interfering with training for war, but as a desirable adjunct thereto.

Church Parades.

4. Unless, in the opinion of the CO, conditions preclude it, each unit will hold a general parade every Sunday. At this parade, all ranks will be given the opportunity of exercising their free will in the matter of their attendance or non-attendance at a religious service. Those wishing to attend will be marched off to the area in which their service is to be conducted; the remainder of the parade will be left at the disposal of the CO.

5. Freedom of conscience will be safeguarded at all times and no soldier will be compelled, under any circumstances, to attend a religious service which violates his religious convictions. Conscientious objectors will not be compelled to attend any service at all. The Commander-in-Chief directs that this freedom will be untrammelled and that the execution of this order will have the personal attention of all commanders.

6. It is possible for only the major religious denominations to be represented by chaplains in the forces, and it will often be impossible for a member to attend a service conducted by a chaplain of the denomination of the church to which he belongs.

7. It is the policy of the Army to permit personnel to attend services of their own denomination if such are available, but, if they are not, combined parades may be arranged in conformity with the policies of the various religious bodies, which are as follows:-

- (a) The Roman Catholics and Hebrews do not participate with other bodies;
- (b) Other Christian denominations are prepared to participate in combined parades conducted by chaplains other than Roman Catholic or Hebrew, if attendance at a service conducted by a Chaplain of their own denomination cannot be arranged. Where a combined parade is arranged, the service authorized for combined parades in AAB 433 will be used.

P.H.G. Oxley
Lt
(P.H.G. OXLEY)
A/adjt 15 Aust Inf Bn.

Appx J

SECRET 20
Copy No.....
20 Jan 45

15 AUST INF BN - O.O. No 3/45

(Ref Map : TOROKINA 1 in to 1.mile)

INFM

- 1. (a) Enemy
As per daily sitreps and Int Summaries.
- (b) Own Tps
On the relief by 7 Aust Inf Bde the role of 29 Aust Inf Bde is to be the defence of portion of TOROKINA base area and the control of HANEMO area.

INTENTION

- 2. The relief of 15 Aust Inf Bn by 25 Aust Inf Bn will commence at 0800 hrs on 23 Jan 45.

METHOD

- 3. Tps
Orders for the relief of coy perimeters will be issued separately.
- 4. Mvt
 - (a) R parties report to HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde 20 Jan 45.
 - (b) O parties report to 7 Aust Inf Bde 21 Jan 45.
 - (c) Adv parties report to HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde 22 Jan 45.
 - (d) Relief of unit F gps will commence 0800 hrs 23 Jan 45 and will be completed by 1700 hrs 28 Jan 45.
 - (e) Rear parties when relieved by 7 Aust Inf Bde.
 - (f) Detailed mvt orders for each party will be issued separately.

5. Composition of parties

- (a) R Party -
 - 21/c
 - RQMS
 - 1 I sec
 - 1 batman
- (b) O Parties -
 - Asst Adjt (IO)
 - Coy 21/cs
 - Sig Sjt
 - Coy storemen
 - 2 batmen
- (c) Adv Parties -
 - Bn HQ - RP Sjt 2 ORs
 - 1 clerk orderly room
 - HQ Coy - Sig Cpl 2 sigs
 - 3 Sjts 4 ORs (incl 2 cooks)
 - A - 1 offr 3 Sjts 2 ORs
 - B) - 3 Sjts 2 ORs
 - C) - " "
 - D) - " "
- (d) Rear Parties -
 - Bn CM
 - 1 offr per coy
 - 1 NCO per pl

6. LIASON

Closest possible liason will be maintained with 25 Aust Inf Bn. In particular the following op information will be passed:-

15. AUST INF BN O.O. No 3/45 (Contd)

LIASON (Contd)

- (a) Detailed locations all def posns.
- (b) Track maps.
- (c) Terrain reports.
- (d) Air photos.
- (e) Copies all captured documents.
- (f) Patrol reports.
- (g) Detailed plans of all booby trapped areas.

7. ACTION ON RELIEF

15 Aust Inf Bn will occupy def posns vacated by 7 Aust Inf Bde in approx area bounded by refs 6495, 6498, 6698, and 6695.

ADM

8. Transfer of stores to 25 Aust Inf Bn:-

- (a) First line amm.
- (b) Engineer stores.
- (c) Following items only of accom stores held south of TAGESSI RIVER --

Tubs washing	42
Buckets 13"	11
Tents 12 x 14	6
Flys	7
Tarpaulin 24 x 18	1
- (d) Cooking gear following items only -

Fowler stoves	10
Soyer stoves	10
Hydra burners	11
- (e) Rations, expense stores and POL held by unit at date of relief.
- (f) Sig stores - following items only -
 - Tec eqpt on loan 3 Aust Div.
 - Cable in posn and in res.
- (g) Red Cross and medical stores -

Transfer of all above items will be by direct liason between officers concerned in 15 Aust Inf Bn and 25 Aust Inf Bn.

Certificates of hand-over signed by officers concerned of relieving and relieved sub-units, both for this area and TOROKINA perimeter, will be rendered to Bn HQ in duplicate for all installations, stores and res handed over.

Items listed (c) and (d) will be replaced by relieved unit TOROKINA perimeter.

All other stores will NOT be transferred but will remain on charge and move with this unit.

9. MT

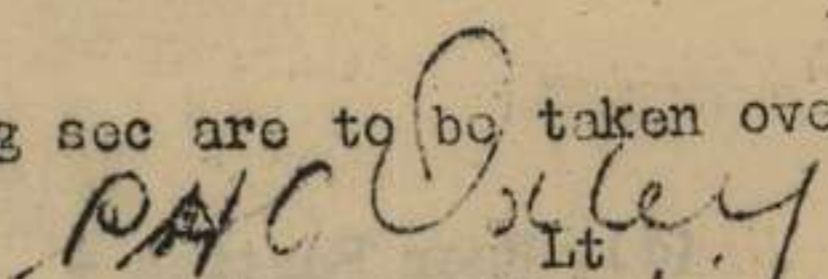
All vehicles will move by road throughout under unit arrangements, as ordered by ~~Tec~~ O on the day of movement of unit's main body.

10. RATIONS

- (a) On the man - One emergency ration, one FOR. Unconsumed portion of day's rations.
- (b) Dress - Full marching order, cots and shelter halves.

INTERCOMN

11. All existing lines manned by 7 Aust Inf Bde sig sec are to be taken over by 29 Aust Inf Bde sig sec.


 Lt
 (P.H.C. OXLEY)
 A/Adjt 15 Aust Inf Bn.

ACK

Issued by runner.

Time of signature 202130L.

Distribution - Lt A

15 US INF BN

Serial No 2/45

Date: 23 Jan 45

Copy No.....

Lt Col H.H. McDONALD

Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

1. ABANDONED US LETHAL EQUIPMENT

(a) The following US Chemical Warfare Equipment was recently found in 3 Aust Div area in an unoccupied dugout:-

1 Circular tin (size 9" x 5" diameter) containing 3 each samples in sealed glass ampoules (size 8 1/2" x 1" diameter) of the following LETHAL GASES:-

<u>US Symbol</u>	<u>Chemical Content</u>
HS	Mustard
OG	Phosgene
M - 1	Lewisite
PS	Chloropicrin

(b) The attention of all ranks will be drawn to:-

- (i) The possibility of locating similar samples.
- (ii) The necessity for immediate reporting through normal channels to HQ 29 Aust Inf Bde.
- (iii) The danger of tampering or interfering in any way with the samples of lethal gases.

2. UNAUTHORISED DISASSEMBLY OF EQUIPMENT

disassembly
The assembly of equipment, other than by authorised trade group personnel will not be permitted. This instruction applies particularly to watches GS, cases of unauthorised attention to which have been reported recently.

3. GARBAGE

(a) All garbage will be protected from flies and incinerated as soon as possible. Tins will be crushed after burning and will then be buried in unit camp site or dumped at one of the following dumps:-

- (i) Near Junction PIVA and MISSION roads. Ref Map TOROKINA 1" Series 595910.
- (ii) Sand Pit at one end of PIVA Fighter Strip Map Ref TOROKINA 1" Series 574968.
- (iii) Off KOROMOKINA Rd at West end of Bomber Strip. Map Ref TOROKINA 1" 567957.

4. CORRESPONDENCE COURSES - UNIVERSITY TUITION.

Applications for enrolment in University subjects to be studied in 1945 should be made through Unit Education Officer as early as possible. The closing dates for the various Universities are as under:-

SYDNEY	-	12 Mar 45
MELBOURNE	-	23 Feb 45
ADELAIDE	-	28 Feb 45
QUEENSLAND	-	31 Jan 45
TASMANIA	-	31 Jan 45
WEST AUSTRALIA	-	Applications will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

5. LETTER POSTAGE - NO STAMPS AVAILABLE.

The practice of forwarding Airmail Letters without stamps franked "No Stamps Available" will be discontinued immediately as it is considered that suitable facilities exist for Units to obtain stamps under present conditions.

Routine Orders Part 1 Continued

5. LETTER POSTAGE - NO STAMPS AVAILABLE (Contd)

It is the responsibility of all Unit HQs to organise a system whereby if letters for airmail despatch are received without stamps they will be stamped before being forwarded to Post Office.

Surface mail to Australia is free of charge and is despatched by Air to Townsville and thence by rail to destination.

6. REPORTS ON MISFIRES AND BLINDS

Cases of Misfires and Blinds occurring during operations MUST be forwarded to this HQ as soon as possible, so that the appropriate action may be taken.

7. INEFFECTIVE GRENADES HAND 4 SEC

1. A recent inspection of Grenades Hand 4 Sec in Fwd Coy Area revealed that a high percentage of grenades were inert and would constitute a menace to patrols in contact with the enemy. This was caused by moisture on the ~~igniter~~ igniter set, the effect being:-

(a) Moisture effecting the waxed protective paper covering the cap caused it to lift, the moisture then penetrates the cap opposition rendering it inert.

2. Primarily the cause of the grenades becoming unserviceable through moisture are :-

- (a) Personnel crossing river and swamp creeks with grenades attached to waist belts.
- (b) Grenades left in exposed positions in section, Pl and Coy Areas.
- (c) Normal atmospheric condensation within the interior of grenades.

3. While realising that it is impossible to prevent grenades from becoming immersed during the crossing of water obstacles it is instructed that more constant inspection by Sub Unit Comds would prevent such a high percentage of grenades becoming ineffective.

4. As spare igniter sets are not available on the island, at present, Coy and Sub-Unit Comds will ensure that proper care is exercised to prevent deterioration caused by instances as stated in Para 2.

P.H.G. O'LEARY
Lt
(P.H.G. O'LEARY)
A/ dit 15 Aust Inf Bn

BUNGLE NEWS

Appx L
Special issue on occasion of relief

23 Jan 45

29 MUST INF BDE

C A P T U R E O F M A W A R A K A .

I HAVE alswya been proud of this Brigade Group and its achievements, but never before has the privilege been given to any Commander to show to his troops, by enemy captured documents - the last of which is but 24 Hours old - the exact results which their work has accomplished. Your exploits have been magnificent, and I will say no more - except to offer an individual message to all those whose complete cooperation has made this operation so successful.

IN THE extracts from captured documents, which I attach hereto, if you carefully examine the dates you will find in every case that the result of our efforts has been considerably greater than even we expected. You will find the following facts:-

- (a) The complete accuracy of all information obtained by the individual efforts of small patrols during the Reconnaissance Period.
- (b) The result of action taken as a result of prisoners' information and documents captured.
- (c) That nowhere has the enemy - bombastic though he is - made the slightest claim to the smallest victory.
- (d) That at the Jaba River we smashed his 2nd Bn, and down the coast at Mawaraka we smashed his 3rd Bn. The final admission of complete and utter defeat is in a document captured dated 18 Jan.

WE HAVE NOT, unfortunately, time to capture the sole remaining thing with which the Regiment is being protected - the regimental flag!

I CONGRATULATE you all on your indomitable fighting spirit and on your brilliant achievement, and thank you for your complete cooperation and for the manner in which you carried out our plans.

This publication must not be sent by mail until authorisation is forthcoming from Dept. of Public Relations.

TO ALL THE TROOPS WHO PARTICIPATED
IN THE CAPTURE OF MAWARAKA.

1. RNZAF

For your eagerness to assist us on all occasions, your accurate bombing, and your reassuring presence whenever required, particularly in spectacular strafing - we owe you our gratitude. We are proud of your friendship.

2. RAAF

Apart from my feelings of personal friendship for all members of RAAF here, your role of constant air reconnaissance for artillery and ground operation has been more than could be asked. I am sorry that you could not on more occasions have been given what must be your greatest thrill - of strafing what you saw. However, your many kindly gestures in dropping "Guinea Gold", visiting us frequently, delivering our mail - when necessary on foot - have given us the feeling that we would like you always to be permanent members of our team.

3. ROYAL MARINES

The detachment of Royal Marines, with its armoured landing craft, again lived up to the great traditions which have grown up through the centuries, and will remain always in our memories.

4. US ARMY AND AIR FORCE

Our original fostering by 129 US Regt, the ready response in the matter of detailed knowledge and maps of the area over which we fought, the personal visits and the personal flights to assist us on our way, are typical of what we have always experienced of Units of the USA.

5. 2/8 CDO SQN

We were more than glad to receive your assistance when you took over the Jaba River sector, and felt that with you on our left we could, with complete confidence, march on to Mawaraka.

6. ANGAU

The importance of information and carrier assistance provided by ANGAU is sometimes hidden by more spectacular accomplishments. Their great efficiency, their advice on native psychology, and their courageous deep patrolling by white personnel and natives, have been a grand tribute to their many years of hard work in our Mandated Territory.

7. NGIB

I cannot speak too highly of the fine standard of accomplishment and brilliant fighting spirit which have been built up by a handful of white personnel in such a short time. The NGIB have never failed to produce what was requested - even to my original demand for an unwounded enemy officer prisoner, who, complaining bitterly of a headache produced by the butt of a rifle, was brought into my HQ within three hours of the request being made. The standard set has been excellent.

8. ENGINEERS

Fighting troops, as always, you have kept the road up to forward companies, built bridges in all cases exactly what was required under the circumstances at the time - worked hard in dangerous areas, fought where necessary, and always pulled your full weight in the team.

9. ARTILLERY

The accuracy of your fire, the immediate response to any task at all times, and the usual courageous fortitude of your FOOs and linesmen, assisted to a great degree in smashing the enemy. He cannot stand shelling - and our thanks go to you.

10. AUST LDG CRAFT

No matter what the circumstances involved - heavy seas, sharks, or enemy action - you have kept up with the forward troops and on many occasions caused me slight anxiety by your daring, though carefully calculated, movements, considerably ahead of our forward troops. The fighting spirit and efficiency of your officers, men and craft were one of the greatest factors in our success.

11. AASC

As usual, never were we short of supplies or ammunition, and irrespective of the likelihood of enemy shelling, or stealthy attack by land, the AASC never failed to "deliver the goods".

12. CATERING SERVICE

To the cooks go this credit - that I cannot on any occasion remember any man in this Bde missing two hot meals every day. No further comment is needed.

13. PRO

You have earned the right to wear the fighting soldier's beret. Your efficiency and courtesy are a credit to your Corps.

14. AEME

Again frequently forgotten, you, together with your attached personnel, have always been on the job, and have given complete and efficient service under all conditions.

15. STAFF AND SERVICES

The loyalty - and continual hard work at all hours - of all staff and attached services has kept order and method in all our work. Services I have mentioned elsewhere, but special congratulation must go to both the Education and Amenities Services. The former published daily, as is our custom, "Jungle News", and never a day passed without an Education representative being present with forward troops, giving them news of battle and general affairs. The Amenities Service provided fishing lines for the troops fortunate enough to reach the estuary mouths before the fish were frightened away.

16. DENTAL

Dental Service, always present in forward areas, gave expert attention to any dental complaint within three hours.

17. INTELLIGENCE

As far as Intelligence is concerned, never before has such a complete, accurate, and quick flow of information been available to any Comd. The detailed work in this regard has involved arduous work by Int personnel, FS Sections, and particularly ATIS. They worked as a splendid team - never unable to produce the answer to the minutest question.

18. POSTAL
CANTEENS

Mail and tobacco were kept up to all troops at all times.

I have left till last the AAMC, the Aust Corps of Signals, and the Infantry.

19. AAMC

Immediate, firstclass, and trained medical care and attention have always been available to sick and wounded within miraculously short periods. It is hard to assess the number of lives that have been saved, and the confidence engendered in all ranks by the fact that, after they were unfortunate enough to become battle casualties, superlative skill and attention from experts - with transfusion and serum right forward in fighting localities - were available. Their assistance was invaluable.

20. SIGNALS

The wreath must be handed to the Bde Signal Section, who never allowed communications to fail. They were magnificently backed up at all times by Div and Corps Sigs, to such an extent that they were able to devote their whole attention to requirements forward of Bde HQ.

21. INFANTRY

I have left you till last - as I know you will appreciate my expression of gratitude on your behalf to those who have been mentioned before you. Sufficient credit can, however, never be paid to you - the men whose fortitude, courage, daring, and fighting spirit had within 48 hours of conflict established an immediate supremacy which resulted in the complete demoralisation, physically and mentally, of the whole of the 13th Japanese Regt of its famous 6th Division.

22. In conclusion, I would like to record that I include in my thanks and congratulations all those people behind us, who gave us the wherewithal to fight, and never at any time failed to produce assistance, mostly before it was asked.

R. L. H. [Signature]
Comd 29 Aust Inf Bde Brig

-o-o-

EXTRACTS FROM CAPTURED DOCUMENTS.

-o-o-

Mawa raka Unit Prepares and Prays for Revenge!

THE following Situation Report of the Mawaraka Unit is undated and is a reply to a request for information concerning the Unit.

"Sitrep Mawa--raka Unit.

"1. Guard report: Our troops other than the navy on Motupena are waiting in their original positions on guard, determined to annihilate the enemy at water's edge.

"2. Up to the present, at every morning and evening parade the Imperial rescript has been recited and so have the words of his Majesty given since the time of the T.A. operations (Torokina): "Without fail, attack repeatedly and swear the fulfilment of revenge and the fulfilment of duty."

A Jap Company Boils With Anger.

THE following is an extract from a diary captured at Rutherford Pt. The incidents relate to the clash with our forces there on Dec 26 when casualties were inflicted on the Japs and they were dispersed.

"Coy left for Mawaraka. At a point between Mawaraka - Upai river mouth were encountered by fifth columnists. Almost immediately enemy patrols appeared about 20 metres in front. They opened fire on us with small automatic weapons and the coy went into action. The fire from the enemy auto weapons was intense. One shell hit the coy comdr who was in the front but did not affect him as he continued the fight. Before long the coy will be annihilated. However, he (coy comdr) rushed into the enemy shouting three times, 'Long Live the Emperor', and died. The entire coy boiled with anger and rushed the enemy to replace the fallen troops"

Japs Prepare To Drive Us From Mawaraka Positions.

SUMMARY Orders issued 24 Dec from LOG Bridge Garden state:

"The enemy have pushed their first line in vicinity of Tagashi (Tagessi) Jaba and Jaba 2 and attacked our first line. Guard unit with total strength, with intention of annihilating the enemy who was in the vicinity of Jaba and Mupesi will gather at Meiba 3 crossroads."

The Jap force leaving Meiba apparently struck and were halted at our forward perimeter on the north bank of Adele river on night Dec 30/31. The Japs withdrew at first light.

Foiled, the Jap Decides To Annihilate Us At Jaba, Mupesi.

WEST Area Op Order No. 123 of Jan 1 directs:

"1. Guard unit will reorganise the force and lead towards the Jaba river and annihilate the enemy.

"2. 2 Bn incl 10 coy will immediately destroy enemy at east of log bridge.

"3. 3 Bn less 10 coy will advance to Mupesi, Moreno, Ikraba and prepare to attack the area south of main road to Jaba river.

"4. Tk/A unit will become Mupesi attack unit and attack enemy at Mupesi to utmost."

Discovering Our Position Inland from Mupesi, the Japs Decide to Wipe It Out.

WEST Area Op Order No. 124 dated 4 Jan reveals:

"1. Enemy have landed 14 or 15 guns on shore between Sakashi, Jaba and Mupesi and fired on us.

"2. The vicinity of the log bridge was swept by arty fire and there is an enemy position about 200 yds from where work is being carried out. In front of the position there is 1,000 yds of wire entanglements. Main strength of 2 Bn attacked enemy positions near log bridge, but was discovered by the enemy and unavoidably had to cease."

THE last para. fails to explain why the Jap "had unavoidably to cease" because of action by our forces. West Area Op Order No. 124 however continues:

"3. Guard unit with one element will secure the log bridge at Ikraba and the main strength will immediately destroy the enemy in the region of the bridge - Jaba 2."

THIS plan was smashed by our troops on the Jaba.

We Reach the Upai River and the Japs Plan to Attack.

WEST Area Op Order No. 125 of 12 Jan states:

- "1. The enemy has reached the Hupai river mouth yesterday the 11 Jan by large MLC. They are planning capture Mawaraka.
- "2. The main strength of the guard unit will attack the enemy at Mawaraka.
- "3. 3 Bn will surprise the enemy from its present position."
- "7. Mawaraka guard unit will guard the present area and frustrate enemy plan until the main strength of infantry arrives and drives back the enemy."

THE Jap's plans continued to go astray when our troops crossed the Upai on 16 Jan, occupied the position and advanced towards Mawaraka Pt.

Japs Alarmed At Advance, Fear Safety of Regimental Flag.

WEST Area Garrn Op Order No. 134 of 16 Jan:

- "1. 2nd Lt Ishiki hereafter will command 2nd Lt Obeshita, an NCO and four men of Tk/A unit, guard the Regimental flag, and protect the Regiment."

Our Forces In Mawaraka Are To Be Annihilated.

WEST Area Garrn Op Order No. 135 of 17 Jan:

- "1. Enemy have captured Mawaraka position and are under construction of barbed wire entanglements. Seems that enemy is planning to attack against right Mawaraka Post.
- "2. Mawaraka garrison unit will take the main strength of infantry to Mawaraka and annihilate the enemy there."

HOW the enemy was unsuccessful in his attempts to annihilate us is shown in the succeeding references.

Routed and Defeated, Japs Decide to Annihilate Themselves!

THIS decision and resignation to their fate is revealed in the following letter dated 18 Jan to the Regimental Commander:

"The Bn Commander, men and I have made a final determination. You can only die once. Death is a matter of grave importance. For the entire Bn to die honourably is a calamity. You, the regtl command, will understand. A regiment which has maintained its glorious name for 60 years will to the last preserve its honour. I regret that the efforts were not enough. Tomorrow, officers and men, to my regret, believing the light of victory is dim, but because of the great Imperial Army, have determined to die honourably. In fact, fortified with special rations and potatoes and other foods, they are going in to battle. (!). Tomorrow, 3 Bn attack and will advance until annihilation. After annihilation, the honour of the regiment will be revealed. Yours truly, Capt Egawa. PS--will perform to utmost effort so that showing of 3 Bn's strenuous effort will remain for ages to come on Bougainville Island."

The Last Smoko - The Setting Sun Of the Sons of God.

THIS letter written by a member of 3 Bn reflects the hopeless despair of the unit:

"To Skibada - 3 Bn have been ordered to attack to the last man. It must be destiny. I want to thank you for your kindness up to now. If I have any tobacco I will smoke it with my last breath."



15 AUST. INF. BN.
 SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 29 AUST. INF. BDE.
 17 DECEMBER 44- 23 JANUARY 44

Derived from sitreps, prisoner of war reports and captured documents.

Prior to operations commencing on 17 Dec estimate of enemy dispositions was as follows :-

JABA GARRISON UNIT

MOSINA	2 Bn H.Q. (Less 5 & 6 Coys)	Est str	100
	Elements 2 M.G. Pl	" "	10
	Portion 3 Bty 6 Fd Arty Regt	" "	20
Vicinity JABA RIVER MOUTH	Elements 6 Coy 2 Bn	" "	30
	Total	" "	<u>160</u>

MAWARAKA GARRISON UNIT

MAWARAKA - MAKATOWA	Det 4 Medium Arty Regt		
	2 Bty 6 Fd Arty Regt		
	Part Naval Force		
	Part 1 Bn 6 Fd Arty Regt		
	Det 3 Indep Mortar Bn		
	Total	Est Str	100

UNDER DIRECT COMMAND

13 INF. REGT

MOSIGETTA	13 Inf. Regt H.Q. and regtl tps	" "	150
	3 Coy 1 Bn	" "	90
	Elements 10 Coy 3 Bn	" "	50
	Det 3 Indep Mortar Bn	" "	30
	Signals	" "	20
	1 Fd. Hospital	" "	150
	Total	" "	<u>490</u>

PIKEI-MEIVO

13 Inf. Regtl Gun Co.		
13 Inf. Regtl Tk/a Gun Co.		
13 Inf. Regt 2 Bn Gun Pl		
13 Inf Regt 3 Bn Gun Pl		No estimate

PURIATA GARRISON UNIT

PURIATA RIVER MOUTH	Elements 10 Coy 3 Bn	est str	30
	1 Bty 6 Fd Regt	no estimate	

TOKINOTU GARRISON UNIT

TOKINOTU	3 Bn (less 10 Coy)	est str	250
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MUGAI GARRISON UNIT

MUGAI	1 Bn (less 3 Coy)	" "	300
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Total estimated strength 13 Inf. Regt 1100
 -----000-----

STRENGTH OF ARTILLERY AVAILABLE TO THE REGT WAS ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS.

JABA AREA

- 1 70 MM Bn Gun
- 1 75 MM Mountain Gun

MAWARAKA AREA

- 4 75 MM Mountain Guns (2 on coast, 1 at MAKATOWA 1 unlocated)
- 1 75 MM Regtl Gun (on coast)
- 2 150 MM Howitzers

PURIATA RIVER AREA

- 3 75 MM Mountain Guns

PIKEI-MEIVO AREA

- 3 37 MM Tk/a Guns
- 1 47 MM Tk/a Gun
- 3 70 MM Bn Guns
- 3 75 MM Regtl Guns

East of MOSIGETTA in reserve 1 75 MM Mountain Gun

In addition to the above the following weapons may be available.

- 4 81 MM Mortars
- 2 105 MM Howitzers

OPERATIONS PERIOD 17 DEC-31 Dec 44

Operations commenced 17 Dec with the landing by D. Group 15 Bn under comd Major PROVAN SOUTH of the JABA RIVER approx 1000 yds from its mouth. On the 18 Dec A. Coy 15 Bn landed vicinity north bank of TUJU River followed by B. Coy 15 Bn who took up a position vicinity JABA 2. All landings were unopposed.

On the 19 th Dec D. Group attacked and captured 6 Coy position and commenced active patrolling south and east towards KUPON, until relieved by A. Coy 47 Bn on 26 Dec.

C. Coy 15 Bn landed 21st December and took up position north of TAVERA RIVER mouth.

All coys then commenced active patrolling in their respective areas producing scattered contacts with small parties of enemy.

During this period N.G.I.B. patrols had been active in all sectors and on 26 Dec moved to Base B at mouth of ADELE RIVER, where they surprised party of 25 Japs killing 18.

A captured enemy operation order dated 26 Dec gave the enemy plans for meeting the threat to his positions caused by these operations.

"The main strength of 2 Bn plus elements of 10 Coy 3 Bn and a det of Light Trench Mortars of 3 Bn Gun Pl was to assemble at MOSINA and make preparations to attack the MUPESI area.

This was confirmed by A P.W. captured by D. Coy 15 Bn on 22 Dec and also by natives from MOSINA area. On the 22 Dec advance elements of 2 Bn had departed from MOSINA and moved to KUPON in preparation for attack on our positions south of the JABA.

47 Bn assumed responsibility for JABA sector on the 28th Dec.

On the 29th Dec C. Coy 15 Bn occupied PEELERS POST and immediately patrols forward of this position contacted small parties of enemy and several patrol clashes resulted.

B. Coy 15 Bn occupied position south of TAVERA RIVER mouth on 29 Dec.

On the 30th Dec 17 Pl D. Coy 15 Bn moved to Base A at RUTHERFORD Pt and occupied defensive perimeter. During night 30/31 Dec pl was attacked by strong force of enemy. Attack was repulsed enemy cas being 27 killed own cas 3 wounded. Pl was evacuated to Coy perimeter north of TAVERA River mouth morning 31 Dec.

The expected Japanese attack on our positions along the JABA RIVER came on the 29 Dec when 3 patrols estimated strength of 43 infiltrated between the forward positions of 47 Bn. Both attacks repulsed known enemy casualties 11 killed 8 wounded own casualties 2 killed 2 wounded. On the 30th Dec patrols from 47 Bn commenced attacks against the Japanese positions and succeeded in capturing several pillbox positions. The Japs counter-attacked our forward perimeter with a strength of 30/50 supported by either mortar or mountain gun. The attack was repulsed known enemy casualties 5 killed considered numerous others. Own cas 1 killed 8 wounded. The Japs then ceased their attacks and the only sightings by patrols of 47 Bn were a party of 12 Japs preparing ambush position who were immediately engaged by Arty fire.

At the end of December our forward positions had been established as follows:- B. Coy 15 Bn immediately south of the TAVERA RIVER MOUTH, C. Coy 15 Bn at PEELERS POST. A. Coy 47 Bn approx 3000 yds along track south of the JABA RIVER.

KNOWN ENEMY CASUALTIES FROM BDE OPERATIONS TO THE 31 DEC WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

	Killed	wounded	P. W.	Total
15 AUST. INF. BN.				
A. Coy	-	-	-	-
B. Coy	2	-	-	2
C. Coy	12	-	-	12
D. Coy	40	15	1	56
47 AUST. INF. BN $\frac{1}{2}$	54	15	1	70
N.G.I.B.	17	8	-	25
	27	-	7	34
	98	23	8	129

OWN CASUALTIES TO 31 DEC. WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

	killed	wounded	P.W.	Total
15 AUST. INF. BN.	-	-	-	-
A. Coy	1	-	-	1
B. Coy	3	-	-	3
C. Coy	1	8	-	9
D. Coy	5	8	-	13
47 AUST. INF. BN	5	13	-	18
N.G.I.B.	1	2	-	3
	11	23	-	34

The Japanese at this stage realised the threat of our coastal drive and in an operation order dated 1 Jan reorganised his troops.

"2 Bn was ordered to reorganise and direct its assault to JABA and annihilate the enemy at the Beach. Reinforcement by elements of 10 Coy 3 Bn were to join 2 Bn. 3 Bn (less 10 Coy) was to take over the MUPESSI MOSINA operations and make preparations to attack the sector south of the main road to Number 2 JABA RIVER. The Tk/a unit was to become the MUPESSI attack unit and to attack the enemy at MUPESSI. MAWARAKA Garrison was to continue with its present duties.

OPERATIONS JANUARY 45.

On the night of 31 Dec/1 Jan approx 20/30 Japs again attacked 47 Bn perimeter but were again repulsed. Enemy cas unknown own cas 1 killed 3 wounded. 42 Bn took over responsibility of this sector 2 Jan and were joined by 2/8 Comdo Sqn on 3 Jan. On the night of 3/4 Jan the enemy made another attempt to probe 42 Bn positions but ran into booby traps which exploded causing some casualties. Following active patrolling on 4 Jan 42 Bn commenced attacks against located enemy positions south of their perimeters and by 6 Jan had cleared all resistance. Known enemy casualties in these attacks were 20 killed own cas 2 killed 8 wounded.

During this period C. Coy 15 Bn continued to make patrol contacts with small parties of Japs inflicting some casualties. D. Coy 15 Bn relieved C. Coy on 6 Jan and commenced advance towards D. Coy outpost.

An enemy operation order dated 4 Jan gave an indication of enemy intentions to counter our thrusts. J

"JABA GARRISON UNIT (2 Bn and attached troops) were again instructed to attack the positions occupied by 42 Bn while 3 Bn were to check the enemy on the main road and attack the enemy in No.2 Jaba River area".

By 9 Jan D. Coy 15 Bn had reached DOUGLAS CROSSING after overcoming several ambush positions. During this advance known enemy cas were 8 killed probably many more. Own cas were 3 killed 9 wounded. A. Coy 15 Bn relieved D. Coy on 10 Jan and continued advance to D. Coy outpost against no opposition.

On 10 Jan 47 Bn commenced attacks directed against MAWARAKA by crossing the ADELE River with an armed recon patrol who contacted an enemy position consisting of 1 H.M.G. 2 L.M.G's and many rifles. Enemy cas unknown own cas 3 wounded. Patrol then withdrew to base.

On 11 Jan 47 Bn moved across ADELE RIVER and reached a point approx 300 yds north of the HUPAI RIVER. Enemy cas were 10 killed own cas 1 wounded.

The enemy brought his artillery into action for the first time at 110620L shelling 47 Bn forward positions with nil damage or casualties.

42 Bn commenced taking over 47 Bn responsibility north of the ADELE RIVER on 11 Jan.

The Japanese immediately reacted to these attacks and in an Operation Order dated 12 Jan gave his intentions to defend MAWARAKA.

"3 Bn who had previously been reported as moving to MAWARAKA were ordered to attack our forward positions with the support of 3 Bty Fd. Regt

Elements of 3 Bn who had been guarding the main road (possibly MOSINA to MOSIGETTA) were ordered to rejoin 3 Bn at MAWARAKA. The trench mortar Coy at MOSINA were ordered to leave immediately for MAWARAKA and to come under comd C.O. 1 Bn Fd. Arty. Until reinforcements arrived the MAWARAKA GARRISON UNIT was ordered to guard the present area and to frustrate the enemy plan until their main strength arrived".

On 12 Jan 47 Bn continued its advance following a heavy air strike and shelling on MAWARAKA and reached the mouth of the JHUPAI RIVER. Enemy cas 3 killed own cas 1 killed 1 wounded.

Enemy shelling on 42 Bn area resulted in no damage or cas. but on 47 Bn forward positions our casualties were 6 killed 27 wounded. This enemy shelling continued intermittently on our forward positions until relief by 7 Bde on 23 Jan, no further casualties were recorded.

Active patrolling continued in all sectors resulting in scattered contacts and 47 Bn patrol bases were formed approx 500 yds north of MAWARAKA by 16 Jan.

42 Bn relieved 47 Bn on 17 Jan and continued a dvance to MAWARAKA contacting several pillbox positions. These were quickly overcome and by 18 Jan MAWARAKA was clear of the enemy.

The enemy reaction was contained in an operation order dated 17 Jan.

"The enemy has occupied the MAWARAKA position and is constructing barbed wire entanglements and appears to be planning to attack posts on the right of MAWARAKA. The enemy is not active in the JABA and MUPESSI areas.

The infantry ~~xxxxxx~~ component of the MAWARAKA GARRISON UNIT was ordered to annihilate the enemy at MAWARAKA."

42 Bn continued probing the enemy positions along the road to MAKATOWA and cleared several defended pillbox areas and by 20 Jan had established forward patrol bases approx 1500 yds along road to MAKATOWA.

Known enemy cas inflicted by 47 Bn and 42 Bns to this stage were 51 killed 4 wounded our cas 3 killed 11 wounded.

42 Bn continued to patrol forward towards MAKATOWA until relieved by 9 Bn 23 Jan. Patrols were also made south along track towards PURIATA River and contacts were made with small parties of enemy. cas inflicted were 27 killed 9 wounded own cas 4 killed 4 wounded.

15 Bn patrols from DOUGLAS CROSSING made some contacts east of D. Coy outpost during which 1 Jap was killed own cas 2 wounded, otherwise no contacts were made. One small patrol reached SISIRUAL reporting position occupied by 70/80 Japs. An angau patrol 2 days later reported SISIRUAL clear of enemy.

N.G.I.B patrols patrolled MOTUPENA POINT during 20/21 Jan and only contact reported with 10 Japs (Naval det referred to in enemy COB 17 Dec 44) who fled dropping all arms and equipment.

On 23 Jan responsibility passed from 29 Bde to 7 Bde.

Known enemy casualties JANUARY 45.

	killed	wounded	PW	Total
15 AUST INF BN				
A. Coy	2	-	-	2
B. Coy	1	1	-	2
C. Coy	3	-	-	3
D. Coy	8	-	-	8
	14	1	-	15
42 AUST INF BN	78	14	-	92
47 AUST INF BN	21	1	-	22
N.G.I.B.	4	-	-	4
	117	16	-	133

Total known enemy casualties period 17 Dec-23 Jan 45.

	killed	wounded	P.W.	Total
15 AUST. INF. BN.				
A. Coy	2	-	-	2
B. Coy	3	1	-	4
C. Coy	15	-	-	15
D. Coy	48	15	1	64
	<hr/> 68	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 85
42 AUST INF BN	78	14	-	92
47 Aust. INF. Bn	38	9	-	47
N.G.I.B.	31	-	7	38
	<hr/> 215	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 262

Own casualties 1 - 23 Jan 45.

	Killed	wounded	P.W.	Total
15 AUST. INF. BN.				
A. Coy	=	2	=	2
B. Coy	=	1	-	1
C. Coy	-	1	-	1
D. Coy	3	9	-	12
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 13	<hr/> -	<hr/> 16
42 AUST INF BN	7	16	-	23
47 AUST. INF. BN	19	35	-	44
N.G.I.B.	=	-	-	-
	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 64	<hr/> -	<hr/> 83

Own casualties period 17 Dec - 23 Jan.

15 Aust. Inf. bn.				
A. Coy	-	2	-	2
B. Coy	1	1	-	2
C. Coy	3	1	-	4
D. Coy	4	17	-	21
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 21	<hr/> -	<hr/> 29
42 Aust. Inf. Bn.	7	16	-	23
47 Aust. Inf. Bn.	14	48	-	62
N.G.I.B.	1	2	-	3
	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 87	<hr/> -	<hr/> 117

Conclusion.

The absence of any determined resistance to our coastal drive in spite of the aggressive intentions of 13 Inf, Regt Comd promulgated in a number of captured operation orders points to a deterioration of morale within the unit.

According to a captured MAWARAKA GARRISON UNIT situation report the self sufficiency project is considerably behind schedule. Not half of the divisional acreage objective has been attained.

Prepared by 15 AUST. INF. BN
I. SECTION
23 Jan 45.

1. DAILY ROUTINE

The basis of daily routine will be times and duties laid down in 2 Aust Corps A 62 (Anti Malarial Code) of 15 Jan and are shown hereunder:-

2. PARADES AND TIMINGS

Reveille	0615 hrs
Adm Parade	0620 "
Sick Parade	0645 "
1st Meal Pde	0720 "
1st Meal Officers	0720 " 0730 hrs
Inspection Pdes	0830 "
Training	0845 - 1200
2nd Meal Pde	1215 hrs
2nd Meal Offrs	1230 "
Training	1400 - 1530
3rd Meal Pde	1730 hrs
3rd Meal Offrs	1730 " 1730 hrs
Alabrin & Lotion Pde	1800 " 1900 hrs
Last Post	2200 "
Lights Out	2215 "

3. ADM PARADE - 0615 hrs

To be held in Pl Areas each morning by Pl Comds. To be of short duration. An opportunity to pass on to troops orders for the day. Sick personnel to be taken off and instructed to report to Orderly Room. On completion of this parade Pl Comds will inspect Mosquito Nets and, if necessary, order IMMEDIATE repair.

4. SICK PARADE - 0645 hrs.

Personnel to report to the Coy Orderly Room where Orderly Co poral will make out Sick Report and conduct men to R.A.P. Sick Report to be returned to Orderly Room after parade.

Outlying Coy: Same as above for minor treatment. If in the opinion of the Coy R.A.P. Orderly that a number should be seen by R.M.O. This number will remain in attendance at Coy Aid Post, and the R.M.O. will visit Coy Areas once daily. Times will be arranged by the R.M.O.

5. 1st MEAL PARADE - 0720 hrs

Pl's will Fall-in, in Pl Area and will, march over to the kitchen Area by Pl Sjt who will hand over to the Orderly Sjt. A Roster will be kept so that each Pl has its turn of being first to go through serving.

6. INSPECTION PARADE - 0830 hrs

Coy Parade on Coy Parade Ground - Dress - Drill Order, unless instructions to the contrary are issued by O.C. Coy. Pl markers will report to C.S.M. at 0820 hrs. On completion of inspection training commences.

7. 2nd MEAL PARADE - As for first meal parade.8. 3rd MEAL PARADE - 1730 hrs

As for 1st and 2nd meal parades Bn Standing Orders Para 3 - B (iv) ref rolling down of sleeves will be adhered to by all ranks and enforced by Duty Officer and NCO's.

9. CALL SIGNS AND STANDARD TIME

Call signals will be used to notify personnel of various times. Standard times will be notified by Sigs Officer between 0800 and 0830 hrs daily.

Troops will be on parade ground at five minutes call ready to Fall-in.

10. D.R.L.S. - Orders for DRLS service will be issued separately.

15. 151 INF BN COY STANDING ORDERS - (Contd)

11. GUARD DUTIES AND PICQUETS Will mount at 1800 hrs daily. Prior to mounting duty officer will inspect for turnout and ensure that Bn Standing Orders for Malaria Control Para 5 are carried out.

12. WEARING OF SHIRTS

- (a) Shirts will NOT be discarded prior to 1000 hrs daily or after 1600 hrs except for personal ablutions, recreation and sport. Attention is drawn to 2 Aust Corps A 62 Part 1 Para 6.
- (b) Between the hours of 1000-1600 hrs daily shirts may only be discarded (except for sun baking) on the authority of the senior officer present at the scene of work which fulfills the terms permitting discarding of shirts. During "smoke-oh" and meal periods particularly, or when resting shirts WILL be worn.
- (c) Any man not wearing a shirt is liable to and will be questioned as to:-
(i) what officer gave him permission.
(ii) what work he is engaged in.
(iii) why must he be particular in the wearing of his shirt.
- (d) At any time in any shade sleeves will be worn turned down. In addition to the anti-malarial necessity for this is **MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE WHITE MAN'S FLESH IS THE MOST OBVIOUS THING IN THE JUNGLE OTHER THAN ANYTHING PALE BLUE.**
- (e) Attention is once more drawn to the fact that, the discarding of shirts must NOT be a general dispensation but a special permission given by an OC only on a ~~mapa~~ specific day for a specific task.
- (f) In each coy area a special mosquito proof shower will be provided, lighted and sprayed in which men whose duties do NOT permit ablutions in daylight may bathe under supervision of an officer.
- (g) Sun baking will be included in sport and recreation but strictly controlled in accordance with these instructions. It is to be remembered that **TINEA** does not flourish on a well tanned flesh.

13. DRESS

following

Unless otherwise ordered the ~~fair~~ order of dress will be worn by all ranks. ~~Not~~ beret, shirt, long trousers, gaiters and Aust Pattern web belt. Disciplinary action will be taken against personnel failing to comply with this order.

14. LAST POST

On the sounding of Last Post all personnel other than duties will be in quarters by 2200 hrs.

Coy Orderly Officer will conduct Tattoo Roll Call. During this parade Duty Officer will ensure that Para 10 of Bn Standing Orders has been complied with.

15. ORDERLY OFFICER

To supervise Meal Parades with the assistance of the Coy Ord Sjt and Coy Ord Cpl.

To carry out an inspection with the assistance of the Ord Sjt, of each Pl area and of every tent in each area.

To be near to phone after lights out is sounded (Bn and Coy)
Censor Unit mail.

Supervision of Bn Standing Orders for Malaria of 16 Jan 45.

Supervise the duties of the Ord Sjt and detail the orders given to guards and picquets by Ord Cpl.

ORDERLY SJT

Take charge of Pls when handed over by Pl Sjts (Mess Parades)
Assist the Orderly Offr to supervise the general conduct of troops on Meal Parades.

See that Pls are served in their proper turn e.g. the Pl which was served first the previous day will go through last next day.

See that troops do not eat off the ground, and in the vicinity of the kitchen, scrap tins, or servery.

See that scraps are emptied in containers provided and NOT on ground roundabout or on benches. Containers are provided for solids and liquids and must be used accordingly

See that atabrin is issued.

To be responsible for sounding time for parades.
 To check Pl picquets throughout the night.
 To report to the Ord Offr each morning after 0930 hrs parade, to assist him to inspect Pl area and to carry out any of his other orders.
 To inform kitchen staff to hold meals for any persons who being on duty or away from area are unable to be present on meal parades.
 Will be called at 0600 hrs and he will awaken CSM and all Sjts.
 Supervise the duties of the Orderly Cpl.

ORDERLY CPL

To be present on all meal parades and see that personnel sterilise their dixies before moving to Servory. The dixies to be sterilised in left, middle and end tubs in that order.

See that personnel wash their dixies after having their meals in the following manner:-

The first tub contains soapy water and will be used first, the middle tub contains sterilised water and will be used second, the third tub contains clear water and will be used last.

See that Mess Orderlies and man on duty at Sterilisers (from Duty Pl) report to kitchen at proper times.

To be at Coy Orderly Room at 0630 hrs in order to make out Sick Report and control Sick Parade, and notify Ord Sjt number of meals to be kept.

To see that Orderly Room Cpl is notified of the names of personnel evacuated to Hospital; the CO must be notified also so that he may see that the correct gear is taken with such personnel, including Pay Book and MAB 83.

Each Pl will mount at least one duty from 1800 hrs to 0700 hrs. All picquets will parade in front of Coy HQ at 1800 hrs, inspected and given details of their duties by Ord Cpl. These orders will include full security measures for all Govt Stores and Equipment.

Duty Pl will light cooks fires at times specified by 2 IC Coy.

Duty Pl will supply two mess orderlies who will wash up and clean down mess tables after evening meals.

16. HYGIENE

Coy Malaria discipline will be carried out in accordance with Bn Standing Orders of 16 Jan 45. Coy Malaria Squad will parade to CSM at 0705 hrs and 1800 hrs for orders and sparying of tents. Squad 1 NCO and one man per Pl.

Pl rubbish tins will be emptied by 0800 hrs daily.

Tents to be in inspection order by 0800 hrs. Tents and bunks to be uniform in accordance with Coy layout plan.

Bathing after 1830 hrs must be in Mosquito Proof Shower Room and only permitted by authority of Coy Comds and Coy Orderly Officer.

Typhus - It is the responsibility of all Coy Offrs to ensure typhus precautions are carried out fully.

Washing of Clothes - This must be organised on a pl basis and proper wash tubs coppers and clothes lines provided. Washing period must occur at least on three days each week under the supervision of an officer who will see that clothes are boiled.

17. FIRE PRECAUTIONS All guards and picquets and every Offr and OR in the vicinity will be responsible for taking immediate action to give the alarm and quell any outbreak of fire in unit lines, impressing the services of any man or material in the immediate vicinity if needed.

18. TRAINING - SAFETY PRECAUTIONS When trg is being carried out with ball amm or explosives the Senior Offr or NCO present supervising the trg will ensure the safety of tps exercising or tps in the vicinity and will post such sentires, guards, or instructors to ensure the safety precautions are enforced.

19. CENSORSHIP AND MAIL

All mail at Coy Orderly Room by 1900 hrs will be censored nightly by all Officers. Urgent mail can be censored by Coy Orderly Offr if necessary.

Mail, after censorship and sealing will be forwarded to 'I' Sec by DMS. Mail closes 1000 hrs daily in Coys. Inward mail will be handled by P & O Cpl and Pl Sjts will collect mail from him as advised.

20. REST DAYS - SPORT

(a) Rest days are allotted as under:-

Monday 50%
 Tuesday 50%

This will apply except when Ops or training demands other arrangements, but the number resting on any one day will not exceed 50%. COs may vary on application to Bn HQ.

(b) Sport Periods

will
Coys ~~may~~ devote one half day per week to organised sport. This will NOT be regarded as an additional rest day and will be allotted on days other than rest days. Inter-unit matches will be arranged on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

Boxing will receive every encouragement.

MP may be used for organised swimming.

21. AMENITIES AND RECREATION

Facilities for Amenities become available Coys will be advised by Welfare Officer.

Concert stages and boxing rings are to be erected in all Coys areas where practicable.

Pictures and entertainments on nights as advised. Coy Picquets and Or Offr will remain on duty in area. Coy quotas will be advised by signal from Bn HQs.

Coy Welfare Committee will, meet at regular intervals to arrange quiz contests, Euchre tournaments etc. Basket Ball and Badminton matches will be co-ordinated and arranged by Coy Sports Offr.

Jungle News Sheet will be read at evening meal parade and posted on Coy Notice Board at approx 0900 hrs and 1900 hrs daily.

22. EDUCATION

Attention is directed to GROs and Current Affairs Bulletin.

23. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

All personnel are responsible for the safe keeping of arms and equipment on issue to them.

No man may leave the area without permission.

Drinking water to be drawn from Coy water bag or tank only.

This to be maintained full at all times with chlorinated water. COMS will supervise this.

These Standing Orders will be implemented forthwith and will not be varied except where operational conditions dictate.

They will be read and initialled by each Offr and NCO, filed in Coy Ord Room, kept and maintained, up to date by amendments if received from Bn HQ.

ACK

Signed at 1900 hrs 26. Jan 45.

Issued by.....

(P.H.G. OXLEY)
A/Adjt 15 Aust

Lt

ADDENDA 1

Coy Comds will immediately take steps to implement Para 7 Fire Precautions by the provision of adequate Fire Fighting Equipment in Coy Lines.

Wartley

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bn
AUSTRALIA
26 Jan 45

Appx 0

1. OBJECTS

The main objects of training during the period 29 Jan - 3 Mar are:-

- (a) The re-establishment of the original basic high standards of drill, saluting, turnout, care of weapons and general hygiene.
- (b) To impress indelibly the lessons learnt from Ops during the last seven weeks, and to recapitulate completely in weapon training, sec, pl, coy and Bn tactical training.

OCs will submit to reach this HQ not later than 271800L.

- (a) An outline syllabus in accordance with these instructions.
- (b) A similar statement of lessons learnt during Ops with particular reference to patrolling, attack, ambushes, defence and stressing successful artifice and stratagies employed. Enemy tactics will, of course, be included in this statement.

2. DAILY ROUTINE

The basis of daily routine will be times and duties laid down in 2 Aust Corps A 62 (Anti-Malarial Code) of 15 Jan and are shown hereunder: -

Reveille	0615 hrs.	
Reveille parade, Roll Call, net inspection	0620 hrs.	Detail of anti malarial parties for ensuing 24 hours.
Breakfast	0720 hrs	
Inspection Parade	0830 "	
Training	0845 - 1200 hrs	
Lunch	1215 hrs	
Training	1400 - 1530 hrs	
Evening Meals	1730 hrs	
Atebrin and Mosquito Lotion		
Parade	1900 "	
Tatto Roll Call and nets and Pl Comds inspection of nets and spraying.	2200 "	
Lights Cut	2215 "	

3. WASHING OF CLOTHES

This must be organised on a Pl basis and proper wash tubs, copper and clothes line provided. Washing period must occur at least on three days each week under the supervision of an officer who will see that clothes are boiled.

4. WEARING OF SHIRTS

(a) Shirts will NOT be discarded prior to 1000 hrs daily or after 1600 hrs except for personal ablutions, recreation and sport. Attention is drawn to 2 Aust Corps A62 Part I para 6.

(b) Between the hours of 1000 - 1600 hrs daily shirts may only be discarded (except for sun baking) on the authority of the senior officer present at the scene of work which fulfills the terms permitting discarding of shirts. During "smoke-oh" and meal periods particularly, or when resting in tents, shirts WILL be worn.

(c) Any man not wearing a shirt is liable to and will be questioned as to -

- (i) what officer gave him permission
- (ii) what work he is engaged in
- (iii) why must he be particular in the wearing of his shirt.

(d) At any time when in any shade sleeves will be worn turned down. In addition to the anti-malarial necessity for this is **MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT WHITE MAN'S FLESH IS THE MOST OBVIOUS THING IN THE JUNGLE OTHER THAN ANYTHING PALE BLUE.**

15 AUST INF BN TRAINING INSTRUCTION 1/45 (Contd)

(e) Attention is once more drawn to the fact that, the discarding of shirts must NOT be a general dispensation but a special permission given by a OC only on a specific day for a specific task.

(f) In each coy area a special mosquito proof shower will be provided, lighted and sprayed, in which men whose duties do NOT permit ablutions in daylight may bathe under supervision of an officer.

(g) Sun baking will be included in sport and recreation but strictly controlled in accordance with these instructions. It is to be remembered that INEA does not flourish on a well tanned flesh.

5. REST DAYS - SPORT

(a) Rest days are allotted as under:-

Monday 50%
Tuesday 50%

This will apply except when Ops or training demand other arrangements, but the number resting on any one day will NOT exceed 50%. OCs may vary on application to Bn HQ.

(b) Sport Periods

(i) Coys may devote one half day per week to organised sport. This will NOT be regarded as an additional rest day and will be allotted on days other than rest days. Inter-unit matches will be arranged on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

(ii) Boxing will receive every encouragement.

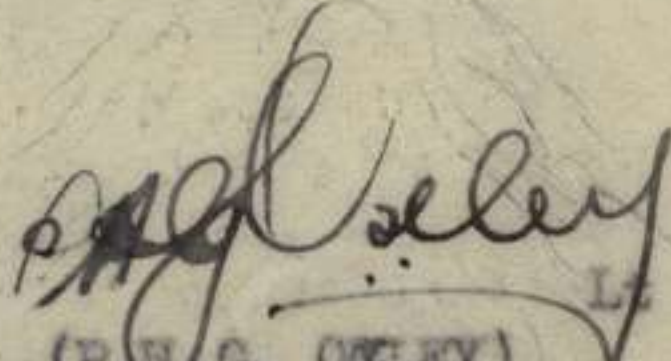
(iii) MF may be used for organised swimming.

6. AMENITIES

Concert stages and boxing rings are to be erected in all Coy areas where practicable.

7. EDUCATION

Attention is directed to GROs and Current Affairs Bulletin.


(P.H.G. OXLEY)
A/Adjt 15 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

List 'A'

Appx P

Mark Drain

SECRET

15 AUST INF BN

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - PERIOD 29 JAN - 3 MAR 45

Serial	Date	Subject	Remarks
1	29 Jan	(a) Conclusion of Reces (b) Development of def localities	Points discussed at conference of coy comds TAVERA area to be stressed in siting and construction.
2	30 Jan	As Serial 1	
3	31 Jan	As Serial 1	
4	1 Feb	As Serial 1	
5	2 Feb	<u>a.m.</u> (a) Close order drill (b) Weapon trg - LMG 2" mor EY rifle (c) Lecture - Malarial control (d) Lecture - Lessons from ops "Defence".	Lectures - will be followed by discussion with a view to bringing out the thoughts of all ranks re improvements, new ideas etc.
6		<u>p.m.</u> Organised sport	
7	3 Feb	<u>a.m.</u> (a) Bn parade (b) Lecture - Experiments and proffs re Malaria (c) Weapon trg - LMG 2" mor EY rifle	
8		<u>p.m.</u> (a) Lecture and discussion Def "Booby traps and wiring" (b) Weapon trg - OSMG 36 grenade (c) Lecture "Care of weapons and amm".	See remarks Serial 5
9	4 Feb	<u>a.m.</u> Church Parades	Pers NOT attending
10		<u>p.m.</u> (a) Lecture "Routine in def posns" (b) Coy formal parades (c) Setting of booby traps	Church Parade to be suitably employed by coy comds See remarks Ser 5 ref Ser 10(a)
11	5 Feb	<u>a.m.</u> (a) Close order drill (b) Lecture "Patrols (recce)" (c) Practical patrolling (recce)	See remarks Ser 5 ref Ser 11(b)
12		<u>p.m.</u> As for Serial 11(c)	
13	6 Feb	As for Serials 11-12	
14	7 Feb	Rehearsal - Occupation of operational def posns	Attention will be paid to:- (a) Adm details for mvt on receipt of "Warning Order". (b) Drill of occupation. (c) Routine in posn. (d) Intercomm (e) Check that all comds conversant with tasks allotted there.

15 AUST INF BN TRG SYLLABUS PERIOD 29 JAN - 3 MAR 45 (Contd)

Serial	Date	Subject	Remarks
15	8 Feb	Range practices. Rifle. Lecture "Scrub Typhus" to be given by coy cmd during day to pls	Coy comds to recce for suitable ranges in area. Bn 2i/c will co-ordinate.
16	9 Feb	As Serial 15 LMG. Lecture "General Hygiene in the Field" to be given by coy comd to pls	
17	10 Feb	a.m. (a) Bn parade (b) Lecture "Patrols (Fighting)" (c) Weapon trg - 2" mortar	See remarks Serial 5 ref Serial 17(b)
18		p.m. Organised sport	
19	11 Feb	a.m. Church Parades	See remarks Serial 9
20		p.m. Patrolling (Fighting)	
21	12 Feb	a.m. As Serial 20 p.m.	
22	13 Feb	As Serial 21	
23	14 Feb	a.m. (a) Close order drill (b) Lecture "Skin diseases" (c) Weapon trg (d) Lecture "Ambushes"	Serial 23(b) to be given by RMO. Serial 23(d) see Serial 5
24		p.m. Setting of ambushe s	
25	15 Feb	a.m. Setting of ambushes p.m. General patience trg in ambush	Experiments to be carried out with varying types sug- gested
26	16 Feb	a.m. (a) Close order drill (b) Lecture "Security in the Field" (c) Weapon trg - OSMG IMG EY (d) Lecture "Pl in attack"	Serial 26(d) see remarks Ser 5
27		p.m. Organised sport	
28	17 Feb	a.m. (a) Bn parade (b) Lecture "Sec in first contact"	Serial 28(b) see remarks Serial 5
29		p.m. Sec trg - first contact	
30	18 Feb	a.m. Church parades	See remarks Ser 9
31		p.m. Sec trg - Attack	
32	19 Feb	a.m. Pl trg - Attack p.m.	Coy comds to pre- pare scheme to be submitted to Adjt by 15 Feb
33	20 Feb	As Serial 32	See remarks Ser 32
34	21 Feb	Rehearsal - Occupation operational def localities	See remarks Ser 14. Correction of faults noted during re- hearsal Ser 14

15 AUST INF BN TRG SYLLABUS PERIOD 29 JAN - 5 MAR 45 (Contd)

Serial	Date	Subject	Remarks
35	22 Feb	a.m. Coy trg - attack p.m.)	Schemes to be prepared by Bn HQ
36	23 Feb	a.m. (a) Close order drill (b) Lecture "Enemy tactics" (Ruses etc) (c) Period reserved for coy comds	See remarks Ser 5 ref Ser 36(b) Ser 36(c) to be employed in discussion of recent ops and recap recent trg - suggestions
37		p.m. Organised sport	
38	24 Feb	a.m. (a) Bn parade p.m. (b) Lecture "Malarial Control" (c) Period reserved for coy comds	Ser 38(c) see remarks Ser 36(c)
39	25 Feb	a.m. Church parades	See remarks Ser 9
40		p.m. Demos to illustrate the effectiveness of 2" mortar and rifle.	To be arranged by Bn HQ. Object - to encourage greater use of these very effective weapons
41	26 Feb	a.m. Coy trg - Attack p.m.)	Schemes to be prepared by Bn HQ
42	27 Feb	As Serial 41	
43	28 Feb	a.m. Bn trg - Attack p.m.)	
44	29 Feb	Reserve of 1st Coy	Part of 1st Coy
45	1 Mar	a.m. Range practices p.m.)	Ser 44 to be employed in cleaning up outstanding classification and upgrading
45	2 Mar	a.m. (a) Bn parade (b) Lecture "Intelligence" (c) Weapon trg	Ser 45(b) see remarks Ser 5
46		p.m. Organised sport	Inter-coy meeting
47	3 Mar	Patrol competition	Coy v Coy. Details later

Notes:-

(i) All lectures and discussions will be conducted with the object outlined in para 1 of 15 Aust Inf Bn trg inst n 1/45 of 25 Jan 45.

(ii) Discussions:- Troops will be encouraged to express their views ref ops with which they were concerned, and every encouragement will be given by officers to bring forth suggestions and new ideas. Failures, as well as successes, in recent ops will be discussed with a view to correcting faults. Enemy as well as own tactics will be discussed.

15 AUST INF BN TRG SYLLABUS PERIOD 29 JAN - 3 MAR 45 (Contd)

Notes (Contd):-

(iii) Coy comds will make available each week one 30 min period for discussion of CAB or talks by Education Officer.

(iv) Rest days -

Monday	Bn HQ 50%
	HQ Coy
	D Coy
Tuesday	A B C Coys

Rest of HQs staffs will be taken 50% on Monday and 50% on Tuesday.

MT is available for transport to swimming beach on Tuesdays and coy rest periods will alternate weekly.

(v) Sport - This will NOT be regarded as a rest period and all members will participate in organised sport. HQ Coy will be allotted a sports day by arrangement with Bn 2/c on day other than that shown on syllabus

(vi) All work must be prepared and rehearsed prior to periods set down in syllabus.

(vii) Coys will be notified of arrangements for the screening of trg films when available.

(viii) Lessons from ops will be issued separately.

(ix) Lectures for officers will be notified by Adjnt.

P.H.G. Oxley
 Lt
 (P.H.G. OXLEY)
 A/Adjnt 15 Aust I

(i) All lectures and discussions will be conducted with the object of...
 (ii) Discussions - Troops will be encouraged to express their views...
 (iii) Discussions - Troops will be encouraged to express their views...
 (iv) Discussions - Troops will be encouraged to express their views...

Appx Q

War Diary

15 Aust Inf Bn
29 Jan 45

LESSONS FROM RECENT OPS

1. Patrolling

(1) Strength

- (a) It was found that the small patrol of one sec or one NCO and two or three men is easier to control, easier to conceal, easier to break off when enemy contacted and can move with stealth. It can observe without being observed - therefore is more suited to recon for information as illustrated by Cpl Cooper's 3 day patrol to SISIRUAI.
- (b) The necessity to find and clean out enemy positions demands a patrol strong enough to conduct a fight on its own. (Recon, attack, consolidate ground won or withdrawal) (if fighting for information only).
- (c) The necessity to patrol over long distances, or in enemy territory requires that a patrol base from which to operate recon patrols (firm base) e.g. Pl bases established for NGIB Patrols.
- (d) As patrols of type (b) and (c) are required to fight as in (b) or establish a defensive perimeter as in (c) they demand the use of the Pl with its sp weapons.

2. Intercomm

The comd ordering the patrol requires information from the patrol of its progress, therefore must employ one of the following means of intercomm.

- (a) Wireless (was not available)
- (b) L/T
- (c) Runners

- (a) Not always reliable over long distances. Added weight.
- (b) Proved successful on all patrols infm being passed back rapidly. Reliable means.

Proved its worth on night 30/31 Dec at RUTHERFORD'S PT. Small patrols were handicapped by the need to lay line thus confining the area which could otherwise be patrolled.

Suggest therefore the line be used with Pls of Pl strength and that no wire accompany small recon patrols, in lieu SCR 535 sets where available or or runners sent back at pre-arranged times.

3. Briefing

- (a) The greatest care must be taken in briefing patrols by comds and the utmost attention paid to detail in doing so even though the detail seems to be of a very minor nature or of a routine nature.
- (b) Definite questions will be asked, the answers to which will be supplied in reports on return.
- (c) Infm must be passed to own tps, listening posts, patrols (own and those of neighbouring Unit and sub units) of timings, in and out, routes to be traversed, nature of patrol (incl strength) and action.
- (d) Every scrap of infm must be passed on to each member of the patrol as must also the task of the patrol.
- (e) Had the above detail received more attention the wounding of one member of a returning patrol by a number of listening post would have been avoided, as also, would the action of two patrols from neighbouring units in the vicinity of the BRUMBY WING, where considerable time was spent by both patrols circling to by pass. Attention to detail avoids clashes between patrols and unnecessary wounding or killing of own tps thus attaining the object of the JAP without giving the trouble.

4. Movement on tracks

Tracks should NOT be used too frequently for the same patrols as this tends to a false feeling of security through moving repeatedly over the same ground. Suggest that parallel routes be used alternatively and out into track to observe at intervals. A lesser number of leading scouts would have been the victim of ambush had the above suggestion be employed more often.

2. Ambushes

- (1) Ambushes set were too frequently revealed to the enemy by premature springing of the trap due probably to the over-zealous and more inexperienced young soldier.
- (2) Greater care is required in setting the ambush particularly with regard to concealment. Nature is the best camouflage to man and tps must be taught to interrupt natural camouflage as little as possible.
- (3) Noise, chatter and patience must be improved and training along this line carried out.

3. Defence

(1) Wiring and Booby Traps

- (a) Wire does NOT present an obstacle unless it is covered by fire therefore tactical wire must be ~~sighted~~ sited so that it is covered by the fire on fixed lines of LMG and / or MMG, the beaten zones of which fall on the enemy side of the wire. This was NOT at first fully appreciated by all sub Unit comds.
- (b) Booby Traps similarly present an obstacle only if covered by the fire of weapons in the Pl. It was found that the JAP could and did remove grenades from booby fields and later use these grenades against our tps. Booby traps of this nature should be regarded more in the nature of a warning device.

(2) Weapon Pits

Every pit dug in a perimeter must be regarded as a fighting pit from which weapons can be used offensively and any construction suggestive of a shelter must be discouraged. Weapon pits of the two man type connected by an inverted U slit found favour with tps.

(3) Offensive Action

It has been stated that "The spirit of defence ^{is} /the ~~defence~~ offence". This should be demonstrated by the employment of aggressive patrolling with the object of killing outside the perimeter and perimeter regarded as a safe place to rest.

(4) 2" Mortar

There was for a time a reluctance to use the 2" Mortar because of tree clearance. Every avenue must be exploited by Pl Comds to employ this weapon and clearings created. In many instances the removal of two or three small trees would have enabled the use of this excellent weapon on quite a wide arc. Its value as a smoke producing agent must NOT be overlooked (deception, indication etc).

5. Fields of Fire

In a number of cases too much clearing was carried out close to FDLs thus placing weapon pits in a killing ground and a prey to snipers. Clearing of lanes of fire must receive a high priority.

6. Pattern of Perimeters

- (a) Clover leaf was found to be effective.
- (b) The creation of a wide belt of cleared "killing area" surrounding the perimeter as at TAVIERA was NOT tested by enemy action but I would have welcomed the test and suggest to Coy Comds, where time and ground permit the full development of plan, this design be employed.

7. Attack

- (1) It has again been demonstrated that the holding of the enemy in front and placing a force astride his L of C to apply the pressure from both ends will always succeed due to the bulk of his fire being sited fwd and little attention given to protection of his rear.
- (2) It was also demonstrated that frontal attack proves costly.
- (3) More use needs to be made of PIs and Coys Sp weapons (2* Mor and BX) before calls are mad. for heavier sp weapons.

8. Enemy Tactics

(1) Ambush

- (a) JAP selected ground usually in the bottleneck formed between heavy swamp and a river and held this with a small strength.
- (b) Fired at leading scout when close up to ambush and seldom allowed the patrol into the trap.
- (c) The trick of falling a tree or placing a small bush in the track, clearing behind it and covering this clearing with cross fire was used on an occasion but it did NOT succeed as the leading scout, an old soldier, at once became suspicious, halted the patrol and after recon the patrol outflanked the LMG killing the gunner. The few tricks known to the JAP are used repeatedly by him and knowledge of these tricks makes for successful patrolling.
- (d) The formations used were inverted V and single arm of V.

(2) Action when by fire brought down

In all instances where 3* Mors or Arty was used the JAP comes inside the opening line close to own troops. At D Coy OUTPOST this was overcome by placing 3* Mor fire and MEG fire from flanks inside and close to own tps.

(3) Use of Natives

Use of armed hostile natives against 47 Bn on JABA R.

9. General

(1) Security

- (a) Adopting of immediate def on halts and pushing out security patrols.
- (b) More care in regard to concealment of empty cartons and tins etc.

(2) Rations

FOR found to be ideal for use of patrols and all tps praise this ration.

(3) Comm

- (a) Suggested sound power phones be used for control of fire on first lines in Rifle Coys at night.

3. (Contd)

- (b) Line again proved its value but on occasions suffered from strong induction. Instruments suffered from magnetic sand.
- (c) Pigeons reliable but containers fragile. Pigeons have limited use in rapid movement such as ops along coast to MAWARAKA.

4. Grenades 4 Sec

Suggest issue of gas checks for use with 4 Sec Grenades.

10. Dress and equipment

1. Canvas boots for patrols to prevent noise.
2. Gaiters hold water in trousers which causes noise and difficulties.
3. OSMG carrier to have basic pouch buckle attached in lieu of present type to allow correct carrying of pack and haversack.
4. Need Gas Checks for 4 Sec Grenade.
5. Each patrol to carry (1) One canvas from Army Oct to be used as stretcher by cutting two poles in case of casualty.
6. Extra sights for 3 " Mortar must be carried in Q Store. High breakage rate for bubbles.

H.H. McDonald Lt Col
 (H.H. McDONALD)
 Commanding 15 Aust Inf Bn

Appx R.

War Day

5

SECRET
Copy No.....
29 Jan 45

15 AUST INF BN O.O. NO 4/45

Ref Map : TOROKINA 1 inch to 1 mile

INFM

1. Enemy

- (a) At present no enemy tps are in contact with any position in the TOROKINA BASE AREA.
- (b) 48 hrs warning may be expected of any intended enemy action.
- (c) Small enemy suicidal parties may attempt to bypass the fwd tps with the object of destroying base installations and inflicting maximum number of casualties.

2. Own tps

- (a) 29 Aust Inf Bde is responsible for the def of sector TOROKINA BASE AREA - Right boundary 665954 to 621933, left boundary 600000 to 589974.
- (b) Flanking units as shown in Appx A.
- (c) 47 Aust Inf Bn maintaining outpost Hill 700 at 6498.

INTENTION

- 3. 15 Aust Inf Bn will viciously prevent any enemy attempts to penetrate that portion of TOROKINA PERIMETER shown in Appx A as 15 Aust Inf Bn responsibility.

METHOD

4. Tasks

Defensive positions will be developed in localities shown on Appx A.

5. Junction Points

Coy junction points shown on Appx A.
Inter Bn junction points - Right between D Coy 57/60 Aust Inf Bn and D Coy 15 Aust Inf Bn as shown on Appx A, left between 47 Aust Inf Bn and A Coy 15 Aust Inf Bn as shown on Appx A.

6. FDLs and OUTPOST Line

As shown on Appx A.

7. Work Programme

Development of def posns will commence 29 Jan 45.
Splinter proof shelters will be erected for all MMGs and LMGs.

8. Occupation of FDLs

FDLs will be maintained but will NOT be occupied continuously until receipt of a warning order.

9. Action on Warning Order

- (a) FDLs will be manned continuously
- (b) Until the warning order is received normal trg will be carried out

10. Counter-Attacks

C Coy less one Pl will be prepared to carry out the following counter-attack roles:-
(a) From C Coy defensive locality to D Coy defensive locality.
(b) From C Coy defensive locality to A and B Coy defensive localities along DAROTA LOOP TRACK.

15 AUST INF BN OO NO 4/45 (cOntd)

11. Recce and Flanning

Coy comds and supporting arms comds will commence recce 28 Jan 45.

12. Rehearsal

Orders will be issued at a later date for the rehearsal of the occupation of all def posns on receipt of warning order.

13. Patrols

Security patrols will be provided as follows:-

- (a) D Coy - route coy defensive locality NORTH along TOROKINA RIVER to 667968 thence along track SW to coy locality.
- (b) C Coy - standing patrol one sec on feature square 6696.
- (c) B Coy - line creek from 647950 to 635968.
- (d) A Coy - from coy defensive locality along inter Bn boundary 15 Bn/47 Bn to feature square 6597.

Contact Patrols

- (a) Coys will carry out contact patrols from right to left.
- (b) A Coy will carry out contact patrols with 47 Aust Inf Bn.
- (c) C Coy will contact fwd Bn HQ and B Coy route PENDLETON RD - DAKOTA LOOP TRACK.

14. Mors

- (a) DF1 four dets vicinity C Coy task crossing EAST-WEST TRAIL - TOROKINA RIVER AREA.
- (b) DF2 two dets vicinity C Coy task junc EAST-WEST RD - ROAD 250 shown Appx A.
- (c) DF3 re-entrant coy junc pt B and A Coys shown Appx A.
- (d) DF4 area forward A Coy perimeter shown on Appx A.

15. MMG

One sec D Coy locality tasks as shown on Appx A.
One sec vicinity B C Coy locality shown on Appx A.

16. T/A

One det A Coy
One det B Coy
One det C Coy
One det D Coy

Tasks as shown in Appx A.

17. PIONEERS

Local protection fwd Bn HQ less dets ordered to coys for supervision of road maintenance.

ADM

18. Med

Fwd RAP will be established junc DESAUTEL RD - DAKOTA LOOP.
Main RAP will remain present location.

19. Amn

3 days res will be maintained in defended localities from receipt of warning order.

20. Tpt

Remain present location rear Bn HQ area.

22. Sup

3 days res rations will be maintained in defended localities from receipt of warning order.

22. B Ech

Will remain present location.

15 AUST INF BN OO NO 4/45 (Contd)

23. Malarial precautions

All sub-unit comds will ensure that all malarial precautions are adhered to most strictly.

24. Co-ordination

Coy fire plans will be co-ordinated by 29 Jan 45.

INTERCOMN

25. Fwd Bn HQ will be established junc DESAUREL RD - DAKOTA LOOP RD.
Rear Bn HQ will remain present location.

26. L/T will be used to all coys and to G Coy standing patrol at 8696.

ACK

P.H.G. Oxley
(P.H.G. OXLEY)
A/Lt 15 Aust Inf Bn

Issued by Runner

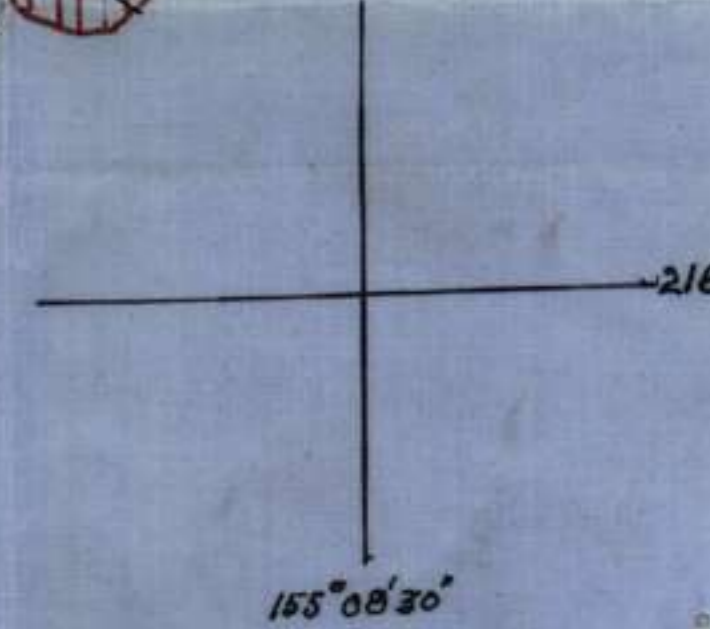
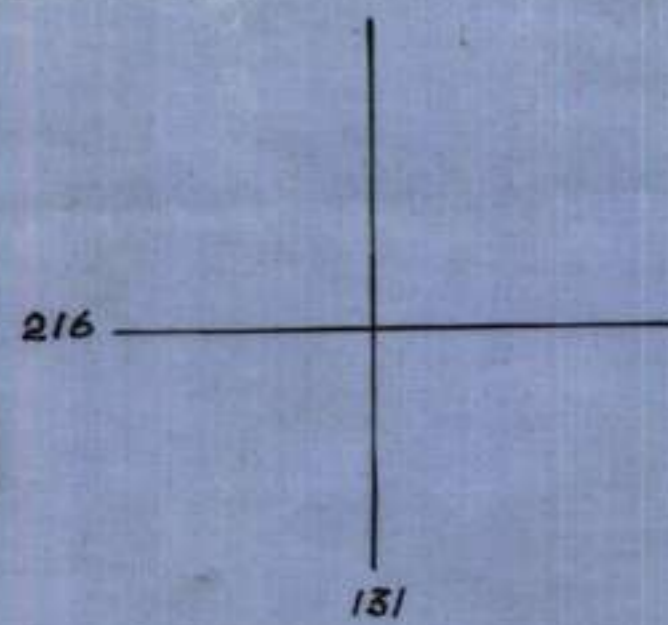
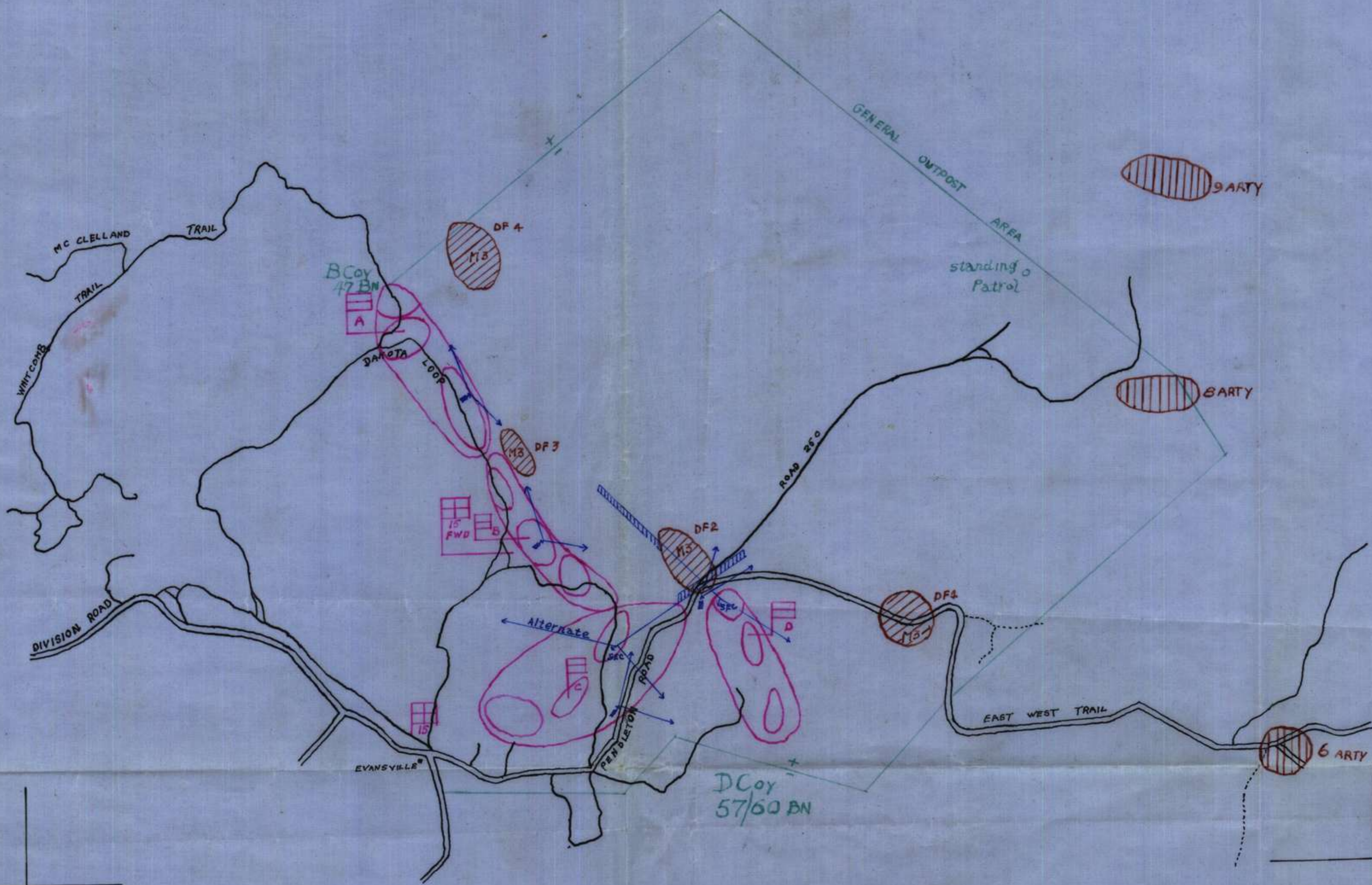
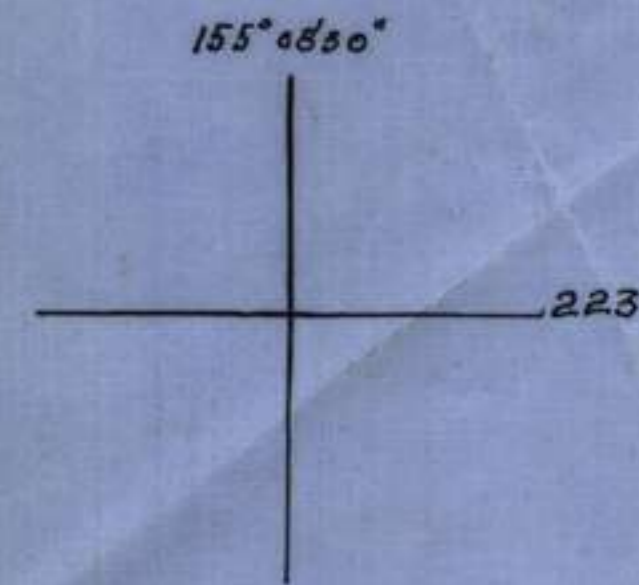
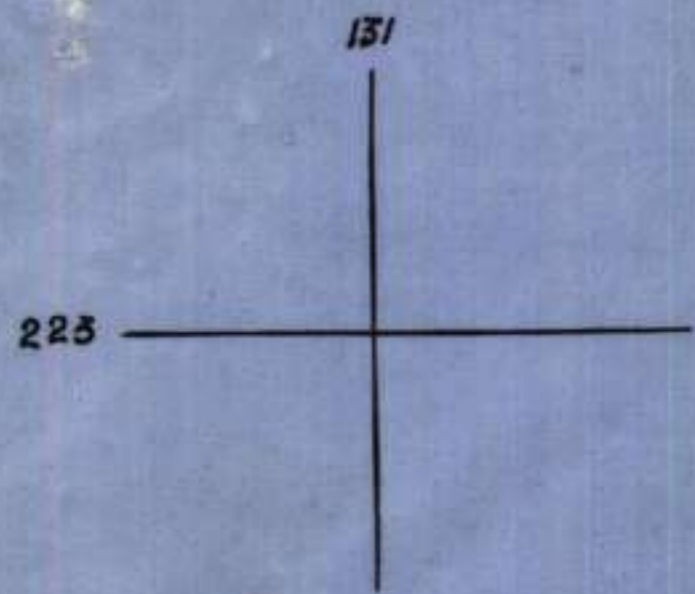
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Distribution List A

APPX "A" TO 15 AUST INF BN

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REF MAP TOROKINA HASTY TERRAIN

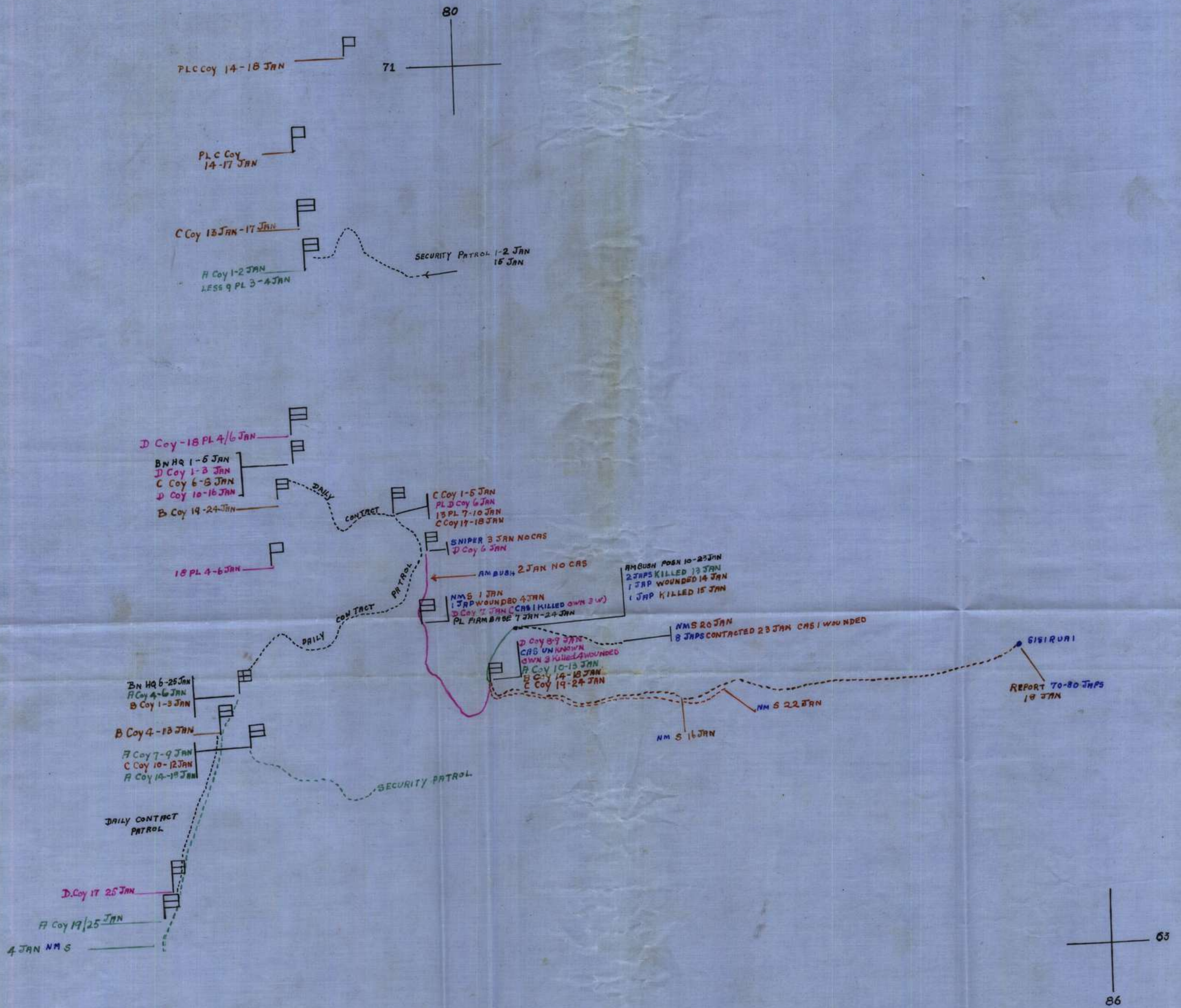


15 AUST INF BN

Appx 5

OVERLAY:— SHOWING OPS 1 TO 23 JAN 45

REF MAP: 29 COMD SHEET "2"



PREPARED BY
15 BN "I" SECTION
23 JAN 45

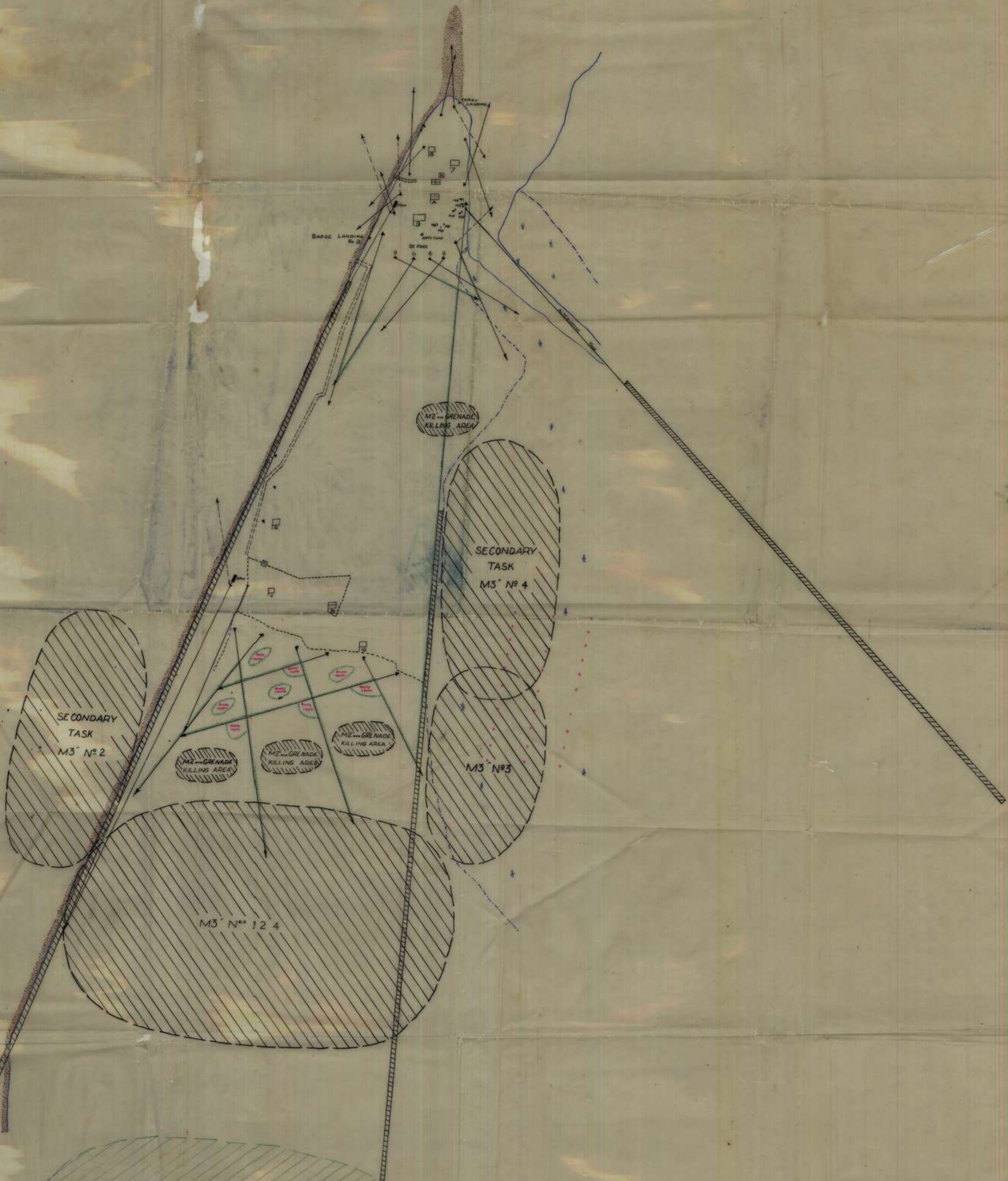
15 AUST INF BN

APP E

FIRE PLAN LACK FORCE-TAVERA RIVER

MAP REF- A COY- VIC AREA- 778654 - PERIOD- 2-8 JAN 45

B 778651



LEGEND

M2 and GRENADE	
M3 TASK	
BOOBY TRAPS and TRIP WIRE	
PERMANENT BOOBY TRAPS	

ARTY TASK

SCALE: 1" to 25 Yds



DRAWN BY: ISEC 15 AUST INF BN
 UNDER INSTR FROM: MAJ LACK
 DATE: 7 JAN 45
 METHOD: COMPASS AND PACING

15 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
FIRE PLAN

Ref. Command Sheet 2: 1/25,000

Appx. I

LACK FORCE

MAP REF - A COY - VIC AREA - 778648 - PERIOD - 8 - 13 JAN 45

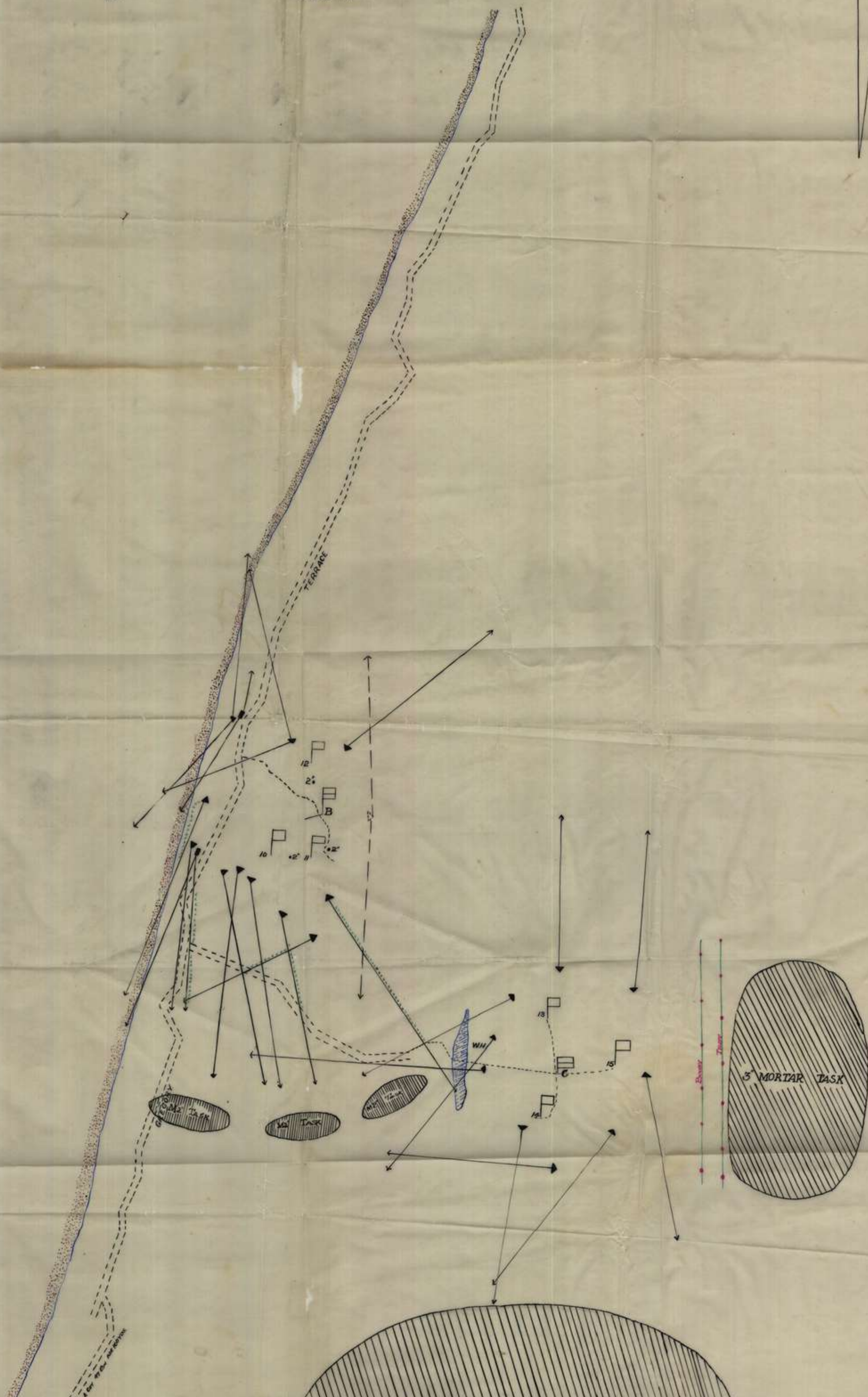
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EMPRESS

AUGUSTA

BAY



BOOBY TRAPS: [Red dot symbol]

SCALE 25 YDS TO 1 INCH
RF 1/900

DRAWN BY: 15BN ISEC
DATE: 15 JAN 45