

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

**Item number: 8/3/3**

**2/3 Infantry Battalion**

**July - December 1942**

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

MONTH OF JULY 1942

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/3 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 Jul 42 To 27 Jul 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HORANA (Ceylon)	1 - 3 Jul		Spent in trial moves, which proved so successful that the camp doxies departed fearing that their source of income had been cut off.	
	4 Jul		<del>a</del> Bn Northhamshire Regt <sup>(48th 200)</sup> arrived to take over Bn area. Platoons were fostered in by their opposite number. Personnel were now feverishly buying up tea, as this commodity was rationed at home. The Sinhalese botique keepers, with an eye to old age security, were willing to sell at rapidly increasing prices. The British soldier has definite ideas on such matters and that night the village was in darkness, only Australian troops being admitted by back entrances to the native stores. A dark future lay ahead for the villagers.	
	5 Jul		We quickly became acquainted with the "Tommys", accompanying them on route marches, and exchanging opinions, experiences and biscuits. Shopping parties were sent to Colombo.	
	6 Jul		Adm.	
	7 Jul	<i>The Northamps</i> 1800 hrs	Hand over completed.	
	8 Jul	1020 hrs	<del>5</del> Bn, with their swing band gave an informal concert which accredited by an appreciative audience, no amateur show.	
			Bn embuss and proceed to Colombo. Natives now enlightened. Convoy moved without hitch or hindrance to PANADURA where troops were quickly entrained and transported direct to QUEEN VICTORIA Warves. Here followed a twenty yards walk to the barges and final transportation to HMT "WESTERNLAND".	
			The efficiency of the move was greatly appreciated by troops loaded with ebony elephants and on an average, 10 lbs of tea.	
COLOMBO HARBOUR	9 - 11 Jul		Members of 2/1 Rd Regt deliver review over public address system, generously supplied by the ship's purser. This greatly relieved the monotony of awaiting departure. Race games were held on the main deck aft, under the supervision of the YMCA representative.	
	12 Jul	1500 hr	Ship puts out to sea for trial run. Choppy sea causes first cases of sea sicknesses.	
	13 Jul	1600 hr	Convoy departs for destination officially unknown.	
AT SEA	14 - 27 Jul		Weather stormy and seas high for greater part of voyage. Concerts and reviews broadcast to troops on the weather-deck. An abundance of hitherto unrecognised	

MONTH OF { JULY 1942.  
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WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2118  
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/3 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 27 Jul 42 To 9 Aug 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AT SEA	14 - 27 Jul		talent was discovered, Lt Rundle and Cpl Allsop being the most outstanding representatives of the Bn. A boxing tournament was held, the heavy weight, <del>wt</del> welter weight and light weight championships being won by Sjt Ward, Pte Vannan and L/Sjt Burns respectively. Training syllabus covered weapon trg and lectures on all phases of infantry work. Many quiz competitions were held.	
	28 Jul		At daylight troops crowded the taff rails for the first sight of the homeland.	
		1100	As the ship berthed at <del>XXXX</del> crowded FREEMANTLE Docks, a <del>band</del> band, composed of last war veterans, played on the warf-side.	
		1400	<del>One</del> Two thirds of the Bn proceeded on leave to PERTH, and were accorded the warmest and most effusive welcome they had experienced. Large quantities of mail were issued throughout the day and well into the night.	
	29 Jul		Two thirds of Bn proceeded on leave to Perth.	
	30 Jul		Two thirds of Bn proceeded on leave to Perth.	
	31 Jul	1530	Ship departed for Melbourne. Even the renowned BIGHT received us hospitably.	
MELBOURNE	7 Aug	0900	PT MELBOURNE sighted at daylight. Ship berthed again to the accompaniment of a band. Troops, now anxious to disembark, were incensed by the slow procedure of unloading cargo. A party was organised from the Bn to assist civilian stevedores, by the action a strike. However, Military persuasive methods and the outspoken opinions of the troops resulted in the resumption of operations with unprecedented keenness.	
	8 Aug	0900	Bn disembarked and entrained for SEYMOUR, thence to be transported to MANGALORE.	
<i>Mangalore vic</i>	<del>8 Aug</del> 9 Aug		Troops attended an American camp concert. Invitation to Church Service from neighbouring US padre. In a short address Padre HART thanked the Americans for their gesture and in reply the US Padre, comparing the number of our troops in attendance to the number of Americans, suggested that it would appear the Americans were attending our service.	

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118  
(adapted.)

MONTH OF AUGUST 1942  
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(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/3 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 10 Aug 42 To 21 Sep 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MANGALORE	10 -11 Aug		Bn issued a liberal supply of leave clothing and is introduced to ration coupons. Service chevrons issued.	
	12 Aug		First party moves out on 14 days disembarkation leave.	
	13-15 Aug		Remainder of Bn proceeds on leave.	
	16 - 25		Rear party engaged in clearing area and striking surplus tents. One and two days leave granted freely to MELBOURNE, nightly leave to SEYMOUR.	
	26 Aug		Wet Canteen operated every night.	
			<del>Rear</del> Rear party left for train movement to WALGROVE. Full scale Bn transport lashed to <del>flat-topped</del> table-topped railway trucks.	
WALGROVE	27 Aug		First elements of Bn return from leave.	
	28	0500	Rear party arrive BLACKTOWN, proceeded to WALGROVE camp and were immediately sent on leave.	
	29 Aug		Preparations for march through SYDNEY. <del>Further</del> More personnel return from leave. Nightly leave to the City.	
	30 Aug - } 1 Sep		Rehearsals for march through the City.	
	2 Sep		Bde marched through SYDNEY. On completion of route the column was marched onto Central station and entrained for GRETA.	
	3-10 Sep	1800	Bn arrives at GRETA camp. Preparations made for forthcoming campaign. All winter clothing recalled and kit bags stored. Full scale first line ammunition issued. Nightly leave to WEST MAITLAND, liberal issues of beer at wet canteen and messes.	
	11 Sep	2330	Members of Rear party recalled from leave by telegram.	
	12 Sep	0400	B Coy and 16 Pl leave for embarkation at BRISBANE.	
	13 Sep		A Coy and 18 Pl leave for embarkation.	
	14 Sep	0800	First elements of Bn sailed on <del>XXXXXX</del> Chinese Ship "ANNUI" and US Liberty Ship "JOHN STEEL".	
	15 Sep		Bn HQ, C Coy and remainder D Coy and remaining elements HQ Coy leave GRETA for embarkation.	
AT SEA	15 - 21 Sep		Remainder of Bn sailed with 2/1 Fd Regt on Liberty Ship "PAYNE WINGATE".	
			Bn en route to PORT MORESBY.	

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1942

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118  
(adapted.)

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Unit 2/3 INF BN

Date and Time.—From 21 Sep 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MORESBY AREA NEW GUINEA	21 Sep 42		First of Bn disembark PT MORESBY and proceed via MURRAY BARRACKS to a position 14 miles from MORESBY on the RIGA ROAD, there to make final preparations for the OWEN STANLEY Campaign.	
	24 Sep 42		Bn now concentrated on RIGA Road. Mosquito nets, veils and camouflage nets issued.	
	25 Sep 42		Bn receives its issue of Green clothing.	
	26 Sep 42		Bn now concentrated KOITAKI area, where it had relieved 39 Inf Bn.	
	27-30 Sep		Local patrolling for own security. Final preparations for campaign. Boots studded or barred on soles to prevent slipping on muddy tracks. Lectures from <del>2/3</del> personnel on Japanese tactics from lessons learned during the withdrawal over the OWEN STANLEYS.	

*29 Jan 43*

*Ian Hutchison*  
Lt col  
(Ian Hutchison)  
Comd 2/3 Aust Inf Bn

7 JUN 1943

# WAR DIARY for Month of October 42.

Army Form G-2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are Contained in F. S. Regs., Vol. 1.  
Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

## OR ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Unit. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
KOITAKI. Day       KOITAKI -NEWTON'S DUMP- OWER'S CORNER- UBERI - CAMP 66	1 The opening of the month found the Bn, on 12 hrs notice to move as from 0700 hrs. Lieut Hunter's patrol to JAWARERE was recalled & Sgts Cochrane & Silk returned from their route recce towards TUPUSELAI reporting very heavy going. The 2/2 Bn was on 24 hrs notice as from 0700 hrs.  2 Final preparations were made for the move forward. Packs & respirators were sent to the kit store, Base Area. along with all material not being carried. During the afternoon bootmakers arrived from various units to affix leather bars on boots to give greater grip.  3 Reveille was at 0500 hrs, breakfast at 0530 hrs, tents struck at 0545 & the Bn embussed at 0630 hrs in 7 Div AASC Chevolet 3 ton trucks, moving off at 0645 hrs. The narrow road was very muddy, but chains & the four wheeled drive ensured good progress so that the debussing point. NEWTON'S DUMP was reached at 0800 hrs. At 0815 hrs the Bn continued on foot, the order of march being "B" Coy, "O" Grp, Bn HQ, HQ Coy, "D" Coy, "E" Coy and "A" Coy, and "B" Ech. The motorable track, largely corduroy extended as far as OWERS CORNER, but a steep rough descent to the river followed. Here engineers were constructing a "flying fox" for sending down supplies. Several walking wounded from the forward units were met, also three stretcher cases, each borne by eight painstaking natives. The UBERI staging area was reached at 1040 & at Camp 66 the Bn bivouced for the night, provisions being drawn from the DID in the Area.	
CAMP 66 - CAMP 44.	4 Following Reveille at 0500 hrs the Bn departed at 0630 & arrived at Camp 44 at 1230, though stragglers were numerous on account of heavy amm, loads carried. Travelling was fairly easy in the early stages, with steady climbing followed by a steep descent where 2/1 Pnr Bn had done good work in constructing steps. The 25 pdr which had shelled the enemy a week ago was passed during the morning. Salt tablets were issued & troops were instructed to sterilise all drinking water. The weather remained fine.	
CAMP 44 - CAMP 88.	5 Camp 44 was left at 0645 & Camp 88 reached at 1230. At IORABAIWA was noticed a 37 MM gun used in last weeks operations & along the track were	<u>Bassed</u>

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# WAR DIARY for month of October (cont)

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## OR ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
CAMP 44 - CAMP 88.	5. passed graves of 8 Australian soldiers & 1 Japanese. Much equipment, mostly Australian was noticed lying along the route, including Bren Guns "2" Mortors, rifles, grenades & amn. The "I" Offr & "I" Sgt left for NAURO at 1500 hrs & spent the night at a water point 1½ hrs short of that destination. Here a very sick and weak Japanese prisoner was being guarded awaiting bearers. 16 Bde HQ arrived at NAURO at 1900 hrs.	
CAMP 88 - NAURO.	6. The Bn departed at 0645 & and the leaders reached NAURO at 0930 but others continued to arrive up to 1830. On the way parties were photographed by the official photogragher, as they struggled with their loads up the steep hills. Tea served by the 2/2 Bn advance party was much appreciated on arrival. American planes were dropping food & a party went out to retrieve which had fallen wide in the scrub. Much wastage was evident. Troops enjoyed a dip in the swift flowing creek nearby. At <del>2045</del> 1430 hrs, 16 Bde HQ moved forward 30 mins walk along the NAURO MENARI track. The first Japanese prisoner to come under the guard of the Bn was handed over at 2045 & he appeared to be in fair health. Bn stood to 1830 to 1900.	
NAURO.	7. Heavy rain fell from 0300 to 0630. Stand to was carried out from 0615 0715. The Japanese prisoner was handed over to 7 Div FSS. Much more food was dropped during the morning & at 1230 hrs the 2/2 Bn & 2/1 Pnr Bn commenced to arrive.	
NAURO - MENARI.	8. The Bn left NAURO at 0630 hrs, the order of the march being changed to "B" Coy, "C" Coy, "O" Gp, Bn HQQ, "HQ" Coy, "D" Coy, "A" Coy, and the leaders reached MENARI at 1230, experiencing a more level track but much mud. At several points last week's sitreps concerning unburied Japanese along this track were recalled. Supplies were being dropped from the air at MENARI, some of the dropping being very erratic, resulting in several "near misses" among the battalion's early arrivals. Clearing was carried out in the bivouac area & the Bn stood to from 1830 to 1900 hrs The sitrep to 1800 hrs, contained the following information :- Cameron's (3Bn) patrol having passed KAGI gained contact with unknown number of Japs about noon to-day at point 2 hrs NORTH TEMPLETON'S CROSSING. <u>WITHY'S</u>	

# WAR DIARY for October (cont)

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## OR ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
NAURO - MENARI.	<p>8. Withy's (25 Bn) patrol contacted enemy, 0815, somewhere between MYOLA &amp; TEMPLETON'S CROSSING. Estimated enemy strength, 30 with LMG, WITHY'S patrol attacked, result not yet known. CAMERON'S coy at EFOGI NORTH: Remainder of CAMERON'S move 0800 hrs to cover main track MYOLA-EFOGI. 2/25 Bn &amp; 2/31 Bn, move following morning. 2/25 Bn to KAGI &amp; 31 Bn to EFOGI NORTH. 2/33 Bn should by this evening be astride main track overlooking MYOLA. Tentive date dropping MYOLA still 11 Oct 42.</p> <p>9 Very heavy rain fell during the early hours &amp; most men were wet in spite of a wide variety of shelters which had been erected. Stand to was from D615 to D700. Troops spent the day clearing the area, digging positions constructing bush shelters, bathing, and washing clothes. Rations improved as a result of yesterday's dropping, which consisted of bully beef, biscuits, bacon, cheese, dried fruit, powdered milk, tea and sugar. The 2/2 Bn commenced to arrive at mid-day. Heavy rain commenced at 1600 hrs and continued throughout the night.</p> <p>10 A small amount of mail arrived by carriers. The only dropping from the air appeared to consist of coils of signal wire. 16 Bde &amp; 2/1 Bn. adv parties arrived.</p> <p>11 25 Bde HQ left MENARI for EFOGI. Maj-Gen Allen passed through the Bn area to 16 Bde HQ. The 2/1 Bn arrived in 2/3 Bn area in a heavy down-pour &amp; bivouacked there. Soap, bootlaces &amp; air mail letter cards &amp; FS post-cards were issued. Mail was still being dispatched by native carriers.</p> <p>12 The Bn left for EFOGI NORTH at 0730 hrs, the order of the march being, C Coy, O Gp, Bn HQ, HQ Coy, D Coy, B Coy &amp; A Coy. Steep hills &amp; very muddy level stretches rendered travelling extremely strenuous throughout a long days march, so the Bn was very strung out &amp; while the leaders reached EFOGI NORTH at 1600 hrs, many were still arriving at dusk &amp; others spent the night at points short of this destination. Supplies were being dropped at EFOGI NORTH during the day. Before reaching EFOGI several Australian graves were passed &amp; then the site of a Bde HQ which had been attacked by the Japs &amp; abandoned. In one position was</p>	
MENARI - EFOGI NORTH.		



# WAR DIARY for October (cont)

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2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
MENARI - EFOGI NORTH.	12. was noticed the skeleton of an Australian Soldier & not far away that of a Jap,- evidence of very rapid decomposition. On arrival at the bivouac area one man narrowly missed shooting a wild pig. Troops were warned to clear the grass before lighting on account of the presence of many Jap grenades in the vicinity.	
EFOGI NORTH- MYOLA.	13. 25 Bde left 0800 hrs, followed at 0830 hrs by 2/3 Bn in the following order:- D Coy, O Gp, Bn HQ, HQ Coy, B,A,&C Coys, leaders arriving at MYOLA LAKE No.1. at 1200 hrs. Coys were located: D & A fwd, B Coy, HQ Coy, Bn HQ, & C Coy in rear. The track was very muddy in places. Three casualties from the 2/33 Bn were being carried back by native bearers who were doing magnificent work. Teams of dusky carriers had been bearing their 40lbs loads of all descriptions all the way from NEWTON'S DUMP thereby rendering very valuable service. One with a kit bag strapped to his back was heard to remark to two troops, as they battled almost knee deep in sticky mud " This place no ..... good", an opinion perhaps shared by many at the moment. Heavy rain fell throughout the afternoon Dropping of supplies had been carried out on the "LAKE", which was merely a swamp.	During the march from NEWTON'S DUMP to MYOLA out of a total of 30 - 587 only 3 men were dropped from the Bn.
MYOLA LAKE No.1.	14. The C.O. & I.O. made a recce of the 2/2 Bn area. During the morning a good issue of mail was dropped by parachute, but one bag fell in the Jungle & a party from C Coy was detailed to search for it. One member Pte Weatherdon, became detached from the rest & was reported missing at 1100 hrs. A patrol went to search for him but without success. 2/2 Bn commenced to arrive at 1300 hrs, taking over positions from D & A coys (2/3 Bn) which had moved to MYOLA LAKE No.2.. Two guides:- one from 2/16 Bn & 1 from 39 Bn became attached to Bn HQ for the purpose of directing the Bn through lesser known tracks.	
MYOLA LAKE No 2.	15. At 1000 hrs Bn HQ & HQ Coy moved through 2/2 Bn to the UPPER LAKE, arriving on the EAST SIDE at mid-day. The C.O. remained until the 2/1 Bn arrived at MYOLA, D,A, & HQ coys were put to work on preparing a <u>landing</u>	

# WAR DIARY for October (cont)

Army Form C-2118.

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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Hour, Date, Place.		Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
MYOLA LAKE NO 2.	15	<p>landing ground for planes. Lieut McGuinn &amp; 27 OR's left on a 5 day recce with the object of finding a track forward of TEMPLETON'S CROSSING previously used by the 2/16 Bn. C &amp; B Coys arrived at MYOLA LAKE NO 2. (UPPER LAKE) at 1700 hrs. Pte Weatherdon who found his way to EFOGI NORTH had safely rejoined his coy at 1100 hrs. Coy positions from SOUTH to NORTH along the EAST side of the LAKE were, in order, C,D,HQ,BnHQ, A &amp; B.</p>	
	16	<p>Coys proceeded with clearing tussocks &amp; filling in small holes on the ground proposed for landing, while the Pnr Pl, cut down a portion of scrub for extension of the runaway. A Moth plane was expected to land at 1100 hrs, but did not appear to the disappointment of the ADMS, who had arrived to meet it. The B.M. &amp; L.O. also arrived during the morning B Ech went to MYOLA &amp; bought back mail &amp; tobacco which had been dropped at LAKE NO.1. &amp; which was warmly welcomed by troops. Lieut Wood took a Pl of A Coy on a short patrol &amp; Lieut Lamb left with 25 OR's for 48 hrs to recce a track along the KUMUSI river. (Sitreps received from 16 Bde contained information as follows:- (To 1300L/15) 3 Bn moved round 2/33 Bn's left flank at 0830 L/15 &amp; one coy 2/33 in position on right flank to cooperate with 3 Bn. 3" Mortar dets, of 16 Bde (including 2 dets 2/3 Bn mortar Pl personnel under Sjt Tucker) moved up to 2/33 Bn for shoot. 2/25 Bn reports consolidation of ground gained on 14 Oct &amp; probing enemy posn on front &amp; flanks. Patrol from 2/25 Bn left 1100 hrs to recce route on left flank to ALOLA. Air support as asked for to-day failed to materialise. (To 1830 L/16):- 2/33 Bn commenced to attack with object of forcing creek crossing. 2/25 Bn launching further attack against enemy this morning. (To 1830 L/16) During afternoon 2/33 Bn &amp; 3 Bn continued to advance, 2/33 leading. Contact maintained with isolated parties enemy during advance. Advance of 2/33 Bn forced enemy in front of 2/25 Bn to withdraw. By 1630 hrs dispositions as follows, one coy 3 Bn, astride main track. 2/33 Bn holding TEMPLETON'S CROSSING &amp; high ground to EAST 2/25 Bn astride KAGI-TEMPLETON'S CROSSING track.</p>	2/33 reports
	17.		<u>The 16 Bde</u>

MONTH OF OCTOBER  
YEAR 1942

# WAR DIARY

UNIT -

Army Form C-2118.  
2/3 AUST INF BN

OR

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
17 MYOLLA LAKE No2	<p>60 men from A Coy left 0700 hrs to collect rations from Myolla, the Pioneer Pl continued clearing timber for the runway extension while all other available men attacked the grass with spades and bayonets in preparation of a landing ground. At mid-day the Bn was visited by Maj-Gen Allen, Brig Lloyd and a War Correspondent they remained for lunch during which heavy rain fell. More welcome mail arrived with the rations at 1400 hrs. In the evening Sgt Hickson reached the Bn from Australia, being the only member of this unit to be included in the draft. Two men, anxious to meet the Jap; reached the Bn from the 2/1 Fd Regt and were taken on strength. The sitrep at 1800 hrs stated that the enemy had been driven back from Templeton's Crossing by the 25 Bde.</p>	
18	<p>Pardre Hart conducted a Church Parade on the landing ground, Father Gallagher of the 2/1 Bn held an R.C. Parade near the R.A.P. Immediately after Church all hands were at work on the landing ground but were interrupted by the usual afternoon rain. Owing to the altitude the weather was cool, and permission to light fires was appreciated 1530 hrs Brig Lloyd visited the Bn and at 1600 hrs a Coy Comds conference was held. It was learnt that the 2/2 Bn had moved at 0900 hrs to Templeton's Crossing. The Fd Amb personnel, assisted by natives commenced construction during the day of an M.D.S. in the area. At 1800 hrs the sitrep stated that the 3rd Bn had got in rear of the enemy and that the 2/33 Bn and the 2/25 Bn were pushing from front. Coy Comds Conference revealed that the 2/1 Bn would move tomorrow and the Bn would move on the 20th. Lieuts McGuinn and MacDougal were to return with their patrols immediately.</p>	
19	<p>An Adv Party comprising 3 Offrs and 4 ORs under Maj Hutchison moved out at 0745 hrs to the 25 Bde at Templeton's Crossing. During the morning an Adv Party from Char Force arrived in the area. Mr MacDougal's patrol returned at 1230 hrs and at 1245 hrs Mr McGuinn's arrived. After lunch B Ech moved to the far side of the lake where supplies had been dropped for the first time. At 1700 hrs signal lines were taken in and the Bn was ready to move the following morning.</p>	

MONTH OF - OCTOBER  
YEAR 1942

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C-2118.  
UNIT - 2/3 AUST INF BN

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
20 MYOLLA LAKE No 2 to TEMPLETON'S CROSSING	<p>The Bn commenced to move out at 0730 and relatively new track was followed for a time, this track was very narrow and winding. On reaching the main track the going became very heavy owing to the mud which was ankle deep in many places. Several stretcher parties were met along the track. A creek was crossed at No 1 Dump where the Bn halted for lunch, AASC personnel providing tea. The 16 Bde started its offensive at 1030 hrs with 2/2 Bn making two attacks on the enemy, two coys on the right flank and two on the left, later joining up, casualties suffered being 12 killed and 50 wounded. 2/1 Bn took over from the 1/5 Bn and prepared to attack. Bn arrived at Templetons Crossing at 1530 and two Coys C and D crossed the creek and relieved the 2/33 Bn while A and B relieved the 2/25 Bn. The Bns first casualties were Ptes Weston and Clarke of the Mortar Detachment who were seriously injured by a bomb prematurely exploding.</p> <p>The whole of the march from Newton's Dump had been worthy of the best tradition of the battalion, for although it had been a gruelling experience, with rough tracks, steep grades, and mud, coupled with heavy loads, evacuations during its course totalled only three. Typical of the spirit of the men was the fact that the Mortar Pl on one occasion finished the days march with 113 bombs compared with the 96 with which they had started, the increase being due to bombs, <del>was</del> abandoned by other units earlier in the campaign, being picked up by 2/3 Bn men. MG personnel of the Carrier Pl, in addition to their individual loads, had carried the component parts of their weapons the whole distance.</p>	

MONTH OF OCTOBER  
YEAR 1942

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UNIT 2/3 AUST INF BN

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
21 TEMPLETON'S CROSSING	<p>At 0700 hrs A Coy was ordered to move down the track leading from No 1 Dump Eora Creek to contact 2/2 forward troops. D Coy was ordered to take over A Coys area: At 0935 A Coy contacted 2/2 Bns forward Coys and at 1121 hrs was moving on their right flank to contact enemy. The Bn received a warning order to move within an hour at 1130 and D Coy were ordered to move immediately, along the same route as A Coy, which had now occupied old Jap position on top of ridge above 2/2 Bn. Major Hutchison was ordered to take charge of A and D Coy and were to advance along the high ground leading to Eora Creek. If no opposition met on arrival at Eora Creek A Coy was to secure the high ground on the North-West of Eora Creek and D Coy the high ground on the North-East. At 1400 hrs D Coy linked up with A Coy after passing through the 2/2 Bn positions and the two Coys proceeded, with A Coy leading, towards Eora Creek. At 1330 hrs a patrol sent forward from A Coy to investigate a track leading in towards main track returned and reported having struck <sup>Jap</sup> LMG Section, one Jap being killed. The movement of the two Coys was very slow owing to the narrowness of the track which was also very slippery; At 1700 hrs the leading Pl of A Coy was held up by enemy LMG and rifle fire. Maj Hutchison then ordered Capt Brown to move a Pl round on the left flank in an endeavour to work round to the rear of the enemy but owing to the roughness of the country the Pl had to return after having been gone only half an hour. The two Coys were then ordered to dig in for the night. At 1800 hrs the I.O. from the 2/2 Bn contacted Maj Hutchison and informed him that the whole of the 2/2 Bn were just in the rear of his positions and also that A and D Coy were to come temporarily under the command of Lt-Col Edgar. Our casualties sustained were 1 Killed and 2 wounded.</p>	
22 TEMPLETON'S CROSSING	<p>After a hot breakfast the Bn moved in the following order:- B Coy, Bn HQ, HQ Coy, C Coy, RAP and B Ech. A Coy had pushed forward patrols at 0615 hrs and had found that the Japs had withdrawn. A and D Coy then proceeded forward towards Eora Creek followed by the 2/2 Bn, the remainder of the Bn moving towards Eora Creek via the main track. at</p>	

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
22 TEMPLETON'S CROSSING to EORA CREEK	<p>At 1030 hrs A Coy was fired on when reaching the village of Eora Creek. The Japs brought to bear mortar and LMG fire, pinning down the leading platoon of A Coy. The Bn halted beside the track, when this information was received, awaiting orders to move, and the C.O. went forward with the Brigadier, followed by the I.O.. At approximately 1130 hrs a message was received from Maj Hutchison that A Coy was still held up, Capt Brown, WO II Langham, being wounded, and two men killed by LMG fire. Maj Hutchison ordered D Coy to move round on the right flank and secure the high ground. Bn was again halted 1310 hrs on the ridge above Eora Creek, while the C.O., Adjt and the Coy Comdrs of B and C and HQ Coys went forward. At 1330 hrs the CO ordered Lieut MacDougal to move with his Pl along the left bank of the creek he also ordered Lieut Woods with his Pl to push forward as far as possible along the right bank. At 1700 hrs Lieut Woods sent word back that he was held up in some open country about 400 yards from the village. At 1800 hrs Lieut MacDougal returned and reported that the country along the left bank was impassable. The 2/1 Bn sent one Coy along the high ridge on the left flank of the Jap. No message had been received from D Coy moving along the high ridge on the enemy's right flank. During the afternoon the Bde was subjected to very heavy mortar fire. The CO and the RMO being wounded, the RMO being a stretcher case, and many other casualties were sustained. At 1800 hrs the CO ordered A Coy to form a bridge-head across the creek by the light of the moon. At 2030 hrs A Coy commenced crossing the bridge getting two Pls across and one section of the third. At this stage it was considered that any further crossing would be too dangerous and Capt Gall decided to withdraw to the high ridges leaving the one section to rejoin their Pl if possible. Owing to the very intense fire a volunteer was asked for from the Sec to go back and tell the CO what had happened. Pte F L Richardson volunteered and before he had moved five yards towards the bridge, was killed. The Sec was compelled to take cover under large rocks for the night, the Japs continuously throwing hand-grenades at them.</p>	

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
EORA CREEK 23	<p>At 0600 the Jap opened up with his mortar and MGs. As no reports were received from A &amp; D Coys, two ORs went forward to contact D Coy and one to contact A Coy. The 2/1 Bn proceeded to advance slowly under very heavy fire across the river. At 0745 the Bn received orders to prepare to move behind the 2/1 Bn, whose objective for the day was to reach Allola and secure a dropping ground. 2/2 Bn was to follow the 2/3. At 1250 the first message from D Coy for 24 hours was received:- The Coy <del>after</del> having camped on the ridge for the night was now working down to attack the enemy in the rear. Pte Silk, who was sent to look for A Coy found some usefull <sup>information</sup>. At 1500 news was received from A Coy giving the positions of the two Pls North West of the camp. Lieut Woods, who had been contacted during the morning, was ordered by the CO to rejoin his Coy with his Pl. A Coy was ordered to attack and wipe out the enemy MG Post, which was in the vicinity of their area, and then to proceed to carry out its original objective. At 1600 hrs B Coy moved out to support the 2/1 Bn, who were now across the river, under whose command they temporarily came. At 1800 hrs Cpl Pett, who had taken out a small patrol, reported having contacted A Coy and that A Coy <del>where</del> had contacted two Pls Sanderson (2/1 Bn) pluss 20 ORs Barclay (2/1 Bn). Runners from D Coy reported the Coy trying to find Ower's Crossing at 1030 hrs, the Coys position then being on the second spur approximately five hours march away, and no enemy having been contacted. At 1830 hrs the Pnr Pl and other bearers were experiencing much difficulty in getting wounded men up from the creek, being fired upon by MG, one bearer being killed and one wounded, Sgt Carson in charge of the party doing particularly fine work. The Bn casualties for the day:- one killed, eight wounded. At 1900 D Coy returned.</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
EORA RIDGE 24	<p>At 0630 rations were issued and at 0700 D Coy was ordered to move out to the right flank and gain and hold the high ground. C Coy, Bn HQ, HQ Coy and RAP moved at 1000 hrs and crossed Eora Creek. Here the CO and Lt-Col Cullen held a conference and it was decided that it would be useless trying to push up the main track as the Jap was holding the high ground on the left flank. Lt-Col Stevenson decided to move the Bn, plus B Coy, to gain and secure this high ground. At 1430 the Bn was held up by LMG and rifle fire. B Coy, who had taken the lead, pushed forward some 300 yards and by 1530 had captured two enemy LMGs. C Coy moved to the right and attacked a Jap patrol, killing three. A Coy, who had moved down the ridge were now with the Bn and were ordered to move round the left flank and secure that high ground. 1645 hrs a message from A Coy stated that they were now astride the track leading along the top of the ridge to Bde HQ. The Bn at 1700 were ordered to dig in for the night. At 1715 Sgt Hickson was sent to B Coy to find out their disposition and he failed to return and was presumed killed. At 1745 Pte Nean returned to Bn HQ and stated that while accompanying WO I Duff, taking amm to B Coy, they were fired on by five Japanese, WO Duff being killed. A patrol was sent to investigate and it was discovered that B Coys sig line had been cut. C Coy were then ordered to close the gap. Casualties for the day :- 1 killed, 1 missing, beleived killed and 1 wounded.</p>	
25	<p>After a quiet night the CO ordered a Coy Comds conference at 0700 and it was decided that the Bn move round to A Coys position on the left flank with B Coy leading. During the morning our aircraft strafed the creek in an effort to locate the Jap mortar which was bombing the main track. At 1030 it was learned that a Jap patrol was on the right flank, closely followed by a patrol from the 2/1 Bn, there-upon the Bn took up positions in readiness but nothing was seen of either patrol. At 1300 the CO ordered B Coy forward to relieve A Coy, allowing the latter to collect</p>	



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EORA RIDGE 25	their rations brought up during the morning. Bn dug in for the night with B Coy forward, then C, D, A, Bn HQ, and HQ Coy. 1830 two Pls of D Coy, who had been out on the right flank, joined the Bn. Casualties for the day :- 4 killed twelve wounded.	
26	B Coy were ordered to attack at 0730 and the Bn moved further along the track. Heavy enemy MGs held up the attack, however, and the Bn halted at 0935 hrs. B Coy were still held up and C and A Coys, bypassing them to secure high ground by 1730 hrs, and in an attack at 1800 Sgt Copeman led a patrol through and cut 12 yard of Jap telephone cable. The enemy counter-attacked between A & B Coy at 1845, driving back a Pl of B Coy, The attack, however, was held the enemy retiring, and a quiet night ensued. In spite of difficulties, mail was still being kept up to the troops and a considerable number of letters were distributed during the afternoon's heavy and continuous rain.	
27	At 0700 the CO called for Maj Hutchison and informed him that owing to his ear injury he did not feel up to leading the Bn, and instructed Maj Hutchison to assume command of the Bn he himself being evacuated to hospital. Maj Hutchison then decided to comb the spur. He now had under his command one Coy of the 2/2 Bn. This Coy he ordered to take the right flank, two Pls of D Coy and one Pl from B Coy were to form a central column and C Coy and A Coy followed by Bn HQ and HQ Coy were to take a left flank. The three columns were to move for a thousand yards then halt and contact each other. Distance between columns to be 300 yards. The Bn moved at 0850 hrs and at 1130 the Coy of the 2/2 Bn contacted the enemy. A D Coy patrol made contact with the Jap and then attacked, but the enemy force proved stronger than at first thought, patrol suffering 1 killed 4 injured. D Coy then asked for assistance where-upon C Coy was ordered to arrange an attack with D Coy, Lieut McGuinn acting as OC D Coy. Two Pls C Coy left at 1700 hrs but the attack did not eventuate owing to the light and a quiet night followed. Casualties for the day :- 2 killed, three wounded	

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EORA RIDGE 28	<p>At 0730 a patrol from D Coy was ordered to contact the Coy from the 2/2 and then to proceed a further 500 yards, they were unable to contact the Coy from the 2/2. 1030 hrs a recce party from the 2/25 Bn arrived enroute to Allola, but on hearing the situation here, returned. The Bn prepared for an attack and at 1400 hrs C and D Coy under the command of Capt Fulton left with instructions to destroy the enemy. Two Pls were sent forward at 1530 to find the enemy's flanks, and D Coy were directed to attack on the left, and C Coy on the right. At 1700 D Coy struck and drove back the Jap, and then C Coy opened their attack, the enemy was trapped. His LMG fire was severe and his positions very strong but our Coys showed great ferocity and determination, rushing in with grenades caused a complete rout. The Japs, still alive, fled screaming. The battle ended at 1830, and all was quiet. Mean-while the 2/1 Bn had been hammering at the Japs on the main track. Casualties for the day:- 11 killed, 51 wounded.</p>	
29	<p>Investigation of the scene of yesterday evening's battle revealed that at least 69 Japs had been killed. This very strong enemy position had apparently been occupied some time, a store shed being found and a large amount of Japanese equipment being discovered, including LMGs, mortars, a portable wireless set and some valuable papers. Patrols reported at 0830 that the area was now clear of all Japs, whilst a report from the 2/1 Bn indicated that the enemy had retreated from the main track. The Bn prepared to move at 1130 to follow up the enemy, but the ration party arrived at 1115 hrs and the departure was delayed until 1230 when a North Easterly course was taken, descending the steep mountain side by various Japanese tracks. On joining the main Alolla track the Bn was linked up with the remainder of the Bde and a halt was made for the night, when tired, but following yesterday's success, very cheerful men were served with their first hot meal since breakfast on the 22 of October.</p>	

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EORA CREEK to ALLOLA 30	<p>At 0830 the Bn moved in the following order, A, D, Bn HQ, HQ Coy, C &amp; B Coys, and on the way there was considerable evidence of the Jap retreat in the form of cartridge boxes and signal equipment strewn along the track. Further along two pack saddles were noticed, as well as the remains of two mules. News was received that the 2/1 Bn had taken Alola and was progressing without opposition. The 2/3 Bn camped near Alola enjoying another hot meal and a peaceful night. <del>Thax31xkxAlolaAbuari</del></p>	
ALOLA - ABUARI 31	<p>Planes were dropping supplies at Alola from 0700hrs, many men enjoying extra rations there-by. After a hot breakfast Bn moved at 0830. News came through that the 2/1 Bn had reached Isurava without opposition. The Bn followed the 2/2 Bn on the right flank of the main track and passing Abuari at 1345, the Bn pushed on to camp the night at a point about 2 hours travel from Misama. The country during the days journey had been more open which fact coupled with strong sunshine had rendered the day the warmest experienced since 12 October.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>R W F McDonald Maj</i> ..... Lt-Col <i>Adm Comd e.o. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn</i></p>	

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Nov 1 TRACK Abuari Misima	<p>The Bn moved at 0930 hrs, and the Brig passing through the column remarked on the relatively fresh appearance of the men, many of whom had taken advantage of the halt by the creek and had bathed and shaved. The Bn was ordered to push through the 2/2 Bn, and passed Misima at 1400 hrs. It was learned that patrols of the 2/31 Bn had reached DENIKI without striking opposition and that the 2/25 Bn and 2/33 were pushing along on the left flank. During the latter part of the day's march excellent views of the KOKODA area were obtained, and what pleasure was afforded by the sight of the flat area. The Bn bivouacked for the night with A and D Coys at FILA, B Coy, BnHQ and HQ Coys at SAGI and C Coy at KAILLE. 1800 hrs saw a tobacco issue and some rations arrive, and in spite of the heavy rain and Japs smokes were enjoyed.</p>	
2 TRACK Sagi to Kobara	<p>D and A Coys moved at 0800 hrs, B Coy BnHQ and HQ Coy moved to FILA at 0830 and C Coy moved at 0700 hrs. A and D Coys pushed on with the object of securing a dropping ground. The remainder of the Bn waited at FILA for Bde Hq to catch up. After a conference with the Brig the CO ordered the Bn to move. After a very steep descent the track became very level and several small villages were passed. At one of these villages it was learnt that a large number of Japs had passed along the main track from KOKODA four days previously. 1800 hrs found the Bn bivouacking at the dropping ground of Kobara, where the Bde were to await rations. A patrol from B Coy had been sent to the village of PIRIVI returning at 1800 hrs without contacting the enemy. The 2/2 Bn was then ordered to push on <del>the-</del> to the main KOKODA track that night. During the night news was received that KOKODA had been occupied by the 25 Bde at 0900 hrs this morning.</p>	
3 KOBARA	<p>Dropping was commenced at 1000 hrs, D Coy providing the picking up parties. Bde HQ arrived at 1030 hrs followed by the 2/1 Bn. Many of the Bn were enjoying a bathe in the swift flowing creek when a warning order was received to move at 1400 hrs. Rations had not been issued by that time however, and the Bn remained. Bde pushed on at 1430 and passed through the 2/2 Bn moving towards OIVI and were fired on</p>	

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Nov 3 KOBARA	by one LMG and 2 snipers. 2/2 Bn proceeded forward and B and C Coys 2/3 bn were ordered to leave at 1830 and follow the 2/2 Bn who were to attack at 0730 hrs the following day.	
4	2/2 Bn attacked but the enemy had withdrawn during the night. 2/3 Bn (less B and C Coys) were still waiting for rations, with the 2/1 Bn, from whom the 3Bn were to take over the dropping ground. On receipt of 3 days rations the Bn moved off at 1330 hrs. B and C Coys were rejoined shortly after reaching the main KOKODA / SANANANDA track. The Bn bivouacked for the night, on the main track west of OIVI, after making contact with the 2/2 Bn. The 2/1 Bn moved along the Kobara/ Ilimo track with the intention of getting in behind the enemy.	
5 OIVI	0730 hrs A and D coys were sent forward and at 1030 hrs came under command 2/2 Bn. The remainder of the Bn moving forward in short stages. The 2/2 Bn contacted the enemy on the ridge SOUTH of the track, west of OIVI, and attacked at 1500 hrs, gaining little ground although the attack was not a success. At 1700 hrs B Coy BnHQ, HQ and C Coy moved to take up positions on the high ground South of the main track while A and D Coys under 2/2 comd occupied high ground to the North.	
6	At 0630 hrs a patrol from B Coy were sent along the spur running at 145 dg from BNHQ with the object of ascertaining the topography of the area and of determining the position of the enemy, after moving 400 yds the patrol encountered heavy fire and sustained 7 casualties. A patrol from C Coy was then sent out at 0830 with the object of working around the enemy's flank, but on reaching a spur further to the west were held up again by the enemy. At 1100 hrs the remainder of C Coy moved further round the enemy's flank, and at 1400 Cand B Coys attacked from their respective positions. 2 Pls of C Coy advanced 200 yds, driving the enemy from his positions and capturing a medium MG. Owing to casualties sustained, however the A/A pl was thrown in to help to resist a Jap counter attack, and under the direction of Lieut Hoddinott, were able to block the enemy after withdrawing 50 yds. B Coy and 1 pl of C Coy were unable to make any progress. At 1630 hrs the 3 Bn moved up to reinforce B and C Coys.	

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
Nov 6 OIVI	At 1730 the Japs counterattacked again, with fierce LMG fire and much yelling, but the attack was repulsed. No casualties from this counter attack. At 1830 news arrived that the 25 Bde was moving along the track KOBARA - ILIMO to come in the rear of the Japs.	
2 7	At 0915 C Coy opened fire on the Japs with a 2" Mortar, but the mortar was pinned down after 2 shots. At 0917 B Coy attacked along their spur but the attack was halted before any ground could be gained. Casualties sustained were - 4 killed, 1 Officer and 8 O R's wounded. The 2/2 Bn opened fire from 0915 to 0925 but did not attack as was originally intended. The Bn now proceeded to dig in pending a 3" Mortar shoot. 1500 hrs. 3" Mortar shoot commenced and continued on till the afternoon. The effect could not be observed but the Jap replied with his Mortar and Mountain Gun with little effect. 1600 hrs. a report from A Coy stated that they were moving towards the track with the object of closing a gap between them and the 2/2 Bn. D Coy prepared to move after A Coy had taken up its new position. <del>Bde</del> A Bde order stated that each Coy, alternatively, provide a 24 hr standing patrol of 1 Pl strength in the area just vacated. B Coy fired 14 2" Mortar bombs at 1715 hrs. Six of these landed in the target area.	
8	At 0615 Bn opened up with SA fire with the object of finding <del>kk</del> if the enemy was still in his positions. The reply was only slight and at approx 0700 hrs a three inch Mortar shoot commenced. 0800 word was received from Bde that aircraft were to bomb and straff OIVI during the morning. A patrol from A Coy departed at 0815 to ascertain the extent of the enemies left flank. This patrol returned at 1400 hrs reporting no enemy contacted on the high feature left of the range. A patrol from D Coy under Lieut Barrett worked around to the rear of the enemy's and reported much chatting in Japanese positions, but retired without showing fight. Enemy snipers were busy throughout the afternoon, B Coy of the 3 Bn sustained one casualty, while during the afternoon also sounds of chopping were heard from the enemy position. At 1730 two inch and 3 inch mortar shoot commenced.	

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Nov 8 OIVI	Planes had been landing food at KOKODA Air strip in addition to evacuating wounded, and troops had benefited yesterday and today by improved rations including M & V, bacon and sausages, butter and jam, while biscuits issued were whole and the bully beef in uniformly shaped tins in contrast to those dropped. Much to the surprise of the troops each man received as the <del>delicious</del> delicacy of the day one tiny piece of fruit cake.	
9	The 0700 hrs fire display again drew a light reply. Three 2" Mortar bombs fired by the Japs landed in the area of A Coy 3 Bn, but all three were fortunately duds. D Coy, at 0700, sent out a patrol to find the enemy's right flank, and Lieut McGuinn, leading this patrol, reported, on his return, that he considered he could reach the road without contacting the enemy. Lieut McDougall lead an A Coy patrol to the rear of the Japs, and one of his section leaders, believing he heard Japanese voices, opened fire and advanced but could find nobody. On Lieut McDougall's return, Capt Brown sent out another patrol. A 2" Mortar shoot proceeded during the afternoon, and in the course of their reply the Japs landed one bomb, which happily failed to explode, in Bn HQ area. Preparations were made to signal to aircraft <del>at</del> that bombing could take place. The Battalion was back on "dropped rations", but B Echelon, for the third successive evening, supplied an excellent hot meal after standdown.	
10	At 0700 hrs the fire display was made along the entire front with the object of ascertaining if the enemy were still in position in strength, and the Jap fire in reply killed one and wounded one, both C Coy men. B Coy 3 Bn sent a patrol around to the rear of the Japanese position and fire heard later from that direction was presumed to be from this patrol. At approx 1230 the Jap opened up with his 2" Mortar landing ten bombs in Bn HQ area, four of which were duds. One casualty resulted. This man was injured after two duds had landed near his bed. A patrol of three men was sent out to investigate the possibility of the existence of Jap listening posts, and to establish one of our own between Bn HQ and Bosgard (2/2 Bn). B Coy, 3 Bn patrol returned at 1400 hrs and reported having clashed with the Jap, encountering heavy	

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Nov 10 <del>XXXX</del>  OIVI	MMG and LMG fire and having one man wounded. During the afternoon the enemy fired LMG onto C Coy's area without causing casualties, and fired his 2" Mortar over to our left flank. At 1100 hrs our 3" Mortar opened up and during the afternoon one Jap 2" Mortar Bomb landed beside the R A P but proved to be a dud. A suggestion came from the 25 Bde, now situated in the ILIMO area well in the rear of the Jap positions, that the Japanese were receiving reinforcements on their front from ours.	
11	Our early morning fire display drew no reply so patrols were sent forward, D Coy patrol on the left and C on the right and when they reported that the Jap had withdrawn, B Coy, followed by C Coy, BnHQ, and HQ Coy were ordered to move down to the track immediately. A Coy joined us at the track, D Coy moving on the left of the track. The Bde moved 2/2, Bde HQ, 2/3. 1130 Bn reached the village of OIVI and consolidated around Bde HQ. The 2/2 Bn pushed forward to contact the 25 Bde advancing toward OIVI from ILIMO. At 1230, the 3 Bn, who had been left behind to search the Japanese positions on the ridge, moved through the 2/3 Bn to follow the 2/2Bn. News was received that the 25 Bde with the 2/1 Bn had a most successful morning, wiping out 150 enemy and capturing two mountain guns and five MMGs. Most of the Bn enjoyed a bathe during the afternoon. 1440 Bde HQ received a message that the 2/2 Bn had contacted the 25 Bde. 1500 Bde HQ moved on towards GORARI to establish headquarters near 2/2 Bn.	
12	0800 hrs the Bn moved forward across OIVI creek to allow 7 Div HQ to establish at OIVI. News was received of a further success of 25 Bde assisted by 2/1 Bn at GORARI, enemy killed totalling 259 and six prisoners of war., two dumps and 20 horses captured. Two hot meals were provided by B Echelon. Shortly after halting, after a 2 hour march in the rain, the pioneer pl constructed a very servicable bridge across a small creek by which we camped.	
13 MAIN TRACK	At 0400 hrs sentries from the forward Coy's report explosions in the distance to the East and it was considered that these may have been the enemy blowing up a dump. A limited supply of clothing and American	



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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
Nov 13 MAIN TRACK	gaiters having come to hand most men received necessary replacements. Some members of the Bn gave the appearance of having just walked out of a shop. 1545 Bn is ordered to move, order of march being D, A, BnHQ, C, B, HQ, R A P, B Echelon. At 1830 the Bn bivouaced approx at 2 miles west of ILIMO, having passed through the remainder of the Bde at GORARI where we supplied the 2/1 Bn with some rations. Many of the men handing their rations in with much pleasure thinking a hot meal would result. It probably did, but for 2/1 Bn. Passing through GORARI signs of the recent fighting in that area were noted with pleasure. Much Japanese matreiäl was still lying around the various dumps.	
14 WAIROPE	Battalion moved at 0900 hrs in the same order as yesterday, travelling behind Division, who had passed through us at 0800 hrs. Some muddy patches were encountered but the track was mainly good - and level, and a brisk pace was maintained. On the way there was much evidence of the recent fighting by the 25 Bde and of the Jap retreat, leaving horses, harness, cycles and other equipment. At 1400 hrs the battalion bivouaced 800 yds west of WAIROPE and the troops benefited by a bathe in the nearby creek. It was learnt that owing to the efficiency of our air-force it would take a considerable time to erect a suitable bridge across the KAMUSI KUMUSI as they had completely destroyed the old one. The 25 Bde had started to cross an improvised bridge at 1100 hrs this morning, but progress was very slow. At 2000 hrs a distant explosion was heard to the North. and at 2030 the 2/1 Bn, who were camped 200 yards in our rear, reported a Jap in the vicinity of their B Echelon. They sent a patrol to investigate.	
15	The battalion had to wait for the other troops to cross the KUMUSI river, but was ordered to be ready to move at any time after 1200 hrs. At 1800 hrs a move forward was made to the West bank of the river and the battalion bivouaced under orders to be prepared to move at any time during the night. Later the order was given that D Coy would commence to cross at 0545. The two Artillery men who had been taken on strength at MYOLA lake No 2. had here to leave the battalion to be returned to	

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Nov 16 WAIROPE	<p>Although the 2/2 Bn personnel had been crossing the KUMUSI by "Flying-fox" throughout the night many yet remained on the West Bank at 0545 hrs. So D Coy were then ordered to commence crossing at 0700 hrs, but it was 0730 before the leaders of this Company made the precarious passage across the single width log and wire bridge which had been improvised. The 2/2 Bn continued to use the "Flying-fox". D Coy then moved forward to the junction of the main track and the track to ISIVITA, and at 1300 the Bn commenced to advance towards ISIVITA. Some slashed rubber boats abandoned by the Japanese were seen on the side of the track. The R A P personnel utilised a horse as far as the first log crossing of a steep banked stream, but then had to carry a heavy load. The track became very rough, with some steep pinches. The battalion bivouaced at OMBI at 1730.</p>	
17 SANGARA MISSION TRACK	<p>The battalion moved at 0800 hrs in the following order, B Coy, Bn HQ, C Coy D Coy HQ A Coy, with SANGARA MISSION as the objective, but after a long day's march, the latter part in torrential rain, had to bivouac at a clearing an hour's march short of this destination.</p>	
18	<p>A patrol from C Coy left at 0800 hrs for SANGARA MISSION, thence to INAMINTURA, the remainder of the battalion departing at 0930 hrs and reaching SANGARA MISSION at approx 1115 hrs. Half an hour later almost a cheer was raised as the ahead opened a vista which included the sea. Several clearings and gardens were passed and at 1700 the Bn halted and bivouaced in a small village. Fires were permitted and sparse rations augmented by boiling yams, squashes and green paw-paws.</p>	
19	<p>Bn moved at 0730 and reached POPPENDETTA at 0815 where Bde was picked up, and where 2/3 Bn passed through 2/2 Bn. At 0830 the Bn moved again, towards the day's objective ) NAMELY THE Coast - C Coy leading, followed by D, Bn HQ, HQ A and B Coys. The battalion was now leading the Brigade and a police boy was taken a guide. At 1030 a Jap prisoner was met, being escorted back to Brigade, followed a little later by another, while on the side of the road under guard squatted a naked, emaciated creature. At 1200 C Coy first caught sight of armed Japs retreating and four disused trucks were found on the roadside. Some were without batteries and other parts, but after an hour's work AASC</p>	

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<p>NOV 19 MAIN TRACK POPPENDETTA SANANANDA</p>	<p>personnel had one truck in working order. At 1230 the area was cleared of Japs, two sets of huts being found, and after lunch the battalion moved on, but the leading Coy was fired on after half its personnel had passed through a large Kunai patch - one man being killed. D Coy was then sent to the right and A to the left. At 1500 all was clear again and the battalion progressed, but at 1715 C Coy struck the Jap in force. D Coy then moved round to the left to come in behind the enemy, but were pinned down, so A Coy moved further round to get in the Jap's rear and attack. Owing to darkness however, the attack could not be made and the Bn dug in for the night.</p>	
<p>20 SOPUTA</p>	<p>C Coy and D Coy and two platoons of A Coy advanced at 0630 onto SOPUTA and found that the enemy had departed overnight. - Perhaps the few shells they had let go at 0330 were a parting gift. The Brigadier arrived at Bn HQ at 0700 and ordered an advance for half an hour, and accordingly the Bn moved at 0830 with D Coy in the lead., followed by C, Bn HQ, HQ Coy and B Coy., with A Coy as protection for Bde. No opposition was encountered during the half hour so breakfast was ordered and fires <del>lit</del> lit, but the 2/1 Bn moving through at 0930 struck the Japs 600 yards ahead and fires were extinguished when his Mountain Gun opened up. The battalion started to dig in and remained for the day, 2/1 Bn putting 2 coys to the left to patrol for the Jap flank, while at 1630 two Coys of 2/2 Bn were pushed around the left flank to join up with the 2/1 Bn.</p>	
<p>SOPUTA + SANANDA TRACK</p>	<p>News was later received that two Coys 2/1 Bn had struck the enemy at a large dump one mile further along, and in a successful attack had driven the enemy from the dump and had then advanced until striking strong positions. It was reported that the 128 Regiment had started to arrive at SOPUTA and being the first Americans seen, this was very welcome information.</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>It was learned that the two Coys 2/1 Bn had last night got well onto the Jap rear flank causing casualties, though our own losses were considered fairly heavy. At 0830 the Bn prepared to move behind 2/2 Bn and followed by the remainder of 2/1 Bn. At 0945, 2/2 Bn contacted A Coy 2/1 Bn and the track, this being one of the Coys which had</p>	

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Nov 21 SOPUTA - SANANANDA TRACK	got onto the flank. Some opposition was encountered, and two Coys 2/2 Bn moved around the flanks to <del>be</del> attack with 2/3 Bn digging in on the track after moving one mile. At 1110 A Coy 2/3 Bn moved forward to back up A Coy of 2/1 astride the track, and at 1230 the Bn advanced 600 yards and D Coy coming under command 2/2 Bn took up position in rear of A Coy. At 1930 B Coy moved up with the pioneer platoon to relieve the two Coys 2/1 Bn who had met the Japs last night, and who had suffered five officers and fifteen O Rs killed, and one officer and thirty three O Rs wounded. Owing to the extremely dangerous position however, the command considered it wiser to take up position 100 yards to the rear of that vacated by the 2/1 Coys, and then A Coy withdrew to straighten the line.	
22	Intermittent firing by the Jap was heard during the early hours. At 0915, the 3 Bn, plus half one Bn 126 Regt., passed along the track through 2/3 Bn, and took over positions - two Coys to the left, one Coy to the right - beyond LYSAGHT (B Coy) who were approx 800 yds from Bn HQ, with the object of getting in behind the Jap and attacking. D Coy returned to Bn and occupied an area near Bn HQ. Our A/C carried out strafing and A/P bombing of the enemy positions at 1250. During the morning Capt GALL unearthed a buried Jap mountain gun, and reported having seen unarmed enemy parties searching for buried ammunition. Lieut SAYERS and Lieut STEPHENSON reached the Bn from L O B and were appointed to Platoons.	
23	After further spasmodic firing during the morning, our general "tickle up at 0630 was answered by the Japs. Later in the morning the mountain gun unearthed yesterday was brought back. Maj GIBSON arrived at Bn HQ from LOB and at 1400 hrs he and Maj HUTCHISON were summoned by the Brigadier and ordered to form a composite company of 100 men from the Bn, with a special task, this Coy to be under command of Capt WALKER, and to leave tomorrow. The American Coys on the left (I and K Coys) had been prepared to attack at 1500 but abandoned the project in favour of a continuance of outflanking the Jap positions until reaching the track junction. L Coy on the right launched an unsuccessful attack at 1500 hrs.	

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NOV 23 SOPUTA - SANANANDA TRACK  24         25	<p>Two 25 pdrs which had been landed at POPPENDETTA opened up from a position <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> miles in rear of Bn HQ, at 1900 hrs and again at 2200, to the general comment of <del>the</del> "like old times".</p> <p>At 0351 5 rounds were fired from the 25 prs, and at 0615 a display of SA* fire was answered by the Japs. The composite Coy consisting of Capt WALKER, Lieuts BOYER and SAYERS and 91 ORs departed at 0945 hrs, their task being to travel by the left flank, cut the main SANANANDA track approx 1 mile north of the track junction, there to dig in, destroy the enemy and remain until contacted by 25 Bde or by 126 Regt. One man from Div sigs was attached with 208 set and one I section man accompanied the party for chipper work. Each man carried four days hard and three days emergency rations. At 1030 Maj GIBSON and HUTCHISON conferred with General VASEY and Brig LLOYD. Maj GIBSON at 1230 assumed command of the Bn, Major HUTCHISON as 2 i/c going to B Echelon. At 2315 the Americans opened up with SA fire on the Jap positions. On the Jap counter to our 2315 fire, at 0200, two men of the 2/2 Bn were wounded and at 0615 the enemy replied vigorously to our dawn "tickle-up". From 0945 to 1015 there was mortar fire from the 2/2 Bn, and at 1545 126 Regt staged a mortar shoot in which a bomb falling short caused the following 16 Bde casualties:- BM Major DAWSON and Capt BLAMEY were wounded, 1 OR killed, 1 wounded while 2 US officers were also wounded. During the morning Cpl Maguire with the men and one 3" mortar reached POPPENDETTA by plane and at 1430 the CO Lt-Col STEVENSON arrived at Bn HQ and took over. A US Major called at Bde HQ at 0615 and departed at 1230 to take command of Kand I Coys on the left, while an NZ Major, who had arrived for the purpose of studying Jap tactics, called at Bn HQ, later conferring at Bde HQ. At 1730 Capt WALKER returned with a sprained ankle, and reported that the composite Coy, now under command Lieut BOYER, expected to reach the road tomorrow. There was an issue of 2 oz. tobacco and 1 pkt papers per man, while "Guinea Gold" the paper published on the field for the NGF made its first appearance in the Bn.</p>	

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NOV 26 SOPUTA- SANANANDA TRACK  27	<p>At 0615 there was the usual exchange of fire. During the morning two patrols, each comprising one officer and 12 ORs departed from 2/1 Bn on G R tactics, one to cut the track the north of BOYER, and the other to cut the track SANANANDA-GONA. A report was received that Capt BLAMEY had succumbed to his wounds. At 1245 to 1315 Arty and American mortars fired on the Jap positions, but B Coy sustained casualties to the extent of 5 killed and 8 wounded due to the dropping short of three bombs. Following this barrage, at 1320 one Coy 126 Regt moved forward through B Coy to attack. Jap mortar fire at 1730 caused the wounding of one A Coy man and four Americans, and at the same hour a message was received from BOYER stating that the KILLERTON track had been reached at 1130, but that a further move East was impracticable owing to the swamp. Coys of 126 Regt attacked again at 1800. At 1030 the CO had interviewed Brig LLOYD and the GI, and Capt WALKER went to Bde as A/BM.</p> <p>The day opened quietly, there being no early morning "tickle up". 126 Regt reported that as a result of yesterday's actions the Coy on the right had advanced 350 yds, and claimed to be in rear of the Japs. On the left, one Coy was 100 yds forward of LYSAGHT, and the other Coy 200 yds left forward of LYSAGHT. Throughout the morning the Japs had a mountain gun firing to rear of Bn HQ. A message was received at midday from BOYER reporting having contacted 3 Japs at 1700 hrs yesterday, one Jap being killed. Captured Jap papers were being sent back, together with 20 Rabaul natives. At 1300 a further message from BOYER stated that the composite Coy had met a Jap force of unknown strength at 0700 and had withdrawn to the edge of the <del>the</del> swamp with four wounded, two being stretcher cases. In reply the Brig advised Lieut BOYER to return at his own discretion. News was received that two of the B Coy men wounded yesterday had died at ALS. At 1200 Major HUTCHISON took command HQ Coy, Maj GIBSON moving back to B Echelon, and at 1415 Capt FULTON took over command B Coy. Three composite Coy personnel reached Bn HQ at 1430 escorting the captured Rabaul natives. At 1600 six Jap planes bombed the SOPUTA A D S the reported casualties being 27 dead.</p>	

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NOV 27 SOPUTA - SANANANDA TRACK	The enemy engaged the right Coy 126 Regt at 2035 with fierce SA and 2" Mortar fire to which our Arty very effectively replied. In the engagement Capt BOSGARD was killed, he being our only casualty. Intermittent firing on the right continued throughout the night. At 2100 report from HERWIG indicated Coys on the left had not advanced as claimed and were now in his rear.	
28	On a Jap Sjt killed on the night of 26 Nov was found a diary which indicated that the Japs had penetrated I and K Coys positions and that the Japs were expecting reinforcements night 26/27 Nov. The Composite Coy reported back Bn HQ at 1030. Lieut BOYER stated that they had spent the first two days paddling through a swamp, and on the third day (26 Nov) had cut the KILLERTON track, whereupon patrols had been sent to the North and to the South. The former patrol had come upon 20 Rabaul natives who had been duly sent back, while the men who had remained in position where the track had been cut, ambushed three Japs killing one. As a patrol investigating due East had found that the swamp prevented a passage in that direction to the SANANANDA track, it was decided to pursue the KILLERTON track southward and link up in this was with the main track, or with 126 Regt, or else find a suitable place further south, to effect the crossing. The Coy travelling south passed the spot where US troops had fought three or four days previously, and came upon deserted Jap huts, and enemy fire was encountered, four casualties including stretcher cases being sustained. A message reporting this was sent to Brigade and the Coy retired to the swamp by the same track, made stretchers and set out to find the US track or cut a new one. This occurred on the morning 27 Nov and at midday the message re return was received from Bde. The US track was struck at 1400 hrs. On addition to battle casualties mentioned, <del>an</del> a number of <del>parsons</del> personnel of the composite Coy had developed fever and were evacuated on their return to battalion. (Incidentally the vaccinations due to P U O had become quite numerous among other Coys during the past two or three days.)	
29	An Arty shoot during the morning resulted in the direct hits on barges and huts at SANANANDA. At 0620 there was an exchange of SA fire and later in the morning our Arty and Mortars became active,	

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Nov 29 SOPUTA - SANANANDA TRACK	the Jap Mountain Gun replying at 1100 hrs, and dropping shells to the rear of Bn HQ.. Col TOMLINSON (126 Regt) conferred with Brig LLOYD on the subject of the American attack planned for tomorrow while Maj-Gen VASEY arrived at bde at 1640. <del>At</del> A lively fire duel took place on the left at 1540, and 2120 bombing was heard in the BUNA direction, and at 2200 our Arty was again in action.	
3 30	There was a sharp exchange of SA fire at 0600, and at 0630 our Arty opened up, bringing forth a reply from the Jap mountain gun. At 0830 the Bn stood to when our Arty barrage commenced on the Jap positions in front of the 2/2 Bn Coys on the left. The 2/3 Bn 3" Mortars (under Sjt TUCKER) then opened up on the enemy in front of A and B Coys, and the US 81mm Mortars endeavoured to knock out the MG position in front of the US platoon on the right. At 0900 the Americans attacked, there being intense fire for 30 minutes, followed only by spasmodic shooting, but at 1100, Lieut BOYER, who had taken C and D composite Coy 200 yds forward of Bn HQ, reported I and K Coys attack to be progressing satisfactorily, orders being to avoid fire-fights, to work forward, and to get in with the bayonet. He said that on the right flank L Coy was doing likewise, and had moved about 200 yds without contacting. At 1700 it was reported that I and K Coys had reached the SANANANDA track, and at 1800 D Coy saw Japs apparently moving into a bivouac area; whereupon a bayonet attack was ordered in two platoons, one led by Capt SHIRLEY US, and one Lieut DANIELS RAA, the result being the killing of fourteen enemy and the capture of three trucks. Both Capt SHIRLEY US and Lieut DANIELS lost their lives.	
	<i>San Hutchinson</i> LT. Col C.O. 2/3 AUST INF Bn.	



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<p><del>NO</del> DEC 1 SOPUTA - SANANANDA TRACK</p>	<p>The Bde learns of the failure of yesterday's attack, with fairly heavy casualties to the US force. As the month opens the Bn, with a strength of 12 Officers and 288 OR's is still in a holding position on the SOPUTA - SANANANDA TRACK. At 0700 the Jap mountain opened up and an exchange of SA fire followed. 1030 the Jeep service between RAPs and ADS is opened, relieving the strain on native carriers.</p> <p>2 Very little activity during the day, except in the RAP. The PUO evacuations reached their height today. One plus 28 going out. The highest temp being 105.8.</p> <p>3 B Ech and kitchen moved up to within 400 yards of Bn HQ. Hitherto B Ech had been two miles back, and the kitchens 800 yards in rear of Bn HQ. 0930 3" Mortar shoot to commence. 1030 Mortar shoot postponed to allow US troops to withdraw to safety zone. Our Arty opened up at 2300 shelling SANANANDA beach.</p> <p>4 0630 lively fire duel for 15 minutes. 0800 US force on SANANANDA track came under command Brigadier LLOYD. 1100 conference at Bde to <del>discuss</del> discuss attack by US forces tomorrow. It was also decided to attach Capt BURRELL (2/1 Bn) and Lieut McDOUGAL (2/3 Bn) as advisors during the attack, to US forces. 1130 Col TOMLINSON and 126 Regt combined groups left for the BUNA front. During afternoon Arty and mortars registered in preparation for tomorrow's barrage. 1600 two American Generals arrived at Bde, and inspected some of the forward positions. 1700 Jap mountain gun fired a few rounds, narrowly missing Bde HQ. Bde casualty resulted. Mosquito (anti-cream) was issued for the first time. Arty fire at 2300 directed at MOSGROVE Is. and Cape KILLERTON.</p> <p>5 At 0715 Arty commenced a barrage with US 81 mm mortars and 3" Mortars. At 0745 barrage was lifted and US forces attacked. Little firing heard from either side and reports coming in indicate US forces moving very slowly. 1000 Gen WILLOUGHBY US forces arrived at Bde, and went forward. Only a few exchanges of SA fire during remaining of the morning. It would appear the attack failed. 1400 Brig calls a conference. Lieut McDOUGAL was requested to give his opinion of why attack failed, this was given in very plain Australian to Gen WILLOUGHBY, who appeared to appreciate its frankness.</p>	

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DEC 5 SOPUTA - SANANANDA TRACK	1730 Gen VASEY and the GI arrived from Div, and at a conference, held at Bde, it was revealed that 2 Bns of 30 Bde would relieve 16 Bde <del>tomorrow</del> tomorrow. 1800 a Bn commanders conference at Bde, at which the details the relief were discussed. 1900 Coy Commanders Conference. 1930 Maj GIBSON left the Bn to fly back to Aust to attend a commanders school.	
6	0730 IO left with the IOs from Bde and 2/2 Bn to select respective camp sights. 0800 Bn area cleaned and men ready to move. 1000 move was postponed until 1400. Order of march Bn HQ, HQ and D Coy, A Coy and the Composite B and C Coys to be relieved 1645 and join remainder of Bn at SOPUTA. 1300 fifteen Jap bombers escorted by fighters appeared overhead, but fortunately they kept on their course and it was learned later that POPENDETTA strip has been attacked. Twenty bombs fell but no damage was done. 1520 the first half of the Bn arrived at SOPUTA, and at 1745 the second half arrived. Maj HUTCHISON, Lieut SAYERS, Sjt EDMONDSON and 30 ORs were left behind to assist in the projected attack by 30 Bde next day, 2/2 Bn were to remain in their positions until after the attack, but their relief was to take place not later than 72 hours after the 2/3 Bn. Sjt TUCKER and 19 ORs were detailed to remain as a ration carrying party for 2/2 Bn.	
7 SOPUTA	Rain had been heavy and continuous from 2330 until dawn, but a bright day followed, and the war was forced to take second place. Everybody proceeded to make themselves comfortable, and the usual rumours and the side-bets as to when we would reach Australia started. Natives erected a Bn Orderly Room and cleared the undergrowth from our area. Owing to yesterday's march the P U O evacuations commenced to soar again. 1700 Maj HUTCHISON arrived from the front and informed us that the 30 Bde attacked had failed, and fairly heavy casualties had been sustained. Lieut SAYERS and Cpl POINTER were wounded.	
8	Bn resting and swimming parties organised. The GIRIWU River being the swimming pool. Owing to enemy air activity the ration position was rather acute, and Bn is supplied with American rations. Parade states reveal that the brigade strength is now only 560 men all told.	

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DEC 9 SOPUTA	Bn resting during the day. 1630 Coy commanders conference reveals that the 2/3 Bn will relieve 2/2 Bn tomorrow. MO is forced to evacuate 2 and 26, owing to their state of health. He considers they would be more of a liability than an asset. A letter was also written to ADMS stating that he considered that the 2/3 Bn inactivated, and not fit for front line service. Bn prepares to move next day.	
10	0730 Brig sends for the CO and asks for an explanation of MO's letter to ADMS, after which the MO is sent for and states his opinion before the Brig and ADMS. 0830 the CO and IO leave for the front, and the Bn, now formed into composite Coys, A & D 3 and 56 under command Capt HERWIG, and B and C 3 and 43 under command Major HUTCHISON, and Bn HQ and HQ Coy 3 and 22, to act as carrying parties, moved at 0900 hrs and reached 2/2 Bn at 1030. A & D took over the positions on the left and B & C on the right, relief completed by 1430. The Bn then came under command 30 Bde.	
11 SANANANDA TRACK	Quiet day with Mortar shoots morning and evening. At 2115 Jap patrol crawled to HUTCHISON fwd positions and threw grenades, they were met with fire and after 15 mins the duel stopped, only to reopen by Japs at 2330 when grenades were again thrown into our fwd positions. The enemy then withdrew. Our casualties, 1 killed. At 2130 another Jap patrol tried to penetrate HUTCHISON's rear positions but tripped over our trip wires and were successfully met with grenades. This Jap patrol apparently stayed in the vicinity during the night.	
12	0730 Sjt BENNISON left HUTCHISON's position with the object of contacting US force at HUGGINS' Rd block. Bde ordered this patrol because ration parties moving to HUGGINS on the left flank had met opposition. Sjt BENNISON returned after covering 1200 yds. but could not contact the US force. 1700 hrs. two Japs were sniped from HERWIG's fwd position during the day. We had one man killed during the day at HERWIG's position.	
13	0630 Two Japs seen leaving old Jap camp in rear of HUTCHISON's position, carrying a box. When chased by our two man patrol they dropped the box and ran. The box contained detonators. 0900 Lieut RUNDLE and party left HUTCHISON's position to contact HUGGINS (see appendix B), returned at 1715 unable to contact HUGGINS.	

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DEC 13 SANANANDA TRACK	1100 Brig LLOYD and Bde Sig Officer arrived to see how things were going and stayed at Bn HQ for lunch. 1800 sniping appears to be the only form of amusement during the day. HERWIG and HUTCHISON report 1 Jap killed in the respective areas.	
14	0730 Lt HODDINOTT and a US force Officer and party left HUTCHISON posn to contact HUGGINS, this patrol was also unsuccessful. 1400 first <del>are</del> aerial photos taken of posns. Coys put out ground strips. 1800 HUTCHISON reports another Jap sniped in his area. Our Arty open up during night. 0650 Jap Mountain Gun fired 5 rds, the first for a week.	see appendix B
15	It would appear that ammunition for this gun is not over abundant. Seldom before has Nippen permitted us to use our Mortars and Arty so freely without a fairly good response from this gun. 0945 Sjt EDMONSTON and 10 men left HERWIG'S posn as a protective body for the FOO and wireless set going to HUGGINS via left flank. The party reached HUGGINS and returned safely. 1600 Lt-Col LOGAN of 7 Div Cav arrived at Bde HQ for a conference. It was learnt later that the 7 Div Cav would pass through tomorrow on their way to HUGGINS. Also the # 36 Bn adv party arrived, they are to make up the 3rd Bn for the 30 Bde.	
16	Little activity during day but RAP working hard and 2 and 19 are evacuated. 1630 conference at Bde and when CO returned it was learnt that the 36 Bn did not have their full compliment and that the 16 Bde would probably form a composite Bn under his comd. 1730 CO and IO leave on recce of 49 Bn posns in preparation for taking them over tomorrow. 1800 7 Div Cav advance party arrived at Bde. 1845 Bde cancels order for 16 Bde composite Bn to be formed.	
17	0800 advance party of 36 Bn arrived and made preparations to take over from 49 Bn. 1100 55/53 Bn took over our Vickers MGs (2) with the object of <del>sw</del> sweeping the tops <del>fr</del> of trees for snipers. 1530 Gen Vasey arrived at Bde. 1845 the Mountain Gun spoke again for 4 rounds. 1900 our Arty answered Mountain Gun. 1930 Mountain Gun tried counter battery tactics with little success.	
18	0800 Gen Vasey arrived at Bde to discuss plans for a big attack tomorrow. 0900 7 Div Cav commenced to pass through to HUGGIN'S road	
	block.	

MONTH DECEMBERYEAR 1942

## WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118  
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 2/3 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
SANANANDA TRACK	Dec	18	0930 36 Bn moved forward to take over from 49 Bn. 1000 conference at Bde. 1030 Conference at Bn HQ details of tomorrows attach discussed. The Bn is to remain in their posn as a holding force 1400 Brig LLOYD arrived at Bn HQ and informed us that the 2/1 Bn had left POPPENDETTA this morning and that 16 Bde and 2/2 Bn were to leave tomorrow. 1445 IO took recce party from 2 36 Bn to HUTCHISON posn. 1830 IO took 22 men from 36 Bn to strengthen HERWIG's posn for tonight. Arty active during the night.	
		19	0630 Sjt EDMONSTON <del>leave</del> left HUTCHISON posn with 4 men to cut Jap Sig wires along main track, prior to the attack. 0705 Sjt EDMONSTON returned after successful cutting of 100 yds out of each of the 4 main sig wires. 0720 Arty barrage opened and 0735 the attack went in. 7 Div Cav attacked Northward from HUGGINS and were to reach SANANANDA. 30 Bde were to clean the Jap posn South of HUGGINS/ 0830 news came through that 7 Div Cav had advanced 1,000 yds but had struck heavy opposition. 30 Bde made little progress. 0915 CO left for HERWIG's posn to ascertain how the attack by 55/53 Bn was progressing. 1000 IO left for HUTCHISON position to find out what had happened on the right flank where the 49 Bn were making their attack. Both attacks appeared to have failed in their object. 1200 HERWIG reported small party of Japs working round his flank. CO ordered Lieut MacDOUGAL to take a patrol out and deal with them. Lieut MacDOUGAL was reported to be sick and <del>lieut</del> Lieut STEPHENSON took the patrol. 1440 patrol returned. They were unable to find Japs but saw some footprints. 1600 order from Bde that 55/53 Bn will relieve HERWIG at 1730. 1700 IO left for SOPUTA to see camp is in order for HERWIG. 1815 HERWIG's relief was completed and Coy had tea at B Ech. 1900 HERWIG left for SOPUTA (most of the personal gear of the men being carried by Native Carriers) and arrived at 2100. There was no word of HUTCHISON's relief by 36 Bn. Japs attacked HUTCHISON posn during	Appendix C

MONTH DECEMBERYEAR 1942

## WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C 2118  
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit

Date and Time.—From

To

Place	Date	<del>Hour</del>	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
SANANANDA TRACK	DEC	19	night but 36 Bn had sent a Co7 round to HUTCHISON and the attack was repulsed.	
Soputa		20	0730 ASC supply breakfast for HERWIG's men. Troops made short work of one <del>mk</del> of the best meals they had had for 2½ months. 0930 Capt STANTON arrived at SOPUTA and told us that HUTCHISON had still to be relieved. 1000 IO left to find camping area for the battalion at POPPENDETTA from where the battalion will be flown to Moresby. 1300 HERWIG's leaves for POPPENDETTA <del>from where they will</del> The first half of the Coy arrived at POPPENDETTA at 1500, most of the men managed to get a lift in Jeeps passing to and from the Air Strips, all the Coy had arrived by 1700. 2030 hrs Capt STANTON, who had travelled from SOPUTA with HERWIG's Coy went to POPPENDETTA Camp Commander to find out the time of departure tomorrow. On his return Capt STANTON informed us that owing to the number of wounded to be flown out first the Coy would probably not leave until tomorrow afternoon. He had also seen one of HUTCHISON's men, who had been evacuated, and understood from his remarks that HUTCHISON has been relieved by 1730 and the remainder of the battalion would be at POPPENDETTA tomorrow afternoon.	
POPPEDETTE		21	0700 IO left camp for Air Strip to fly to Moresby and saw that the battalion <del>w</del> camp was ready before the battalion arrived. 0845 IO landed at Wards Drome and <del>is</del> was informed that owing to bad weather no more planes would be leaving for POPPENDETTA today. 0900 Capt STANTON was informed that there would be no more planes leaving and HERWIG's Coy prepared a camping area for the C O and HUTCHISON Coy. 1500 the C O and lead of HUTCHISON Coy arrived.	
		22	Battalion awaited planes but owing to bad weather discovered it would have to stay there until <del>tomorrow</del> following day.	
		23	0900 CO orders battalion to prepare to move over to Air strip.	

MONTH DECEMBER

YEAR 1942

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118  
(adapted.)

Unit ..... Date and Time.—From ..... To .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
POPPENDETTA	Dec	23	1030 the first plane load left., followed closely by a second plane. 1145 third plane left. 1300 fourth plane, and last plane carrying Capt STANTON and RMO left at 16 00 hrs. This plane lost its way in the clouds and when the Pilot finally got his bearings, found himself over Milne Bay. The plane landed at Wards Drome <del>situated at</del> at 1600 hrs, many of the occupants feeling the worse for the trip. The Camp was situated at DONADABU <del>xxxxxx</del> (25 miles from Moresby). The troops were met at the Drome, put on trucks and taken to the camp where the first truck load arrived at 1515. They were given a hot meal on arrival after which a new clothing issue was made to the troops, and parcels and letters started to arrive. The last truck load arrived at 1930, making the numbers 6 plus 57.	
DONADABU		24	Battalion rested. The LOB Personnel came up and many old faces were seen. Cpl WINNER, postal Cpl, had to have a special truck for the parcels which had arrived in our absence. Maj HUTCHISON and 10 ORs were evacuated to hospital and many others were attending the RAP. At 1100 hrs the battalion, with a strength of 6 Officers and 49 ORs, moved on to a Brigade parade, to be reviewed by Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey. Owing to wet weather the inspection was cancelled and the Brigade moved to the mess huts where they were addressed by Sir Thomas Blamey, who delivered one of the most sincere speeches given by an officer to his troops. He praised the Brigade for its work overseas, in the Desert, Greece, Crete, Syria but stresses the point that their greatest achievement was their effort in New Guinea. He informed the troops that they would be proceeding to the Mainland where they would be reformed, expressing the wish that the same spirit be instilled into the new reinforcements <del>which</del> who would be absorbed into the Bde. He also promised leave to all members of the Bde, who had crossed over the Owen-Stanley ranges, as soon as possible.	

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25

Amas Day and a very quiet one. Every man received an ACF parcel and at midday meal 1 bottle of beer per man was issued, and although the Bn had built up a rather fine drinking record in its 3 years service 1 bottle seemed to satisfy those who had wathered the Kokoda track. It is interesting here to note that not one man in the camp had less than 2 parcels. The highest total 12, and

MONTH DECEMBER  
YEAR 1942 a

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118  
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/3 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From ..... To .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
DONADABU	Dec	25	<p>tent claimed to average record of 5 parcels per man. In regard to situation and weather <del>in</del> 1942 was the best we had experienced. There was no sand or Italians to worry about as in 1940 Christmas, there was no snow as in 1941, but unfortunately few of the battalion were together to enjoy this one and those who were did not feel like celebrating the occasion as it should be.</p>	
		26	<p>The CO was ordered to administer command of the Brigade owing to Brig LLOYD being in hospital. The battalion enjoyed a well earned rest, but the evacuations still proceeded.</p>	
		27	<p>Sunday and a church service was held in the YMCA tent at 0930. Inter camp leave was given and men visited many old friends scattered around the various camps. 1500 Capt HERWIG, who was administering command, and the IO left to recon a new camp site for the Bn, this was made necessary because the LOBs were to join us in a few days and the present camp site would not hold sufficient men.</p>	
		28	<p>0900 40 reinforcements and LOB personnel put up tents in the new camp site. 1400 the battalion, consisting now of 3 Officers and 38 ORs, moved over to the new area. Capt HERWIG and Lieut STEPHENSON were evacuated. Lieut LONG joined the battalion to take up the posn of A/Adj. Lieut LONG had been left behind with the carriers.</p>	
		29	<p>0900 3 plus 116 men arrived from 16 Bde reception camp, followed by 1 plus 25 from LOBs. They pitched their own tents in their respective Coy areas. 1100 a conference was held in the mess at which the question of leave was discussed. It was revealed at 1300 hrs that 90 from the battalion would leave tomorrow for MORESBY where they would embark and proceed to Brisbane by boat. After reaching Sydney the personnel would receive 14 days clear leave in their home town. 30 men are to leave shortly for the ATHERTON TABLELANDS as an advance party and will proceed on leave when the first party returns. The first two parties were only for the men who crossed the Owen Stanley Range.</p>	



MONTH DECEMBERYEAR 1942

## WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118  
(adapted.)Unit 2/3 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From..... To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>DONADABU</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>29</u> <u>30</u>	<p>Many of the eligible men were ready by 1800 hrs. 0715 battalion parade and the nominal roll of leave personnel was read out. The leave personnel had now been increased to 7 and 150 with Capt RANDALL as OC leave party). These men prepared to move at 0915. The leave party left on time and marched to a point 4 miles along the road from which point we <del>pick</del> picked up transport, and the leave parties from 2/1 and 2/2 Bns. During this march may realised just how weak they were. Naturally nobody dropped out. At 1130 the trucks were filled and we left for MORESBY, arriving at MURRAY BARRACKS at 1400 hrs. Here an informal parade was called by Maj-Gen ALLEN who addressed the troops, from the back of a truck, on the reputation of the Brigade and behaviour on leave. The battalion then proceeded to the wharf, where, living up to their reputation, the troops did not go empty handed and the AASC discovered the loss of three or four cases of iced oranges. After a wait of an hour on the wharf the 2/1 Bn commenced to embark on to a corvette, the BENDIGO, which carried them out to HMS TASMAN. By 1800 hrs the Bde were all on board. The 25 Bde, who were also going on leave, had embarked during the morning. When on board we learnt that we would not sail until tomorrow.</p>	
<u>AT SEA</u>		<u>31</u>	<p>During the morning we stood and looked at MORESBY. The compliments paid to NEW GUINEA were too numerous, and many will not stand printing anyway. 1600 we set sail for Australia. The troops by this time had settled in <del>their</del> pretty well, and although there was barely sufficient room nobody minded. The word "home" was in everybody's mind. A Port Moresby faded from view the words of General Sir Thomas BLAMEY became clear "Never was the original AIF asked to perform so difficult a task as that which you have accomplished so splendidly." The NEW GUINEA campaign was over for us.</p>	

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*Saukhuson*  
C.O. 2/3 AUST INF Bn. LT. COL

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.SECRET.

23 Oct. 41.

2/3 Aust Inf Bn Operation Order No. 9.Information.

1. As issued by HQ, 17 Aust Inf Bde.

Intention.

2. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn will occupy a defensive position on line as set out in accompanying trace.

Method.

3. General Principle - Locality Defence.
4. 3 Pl. Following dets. will be placed under comd Coys shown:-  
     One det under B.  
     " " " D.
5. B;C, and D Coys will be forward - B on the right, C in the centre, and D on the left. A Coy will be in reserve. Locations as set out in accompanying trace.

Adm.

6. M.P's for supplies for Coys will be at Deir Billa 15852564.

Intercomm.

7. Bn HQ at 15932557.  
 Intercomm by L/T to Coy HQ's.

ACK.

*W. Achay* Lieut.  
 For Adjt 2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

Distribution:-

Copy No 1/3 (inc) 17 Aust Inf Bde.  
 " " 4 File.  
 " " 5/7 (inc) War Diary.

41/1/5

Copy No. 4

24 Oct., 41.

2/3 Aust Inf Bn Operation Order No. 10.

INFORMATION.

1. As per 17 Aust Inf Bde instructions.

INTENTION.

2. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn will occupy a defensive position in the Majdel - Deir Billa - Mar Chir - Djouar area with PDL's as set out in accompanying trace.

METHOD.

3. General principles - locality defence.

4. C Coy will be on the right in the Majdel area. B Coy will be in the centre in the Deir Billa - Mar Chir area. D Coy will be in the Hardine - Djouar area. A Coy will be in reserve in the Quata Fares area. PDL's and Coy locations as set out in accompanying trace.

ADM.

5. M.P.'s for supplies for Coys will be at 15892587.

INTER-COMM.

6. Bn H.Q. at 15862600.  
Inter-comm. by L/T to Coy H.Q.'s immediately on occupation.

ACK.

*W. Mackay* Lieut.  
For Adj. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No.	1	17 Aust Inf Bde.
	2	" " "
	3	" " "
	4	File.
	5	War Diary.
	6	" "
	7	" "

Patrol Report

Patrol Strength ..... 2 SGTS - 7 OR'S.  
 Time Out..... 0845 hrs  
 Time In..... 1645 hrs

Patrol left HUTCHINSON posn EAST of creek, and proceeded on a bearing of 05dgs for a distance of 300 yds, where a creek crossing was located. This crossing had not been used since the heavy rain. After proceeding for a further 100 yds on the same bearing, ~~an~~ enemy patrol of three men was sighted on the WEST bank of the creek. This patrol apparently saw us, and moved off on a bearing of approx 270 dgs. Our patrol then moved a further 350 yds on a bearing of 25 dgs, where a small native garden is situated on the EAST bank of creek. A small grass hut was also found here, and was investigated. NO troops had used it for some time. There are 2 creek crossings in this area - 1 N, and 1 S of the garden. Our patrol crossed to the WEST bank at a point 40 yds N, and moved on a bearing of 285 dgs for 100 yds in an attempt to locate what was thought to be US rifle fire. On reaching this point, noises of digging and whapping were heard, so took one man and moved fwd 70 yds where I saw a party of Japs and natives were at work digging and carrying what appeared to be sand. Sentries were moving around the party. I then withdrew the patrol and moved back to EAST side side of creek, and moved N for 200 yds, and again crossed to the WEST, and moved for a distance of 150 yds on a bearing of 260 dgs. Here we located a bivouac area which could have been a rest area. 12 of the huts were investigated, none of which had been used recently. A large number of the trees were marked by shrapnel which indicated heavy

bombing or shelling. A well beaten track runs N and S through area.

Patrol then moved further 100 yds, where patrol was halted while 2 and 3  
men patrols were sent fwd. Each of these patrols reported enemy in posn EAST  
of road.

Ref. LOCAL GRID MAP

I ENEMY

Locations are reasonably satisfactory in squares I3I6, I3I7, no change appears to have taken place in the vicinity of dets STEVENSON and BOEREM.

More infm is needed in squares I6I6, I6I7, I5I6, I5I7.

2 OWN TPS

As result of our fwd movt, we have exploited to the edge of the ENEMY defensive fire plan.

3 KESSELS is sending one coy to square I5I6, then advancing W in order to conduct ENEMY E flank.

4 LOVELL is pushing fwd in square I3I6, and on ENEMY W with object of exploiting mortar bombardment.

5 Mortars at present under comd LOVELL are operating on known ENEMY positions astride road, from 0700hrs to 1000 hrs.

6 INTENTION

To position minimum tps on present front for purposes of security, and holding frontally.

7 To maintain maximum tps in hand for mobile offence, and for conservation of health and energy.

8 METHOD

Policy based on a continuation of "stalk and consolidate", plus holding present front with strong posts mutually supporting.

9 Areas of responsibility; For present, NO change.

10 Rules. 49Bn will prepare at least three strong posts to cover present front, and R flank to bridge excl.

55/53 Bn will prepare at least four strong posts to cover present front incl MAIN TRACK, high timber in square I3I6, and L flank.

US will prepare at least five posts to cover foot bridge at I40I38, thence present rear and L of main track.

It is left to Comd 2/3 Bn to construct strong posts as are considered necessary to maintain their present position.

II SUPPORTING FIRE

All mortars will be brigaded under LIEUT BELL of 55/53 Bn, who will act directly under this H/Q.

3" mortars will be allotted in support 49Bn and 55/53 Bn in equal proportions.

81 MM US mortars will be BDE reserve, but will be sited to give fire on all fronts if possible.

Units will requisition DF tasks and CP tasks direct to LIEUT BELL.

I2 WORKS POLICY

Each post will be sufficient in dimensions to contain one Pl, with Hy MG's, in certain cases, added.

Lanes of fire and vision will be prepared with due regard to overhead camflg.

Splinter proof cover for LMG's and Hy MG's will be constructed.

Two-man posts will protect MG's, and will be linked with comm slits.

Camflg from ground observation will be specially attended to.

I3 PRIORITY OF WORK

(a) Weapon pits with overhead cover and c amflg.

(b) Lanes of fire.

(c) Comm slits.

I4 SPECIAL NOTICE

Present activity and occupation of ground won, must NOT be relaxed or prejudiced. It is eventually intended that one unit will occupy ALL strong posts, thus freeing other units to move elsewhere.

Recce Reports

Patrol Leader	NX20869	Lieut Rundle
Patrol Strength	8 OR's	(Lieut Finley 2/I Fd Regt Attached)
Date	13 Dec 42	
Time Out	0900 hrs	
Time In	1700 hrs	
Route Out	Leg 1.....100	for 500 yds along track
	" 2.....325	" 700 yds
	" 3.....350	" 300 yds approx
	" 4.....310	" 300 yds approx to MT rd
	" 5..... 90	" 210 yds
	" 6..... 50	" 550 yds
Route Back	Leg 1.....100	" 300 yds approx to creek
	" 2.....along EAST side of creek to camp approx	850 yds
Tracks	Track we set out on was well defined , and had a Jap sig wire at side. It led to a substantial Jap camp area, and continued on. Thereafter, we merely crossed small native tracks until we reached MT rd. Latter appeared to be unused. There were no footmarks on it, but 4 sig wires ran along it. We reached it at 1300 hrs, and I sent patrols N and S. Patrol N was fired on by enemy riflemen 150 yds after commencing. It saw shelters and weapon pits. Patrol S advanced 300 yds without meeting any opposition, but heard LMG 100 yds further SOUTH; and came under our own MORTAR fire. Having heard US rifle fire which we estimated to be about 300 yds along rd to N (bearing of rd was N ) we struck into scrub for 210 yds, and worked our way parallel to rd for 550 yds. We passed a number of enemy shelters which were disused. Having decided to turn WEST to rd ,we were seen by enemy who fired on us. Time then being 1600 hrs we returned.	
Ground	EAST of creek generally boggy towards NORTH; one marshy spot WEST of creek.	
General	Many disused Jap huts.	

Patrol Report

Patrol	2 Offr's	8 OR's (Lieut Hoddinott & US Officer )
Time Out	0915 hrs	
Time In	1230 hrs	

Patrol left HUTCHINSON Pl EAST of creek, and proceeded for approx 950 yds on a bearing of 20 dgs. The going for this distance being quite good, time taken 65mins. The patrol then proceeded for approx 400 yds on a bearing 255 dgs, which brought us to a point on the EASTERN bank of the main creek running through HUTCHINSON'S posn. Movement to this point was most difficult, and noisy, owing to the swampy nature of the ground, and a quantity of palm trees had been cut down. In a number of places the palms appeared to have been cut down in lanes to give a field of view for distances up to approx 80 yds. Time taken to cover this distance 55 mins.

On reaching creek, movement was observed, and noises heard in a lightly timbered area on the WESTERN bank of the creek. Also observed a small path leading to what appeared to be a water point. Main body of patrol was left here to observe, while I offr and I OR moved down the creek for a further 100 yds in an attempt to locate a crossing. The attempt was unsuccessful owing to the deep swamp on the WESTERN side of creek.

The patrol then moved back up the creek to an old native garden on the EASTERN bank, where it was discovered that RUNDLE'S patrol had crossed on the previous day, so decided to return to H/Q and report.



30 AUST INF BDE O.O. No. 13  
 Reference: GONA (revised) 4" to 1 mile map  
 Air photos showing variation in vegetation etc.  
 (N.B. Comds to study latter carefully).

INFORMATION1. ENEMY

Reports on and translations of captured documents indicate that the ENEMY strength on SCPUTA-SANNANANDA Rd IS between I200 and I700. His health is waning and his food supplies are very low.

His tactics consist of positioning troops in front of our lines of advance, as the latter are discovered, and pinning our troops with rifle and M.G. fire. Extensive use is made of alternative positions; and it is considered that troops move to alternative areas in accordance with our threats.

Deduction: The ENEMY must be threatened in as many places as possible at the one time, to disguise the main threat.

2 OWN TROOPS

36 Bn is arriving this area today, and will come under comd this Bde.

7 AUST DIV CAV REGT is moving to area HUGGINS, and will commence operations from there - objective SANANANDA POINT. Timings will synchronise with our operations. This unit is remaining under comd 7 AUST DIV until a later stage. Present garrison on HUGGINS is remaining in position until relieved by 30 Bde. 16 Bde and US sub-units are being concentrated in rear of our present position, as relieved by 30 Bde, when ordered by this H/Q.

3 INTENTION

We MUST, and WILL, destroy all ENEMY in the area SOUTH of HUGGINS then push NORTH to SANANANDA.

4 METHOD

Policy: To drive the enemy to ground in his present positions with MORTAR and ARTY fire. To attack his positions from both flanks simultaneously behind a withering barrage of SA fire and flame throwers. MORTAR and ARTY fire will also be used for quick and close support.

5 FWD TPS

49 Bn. 55/53 Bn.

6 OBJECTIVES

49 Bn - MAIN TRACK at astride point I83258 approx.  
 55/53 Bn - LINE running approx NORTH and SOUTH, 25yds. EAST of that position of MAIN TRACK from BIG TREE at I79248 to track junc at I82253.

7 STARTING LINES

49 Bn - line running NORTH and SOUTH through HUTCHINSON  
 55/53 Bn - line running from present L flank of 55/53 Bn through HERWIG.

8 DIRECTIONS OF ATTACKS

49 Bn - 305 Mag  
 55/53 Bn - 85 Mag

9 TIMINGS

D1 - 18 Sep. Zero - 0800 hrs.

10 SUPPORTING FIRE

See appendix "B"

11 RESERVE FIRE

See appendix "B"

12 A/TK GUN

Our 2 pdr gun will take up a position for purpose of firing up MAIN TRACK. Fire will be brought from Z to Z x I6 by observation or sounds on targets within limited arc. R of arc 30 Mag - L of arc 10 Mag - measured from bend in road at I78247.

13 RESERVES

36 Bn will relieve 49 Bn and 55/53 Bn in their present positions, on arrival of former.

They will act as Bde reserve in this area during the attack, and will endeavour to maintain two coys in depth ready for instant movement to relieve flanking detachments.

Likely roles: Protection of L flank 55/53 Bn with one coy, after latter have reached MAIN TRACK. Later, advance astride MAIN TRACK to contact 49 Bn, and for HUGGINS rd block.

14 Upon relief, 49 Bn and 55/53 Bn will move to areas to be indicated on the ground in rear this H/Q.

15 Until US tps are finally concentrated, their present roles will NOT cease until ordered by this H/Q.

I6

Same arrangements for medical, amn and supplies will prevail as at present. According to results, present points will be advanced along MAIN TRACK or to either flanks.

Units will pay particular attention to provision of WWCP's medical requirements, incl stretchers, ~~amm~~ and the chain of amn supply.

I7 INTERCOMN

ADV BDE H/Q will follow MAIN TRACK as closely as possible.

Reports to present site until further orders.

L/T will follow the advance.

HUTCHINSON and HERWIG garrisons will act as fwd report centres, and will report progress constantly

I8

Recognition own tps - Red over Green.

APPENDIX "B"

**IO Supporting fire**

(see APPENDIX "A")

Type	Task No	Area	Guns	Rate rpgpm	Target Zone	Time From To	Remarks	Amn Require
Arty	1	Present	4	3	B	Z-8 Z-1	Neutralize	84
	2	'	4	3	C	Z-1 Zx8	'	108
	3	'	4	1	E	Zx8 Zx24	'	64
	4	'	4	as ord	E	as ord	Concentration may switch from task 3 whether or NOT latter completed. <u>200</u> res	456
	5	'	4	'	F	on demand		
MORTAR	I0	Present	6	4	A	Z-4 Z	Neutralizing	96
	I1	HUTCHINSON	3	4	D	Z-4 Z	'	48
	I2	Present	6	3	B	Z Zx8	'	144
	I3	'	3	3	E	Z Zx8	'	72
	I4	'	6	1	C	Zx8 Zx30	'	132
	I5	HUTCHINSON	3	as ord		Z on	Quick support w/ comd 49Bn	492
	I6	Present	3	as ord		Zx8 on		
								<u>300</u> res
								792

**II RESERVE FIRE**

Apart from above estimates 49 Bn will have priority in call for supporting ARTY fire.

A general reserve of MORTAR bombs, equal to the availability of such, will be maintained in addition to requirements for tasks I5 and I6.