

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

Item number: 8/3/63

25 Infantry Battalion
September - December 1942

Orig
22 FEB 1945

836

R.L.O. Milne Bay
4382
16.12.42

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Aug 31		Two Pls of 'D' Coy with 19 Pl (E(mg)) Coy att, and one pl of 'B' Coy returned from duty and patrol, respectively, at DOGURA (North Coast) on morning of 31 Aug. This journey was made over arduous QUABANAKI track, and occupied four days, heavy rain falling the whole time. Capt. Duggan O.C. 'D' Coy, moved his pls immediately to res. position at junct Routes 5, 6 and 12. Capt. Webster ('B' Coy) relieved 'A' Coy (9Bn) at junct Routes 1 and 3. One Pl under Lieut. Collins remained at DOGURA to occupy def. posn, preparatory to handing over to a Coy from 18 Inf Bde when same arrived. Lieut. Morrison also remained, to rest his patrol ('B' Coy) prior to returning to Milne Bay.	
	Sep 1		The main body of 2/12 Inf Bn was engaged in mopping-up operations at K.B., and a det from this Unit, who had been occupying a def posn in fwd of RABI on the GAMA Riv, were relieved by the following tps under comd. Capt. C.S. Webster (25 Bn):- 'B' Coy 25 Bn, 'C' Coy 61 Bn (under Capt. Campbell), two dets mortars 25 Bn, and one Pl of MGs under Lieut. Harris (24 Pl-25Bn) During the night of 1-2 Sep, throughout which torrential rain fell, this posn was twice approached by enemy parties of unknown strength, on whom fire was opened. However, no attack developed on either occasion. Sig comn was cut with Battle HQs, necessitating line parties being send out, with sec of 'D' Coy as protection. Enemy weapons captured by 25 Bn east of No 3 strip, were sent back to Battle HQs, and included 2 MMGs, 8 light automatic weapons, and a number of grenade dischargers. These weapons were re-conditioned by R.S.M., and used to sup supplement fire power on No 3 strip. Ample amn supplies for these guns were available. Sample of each type of enemy weapons & eqpt captured had already been sent back to 7 Inf Bde for dispatch to HQ Milne Force.	

Author

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H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Sep 1		together with diaries and other captured documents. Two enemy light fd pieces taken by the Bn were included with weapons and sent back. Another trophy was a large silk emblem of the 'Rising Sun', which appears to have been an enemy Regt. Flag.	
	" 2		25 Bn, less 'B' Coy, was relieved by 61 Bn. Unit moved into res posn at head of Route 7 and occupied, temporarily, old bivouac sites. Due to the occupation of the area, during the action, by other units, there was much loss of clothing and personal belongings where troops had ransacked tents for dry clothing, which had been left there by our members when the action commenced. Bn records and maps were found to have been destroyed by fire, when personnel in rear areas had been ordered to take up def posns there.	
			Battle casualties: 10 killed 10 wounded, incl 1 offr.	
		0814	The following message was received from Bde. Comd., Brig. J. Field 'The Bde Comd wishes to convey to all ranks of Aust and U.S. Forces under his comd his appreciation of the splendid effort and success achieved under difficult conditions. The spirit which has been shown is worthy of our highest military traditions and has taught the enemy to respect your quality. These are proud days for us our countries and for your comdrs.'	
	" 3 & 4		Spent by Bn in resting, treating foot casualties, sorting out equipment and drying clothes.	<i>W. H.</i>

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H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Sep 4		'B' Coy withdrawn to unit bivouac area, from GAMA Riv, leaving two det mortars and one Pl 'E(MG)' Coy under comd 61 Bn at RABI.	
			'A' Coy moved to Bn. H.Q. area on Route 7.	
			Mopping-up operations continued by 2/9 Bn and 2/12 Bn.	
	" 5		Weather still cloudy with frequent heavy showers.	
		0900	As a result of long exposure under wet conditions, a large proportion of tps were suffering from infected feet. S.Bs., chiropodists and R.A.P. very busy attending to cases.	
			The long patrols which were necessary accentuated these conditions, particularly where numerous ck crossings were involved, as grit collected in boots caused chafing and rapid spread of tinea.	
			Lieut. Marsh, with 17 Pl, left to relieve 18 Pl, 'D' Coy, on patrol. Track - Route 7, KAPO? KALOHI Ck and OWAGAGA on the Govt track. Here ambush posn was to be held to surprise and destroy any enemy parties attempting to escape by that way.	
		1100	A check was made on Bn amn.	
		1200	A.D.S. moved from Unit Bn. H.Q. area. (from Lieut. Marsh's patrol) One sec/was sent to KAPO village to search for enemy tracks.	
			This village stands at junct of several mountain tracks leading from No 3 Strip area, Slaughter House and No 1 Strip. Tracks lead also over the mountains to both PUNI PUNI and WAMA WAMANA on the North coast from this point. The village is also a vantage point overlooking the Milne Bay area.	
		2000	Arty fire heard in fwd area.	
	" 6	0945	Lieut Morrison ('B3 Coy) with 10 men arrived from patrol at DOGURA	
			Lieut. Bathersby and party relieved patrol on Govt track.	
			Unit was resting.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Sep 6	2215-2230	Heavy naval gun fire from Jap destroyer in Milne Bay. Hospital ship 'Manunda' was not fired on. Ship 'ANSHUN' was sunk at Pontoon Wharf. No damage to shore installations, and no casualties. It was noted that many of the naval shells failed to explode. Two white flares were fired in the direction of Gurney Field.	
	" 7	0040	Remnants of Jap forces probably evacuated 5-6 Sept. Haphazard naval gun fire over the area. No hits.	
		0800	25 Bn ordered to take over 61 Bn defs. Disposns to be:- 'D' Coy to NORTH end of No 3 Strip; 'C' Coy along No 3 Strip; 'B' Coy from Route 2, along beach to No 3 Strip; 'A' Coy astride road and WEHURIA Ck; 'HQ' Coy - 2 dets on beach, carriers on No 3 Strip. Staff Capt., 7 Inf Bde was to arrange tpt. Coy Comds and Pl Comds left immediately on recce of new areas.	
		1300	As no tpt was available, the unit move commenced on foot. Tentage etc. to be brought up later.	
		1500	change in disposns ordered.	
		1830	Disposns at end of the day were as follows:- 'B' Coy on beach defs MOUTH of WEHURIA Ck to PONTOON WHARF, both inclusive, with following att tps - 22 two dets mortars, No 20 Pl 'E(MG)' Coy under Lieut. Jefferies, A/A/ Pl, 1 A/Tk gun and Bofer A/A in area. 'C' Coy on high grounds to the right of top of Route 8, contacting U.S. Ord. personnel on right flank. 'D' Coy astride top of Route 8; Bn.H.Q. in rear of 'D' Coy. 'A' Coy on NORTH side of Route 8; 'HQ' Coy in rear of 'C' Coy.	
			The change in plan gave the tps a long route march to No 3 Strip and back, with the exception of 'B' Coy.	<i>Author.</i>

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H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Sep 8	0003	Further naval gun fire scattered at random over the area. No casualties or damage. Unit settling into new areas. All barbed wire in rear areas collected and sent forward to 'B' Coy for beach def's.	
		1225	Air Raid - bombs dropped EAST of No 1 Strip in vicinity of Slaughter House. 18 casualties - 7 killed. None from 25 Bn. Sitrep for the day reported the killing of two Japs vicinity of DOGURA where Lieut Collins (25Bn) was in charge. Also sighting of two enemy cruisers in SOLOMONS Seas, adjacent to this area. A new wharf was to be built 1000 yds from Pontoon Wharf, at which the 'ANSHUN' was sunk.	
		1500	Recce of beach area - mouth of WEHURIA Ck to PONTOON WHARF - by C.O., and Os. C., 'A', 'D' and 'C' Coys.	
	" 9	1505	R.A.P. established at Bn.H.Q. - Route 8. Wiring and clearing of fields of fire in beach area was being done. 40 men from each of 'A', 'C' and 'D' Coys were helping 'B' Coy in this work, and 100 natives were engaged in clearing undergrowth with jungle knives. Remainder of Unit engaged in completing usual arrangements in bivouac areas - latrines, kitchens etc., necessary to camp hygiene.	
		0900	Coy. Comds and I.O. on recce of direct route to beach in case of necessity arising for night move in that direction. B.M.G.O. (Maj. R. Weppner) and Lt-Col. E.S. Miles checked 'B' Coys fire plan.	
	" 10		'B' Coy amending posns in accordance with new beach def policy. 'A', 'C' and 'D' Coys completing wiring on beach. Parties obtaining barbed wire from fences in rear areas. Two Pls of 'E(MG)' Coy established new posns on the beach. Transfer of B Echelon from Route 7 to Route 8 was held up by the breakdown of 2 carriers. Transfers of amn and rations being completed with light vans.	<i>[Signature]</i>

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Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne, Bay	Sep 10		Recce of LAU LAU Is. for proposed forward depth posn - same to be occupied by one Pl from 'E (MG)' Coy and one Pl from a rifle Coy.	
	" 11	1030	Mortar dets in 'B' Coy area increased to three. Air Raid alert - nothing eventuated. No 16 Pl 'D' Coy (Lieut. Nelson) sent to prepare posns LAU LAU Is in co-operation with No 19 Pl 'E(MG)' Coy (Lieut. R. McDonald) Line comm with Island being established.	
			No 17 Pl (Lieut A. Marsh)'D' Coy, sent as def Pl at 7 Inf Bde HQ. Work in 'B' Coy area being continued.	
	" 12		7 Inf Bde Opn. Instn No 10 issued, setting out Bde Role confirming disposns of 25 Bn already made.	
	" 13		Normal work as outlined proceeding. No 16 Pl at TAUPOTA ^{DOGUBA} was ordered to rejoin Unit. Boat arranged for by Milne Force. Owing to Lieut. ^{SHAW} shore of 61 Bn having been wounded, Lieut. T. Collins and No 16 Pl diverted during return voyage, to TAUPOTA where a patrol of one Pl was doing excellent work mopping up parties of Japs endeavouring to travel via north coast to BUNA.	
	" 14		Normal work in 'B' Coy area continuing with assistance of 'A' and 'C' Coys and one Pl 'D' Coy. Mortar personnel engaged in establishing O.Ps. and pits. Carriers given posns in rear areas to prepare for counter penetration tasks.	
	" 15		Normal work on defs continued. A party of Japs, EAST of Lt. Collins posn at TAUPOTA, tried to bypass him by using a large native outrigger canoe. A/C patrol frustrated their attempt.	
			6 personnel of unit to be detached as from 16 sep to 4 A/Tk Bty to be trained as gunners. This transfer served dual purpose - (i) preparation for new W.E., when 4 A/Tk guns become part of Inf Bn establishment (ii) to take the place of personnel of 4 Bty temporarily loaned to 2/5 Arty Regt to man 18 pdrs.	<i>Rush</i>

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Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Sep 15		'C' Coy to move to beach def and take over area - LAUIAM CK excl to GILI GILI JETTY Incl - from 9 Bn. 'A' Coy to move into rear def along commanding spur overlooking bend in AWADUMA Ck, and covering approaches of mountain tracks from the NORTH. Both of these moves were considerably hampered by no suitable F.W.D. vehs being available to shift the Coys - very wet conditions prevailing at this time.	
	" 16		MAPA patrol was relieved by sec from 'A' Coy. Work commenced by 'A' and 'C' Coys in their respective areas, in clearing fields of fire, digging weapon pits and preparing bivouac areas. Instn issued by C.O. concerning his policy for def, setting out main features such as all-round def posns, stores of rations and water sufficient to last 7 days at all posts, beach wiring to be d.s. covered by fire, main exits from beach to be covered, development of wiring as per previous instn, and all posns to be concealed and camouflaged.	
	" 17,18)		work as outlined proceeding.	
	" 19,20)			
	" 21		7 Inf Bde rifle range at top Route 10 being used for range practices under the supervision of Maj. Common, 2 i/c. MMG posns on LAU LAU Is used for practice, out to sea, particular attention being given to traversing. MAPA patrol relieved. WARNING ORDER re re-distribution of forces. 25 Bn responsible for beach def, area - excl LAUIAM CK to incl WEHURIA Ck, including LAU LAU Is. In case of emergency the following to come under command:- 33 Hy A/A/ Bty, 24 Pd Coy Engrs, 2/1 Pnr Bn and 43 U.S. Engrs and Port Det.. 'A' Coy with two dets mortars and one sec carriers to relieve Coy of 18 Inf Bde of def of GURNEY FIELD.	

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(adapted.)

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Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 42 To 30 Sep 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Sep 22		Change-over taking place	
	" 23		Range practice with Bn. H.Q. details.	
	" 24		7 Inf Bde Op. Instn No 11 issued on preparation of def localities.	
			This instn laid down xxxx Bde wiring policy to be followed, and dealt with:- beach wiring, sec post wiring, corral fences, depth in def, tank obstacles, planning and mapping.	
			Additional mortar and MG crews sent to 'A' Coy on GURNEY FIELD.	
			Tpt drivers, without vehs, supplied necessary personnel.	
	" 25		'B' Coy area extended to incl GILI GILI JETTY and Route 1. 'C' Coy area extended to LAUIAM CK, excl. LADAVA MISSION.	
			No 13 Pl 'C' Coy withdrawn from GILI GILI JETTY area and placed in area LADAVA MISSION-LAUIAM CK. No 12 Pl 'B' Coy took over area vacated by No 13 Pl.	
	" 26		Change-over of Pls continued.	
	" 27		'D' Coy to prepare depth posn astride Route 1, near Factory. Preparation of posns, wiring, clearing continued in new and old areas.	
			2/9 Bn relieved composite patrol, under Lieut. T. Collins, at TAUPOTA. This patrol, under Lieut. SHORE (61Bn) until he was wounded, now under cmd Lieut. T. Collins (25 Bn) was responsible for the mopping-up of 47 Japs in that area, during their period of duty.	
	" 28, 29, 30		Normal work in Coy areas proceeding.	<i>Am ash hint</i>
			<i>E. H. Miles</i>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Oct. 42 To 31 Oct. 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Oct 1		<p>Unit location remained as for 30 Sep 42. i.e. occupying and preparing a series of def posns from LADAVA MISSION to WEHURIA Ck. - 'C' Coy in area LADAVA MISSION to WEST of GILI GILI JETTY; 'B' Coy from WEST of GILI GILI JETTY to WEHURIA Ck; 18 Pl, 'D' Coy on LAU LAU Is., 17 Pl as def pl at Bde. HQ; 16 Pl as reserve; 'A' Coy in def of GURNEY FIELD; 'E' Coy - 19 Pl on LAU LAU Is., 20 Pl in support 'B' Coy, 21 Pl in depth posn Route 1 near factory; 'HQ' Coy carriers using MMGs dismounted, in prepared posns - one sec PONTOON WHARF, one sec covering rear Switch 24 Fd Coy area, 2 secs at GURNEY FIELD. Mortars divided into 8 secs covering target areas in 'C' Coy, 'B' Coy and GURNEY FIELD areas. One patrol at MAPA village at junct of jungle tracks NORTH of Bn. posn, remained the responsibility of the Unit and was supplied by one sec of 17 Pl att. Bde. HQ.</p> <p>Other tps in Unit area to be under comd of Lt-Col. E.S.Miles, should emergency arise, were:- 33 Hy A/A Bty, 24 Fd Coy Engrs., One coy of 2/1 Pnr Bn. and 43 U.S. Engrs and Port Det.</p>	
	2	0800 - 1630	All available men engaged in 'A', 'B' and 'C' Coy areas, in clearing fds of fire and in the erection of tactical wire, in accordance with Op. Instn No 11 of 24 Sep 42.	
		1845	<p>7 Aust Inf Bde Op. Instn No 12 received, which set out the likely roles of the Units of the Bde according to possible developments. To 25 Bn was allotted support of 9 Bn or offensive action in that area or GURNEY FIELD area. The instn called for recce skeleton tactical exercises in the areas concerned, to ensure that all Offrs and kep personnel were fully acquainted with areas, defs and routes involved.</p> <p>Reports on progress made were to be submitted to 7 Bde weekly. Each Coy had its separate problems in respect of clearing and wiring.</p>	

13/10/42

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2173
(adapted)

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H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42. To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 2		<p>'C' Coy area was low-lying and mosquito ridden, covered for the most part by sago swamps and thick undergrowth, through which swathes had to be cut to place tactical wire; then the clearing of the undergrowth commenced, towards Route 3.</p> <p>'B' Coy likewise had to clear both undergrowth and large trees that obstructed the fcs of fire and prevented the erection of wire, until this was done. The Pnr Pl of 'HQ' Coy assisted them in blowing some of the larger obstructions, and Tpt and carriers had to be utilised to clear away the debris for burning. Wiring had to be modified to suit support beach weapons in this area.—</p> <p>Siege guns, Boefers, Heavy A/A and Arty - which were being added to the defences one by one. Road alterations and the building of a high bridge over <u>AWADUMA Ck.</u> nullified the value of 20 pl wire, and made it necessary to re-site it and alter its position. With each addition of heavier support weapons, some modifications were rendered necessary, and positions and wiring had to be co-ordinated with the respective comds by Brig. John Field and Lt-Col. E.S.Miles.</p> <p>'A' Coy was preparing a perimeter def of GURNEY FIELD and had large areas of tall blade grass to clear, and defs to be co-ordinated with 2/12 Bn, who were wiring in their positions on Route 7.</p>	
	" 3	0700-1700	<p>Recce of 9 Bn def posns by Capt. Steel ('C'), Capt. Ryan ('A'), Capt. Mathison ('HQ') Lt. Leadbetter (T.O.), Lt. Morrison ('B'), Capt. Robinson ('E'), Lt. Nelson ('D').</p>	
		1000	<p>Q 21954 Lieut. A.W.Marsh returned to Bn. HQ as Asst Adjt., from comd. 17 Pl of 'D' Coy.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2160
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42 To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 4	1100	<p>Sundays observed as day of rest for tps. Church services at Bn. H.Q. by Padre Rosenskjar (R.C.) and Padre Coop of 9 Bn (OPD). The day's rest and church services both raise morale.</p> <p>Q 21610 Maj. F.B.Common received warning order to be on 6 hrs call for return to mainland. Later advised from Force HQ that Maj. Common would be O.C.Tps on boat - 'Tasma' - and would have charge 15 prisoners. He was authorised to select 2 men as guards to accompany him, preferably those applying for compassionate leave. Sgt. Deller T.J. and L/Cpl Jorgensen.</p> <p>Instn received from 7 Bde to select sites for suitable minefields within Unit area, and to submit a detailed survey of each, following instns laid down in Bde. Op Instn No 13 issued 0900 hrs 3 Oct.</p> <p>Capt. Mathison was given charge of this work, and was instructed to liaison with 24 Fd Coy Engrs.</p>	
	" 5	0900	<p>Training of Unit Mosquito Squad commenced at 11 Fd Amb A.D.S. Cpl Morgan ('HQ') and 2 O/rs were selected to do 3 days course, after which they were to be responsible for mosquito eradication in Unit areas, by drainage, spraying and introduction of fish to streams and larger pools.</p> <p>21 Pl under Lt. Harris given task of preparing MMG posn covering LEFT bank of WEHURIA Ck, with tactical wire to prevent enemy using this way of entrance to outflank 'B' Coy posns and other beach defs.</p> <p>Re-aligning and direction of wiring continued in 'A'; 'B' and 'C' Coy areas. Lt-Col. E.S.Miles, Capt. E.G.White, Capt. J.Foster, Lt. L.Deuble, Lt. A.Schindler, Lt. J.Corfe, Sgt. McKee made recce 9 Bn posns from MAIWARA Riv. to LADAVA MISSION—Lt-Col. Matthews C.O., 9 Bn accompanied the party around the area.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2116
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42 To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 6	0600-1200	Provided unloading party of 120 men for unloading ships at wharves.	
		0600-1800	Normal work proceeded in preparation of defs and wiring in posts in Coy areas.	
	" 7		Rifle Range, selected NORTH of Bn.H.Q. on AWADUMA Flats, approved by Milne Force, but before same could be used it became a bivouac area for 2/6 Bn. Report on recce of Route 16 to 9 Bn area by Capt J.E. Duggan, with suggested plan for opening up an alternative Route by which to reinforce 9 Bn. The cutting of this track through the jungle was then the work for over a week of 16 Pl of 'D' Coy.	
	" 8	1200-1800	Working party of 70 men provided to unload ships.	
		1000 1000	Bde. Comd. - Brig. John Field - delivered a lecture on wiring to all available Offrs of Unit, with blackboard illustrations. On completion of this lecture, C.O. took the opportunity of addressing the Offrs on Bn policy and disposns, and showed the development of the def posns of each Coy, with their tactical value. Offrs were instructed to recce the Bn posns themselves and to see that their N.C.Os. were also sent round at the first opportunity.	
			Translations of captured Japanese documents were handed round and read before and after the lectures. Amongst these was the O.O. and Plan of the Japanese for the capture of GURNEY FIELD on 27 Aug., with the results already reported.	
		1345	An air raid 'yellow' given, but nothing eventuated.	
	" 9	1730	A welcome concert in 'B' Coy area, near new wharf, was given by Milne Force Concert Party, who gave an excellent orchestral and miscellaneous programme much appreciated by all in the area.	

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H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42

To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 10	0900	Lt-Col. E.S.Miles attended a conference of C.Os. in the Bde. at Bde. HQ.	
		1000-1700	Recce and T.E.W.T. 9 B areas by All Coy Comds, Coy 2 i/cs and available Offrs, Sig O., 'I' Sgt, T.O., Q.M., R.S.M. and key personnel, to discuss, on the ground, the tactical possibility of reinforcing 9 Bn, or counter-attacking through them, should the necessity or opportunity arise. The party followed down the KALOHI Ck to its junct with MAIWARA Riv, and thence across the def posns held by 9 Bn along that river, and back to Bn area via Routes 9 and 3, which would be the normal routes to the left flank of 9 Bn posns. Thus the routes from Unit area to RIGHT, CENTRE and LEFT Flanks of 9 Bn area were covered.	
		1500	Concert at Bn.H.Q. by Milne Force Concert Party. Men of neighbouring Units invited to be present. Very enjoyable break for all able to be present.	
	" 11		Recce of 61 Bn area. Same group as on previous day made recce of area for a similar tactical discussion, travelling per veh to WEHURIA Ck thence on foot to Ne 3 Strip, to RABI, and on to EAST of KB MISSION. On return journey inspected the def posns of 61 Bn, and the clearings prepared by them.	
			Capt. W.J.E.Jackson relinquished his duties as Adjt., and took over comd of 'B' Coy. from Capt C. S. Webster. Capt. Webster came on strength of Bn.HQ as 2/ic of Unit, and Lieut. A.W.Marsh took over duties of Actg. Adjt. until this appointment was confirmed.	
	" 12-18		Work in Coy areas continued, clearing, wiring and camouflaging of prepared posns keeping all tps available, fully occupied. Range practices were carried out on 15 and 16 Oct by 'A' Coy	

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Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct. 42

To 31 Oct. 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 12-18		personnel in T.S.M.G., Bren and Rifle. Lt. Jefferies also tried out successfully a .55 with improvised mounting.	
	" 15		Unloading parties of 20 men were supplied to unload ships.	
	" 16		Lieut. F.J.O'Neill (Q.M.) notified his promotion to T/Capt had been approved pending confirmation of rank from L.H.Q.	
	" 19-25		Nothing of operational import occurred during the week.	
			No 17 Pl 'D' Coy was relieved at Bde. HQ by A/A Pl under Lieut. Phillips, and 17 Pl took over 'B' Coy beach def in AWADUMA Ck.—	
			NEW WHARF area. A/A Pl took over MAPA patrol.	
			Carrier secs from 24 Fd Coy Engrs area were moved fwd to posn on Route 1, to build up def fire along Route 1 and Switch, near LAUTUM Ck.	
			2/6 Bn moved into area NORTH of Bn.H.Q. and WEST of Route 8 and AWADUMA Ck. Switch line.	
			'A' Coy of 2/12 Bn, who had been working in along Route 7, moved out.	
			One 25 pr. gun was placed in No 9 sec area, 'C' Coy.	
			Three .50 manned by American A/A were removed from 'B' Coy area to No 3 Strip, which was nearing completion.	
			The preparation of def wiring and camouflaging was advanced. A proclaimed roadway from Route 2, along beach to EAST, was cleared of fallen coconut trees up to Hy A/A posn. Additional clearing of undergrowth permits of greater depth in defs. Proposed mine-fields were in the process of being pegged out and wired in. Wiring along Route 1 in vicinity of Pontoon Wharf had to be amended owing to straightening and widening of Route 1.	
			Rear switch wires with apron on enemy's side towards AWADUMA Ck and Route 3 were being erected, and likewise work on MMG lines in WEHURIA Ck area were completed.	
			Def wire around LAU LAU Is. was almost completed. Shortage of angle pickets held this up. Work on perimeter def of GURNEY FIELD by 'A' Coy continued and American force posns co-ordinated in them.	

RS

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2143
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42

To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 19-25		Bridges were under construction by Pnr Pl on Route 15, and over a small stream 'B' Coy area near New Wharf.	
	" 23		Ships working parties supplied to wharves were:- 160 men on 21 Oct, 120 on 23 Oct, and 135 on 25 Oct.	
	" 24	1000	Sgt. F.V.Hill (Q22729) and Sgt. S.D.Steele S.D. (Q22003) notified that they had been promoted Actg.Lieuts. pending confirmation of rank from the mainland. <i>Capt. C.S. Webster notified of his promotion to T/Maj. as from 15 Jan. 42.</i>	
			It-Col. E.S.Miles was called to conference with Brig. John Field re appointments and several other matters of adm, over which Brig. Comd. wished to have a discussion.	
			2 i/c, Coy Comds, Pl Comds, Pl Sgts and key personnel carried out a T.E.W.T. in 9 Bn area starting junct Routes 3 and 9. They proceeded to MATWARA Riv, thence SOUTH-EAST along the track known as SAMARAI Rd, crossing both arms of NIHA NIHA Riv, and the GOMINI Riv, and proceeded as far as GIBARA Riv, where due to there being no ferry available, the party had to turn back.	
			Pte. Mengel of 'I' Sec, and party, followed a jungle track blazed by 61 Bn between BOBS HOUSE and AWADUMA Crossing, Route 8. Recces were made of Bn defs by Offrs and N.C.Os. as work permitted.	
			'A' Coy on GURNEY FIELD linked to Sig switch (10 line U.C.) connected to RAAF Ops, 2/9 Bty, 709 A/A Bty, Nos 7, 8, and 9 Pls, and direct to Bn. Sig. Exchange. These lines, with exception of latter, and four phones, were supplied by Milne Force.	
			'B' Coy have one of two Bn. Switch boards at their HQ, with connection to Nos 10, 11, 12 Pls ('B'), 20 Pl ('E(MG)), 18 Pl 'D' Coy, and 19 Pl ('E(MG)) on LAU LUA IS. This latter under-water line needs frequent renewal.	
			A lateral line connects 'B' Coy HQ direct to 61 Bn.	
			'C' Coy has direct line to Bn.HQ.	
			All lines need a great deal of servicing owing to the cables	

Auth

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42 To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 24		(cables) being broken by falling fronds and coconuts. News is disseminated daily by means of SITREPS from Bde per Bn to Coys and men. Wireless news is also listened to and the more regular receipt of papers and mail help to keep the men fully informed, and not likely to be 'taken in' by idle rumours against which strict disciplinary action is taken.	
	" 25	0600	Cloudy - Heavy rain for an hour, then fined up.	
		0800-1300	'C' Coy carried out battle practice on 9 Bn range, combining mortar and MMG preparation with advance of rifle Pls; with aid of their Bren support, grenade preparation, rifle fire from hip and final bayonet assault and consolidation of captured posn. Rain prevented the mortar from being fired. Otherwise the practice was complete. Further practices by other Coys arranged by Maj. Webster on this range had to be cancelled, because the preparation of gun posns and need to complete beach wiring caused range to be closed.	
		0900 12-1800 1630	2/6 Bn took over MAPA standing patrol from A/A Pl att Bde HQ. Party of 135 men engaged unloading ships. Distribution made of first A.C.F. amenities to be received. Same were ack'd in Unit R.Os. These were very much appreciated as all were articles that men were needing.	
		2130	Raid carried out by small force enemy bombers. Only damage - a number of craters some 6' to 8' in diameter off Air Force Jetty. Hy. A/A reported raiders approx. 20,000 ft, attacked at 16,000 ft and departed. Next day it was found that one bomber had been 'bagged' and had crashed WEST of WAICANI, in the jungle, crew of 6 being killed.	
	" 26	0450	Day fine. Scattered clouds only. Raid carried out by small force enemy flying boats. No damage. One of the boats crashed at GOODENOUGH Is. on homeward journey.	

ASL

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42 To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 26	0900-1700	Range practice carried out by 'B' Coy on 7 Bde Range.	
	" 27	0800-1700	Normal work continued on all def works.	
	" 27	0600	Fine day - scattered clouds. Normal work continued.	
	" 27	1400	Boefer crews and Hy A/A given practice. A Jap P.W. taken over from 'I' Sec 7 Aust Inf Bde and guarded until interrogation completed, and 'plane available to tpt him to mainland.	
	" 28	0600	Fine morning - scattered clouds only.	
	" 28	0800	Recce by C.O., 2 i/c and Adjnt of EAST bank WEHURIA Ck., and arrangements made Capt. Kruse of 43 U.S. Engrs to use bulldozer for half day to remove debris in 'plane bays obstructing proposed line of fire.	
			Line for tactical fence sited and work commenced, by Wkg. Party from LAU LAU Is. Liaison made with Lieut. Faber re the American def weapons on No 3 Strip area, and arrangements made for necessary co-ordination to take place in area controlled by 25 Bn.	
			Recce of tactical and protective wire and MMG posns in the area WEST of WEHURIA Ck, then carried out.	
		1200-1800	Unloading party of 135 men engaged in unloading sips.	
		1500-1700	C.O. and 2 i/c carried out recce in upper AWADUMA Ck valley, in search of suitable ground for a battle practice for the Bn.	
			Instead, found splendid area for a tactical exercise in jungle warfare, the area selected providing all the tactical features of jungle, high ground on flanks, jungle trails etc. required to practice tps in latest tactics.	
			Hospital ship 'Manunda' docked.	
	" 29	0600	Fine day - very hot.	
	" 29	1030	Mail from home arrived and everyone delighted.	
	" 29	1300	Message from Base P.O. to send 3 ton veh for Class II mail.	

RS

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2143
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42 To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 29	1300	(mail) - 70 to 90 bags for Unit. These turned out to be July parcels long given up as lost by enemy action, when the 'Anshun' was sunk at Pontoon Wharf. Parcels met with mixed reception, according to condition of contents - a good many useless.	
		0930	C.O. and 2 i/c made an inspection of defs in 'B' Coy area, No 11 Pl.	
		1130	Adj. and R.M.O. met L.O. and 2 i/c at Pontoon Wharf and proceeded on tour of inspection of LAU LAU IS. R.M.O. examined kitchens bivouacs and latrines and general conditions of the area. Tps were warned to wear boots, owing to scratches from coral liable to turn septic.	
			C.O., 2 i/c and Adj. examined def wire and posns and work being done in camouflag and preparations to protect seven days' water supply, stored in tanks.	
		1500	2 i/c (Maj Pippin) and Adj. (Capt Hayes) of 2/6 Bn visited the unit to talk over the role allotted them in the area, and to make arrangements to tour 25 Bn posns on 30 Oct.	
		1530	Staff Capt. Learner (Lieut Krebbs) notified that another 15 cwt veh was to be transferred, this time, to 2/6 Bn.	
			First squadron Lockheed Lightning 'planes arrived on 'Choco' Strip. (No 3)	
	" 30	1145	Air raid red - nothing happened - all clear shortly afterwards.	
		0600	Showery, but cleared to fine, hot day.	
		0800	7 day school for 'I' personnel commenced - 2 from each Coy to ensure a reserve for the Unit.	
		0900	Lt-Col Wood, C.O. 2/6 Bn, and his senior offrs arrived as arranged, and after preliminary map recce, the Bn (25) posns, with Lt-Col. E.S. Miles, set out to recce 25 Bn posns under direction of Adj., Capt. Ryan, O.C. 'A' Coy, met party at No 7 Pl area, and conducted them over his defs of GURNEY FIELD. Following this, party travelled to WEHURIA Ck, and after looking over CHOCO STRIP walked along the beach defs. of 'B' Coy area. Capt. Jackson (O.C., 'BU Coy)	

Handwritten signature

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42 To 31 Oct 42.

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 30	0900	met the party and outlined defs in his Coy area. After lunch	
		1400	Capt. Steel O.C. 'C' Coy, took party over 'C' Coy defs from GILI GILI JETTY to LADAVA MISSION.	
			Throughout the area, wiring parties were at work adding to the wiring systems. 'C' Coy and LAU LAU Is. were clearing the stumps obstructing automatic fire, by blasting.	
			C.O. and Sgt. Sullivan called to conference with Brid. Comd. re latter's promotion to W.O. Promotion approved, after Bde Comd had heard of good service rendered Unit by this N.C.O. as T.O. during this Offr's absence.	
			Brig. Field Then discussed tactical problems with Lt.Col Miles with particular ref. to disposn of Bn and areas likely to be the charge of 25 Bn.	
		1600	C.O. and 2/c went on recce of area between Route 2 and AWADUMA Ck.	
		1730	Flying Fortresses arrived GURNEY FIELD - largest number to visit the Field together. Tps much cheered by such visitors.	
	" 31	0010	Air raid 'red' - no attack - all clear at 0020. Shortly after- wards Flying Fortresses took off on errand.	
		0600	Heavy showers - day later fine.	
		0720	Warning Order given to Unit by Maj Mahoney (B.M.) that Unit would relinquish def of GURNEY FIELD and take over def of No 3 Strip from 'A' Coy, 61 Bn. Time to be notified later. C.O. issued Warning Order to Coys to notify them of changed disposns.	
			See App. I	
		0900-1200	Exercise 7 Aust Inf Bde, 5 Fd Arty, 61 Bn and R.A.A.F. in air co-operation exercise to test out signal system between ground and Air Forces in jungle areas.	
		1330	Capt. Ryan 'A' Coy notified his area on GURNEY FIELD had been recc'd by Coy Comd 'D' Coy 2/9 Bn who had been advised that his Coy would take over at 0800 hrs 1 Nov 42.	

AS

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 42

To 31 Oct 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Oct 31	1345	Capt. McDonald (B.M.L.) was notified of this, and Milne Force contacted for confirmation.	
		1400	Time of move confirmed and arrangements made per Staff Capt., 7 Bde., for transport for 'A' and 'D' Coys to be made available from Milne Force transport pool.	
		1430	Col. Miles, Maj Webster and Capt Duggan left on recon of No 3 Strip (Choco Strip) and 'A' Coy, 61 Bn defs, for preparation for the change-over ordered.	
			Health of tps in the xxxx climate deteriorated due to prevalence of malaria, following the exposure and hardships suffered in August action. The state at the end of October, from time of arrival on the island, was that approx 300 had had malaria fever, <i>the</i> 30 had had a second attack, and 3 had had more than two attacks. On 31 Oct, hospitals admissions ^{for the month are} consisted of:—	
			84 malaria, 24 P.U.O., 5 Investigation, 3 Otitis media, 1 tachycardia, 1 G.S.W. Leg, 1 appendicitus, 1 exzema, 1 asthma, 1 internal derangement, of rt knee joint, 1 bleeding haemmoroids, 1 abscess of leg, 1 post nasal inf., TOTAL 125.	
			17 members had been transferred to Australia by hospital ships during Oct.	
			Morale of the Unit high, ^{as} already commented on. The news of Solomons and Owen Stanley areas successes followed with zest, as were minor operations of a local nature.	

E. Miles
Lieut. Col.
Comd. 25 Bn.

W. H. Hunt
Capt.
Actg. Adjutant 25 Bn.

A.M.S. & O. 1588 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 9a

STRIPPING ORDERS PART I

3 Oct 42.

Lt-Col. R. S. MILNS

CMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

1. PRESERVATION OF .45 AMN: Cases have occurred of .45 amn for Thompson Sub-machine guns failing to function owing to ingress of moisture.

To obviate this, it is essential that strict attention be paid to the preservation of this amn after it has been removed from sealed liners. It should be examined periodically and cleaned with a slightly oily rag. The greatest care will be taken to keep the amn as dry as possible and, where it is loaded into magazines, these will be unloaded at frequent intervals and the amn dried & cleaned.

Note: Coy. Comds will be held responsible for stoppages and damage caused through failure to observe this instruction.

2. QUININE: All troops are to be instructed that in the event of capture of any Japanese positions of Headquarters, particular attention is to be paid to the recovery of quinine supplies or other anti-malarial medicines.

3. TELEGRAMS FROM SOLDIERS: The conditions governing the acceptance of concession rate telegrams have been modified.

In future the sender's unit must NOT appear in the endorsement of telegrams lodged by military personnel.

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs is instructing all his departmental officers accordingly.

Also, when sending telegrams, both the address and text must be printed in block letters.

4. MAIL: Outward parcels must bear an impression of unit censor stamp, and also must bear Customs Declaration as to the contents and value of the article.

Green envelopes must bear an impression of unit censor stamp, in addition to soldier's signature. This does not mean that contents of these green envelopes are to be censored within the unit. However, troops are reminded that these envelopes are not a medium of discussing military matters which would otherwise be deleted by unit censors.

5. NEXT OF KIN: All ranks are again reminded of the urgent necessity of advising changes of names and addresses of next of kin promptly to Bn. P.O., through Coy. Orderly Rooms.

6. WEARING OF RESPIRATORS: On Wednesday, 7 Oct 42, and on each Wednesday thereafter, all Officers and P.Os. will wear their respirators from 0900 hrs to 0930 hrs. This instruction is to be strictly adhered to.

7. ORDERS re BOMB LOCATION & DISPOSAL: It is again emphasised that NO UNAUTHORISED PERSON will interfere with unexploded bombs, exploded bomb fragments, craters, damaged buildings or installations, and ALL PERSONNEL are to be advised of this.

Where bombs fall in Coy areas, the Coy in the locality will be responsible for placing a picquet to keep ALL PERSONNEL OUTSIDE A DISTANCE OF 100 yds RADIUS of all unexploded bombs and craters etc., until the area has been inspected by Ind. Bomb Disposal Sec., and advice issued that the area is safe.

All personnel are instructed to report immediately the presence of any crater, bomb, booby trap, gas bomb, shell, any explosive mechanism, or any sample of gas contaminated material. This instruction is not, however, meant to deter personnel from making every effort to minimize damage caused by incendiary bombs.

Cases have occurred where unauthorised personnel have interfered with unexploded cannon shells, thereby meeting with serious and fatal accidents.

Souveniring enemy amn and components of bombs will NOT be permitted, as these components in the right hands, may lead to valuable information being obtained.

Disciplinary action will be taken against unauthorised personnel in possession of components of bombs or unexploded enemy amn.

8. STRIPPING SUB-MACHINE GUNS - THOMPSON: Owing to the difficulty of stripping and reassembling the recoil spring and buffer by hand, without damage to the recoil spring, these components are NOT to be removed from the gun by Unit personnel, except when the gun becomes inoperative in active operations.

Normally, the above components will only be stripped by A.A.O.C. xxxxxxxx mousers with the special tools provided in accordance with armory Workshop Instrn 12.

(OVER)

9. NOTIFICATION OF CASUALTIES: No member of the forces will communicate any information concerning casualties to the next of kin thereof or any other person, within one month after D.N.O. has been notified of such casualty, or the publication of particulars thereof in an official casualty list in AUSTRALIA, whichever shall first happen.

10. RESCUE - CONSERVATION AND COLLECTION OF CONTAINERS: Small containers, e.g. boot polish tins, cigarette, tobacco and watch tins; small screw cap glasses or china jars - are urgently required for packing medical stores in the nature of pills and tablets.

Containers will be forwarded to R.A.P., pending disposal under directions to be issued by D.S.M.S., HQ Force.

11. RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSMISSION OF CASH TO AUSTRALIA:

In view of the difficulty in obtaining currency from Australia, restrictions on the transmission of cash to Australia by personnel of HQ Forces are imposed.

The following arrangements have been made for transmitting funds to any address in Australia:-

(a) Postal notes may be purchased from all Field Post Offices.

(b) Cash may be paid to any Field Cash Office and instructions given for payment of the amount to any firm or person in Australia. Full name and address of firm or person must be supplied.

NO cash is to be forwarded in letters from this area.

Personnel may allow their pay to accumulate in their paybooks and may also pay in cash to be credited to their paybooks. Any amount exceeding A£5 will be accompanied by a statement showing the source from which obtained and the circumstances thereof.

12. SECURITY: To prevent any possibility of the enemy gaining identification from mail, all personnel will immediately destroy envelopes and wrappers on receipt of personal mail. Stamps and contents may be retained, provided that the letter contains no indications of addressee's unit.

13. LOST: Rifle No. 72343 - this was removed from Truck No 63296 on 15 Sep 42. Any person in possession of same, or knowing whereabouts thereof, is to advise Q.M. immediately.

Arthur Smith

for

Capt.,

Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy (6)
7 Bn. M.G.
8 C. C.
9 HQ Milne Force
10 Q.M.
11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
12-13 War Diary
14 File

War Diary

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Copy No. 15

A. M. H. & O. 1588 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 10

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

6 Oct 42.

Lt-Col. R. S. MILES

COMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

ALLIED LAND FORCES - SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

ORDER of the DAY

General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander Allied Land Forces, and Commander in Chief Australian Military Forces, assumed command of the Forces in New Guinea on the 24th September 1942.

The Commander, Allied Land Forces, wishes to convey to all ranks the following message from the Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable John Curtin, M.R. -

'Will you please accept for yourself and the gallant men under your command my heartiest good wishes in your arduous task in the service of our Nation.'

The Commander, Allied Land Forces, congratulates all members of the Forces serving in NEW GUINEA on the great efforts they have made, on their success and on their endurance and devotion under most difficult conditions.

The Air Force dominates the skies and the enemy rarely shows his machines. Old members of the Forces from Greece and Crete know how great an achievement that is.

The Navy has transported us safely across the seas practically unscathed.

The Army has won a clear victory in Milne Bay - our first Australian victory on land against the barbarian invader. Our American comrades have defeated him in the Solomon Islands. On all hands the results of fierce endeavour and preparation are growing almost miraculously.

With the co-operation of all services, with the ever increasing comradeship between us all, Australian and American, we show a front, immeasurably more certain of securing victory in this war against barbarian aggression and greed, than ever before. The yellow man sought this fight; he prepared cunningly and struck under a curtain of lies of friendship. We have our comrades in Malaya and Pearl Harbour to avenge.

Let us go forward and hit wherever he gives us a chance, then follow up and hit again and again until he is beaten and destroyed.

28 Sep 42.

(Sgd) T. A. Blamey General
Commander, Allied Land Forces

-----000000000-----

2. QUININE: Before taking the quinine tablets, each tablet should be broken up into several pieces and be wellchewed before being swallowed.

3. PAY: Personnel applying to paymaster Milne Force for pay are to be in possession of a request signed by Unit C.O. as a means of identification. Personnel will NOT be paid without such request.

4. RIDING ON MT VEHICLES: All MT Drivers are forbidden to carry passengers, except inside the vehicle. The practice of passengers riding on mudguards and footboards will cease forthwith, and disciplinary action will be taken against drivers, should this instruction be disregarded.

5. IMPROPER USE OF PICKETS: It has been noticed that steel pickets are being used as tent pegs. This practice will cease forthwith.

These pickets are required for defence constructional purposes. All pickets now being improperly used will be otherwise replaced immediately.

6. FORCE CONCERT PARTY will visit 'B' Coy Area - 1900 hrs - Saturday ~~xxxx~~ evening and H. H. G. area - 1500 hrs - Sunday afternoon.

7. LOST: Wallet, blue kangaroo leather, containing wedding photograph, postage stamps and personal papers, the property of Sig D.J. Scott VX 24518, Pinder please contact 2/6 Aust INF AA Bty.

Richard Scott
Adj. G., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy. (6)
7 Bn. H.Q.
8 C.O.
9 Hq Milne Force
10 G.M.
11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
12-13 War Diary
14 File

C 77

A.M.R. & O. 1588 BAUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCESNo. 11 aROUTINE ORDERS PART I14 Oct 42.Lt-Col. E. S. MILESCOMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

1. BEDS - HOSPITAL: Any Coy. having in its possession beds hospital, mattresses hospital, or pillows kapok, will return all such articles forthwith to Q.M. for despatch to Ordnance.

2. SECURITY: To prevent any possibility of the enemy gaining identification from mail, all personnel will immediately destroy envelopes and wrappers on receipt of personal mail. Stamps and contents may be retained provided that the letter contains no indication of addressee's Unit.

FIELD GENERAL COURT MARTIALPUBLICATION of RESULT OF TRIAL

<u>Nature of Court</u>	Field General Court Martial
<u>Place of Trial</u>	HQ Milne Force
<u>Member tried</u>	Q 22349 Pte. SKINNER G. H. - 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.
<u>First charge</u>	Absenting himself without leave from 2000 hrs on 9 May 42 until 1100 hrs on 10 May 42 (Army Act Sec 15 (1))
<u>Second charge</u>	Whilst under open arrest absenting himself without leave from 11 May 42 until 0640 hrs on 15 Jul 42 (Army Act Sec 15 (1))
<u>Finding</u>	Guilty on both charges
<u>Sentence</u>	To undergo Field Punishment for 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay during this period.
<u>Date of sentence</u>	2 October 42
<u>Confirmation</u>	Finding and sentence confirmed by Maj-Gen C.A. Clowes, D.S.O., M.C., Comd Milne Force
<u>Date of confirmation</u>	6 October 42
<u>Date & place of Promulgation</u>	13 October 42 Milne Bay

Ashford
Lieut.,
Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy (6)
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11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
12-13 War Diary
14 file

A.M.R. & O. 1583 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 12 a

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

22 Oct 42.

Lt-Col. R. S. MILNE

COMMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN

1. RESERVE SUPPLY OF QUININE: Each man will be responsible for obtaining and keeping in his haversack, an air tight tobacco tin in which to carry his seven days reserve supply of quinine tablets, during an operation.
A small issue of cotton wool will be made when the tablets are issued.
C.O. Coys will advise when all men in their Coy are in possession of small air tight tobacco tins.
2. CONSERVATION OF QUININE SUPPLIES: The greatest care must be taken in the storage and issue of quinine tablets.
3. PAYBOOKS - HOSPITAL CASES: Coys will ensure that all personnel have their pay books in their possession when evacuated to hospital.
4. POSTAL: Airmail letter cards: - These are now available. Issue will be on basis of two per man per week and postage thereon, per airmail, is 1 penny.
Stamps & Postal Notes: - These are on sale at Base & Field Post Office and the practice of endorsing letters 'No stamps available' is to be discontinued. Surface mail letters to Australia are carried free of post if marked on top of the envelope 'on Active Service'. Airmail letters cost 3d. per half ounce.
Registered Articles: These will only be accepted up to 14 ounces and under no circumstances will parcels over this weight be registered.
Telegrams: - Personnel are advised that owing to strict censorship SERIOUS DELAYS are inevitable in the delivery of telegrams to and from this Force.
5. GRAVEL FOR ROAD REPAIRS: It has been noted that gravel for road etc. repairs is being removed from river beds and causing diversion of streams, and in some cases endangering fords.
In future no gravel will be removed without prior permission from HQ RAE, through Bn. H.Q.
6. MALARIA CONTROL MEASURES: Each Coy. Comd. will be responsible for anti-malarial work in his area.
He will ensure that:-
(i) Mosquito or sandfly nets are used throughout the night by all ranks not on duty.
(ii) Anti-mosquito cream (when available) will be applied to exposed portions of the body after dusk.
(iii) From dusk to sunrise all ranks wear slacks with boots and anklets; web, gaiters, S.D. or puttees, and long sleeved shirts buttoned at wrist and neck. The prohibition of wearing shorts, or shirts not buttoned at the wrist and neck will be rigidly enforced.
- All ranks are warned that any contravention of these instructions will be dealt with by strong disciplinary action.
7. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: All ranks are advised that Lieut. G. F. Leadbetter, T. O. of this Unit, is NOT the author of an article on this area, appearing in a recent issue of the 'Telegraph' newspaper.
8. MALARIA - HOSPITAL CASES: All personnel evacuated to hospital suffering from malaria, must have such illness entered in their paybooks by the M.O. of the hospital, before their return to Unit. This is important.
9. LOST: Hat - khaki, fur, in vicinity of Force HQ. Name 'L.H. Webb' stamped on leather sweat band. Finder return to Camp Comd. HQ Milne Force.

L.H. Webb
Lieut.,
Actg. Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy (6)
7 Bn. H.Q. 10 Q. M.
8 C. O. 11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
9 HQ Milne Force 12-13 War Diary
14 File

A.E.R. & O. 1588 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

no. 13 a

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

27 Oct 42

Lt-Col. E. S. MILNE

COMDQ. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

1. SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE: A sec 2/2 Aust Fd Butchery is established and they are the ONLY personnel authorised to kill beasts for meat.
The indiscriminate slaughter of cattle as now practised by some tps will cease forthwith.
2. PILFERING OF COMFORTS: During the night 22/23 Oct 42, a large quantity of cigarettes, tobacco, writing paper, pens, pencils and ink and other comforts were pilfered from a truck between the wharf and the Aust Comforts Fund store.
These comforts were part of a shipment from the Australian Comforts Fund which was sufficient to provide for distribution to all members of the Force.
The Force Comd is gravely concerned at the apparent disregard of some members of the Force for the welfare and comfort of their comrades and he feels that all ranks will join with him in condemning this despicable action and will make every endeavour to ensure that the thieves are apprehended and punished.
3. PERSONNEL FOR CONCERT PARTY: Suitable personnel are needed for Milne Force Concert Party.
Nominations, with particulars, should be sent to Bn. H.Q., when necessary action will be taken, with the proper authorities.
4. COMFORTS - A. C. F.: On 25 Oct 42, the following comforts, received from the A.C.F., were distributed to members of this Unit and were much appreciated:-
- | | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 751 | Writing pads |
| 575 | Pkts envelopes |
| 1502 | Pkts of chewing gum |
| 188 | Tins of beet polish |
| 751 | Cake's Toilet soap |
| 751 | ozs tobacco (pipe and cigarette) |
5. AMENITIES - (SALVATION ARMY:
(Y. M. C. A. : From time to time members have received writing paper and envelopes from these associations, and this has been much appreciated, also.
Various games, distributed by the Y.M.C.A., are gratefully acknowledged, and same are in constant use during leisure hours.

Arthur
Lieut.,
Actg. Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

One copy per Coy(6)
7 Bn H.Q.
8 C. O.
9 HQ Milne Force
10 Q. M.
11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
12-13 War Diary
14 File

COPY

25 Aust Inf Bn Unit.

PART D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W. 3009.

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths			Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks			Height Takers			Riveters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors			Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons			Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.		2	Tinsmiths		
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics		10	Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators			Miners			Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant			Moulders			Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units			Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers			Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C			Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters			General Duties		6
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)		10			2			6

Notes—(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

25 Aust Inf Bn
Unit.

(Sgd) L.S. Miles Lt. Col
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 30/10/42

7 Aust Inf Bn
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

22 FEB 1943

R.L.O. Milne Bay

438v

16.12.42

Army Form C. 2170
(adapted)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

1 Nov 42

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

To 30 Nov 42

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 1	0600	Fine, hot day. Scattered cumulus clouds.	
		1000	Lt-Col. Miles, Maj Webster and Capt. Williamson (R.M.O.) set out on recce of area between Junct Routes 2 & 5 and WEHURIA CK to select possible site for Bn. H.Q. They were unsuccessful in finding a suitable position, as area is low-lying, unhealthy and not tactically sound.	
			Party then continued to 61 Bn HQ at BOBS HOUSE and were the guests of that Unit for dinner. The high ground EAST of WEHURIA Ck along its banks, at the NORTHERN end of No 3 Strip, was then recce'd for its tactical possibilities. The party then proceeded to GURNEY Field and on to No2 Strip at WAIGANI, to assess the tactical possibilities of the approaches to the area from the direction of MULLINS HARBOUR, and to gain a better idea of the present locality of units in the whole area.	
			Changeover of posns commenced at 0700 hrs and by 1000 hrs, 'A' Coy had handed over the defs of GURNEY FIELD to 'D' Coy of 2/9 Bn and by 1600 hrs the following changes had taken place, and L/T comm established with new Coy HQs. :-	
			'D' Coy had taken over the def of No 3 Strip from 'A' Coy 61 Bn.	
			'B' Coy had withdrawn No 11 pl under Lieut. Morrison, from Route 1 to WEHURIA Ck Salient to protect MG posn of 21 pl under Lieut. Harris.	
			'A' Coy had taken up new posn - incl NEW WHARF to incl Route 1 and LAU LAU IS.	
			One sec carrier-MMG withdrawn from GURNEY FIELD into mobile res.; were in posn covering XXXX switch wire 24 Fd Coy area and Route 8 respectively, and one det mortars were in res, from same source, with HQ Coy.	
			This made the Coy frontages in beach defs as follows:-	

(Large handwritten scribble in blue ink, possibly "2/9")

(Handwritten signature)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2115
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
Milne Bay	Nov 1		'D' Coy - No 3 Strip to excl WEHURIA CK, with support of 61Bn MMG.		
			'B' Coy - incl WEHURIA CK to excl NEW WHARF, with 21 Pl MMG and 1 det mortars in support.		
			'A' Coy - incl NEW WHARF to incl Route 1 and LAU LAU IS., with 19 Pl MMG and one det mortars in support, and 20 Pl MMG on LAU LAU IS.		
			'C' Coy - Excl Route 1 to excl LADAVA MISSION, with one sec Carrier-MMG and one det mortars in support.		
	" 2	1115		Church parades conducted at Bn HQ for R.C. and O.P.D.	
		0600		Day showery, following storm during night. Several heavy thunder showers during the day with periods of sunshine between.	
		0600-1200		Ships working parties of 50 men engaged shifting stores and amm in Factory area.	
		0730		Lieut. Jessen of 24 Fd Coy Engrs arrived to inspect storage of A/Tk mines.	
		0800		Sgt. V. Sullivan of Tpt transferred to 'D' Coy as C.S.M. (W.O.II) Lieut. R. McDonald called to Bn. H.Q. as I.O. to replace Lieut McInnes who was seconded to 7 Inf Bde as I.O. Lieut. C. Leadbetter transferred from T.O. to Pl. Comd of 19 Pl, - originally a MMG Offr - to replace Lieut. McDonald.	
		0930		Advice received per sig that 6 portable beach lights had been allotted to 25 Bn and were ready for delivery.	
1215		Bde. Comd called (per L.O.) for a report by 1700 hrs on suggested posns for beach lights. The report also called for the no of very pistols and flares available along the defs, and the amount of barbed wire required to complete the def scheme.			
1730 1730		This info was collected and collated by Maj Webster. Coys. were engaged during the day settling in to new areas. Bde. Comd made appointment with Lt. Col Miles for 0900 hrs 3 Nov at GILI GILI JETTY to discuss beach lights.			

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 2	1930	A beach light tried out in BN HQ area to test power and beam.	
		2000	QM (Capt. O'Neill) reported quantity of weapons, incl 5 A/Tk rifles and amm, being allotted the Unit.	
	" 3	0600 0900	Fine day following storm at night. Scattered thunder clouds. Lt. Col. Miles kept appointment with Bde. Comd, and tentative posns for beach lights suggested by C.O. were agreed to and the lights so placed and personnel instructed in their use. To test their efficiency a display was arranged by for the G.O.C., Maj-Gen. C.A. Clowes DSO, MC, and all units interested for 2030 hrs. The lights were placed as follows:— No 1- LAU LAU IS xxx . No 2- LAU LAU Is ref 046989; No 3- immediately EAST of mouth of LAUIAM Ck ref 031988; No 4 NORTH of foundations of new bridge (Ponton wharf area) ref 044995; No 5 - rear of NEW WHARF ref 053995; No 6 - at large tree 450 yds EAST of NEW WHARF ref 058995 (All refs given see Milne Bay Prov 2" - 2nd edition) The test showed lights 1,2,3 and 6 to be well situated, the other two being too low and consequently their beams were obstructed. Boats taking part in the display were easily picked up and held, to make excellent targets for bofors and MMG. A system of flare signals controlled the lights but an illuminating flare used also lit up an entire area to such an extent as to make excellent targets for an enemy.	
		1525 1537	Raid Alert but nothing eventuated. All Clear given.	
	" 4	0600 0900	Scattered clouds - later fine, hazy day. B.M.G.O. (Maj. Weppner) and L.O. (Lieut. Abernethy) made appointment with C.O. and O.C.'A' Coy, to meet at GILI GILI JETTY to discuss beach light positions and MMG posts EAST of NEW WHARF, preparatory to the Bde. Comd's visit at 1100 hrs. A new line of fencing on beach side of Route 1 in this area was sited; all available men given tasks in clearing the area of stumps and of erecting the wire.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2113
(adapted)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
Milne Bay	Nov 4	1030	Air Raid 'Red'		
		1110	All Clear without any interruptions.		
		1115	Nominations were called by Staff Capt. for an Offr and capable N.C.O. to attend jungle course at N.G.Tng Centre, Port Moresby from 9 to 29 Nov 42. Lieut. R. Schlyder and Sgt. Hart were selected.		
			2106	Movement order for air movement at 0630 hrs 5 Nov, of N.C.Os. to southern schools. Cpl. Rich(F.S.S.Course) and W.O.Sullivan and L/Sgt Zerner reported at air field.	
			1800	Trial of No 5 beach light in new posn co-ordinated with MMG task.	
		" 5	0500-1200	Working party of 100 men supplied - 50 to Ord dump, old canteen site and 50 to A.O.D. near Waigani.	
			0600	Fine day.	
			0900-1200	By arrangement with B.M.G.O.(Maj. Weppner), Maj Hodge (O.C. Arty Bty) and Lt.Col.Miles, an alternative posn for a beach light between 25 pdr and bofor in 15 Pl area, was reconitred, and posns for MMG in 19 Pl area sited covering new road and wire along Route 1 between New WHARF and GILI GILI JETTY, and front of 15 Pl, 25 pdr and bofor in the area WEST of GILI GILI JETTY.	
				Wiring and clearing continued in all areas. Pnr Pl were engaged in blowing coconut trees and stumps obstructing lines of fire in 19 Pl area, and wiring along Route 1 on beach front continued.	
			2000	A trial of beach lights for 2000 hrs again arranged, but cancelled by Bde Comd, who was unable to be present.	
		" 6	0600	Fine day.	
			0600-1300	Normal work continued.	
			Maj. Webster (2 i/c) and Adj. engaged in preparation of Bn tactical exercise for a day to be allotted.		
		1530	Pay drawn for those who had need of funds and arrangements made to finance the Unit canteen from Unit Trust A/c, to allow of its wider operation for the benefit of the tps.		
		1600	Recce of suggested new BNHQ position between Route 6 and WEHURIA Ck. posn was found suitable and approval from Bde for immediate movement, sought.		

[Handwritten Signature]

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2148
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 6	1910	1 offr (Lieut. D. Marlton) and 7 O/Rs marched in from Milneforce Reception camp, returning from schools and hospitals. Lieut. Marlton had been att as M.T. Instr to No 1 Army Tng School, Cabarlah to which (as N.C.T.S.) he had been seconded some time ago on his return, with outstanding results, from a course at Army School of Mechanisation, Seymour.	
	" 7	0600	Day fine, with usual summer haze found in this area. Lt-Col. Miles, Maj. Webster and Capt. Just (O.C. 'E' Coy) together with the I.O. (Lieut. McDonald), made a recce of the proposed Bn. HQ area on WEST bank of WEHURIA Ck, to allot positions to the various sec of Bn HQ, 'HQ' and 'E' Coys	
		1142	Pnr Pl were engaged in improving the entrance to Route 6. Maj. Mahoney (B.M.) verbally informed the Adjt. that posn selected was NOT approved by Bde Comd, and that he would meet Lt-Col. Miles at junct Routes 2 and 5 at 1600 hrs.	
			As a result of this conference the area to be occupied was in the vicinity of junct Routes 2 and 5, 100 yds from American Air Force bomb dump area.	
		1640	A Warning Order given by the B.M. that one pl was required to go on patrol to EAST CAPE. The pl comd selected was to receive his orders from B.M. at 1900 hrs.	
		1900	Lieut. Morrison, was Pl. Comd selected as his was the only Pl not committed to front line beach def. His orders were to proceed to WALALALA by boat at 0500 hrs next day and to search for 8 japs reported by natives to be in that vicinity. They were reported to be fed and looked after by the half-caste wife of a former jap planter of the area who had been interned in the early part of the war.	
			A.N.G.A.U. were co-operating by providing a guide. patrol was to be picked up at 0900 hrs 11 Nov 42.	

[Signature]

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
Milne Bay	Nov 8	0600	Fine day		
		0930	Capt. Frith, Padre to 2/6 Bn, conducted O.P.D. Church parade at Bn. H.Q.		
		1115	Capt. Rosenskjar, 25 Bn Padre, conducted R.C. Church parade at Bn. H.Q.		
		1000-1300	Offrs from Bn. H.Q., Q.M., O.S.C. Coys., carried out a recon of new Bn HQ area, junction Routes 2 & 5, and areas were allotted to Bn.HQ, Q.M. and staff, 'HQ' Coy (Mortars, Pnrs, Tpt).		
		1400-1700	Maj. Webster laid out the tentage of Bn HQ. Preparatory work carried out by personnel in new area, in preparing road circuit and tent sites.		
		0800-1630	Working parties supplied for road work - 30 men under Lt. Baker to AWADUMA Ck area, Route 1. 25 men under Lieut. Collins to 61 Bn, Route 12 ref 045003. 30 men under Lieut. Steele to 2/1 Pnrs at old Canteen site.		
		" 9	0500	Patrol to EAST CAPE left on time - 29 All ranks and Sgt. Price of 2/9 Bn as guide and 2 native policemen.	
			0600	Fine, clear day	
			0800	Shift of Bn HQ commenced. 'HQ' and 'E' Coys still preparing their posns.	
			1000	Bn HQ established new area - junct Routes 2 & 5 - ref 048003	
	0800-1630	Normal Coy work proceeding in respective areas. 'A' Coy continued wiring of Route 1.			
" 10	0500	Overcast and cloudy			
		0900-1200	Heavy rain		
		1130-1400	'HQ' Coy and 'E' Coy establishing new HQs, adjacent Bn HQ. Normal work continued in Coy. areas.		
			Postal Cpl engaged collecting and distributing large quantity (90 chaff bags) of class II mail matter. Mail is always very welcome here.		

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118

(adapted)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 11	0135	<p>Patrol from EAST CAPE, under Lieut. Morrison, reported back, with half-caste native woman in custody, to GILI GILI JETTY. Tpt arranged to return them to Coy area. patrol had not succeeded in locating the 2 Japs reported. Party had immediately crossed to North Coast on landing at point $\frac{1}{2}$ hour's march from WALALALA, after a troublesome boat trip. Boat used developed engine trouble which held them up after leaving AHIOMA. Lying-to in the swell caused many of the party to develop 'Mal de mer' and deprived the patrol of one of their two S.Bs. for the rest of the patrol, as he was too ill to proceed, upon landing. The native tracks in the area were wide and well cared for, and were suitable for marching two abreast at 4 m.p.h.. Highest point in crossing was approx 500 ft. Several villages were clearly visible from small knoll - 50 yds EAST of track at highest point. Tps were kept out of sight whilst these were examined through binoculars. Native policeman was used as a scout, and had excellent knowledge of procedure. As nothing of suspicious nature was seen from ridge crest, each village in turn was searched without result. Americans in Spotters Stn in vicinity were contacted, but they had not heard of any Japs being in the vicinity, though they had been spending their periods off duty making searches for stragglers. The only point confirmed was that half-caste woman was in the area. On second day, patrol spent half searching same area again, other half searching SOUTHERN shore. Native policeman was sent to hill villages to try to locate the woman, which he did and brought her back. On arrival at GILI GILI she was placed under charge of A.N.G.A.U.. Natives in the area treated party with their usual generosity and loaded them with paw paws, bananas and other fruits.</p>	
		0800-1730	<p>Working parties of similar nos for road construction, were supplied to same places as on 8 Nov 42.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 11	1130	Capt. Harlin (7 Bde Sig.O.) discussed sig problems with C.O. and Adjt., and made appointment for following day to go over Unit areas with 25 Bn Sig O., Lieut. Bain. Lt-Col. Miles, in this connection, stressed the need for rapid comm for beach def and control, should a sudden attack be made. The need of more phones in the unit area was stressed, as eleven Pls on beach front were without telephonic comm, leaving wide spaces in the def system where info could only be sent by runner, a means made particularly slow and hazardous owing to obstacles and difficult nature of jungle country.	
"	12	0500 0730	Day fine, but hazy. Message passed on from Milne Force, that Maj. C.S.Webster had been selected as a student to attend No 3 Course for Regt. Comds in Australia.	
		0800 1200	Lt-Co. Miles engaged in examining def posns in 'D' Coy area, and considering tactical problems arising from the development of No 3 Strip. Sig. O. and Capt. Harlan examined sig comm in bn area. Bde Comdr and B.M.Learner (Capt. McDonald) visited Bn. Hq. Adjt given orders to prepare a splinter-proof command post for C.O., and to have only such personnel as were necessary in battle in Bn HQ area. Further tentage dispersal was to receive consideration as the area was cleared of undergrowth. A def system was to be developed and wired in.	
		1200-1700	Maj C.S.Webster representing Bn at 17 Bde T.E.W.T. held on 'Plateau area' NORTH of 61 Bn HQ. The T.E.W.T. dealt with a practical problem of dislodging an enemy from this area which tactically dominates the posns of 61 Bn. The tactical lessons brought out by this exercise were passed on to the senior offrs of 25 Bn.	
		1630	Normal work on def posns continued. High tides reported to be affecting def posns on LAU IAU Is - wiring held up in several	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 12	1630	areas due to shortage of barbed wire. Removal of stumps obstruct-	
			ing fields of fire also held up, as Unit's order for 'jelly' and fuse was considered exorbitant, so was not supplied until	
	" 13	0600	certified as necessary by an examining engr.	
		0800-1730	Fine day - some storm showers during the afternoon. Sig personnel tried out visual signalling between Pls and Coys. Simple messages took 10 to 15 mins (where conditions were favourable) to pass back to Coys by this means. To adopt this method would require large number of trained personnel to operate, even if time were cut down by use of a battle	
	" 14	0800-1730	code. Working parties supplied for road construction as previously. Normal work progressing in Coy areas.	
		1200-1800 1630	Second half 17 Bde T.E.W.T. attended by Maj. Webster. Minefield laid POIN OK Spit, No 3 Strip area - SOUTHERN end to be picketed by 'D' Coy 25 Bn, and NORTHERN end by 61 Bn.	
	" 14	0800-1230	Inspection of areas by Maj Webster, and Lieut White of 24 Fd Coy Engrs, to assess quantity explosives necessary for work required in respective areas.	
			0900-1100	C. O. inspected progress of work in 'A' and 'B' Coy areas.
		1100-1300	Prepn of T.E.W.T. for Officers for 15 Nov 42.	
		1400-1750	Conference of Offrs. (1) Address by Lt-Col. E.S. Miles on matters of admn to which he wished to draw attention (2) Discussion of unit's comms and preparedness for unheralded enemy action should such occur (3) Issue of Problem 1 of unit T.E.W.T. to be prepared by 1100 hrs Sunday 15 Nov 42.	
		1930-2300	Preparation of D.S. of T.E.W.T. by 'D' Group.	
	" 15	0600	Morning fine - some showers during the day.	
		1100 & 1130	Church parades Day of rest for men. T.E.W.T. for Offrs.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 15		T.E.W.T. was a practical exercise on enemy action in WEHURIA Ck area. The three narratives gave a picture of a possible situation in its three phases, and called for the Bn Comd's appreciation, plan and orders based upon that situation in its various stages. For the purpose of the exercise the Offrs were grouped in syndicates and submitted their reasoning and solutions in writing, to Problem 1, and thereafter verbally. The three problems given proved most interesting and instructive to senior & junior Offrs alike, and there was much food for thought in each phase. As the object of the T.E.W.T. was to exercise the Offrs in a possible Coy Role, the practical lessons brought out, possessed more than usual xxxxx tactical value. The recce necessary to to exercise thoroughly familiarised every Offr with the entire area under consideration - a point valuable in itself.	
		1130	Appt made for C.O. by Bde Comd at 0900 hrs, 16 Nov 42, to parade Sgt. B.H. White of 'D' Coy, for examination for the rank of WO II. The number of cases of malaria or suspected malaria for the week ending 14 Nov was 34. The R.M.O. also warned Coy Comds of the prevalence of ear trouble caused from sea bathing and recommended the plugging of ears by all swimmers.	
	" 16	1130	Hospital ship evacuated sick necessary to return to mainland for treatment.	
		0800-1630	Work in wiring def's held up as supply of wire was exhausted. Splinter-proof battle HQ in process of construction in Bn HQ area. Normal work carried on in Coy areas, clearing of fields of fire and preparing of weapon pits. Lt-col. Miles kept appt with Bde Comd.	
	" 17	0800-1730	Weather continued hot with storm showers in the afternoon. Working parties supplied for road work - 30 to AWADUMA Ck Br on Route 1, 25 to old canteen site on Route 1, and 20 to Route 12 to repair roads under the direction of 24 Fd Coy Engrs and 2/1 Pnr Bn.	

SW

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 17	1050	Instn on camouflage issued by Lt-Col Miles, as result of aerial observation for all units of Bn, to immediately conceal all posns and to report by 1600 hrs 19 Nov on the action taken.	
	" 18	1200	Bn allotted an additional 9 beach lights to be available immediately. Posns considered suitable to be submitted 7 Bde.	
		0600	Morning cloudy and wet.	
		13 00	Concert at 'C' Coy and lecture by A.N.G.A.U. cancelled owing to inclement weather.	
			Normal defs continued in Coy areas. Recce by C.O. and 2 i/c of jungle areas adjacent Bn HQ with a view to developing a defposn there. Work allotted to the HQ staff of 'HQ' and 'E' Coys with the assistance of batmen etc of Bn HQ.	
			Lt-Col Miles and Maj Webster considering adm changes necessary through movementx of Offrs to schools	
		1950	First sightings in the area for a month - 1 cruiser 4 destroyers sighted S.W. GASMATA, destination unknown. This infm was passed on to Coy Comds and sentries warned to be alert.	
	" 19	0600	Showery weather continued. Coy clearing tasks allotted in writing, with arrangements for mutual assistance in clearing areas behind 'A' and 'C' Coys.	
		0800-1630	Normal work continued. Normal work at this period consisted of (1) wiring in section areas with wooden posts as picquets, cut from coconut trees (2) wiring fixed lines (3) building and revetting posts in swampy areas, incl alternative posns, and camouflaging them with coconut logs, earth works and turfing. (4) building defiladed posns for B.E.Ls, and constructing posns for stores, amn etc. (5) erecting bridges and culverts for access to posns AWADUMA CK area (6) Draining and gravelling roads to give rear comn to posns so that amn, rations etc could be delivered under all circs.. Roads are a problem, as unit has but one F.W.D. 3-ton veh, the only type capable of travelling the roads under all conditions.	

See

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2148
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 19		(7) maintenance of beach wire after tides and falling palms have covered them with debris. (8) Blowing of stumps of trees obstructing fixed lines for automatic weapons. (9) Sandbagging tanks for water provision. (10) Preparing alternative depth posns (11) Range practices.	
		2050	Capt. E.G. White notified that Bde Comd had selected him for Jnr Staff School, in Brisbane.	
	from 16-19		R.S.M. (WO I Barnett) conducted a course of instn in the use, maintenance and firing of 2" mortar. The weapon for instnl purposes was loaned by Bde, and a tng allotment of amn made. 1 N.C.O. and 4 men per Pl (15 per Coy) were so trained.	
			Zeroing of rifles by the Bn armourers was also continued during this period, though some delay was caused due to negative sights being inprocurable. 60% of unit rifles were found to be requiring attention and the preponderance of new sights needed were of negative type.	
	Nov 20	0600 0900	Fine morning - showery during the day. Capt. Jackson and Actg. Adj. (Lieut. Marsh) required as witnesses for G.C.M. at Force HQ dealing with contravention of security regs re the usage of green envelopes.	
		0800-1730 1630	Working parties supplied as perviously for road construction. Pay arranged for tps. Canteen stores now available through unit canteen.	
		1400	Bde. Comd. met Lt-Col Miles and conducted a tour of TURNBULL FIELD (No 3 Strip) beach defs occupied by 'D' Coy under Capt. J. Duggan.	
	" 21	1950	Advice received of still more Class II mail to hand The health state for the week disclosed that 660 out of nominal Bn strength of 880 were considered fit for duty - malaria admissions to hospital for week ending 21 Nov were 36 - no in hospital 127.	
		0600	Fine morning, but showery afternoon. - brilliant moonlight night, with King tides.	

Lee

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2113
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 21		The following changes in appts of offrs within the Bn were made:- Capt. W.J.E. Jackson to Bn 2 i/c in place of Maj Webster awaiting movement to school Capt. T. W. Mathison to be O.C. 'B' Coy in place of Capt. Jackson Capt. H.J. Fitzpatrick to be O.C. 'HQ' Coy, from 2 i/c 'B' Coy Capt. J. Foster to be 2 i/c 'D' Coy in place of Capt. E.G. White awaiting movement to school Lieut. D. Woodrow to be 2 i/c 'A' Coy in place of Capt. Foster Lieut. H. Green to be 2 i/c 'B' Coy in place of Capt. Fitzpatrick Lieut. L. Morrison to be O.C. 10 Pl in place of Lieut. Green Sgt. R. Jutsum to be O.C. 11 Pl in place of Lieut. L. Morrison.	
		0800-1630 2015	Nominal work as set out proceeded. Further sightings - 4 cruisers SOUTH of GASMATA - clear moonlight night - considerable aerial activity by our planes. Coys duly notified to be specially alert.	
	" 22	0600 1115	Clear morning - hazy later on in the day. O.P.D. and R.C. church parades Day of rest for tps. Offrs completed change-over of comds.	
		1330	Capt. E.G. White received movement order to proceed to course by 'plane leaving 1415 hrs.	
	" 23		7 Bde Sig O. notified that 1½ mls of signal cable would be made available to this Unit.	
		1000	Personnel who had volunteered for R.A.A.F. at Rollingstone, prior to movement of Bn to Operational areas, were interviewed and examined.	
	" 24	0830	The morale of the Bn remains at its satisfactory high standard. Sig school commenced to train reserve of signallers. Evacuations to mainland necessitated this action, as all specialist pls must be kept at 100% strength.	
		0900	Further R.A.A.F. applicants interviewed, and set air force aptitude tests.	

DW

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Nov 42 To 30 Nov 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Nov 25		Malaria control squad/consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 2 O/Rs, carried out useful work clearing drains and low-lying areas where mosquito larvae had been breeding. Good progress noted on steel cantilever bridge over WEHURIA Crk. When completed, this bridge will obviate any delays during heavy rains.	
"	26	0830	Working parties - 3 offrs 80 O/Rs - supplied for various road works.	
		2000	In order to determine the advisability of using the adjacent Islands in Milne Bay as O.Ps., for enemy landings, a visual comm test (Lucas Lamp) was conducted in conjunction with 9 Bn. The test was supervised by Lieut. McInnes, L.O. 7 Inf Bde. Maj. Weppner, Capt. McDonald and Lieut. Abernethy returned to Unit after serving some time with 7 Inf Bde as B.M.G.O., B.M.Lr., and L.O. respectively. They took over Bn appts of O.C. 'HQ Coy., O.C. 'D' Coy. and 2 i/c 'A' Coy respectively. Capt. W. Jackson and Capt. T. Mathison were seconded to 7 Inf Bde as B.M.Lr. and S.C.Lr. respectively. Capt. Fitzpatrick returned as O.C. 'B' Coy, and Capt. Foster was transferred to 'D' Coy as 2 i/c.	
	" 27		Capt. J. Duggan (O.C. 'D' Coy) took over posn as Adjt., and Lieut. A. Marsh who had been Actg. Adjt., moved to 2 i/c 'D' Coy. Nominations were called for Jungle Tng School within the Unit, to be conducted by Lieut. Wilmott who recently rejoined this Bn after service in the Owen Stanley Ranges.	
		2000	Beach light exercise conducted to determine whether the sites chosen were suitable in so far as the beams conformed to the plan intended. Advantage was also taken, by courtesy of an AIF Bn, to try out illuminating flares with 2" mortar. This demonstration was a striking success, as an area of approx 700 yds sq. was illuminated. The high trajectory of these flares and the sea breeze blowing inshore, necessitates extreme range and high elevation being used.	

DLW

D.S. NOTES ON WORK OF SYNDICATES WITH PROBLEM 1.

OBJECT. Not sufficiently understood.

DEDUCTIONS. Quite good. Could be more concise.

COURSES. Difficulty of organising and controlling an attack with supporting fire not sufficiently appreciated. Six out of eight decided on counter-attack before dawn.

Stressed short words, simple sentences, sequence of reasoning - perfect appreciation producing the plan. Also ~~that~~ attack must not be undertaken for its own sake. Tendency for some appreciations to go too far.

D.S. NOTES ON WORK OF SYNDICATES WITH PROBLEM 2.

Some syndicates overlooked the fact that enemy, although gaining ground, had no tactical feature wherewith to widen the bridge-head. Without this objective, the initiative has definitely passed to us

Time and space not sufficiently appreciated. All attacks timed to commence too early. Must allow sufficient time to co-ordinate Arty P.O.C. and other inf. supporting arms before attack launched, enable such daylight attack to have maximum ~~power~~ fire power brought down, only using tps for clearing, mopping up and capturing.

General. Some mental appreciations far too long in detail. Essential relevant factors only required. Choice of line of attack unanimous.

Fire Plans - quite good.

NARRATIVE 2: Posn at 0500 hrs - enemy have lightly reinforced posn but have gained no further ground on S. bank ~~of~~ salient being held by 'B' Coy. However, they have reached taxi way on NORTH side without crossing it; this being due to assistance by 16 Pl of D Coy.

Enemy naval support has withdrawn from area.

C. O. decides to attack with C Coy - Arty support (one Tp) is available.

PROBLEM 2: As C.O., 25 Bn make your mental appreciation and verbal operation order for the attack.

NARRATIVE 3: Discuss Problem 2

PROBLEM 3: As O.C., C Coy give your orders to carry out **task.**

(2)

RATE OF ADVANCE. 4 minutes per 100 yds

Zero hour - not before 1000 hrs.

Final Orders - 0800 hrs, gravel pit ridge south bank WEHURIA CK
ref. 055005.

START LINE. - Horseshoe bend N.W. of sec. 21 P1 058003.

En. H.Q. - gravel ridge 055005.

R.A.P. - " " "

FIRE PLAN - see att.

Coy no 2

APPRECIATION.

OBJECT. Defence of beach 25 Bn sector.

FACTORS.

1. Relative Strengths.

- (a) Enemy - estimated at 200 landed ~~between~~ WEHURIA CK at 0200 hrs. Other landings attempted. Res. forces unknown.
- (b) Own Tps. - Four Coys (incl 2/1 Par Coy) holding line fixed defences LADAVA MISSION excl to No.3 strip incl 6 Coy; No.6 Mortar Det. and 1 carrier sec. in res. route 2, Awaduma Ck area.

Ded. On present Nos (now without naval support) should hold until enemy rush until dawn - approx. 3 hrs.

2. Weapons. Rifles, Tommy guns, Light and medium automatics, grenades and Mortars about equal.

Arty superiority
Air superiority.

Ded. We have fire superiority, particularly in daylight.

3. Ground. (In sector forced) - Wehuria Ck, both banks from beach have gentle rising ground lightly covered with ferns and palms. North bank slightly indented by dry watercourse with light timber and high grass back to dispersal bay.

Ded. Enemy has ~~maximum~~ not yet gained any tactical feature from which he can retain the hold on his bridgehead and protect further landings whilst we hold strong commanding posns.

4. Weather. - raining - Wehuria Ck would swell and make going hard in bed of creek.

Roads would be heavy.

Ded. Equally difficult for both enemy and own tps.

5. COMMS. Enemy has sea comms with naval support. We have roads.

Ded. Reinforcements to area about equal.

6. Time and Space. It is now 0300 hrs - Daylight 05³⁰ hrs.

Ded. Sufficient time available for

- (1) enemy to reinforce bridgehead.
- (2) Our Res Coy and car. sec. to move into depth posns.
- (3) additional mortar to range on area.
- (4) Arty to range on area.

30

COURSES OPEN.

- To enemy. (1) Reinforce his present posns and exploit before dawn.
 - (2) To capture by encirclement tactical posns on salient from which to protect subsequent landings.
- Either course is likely.

over/

COURSES OPEN. (continued)

To us. (1) To C/A by res. Coy before dawn. Difficult to control with own tps on flanks, and obstacles, e.g. fences, cut timber etc. In addition full advantage could not be taken of superiority of fire power.

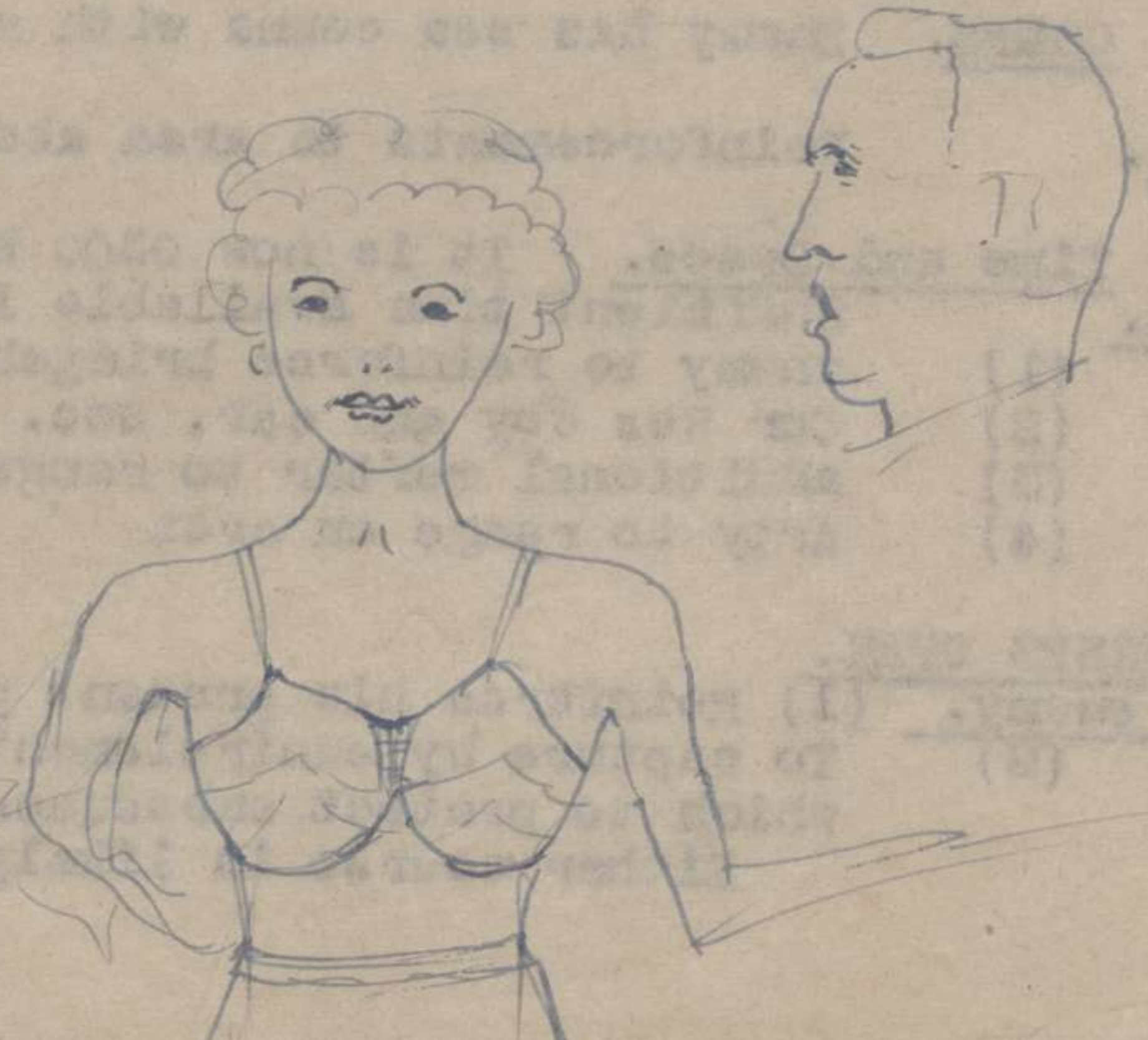
(2) To resist enemy with aid of additional Mortar and Arty fire and to strengthen defences in area by moving into a depth posn the res. coy.

I will adpot this course.

PLAN. Tasks - Mortar. - Move No.6 Mortar det into posn to bring fire to bear on enemy occupied area in co-op. with No.5 det.

Arty. Request support of Arty on def. points - area mouth of Wehuria Ck and 100 yds north and south thereof.

Move C Coy to area ref. 055005 (posns prepared for two Pls).



(B)-

FIRE PLAN. Supporting fire by B and D Coy on observation.

	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>RDS.</u>
Arty	Siege Guns area	Z-3	Zero	Normal	H.E. concentration	30

MORTARS

1	Scrub area N. bank of sal- ient.	Z-7	Z-2	Normal	H.E.	50
2	Edge Dis- persal bays	Z-2	Z		Smoke	20
3	Gravel Pit area WEHURIA CK, 250 yds from mouth	Z-1	Z+1	Normal	H.E.	20

1 Mortar det with Coy H.Q. under command.

M.H.G.	Fixed line fence + East 8 deg Thence observation R flank protection.	Z-3	Z+5	Normal		4 belts per 5 gun = 8 belts
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One Carrier sec. with Coy H.Q. under command.

ORDERS BY O.C. COY TO PL COMDS.

INFORMATION. Enemy estimated at approx. 250 holding right and left banks WEHURIA CK extending to taxi-way/and salient on south.

INTENTION. Attack and capture foreshores north bank Wehuria Ck.

METHOD. 2 Pls fwd, one in support - 15 right, No.14 left, No.15 in support, with line of axis 100 yds in rear right and gravel pit rd.

Inter-Pl Boundary incl to 14 Pl gravel pit rd.

start Line Horse-shoe bent N.E. of 21 Pl, ref. 058003

Supporting fire. Flanking Coys, Arty, Mortar, M.M.G. as per Bn fire plan. One sec. carriers moved in rear of 15 Pl, line of axis gravel pit road, one carrier to be used with Mortar and amn (mobile) smoke - see fire plan. Smoke from 2-2 to zero, enable Coy reach scrub, allowing time smoke to rise and be effective before emerging from creek.

S.T. 1000 hrs.

ADM. Coy H.Q. with 15 Pl. Carrier sec comd and Mortar det comd with Coy H.Q.

R.A.P. Gravel pit ref 058005.

Ack.

Method of issue - runner.

DISI NOTES.

Generally good. Sequence adhered to. In nearly all cases full use made of carriers.

Impressed upon all the necessity for taking advantage of Mortar as inf support weapon. Ground lent itself to use of carrier.

LESSONS FROM EXERCISE.

- (1) Vulnerability of Wehuria Ck as a highway. Weakness of no wire on North bank.
- (2) Some clearing necessary from salient to foreshores. Necessity for depth in defence north bank D Coy area to prevent enemy drive into area of dispersal bays, making housing bombers and fighters.
- (3) Necessity for doubling up on wire obstacle area of siege guns, southern bank and on north bank towards strip.
- (4) NECESSITY FOR QUICK COMM.

NOTES RECORDED IN MENTAL APPRECIATION AT 0500 HRS.

OBJECT - defence of beach - 25 Bn sector.

RELATIVE STRENGTHS - Enemy - 200 landed, lightly reinforced. Taking 10% casualties, should have left say 250. Has gained no further ground SOUTH bank, nor secured salient. Portion reached taxi-way NORTH side, held on taxi way.

Own Tps - Only change C Coy in depth. Mortar det. and Carrier sec. In close support. Ded Enemy has not gained tactical feature - initiative has passed to us.

WEAPONS. Small arms - the same
Arty - superiority.
Air - "
Daylight.

Ded. We have very effective superiority in fire power, particularly in daylight.

GROUND. Gentle rise and covered with palms and fern, and on N.bank lightly timbered and high grass.

Ded. Favours concealment of defenders during daylight.

TIME AND SPACE. Approx 14 hrs of daylight in which enemy cannot expect reinforcements.

Ded. Offers ample time for organised attack.

COURSES OPEN. 1. To enemy (1) To hold present posn until nightfall. This appears only course as enemy has not sufficient strength to do otherwise.

To us (1) Make organised attack during daylight using covered approach and taking full advantage of superiority of fire power available and fresh troops.

OUTLINE PLAN.

OBJECTIVE. Foreshores - North bank WEHURIA CK.

DIRECTION OF ATTACK 112 deg parallel to fixed line - wire on south bank towards mouth of creek.

TPS. TAKING PART - C Coy.

TPS SUPPORTING - D Coy less one Pl, 11 Pl / B Coy, 21 Pl MMB Coy,
Nos. 5 and 6 Mortar dets, Carrier sec.

ARTY - one tp

over/

(2)

RATE OF ADVANCE. 4 minutes per 100 yds

Zero hour - not before 1000 hrs.

Final Orders - 0800 hrs, gravel pit ridge south bank WEHURIA CK
ref. 055005.

START LINE. - Horseshoe bend N.W. of sec. 21 P1 058003.

Bn. H.Q. - gravel ridge 055005.

R.A.P. - " " "

FIRE PLAN - see att.

(2)-

FIRE PLAN. Supporting fire by B and D Coy on observation.

	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>RDS.</u>
Arty	Siege Guns area	Z-3	Zero	Normal	H.E. concentration	36

MORTARS

1	Scrub area N. bank ck sal- ient.	Z-7	Z-2	Normal	H.E.	50
2	Edge Dis- persal bays	Z-2	Z		Smoke	20
3	Gravel Pit area WEHURIA CK, 250 yds from mouth	Z-1	Z+1	Normal	H.E.	20

1 Mortar det with Coy H.Q. under command.

M.H.G.	Fixed line fence + East 8 deg Thence observation R flank protection.	Z-3	Z+5	Normal	-	4 belts per gun = 8 belts.
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One Carrier sec. with Coy H.Q. under command.

D.S. NOTES ON WORK OF SYNDICATES WITH PROBLEM 2.

Some syndicates overlooked the fact that enemy, although gaining ground, had no tactical feature wherewith to widen the bridge-head. Without this objective, the initiative has definitely passed to us

Time and space not sufficiently appreciated. All attacks timed to commence too early. Must allow sufficient time to co-ordinate Arty F.O.O. and other inf. supporting arms before attack launched, enable such daylight attack to have maximum ~~power~~ fire power brought down, only using tps for clearing, mopping up and capturing.

General. Some mental appreciations far too long in detail. Essential relevent factors only required. Choice of line of attack unanimous.

Fire Plans - quite good.

ORDERS BY O.C. COY TO PL COMDS.

INFORMATION. Enemy estimated at approx. 250 holding right and left banks WAHURIA CK extending to taxi-way/and salient on south.

INTENTION. Attack and capture foreshores north bank Wahuria Ck.

METHOD. 2 Pls fwd, one in support - 13 right, No.14 left, No.15 in support, with line of axis 100 yds in rear right and gravel pit rd.

Inter-Pl Boundary incl to 14 Pl gravel pit rd.

Start Line Horse-shoe bent N.W. of 21 Pl, ref. 058003

Supporting fire. Planking Coys, Arty, Mortar, M.M.G. as per Bn fire plan. One sec. carriers moved in rear of 15 Pl, line of axis gravel pit road, one carrier to be used with Mortar and amm (mobile) Smoke - see fire plan. Smoke from Z-2 to zero, enable Coy reach scrub, allowing time smoke to rise and be effective before emerging from creek.

S.T. 1000 hrs.

ADM. Coy H.Q. with 15 Pl. Carrier sec comd and Mortar det comd with Coy H.Q.

R.A.P. Gravel pit ref 055005.

Ack.

Method of issue - runner.

DISI NOTES. Generally good. Sequence adhered to. In nearly all cases full use made of carriers.

Impressed upon all the necessity for taking advantage of Mortar as inf support weapon. Ground lent itself to use of carrier.

LESSONS FROM EXERCISE.

- (1) Vulnerability of Wahuria Ck as a highway. Weakness of no wire on North bank.
- (2) Some clearing necessary from salient to foreshores. Necessity for depth in defence north bank D Coy area to prevent enemy drive into area of dispersal bays, making housing bombers and fighters.
- (3) Necessity for doubling up on wire obstacle area of siege guns, southern bank and on north bank towards strip.
- (4) NECESSITY FOR QUICK COMM.

NOTES RECORDED IN MENTAL APPRECIATION AT 0500 HRS.

SUBJECT - defence of beach - 25 Bn sector.

RELATIVE STRENGTHS - Enemy - 200 landed, lightly reinforced. Taking 10% casualties, should have left say 250. Has gained no further ground SOUTH bank, nor secured salient. Portion reached taxi-way NORTH side, held on taxi way.

Own Tps - Only change C Coy in depth. Mortar det. and Carrier sec. in close support. ^{See} Enemy has not gained tactical feature - initiative has passed to us.

WEAPONS. Small arms - the same
Arty - superiority.
Air - "
Daylight.

Ded. We have very effective superiority in fire power, particularly in daylight.

GROUND. Gentle rise and covered with palms and fern, and on N.bank lightly timbered and high grass.

Ded. Favours concealment of defenders during daylight.

TIME AND SPACE. Approx 14 hrs of daylight in which enemy cannot expect reinforcements.

Ded. Offers ample time for organised attack.

COURSES OPEN. 1. To enemy (1) To hold present posn until nightfall. This appears only course as enemy has not sufficient strength to do otherwise.

To us (1) Make organised attack during daylight using covered approach and taking full advantage of superiority of fire power available and fresh troops.

OUTLINE PLAN.

OBJECTIVE. Foreshores - North bank WEHURIA CR.

DIRECTION OF ATTACK 112 deg parallel to fixed line - wire on south bank towards mouth of creek.

TPS. TAKING PART - C Coy.

TPS SUPPORTING - D Coy less one Pl, 11 Pl, B Coy, 21 Pl MHC Coy, Nos. 5 and 6 Mortar dets, Carrier sec.

ARTY - one tp

over/

DISTRIBUTION: One Copy per Coy (6)

- 7 Bn HQ
- 8 C.O.
- 9 HQ Milne Force
- 10 G.M.
- 11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 12-13 War Diary
- 14 File

Robert

A.M.R. & O. 1588 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 15 a

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

6 Nov 42

Lt-Col. R. S. MILES

COMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

1. T.S.M.G. - SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: The practice of carrying T.S.M.G. with box magazine fitted and actuator in fwd posn is dangerous as an accidental bump of the butt on the ground may cause the actuator and bolt to rebound far enough to engage a round, carry it into the breech and fire the gun. The action should be cocked and the safety catch applied. Carried in this way the gun can be more quickly brought into action.
2. CARE AND PRESERVATION OF NETS MOSQUITO AND TENTS: Great care is to be exercised in the preservation of all mosquito nets and tents in the area, as only very small replacement stocks will be available in the future. Boys will ensure that nets are carefully dried out to prevent deterioration by moisture, and Pl Comds will make regular inspections to ensure that small tears are repaired.
3. SECURITY: To prevent any possibility of the enemy gaining identification from mail, all personnel will immediately destroy envelopes and wrappers on receipt of personal mail. Stamps and contents may be retained provided that the letter contains no indication of addressee's Unit.
4. PILFERING OF COMFORTS: See 25 Aust. Inf. Bn R.O. Part I No 13a para 2.
5. JAP EXPLOSIVES AND SHELLS: All tps are warned that many JAP shells and grenades have sensitive fuzes and explosive fillings and are dangerous to handle. Tps are forbidden to keep live shells, grenades, or explosives or to attempt to de-fuze them. Special lng is required to render these harmless and Armourers must NOT be called upon to do this work.
6. PARCEL RATES: Members are responsible for stamping their own parcels.
- | | | | | | | |
|-------|------|---|-----|------------------------|---|-----|
| Cost: | 1 lb | - | 6d | Over 3 lbs up to 5 lbs | - | 1/3 |
| | 2 " | | 9d | " 5 lbs " " 8 lbs | - | 1/6 |
| | 3 " | | 1/- | " 8 lbs " " 11 " | - | 1/9 |
7. COURTS MARTIAL:
- Pte. Soldier:- Absenting himself without leave from 2359 hrs on 15 May to 1200 hrs on 7 Aug 42.
SENTENCE: To undergo detention for a period of 6 months.
- Pte. Soldier:- Committing a civil offence, that is forgery in that he at Milne Force HQ on 10 Oct 42 with intent to deceive, forged the name of a censorship franking Officer to an envelope.
SENTENCE: To undergo imprisonment with hard labour for 6 months.
- Pte. Soldier:- Absenting himself without leave from 0600 hrs on 20 Mar 42 until 1614 hrs on 7 Jul 42, and losing by neglect his regt. necessities
SENTENCE: To undergo field punishment for 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay during that period.
- Pte. Soldier:- Absenting himself without leave from 2200 hrs on 2 Apr 42 to 2200 hrs on 24 Jul 42.
SENTENCE: To undergo detention for a period of 6 months.

R. S. Miles
Lieut.,
Actg. Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy (6)
7 Bn. H.Q.
8 C. O.,
9 HQ Milne Force
10 CM
11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde
12-13 War Diary
14

A.M.R. & O. 1588 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 16 a

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

10 Nov 42.

Lt-Col. E. S. MILES

COMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

1. SALUTING: Attention is especially directed to GRO A198 which reads:-

"(1) W.Os., N.C.Os. and private soldiers in uniform shall salute an officer at all times except when passing or being passed by him:-

- (i) In a crowded thoroughfare or assembly; or
- (ii) During an exercise in the field; or
- (iii) when on parade under the immediate control of a superior; or
- (iv) when precluded by the nature of their duties from so doing.

This amendment will be anticipated and effect given thereto forthwith.

All ranks will be instructed accordingly.

(2) In view of the number of officers who have been recently commissioned, care must be taken to ensure that they fully understand the implications of the provisions concerning saluting.

All Officers are to salute their seniors before addressing them on duty or on parade. When not on duty or parade officers under field rank are to salute all officers of field rank and upwards. General officers and field officers are to salute their superiors in rank.

(3) Officers are to salute officers in any of His Majesty's Naval or Air Forces and of the Allied Naval, Military or Air Forces, in accordance with para 2".

Provisions of the above GRO are to be strictly adhered to, and any breach thereof will be dealt with by suitable disciplinary action.

2. STERILISATION OF WATER: It is the responsibility of the RAE to purify and provide water in sufficient quantities for the use of tps.

AAMC personnel are NOT available for bulk sterilisation of water but the specialist facilities of the Medical Service are available at all times on application through normal channels.

3. DUTIES OF BDE. AND UNIT HYGIENE PERSONNEL: Instn on this is available at Bn. H Q. for all Officers to read.

4. POSTAL: It has come under notice that in many instances matches are being included in parcels forwarded to tps. This is an infringement of Postal regs. and must cease forthwith. There is not only the danger of the bag of mail being destroyed but of causing a fire on board ship during voyage and endangering the lives of those on board.

The practice of forwarding green coconuts to Australia is forbidden. They are liable to break and the contents to run over other parcels in the mail bag, thus causing damage.

5/ TELEGRAMS: Complaints are being received regarding delay in telegrams. This matter has already been emphasised through R.Os. that on account of strict censorship on the mainland, delays both to and from this Force are inevitable, and, with heavy Christmas traffic, considerable delays are expected.

6. COURTMARTIAL: Pte. Soldier: When a soldier acting as sentinel on active service sleeping on his post in that he at A Heavy Bty Mione Force on 7 Oct 42, at approx 2345 hrs, when sentry on No 2 gun was asleep (A.A. Sec 6 (2) (o)).

SENTENCE: To undergo detention for 9 months.

7. OVERLOADING M.T.: Boggging of vehs during the recent wet weather was caused principally by vehs being grossly overloaded.

Damage to both roads and vehs result, apart from hold-up to other traffic. All loads in future will be restricted to the size and type of veh used.

8. LOST: Italian Postal Box marked 'S Sup. O. Records' serial No 61394.

Any person or unit knowing the whereabouts will communicate with 3 Aust Base Supply Depot.

(OVER)

"SOLDIERING ON": Produced by the Australian Army for publication in December 1942, this book will contain 200 pages bound in cloth, and will include 56 full pages of reproductions (16 in colour) of the paintings and drawings by the official war artists, and photographs, many of which are published for the first time, and many other illustrations.

Price to Members of the Australian Army - 5/6

The book contains accounts of the Australians' share in the campaigns in Malaya, Middle East and South-West Pacific. Articles, sketches and drawings, humorous and otherwise, have been contributed by members of the Forces.

This book may be sent to a soldier himself, relatives, friends at home or to any address in the United Kingdom, other parts of the British Empire, Middle East, U.S.A., or elsewhere without any increase in price.

The books will be insured against loss or damage while in transit within the Commonwealth, and delivery is guaranteed.

This publication may be ordered through Pay Sgt when necessary order forms are available.

Richard
Lieut.,
Actg. Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy (6)
7 Bn.H.Q.
8 C.O.
9 HQ Milne Force
10 Q.M.
11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
12-13 War Diary
14 File

9. VEHICLE TAIL BOARDS: Vehicles frequently travel with tail boards swinging free. This results in distortion of body work and damage to hinges and tail board, and the practice will be discontinued.

Should a load be such as to prevent the closing up of the tailboard the latter must be secured in a horizontal position with the chains provided or by ropes.

LOST: Paybook: Q 103468 Pte. PLATZ W.H. - lost vicinity Lauiam Ck near Factory. Finder to return to Bn. H.Q.

Paybook. QX 34427 Lieut. D.E. Woodrow - lost between Slaughter House and vicinity Factory. Finder to return to Bn. H.Q.

Richard

Lieut.,
Actg. Adjt., 25 Aust Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy. (6)
7 Bn. H.Q.
8 C. O.
9 HQ Milne Force
10 Q.M.
11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
12-13 War Diary
14 File

A.F.R. D.O. 1588 E

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 18 a

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

19 Nov 48.

Lt-Col. R. S. MILES

GOWD. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

1. TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE - APPROVING AUTHORITIES:

Travelling allowance claims submitted by students attending schools may be certified by the Chief Instructor as the approving authority in lieu of Commander E of G Area or A.G.N.S.

2. SECURITY OF INFORMATION: A number of our army maps, aerial photographs and documents were recently found in a forward area abandoned or mislaid by our forces. Information contained in some of these would have been of great value to the enemy.

An inspection of used envelopes, personal mail and a file of Bn. sq's found in another area disclosed the identity of, and such information concerning, the unit which had recently vacated the site.

This constitutes a serious breach of security instructions and gives away information of great value.

Care is to be exercised in ensuring that all unnecessary documents, maps, photographs and personal letters are destroyed by fire, and that those documents etc necessarily retained will be kept in a safe place.

We rely on exactly this kind of negligence on the part of the enemy for a great deal of our information. The most trivial neglect often gives us considerable help. All ranks are warned to assist our intelligence by collecting and handing in material of this kind, and to confound the enemy intelligence by destroying any information which may be of value to him.

3. GREEN ENVELOPES: serious evasion of censorship has been revealed as a result of recent selective censoring of green envelopes. The number of personnel who use green envelopes legitimately are in the minority compared with those who mention such forbidden subjects as troop movements, casualties, adverse reports on morale etc.

A.F.C.L. No 12 covers their use and function simply and clearly whilst instructions on the envelope itself are direct and unmistakable in their meaning. These instructions are obviously not being read, or, if they are, they are being disregarded.

The following points are produced as a reminder and guide:-

- (i) Green envelopes will NOT be used by officers.
- (ii) They are a privilege granted ONLY TO OTHER RANKS and will NOT be used at any time, either to evade censorship within the Unit or to relieve officers from franking duties.
- (iii) They are intended as a medium of privacy within the Unit only, and will NOT be used for any purpose other than transmission of personal and family matters.
- (iv) The green envelopes or contents will not be franked or censored within the Unit but will bear the imprint of the Unit censor stamp on the cover.
- (v) The declaration on the bottom left hand corner of the envelope, certifying contents as personal or family matters only, will be clearly and legibly signed, and is as binding as a legal oath.

Severe penalties will be enforced where green envelopes are found to violate any instr in A.F.C.L. 22, and already quite a number have been referred back to writers' Unit for disciplinary action.

4. HYGIENE: Opened and partially used tins of jam, butter and other foodstuffs must NOT be allowed to remain on or in the vicinity of Mess tables between meals. All tins once opened will be placed under cover from flies etc., in improvised safes or fly-proof boxes.**5. SUPPLY WARE:**

AASC dumps and depots are out of bounds to ALL personnel not on duty. Contravention of this order will result in disciplinary action being taken against offenders.

R. Howard
Lieut.,
Actg. Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: one copy per Coy (6)

7 Bn. H.Q.	10 G.H.
8 HQ C. C.	11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde.
9 HQ Mine Force 12-13 War Diary	14 File

A.M.R. & O. 1588 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 19 &

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

25 Nov 42.

Lt-Col. E. S. MILES

COMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

1. A/GAS TNG: A high standard of A/Gas tng must be maintained in all units to ensure fighting efficiency in the presence of gas.
 Unless engaged in ops., provision will be made whenever possible for A/Gas tng, such tng to be at least two hrs weekly.
 All A/Gas eqpt held will be inspected fortnightly.
 The present hrs for tng in A/Gas work are not suitable owing to dispersal of Unit during the day on working parties etc., with the consequent damage to gas eqpt.
 It has been decided to permit Os. C., Coys to choose suitable times to allow 2 hrs A/Gas tng per week, according to particular work being performed.
 Os. C., Coys will advise Adj. of the times selected for their respective Coys.
 Results of TOET (Secs 102, 103, 104 Pam 1 PAG) will be forwarded to this H.Q. every three months - the first report to be rendered by 14 Dec 42.
2. TRADING WITH NATIVES: Natives have been brought before the District Court on charges of having Army Rations in their possession reasonably suspected of being stolen or unlawfully obtained.
 On investigation it has been found that the goods were given them by soldiers in exchange for beads etc.
 Trading with Army Rations is an offence (A.A. Sec 24 D.A. 79) and will cease forthwith.
3. MALARIA CONTROL: The following additional Malaria Control Measures will be put into effect forthwith:-
 (a) All swimming or bathing is prohibited after 1800 hrs.
 (b) Protective measures, that is, wearing of slacks, gaiters or equivalent, shirts with sleeves rolled down and use of repellent cream, will be taken from 1800 hrs to 0645 hrs.
 In this Unit the order of donning slacks etc. before the tea parade will still be enforced.
4. STERILISATION OF WATER: With the present types of water storage tanks adequate purification of water cannot take place by chlorination, with the result that water is being delivered to units inadequately treated, and therefore unsafe.
 The following procedure will be adopted in future:-
 All water will be chlorinated at the water point by adding WSP in the water trucks and tanks in the quantities dictated by the tests at the W.P.
 The water so treated will not be used within $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.
 Detasting tablets are available as an AASC issue.
5. DROPPINGS FROM CATTLE: It is observed that the droppings from cattle in the vicinity of unit lines are providing breeding grounds for flies.
 Necessary steps will be taken to keep areas clear of droppings.
6. PAY ACQUITTANCE ROLLS: Advised that when entering the amount of pay on Acquittance Rolls, the first column only, i.e. the column headed 'Total Pay' need be utilised.
7. MOBILE CINEMA UNIT: This Unit is MOBILE and will visit each locality in turn so that ALL troops will have the opportunity of seeing each programme.
 To prevent recurrence of previous incidents,
 (a) Troops from neighbouring units ONLYX will attend
 (b) Motor Transport will NOT be used.
7. CONTROL OF WHARVES & DOCK AREA: As from 23 Nov 42 no person will be permitted to enter any Wharf or Dock area controlled by Milne Force unless in possession of a written authority in the form of a pass, or unless forming part of an organised working party whose duty it is to be in such area.
 Passes will be issued by HQ Milne Force for Aust personnel and by HQ USA SOS for U.S. personnel.
 Milne Force Provost Coy will be responsible for policing this order.

(O V E R)

8. DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT OF CASUALTIES:

1. Personal eqpt (i.e. clothing, necessaries, tents mosquito, blankets, respirators, arms, web eqpt, helmet steel etc.) of casualties will be disposed of as follows:-

Personnel evacuated from Units to Field Ambulance, CCS's etc:-

ALL clothing, necessaries, helmets steel, blankets, tents mosquito, and respirators will accompany the men to the Medical Unit and during the whole period he is away from his Unit.

2. Amn on Personal Issue will be withdrawn from the man's possession before leaving Unit R.A.P.
3. Web eqpt and arms will accompany the soldier to the Medical Unit and will be disposed of as follows:-
- (a) Arms & Web eqpt or personnel rejoining Unit will be handed to them prior to evacuation from Medical Unit.
 - (b) Arms, Web Eqpt, tents mosquito and blankets or personnel being evacuated to mainland by Hospital Ship will be held at Medical Unit
 - (c) Eqpt of personnel to be evacuated by S.A.T. will be treated as in (b) above except that blankets will NOT be held.
 - (d) DOS will organise the collection of arms and web eqpt as in (b) and (c) from Medical Units weekly.
4.
5.
6. ALL personnel will be accompanied by their paybooks at ALL times.

This cancels all previous instructions.

9. CLERKS: Personnel with experience in typing and shorthand, or business experience are required at Bn. H.Q. and same will be trained to take over duties as and ~~xxx~~ when required in Trade Gp III.

Names are to be submitted to O.C.Coy, who will forward same on to Adjt..

10. AIR RAID WARNING: All previous instructions are cancelled, and the following will now be used:-

Red Alert: A long and short blast repeated three (3) times on the siren;

Paratroop Attack: A series of short blasts by the siren

All Clear: One very long blast by the siren.

Firing of rifles etc will cease forthwith;

11. SENTRIES AND AMN: Sentries will charge magazines and apply safety catch immediately before being posted and unload on being relieved. A round will NOT be loaded into the breech of the rifle.

Magazines will be charged at 'stand to' and unloaded at 'stand down'.

Rifles will NOT be left loaded, and loaded rifles or charged magazines will NOT be brought on morning check parade.

LOST: A sum of money contained in a tin match box, between Pontoon Wharf and Factory. Finder to return same to Bn. H.Q.

Respirator: belonging to Q103493 Pte. Laws H.C. Lost while travelling with other hospital evacuees in truck provided, between M.D.S. and Bn. H.Q. Finder to return same to Bn. H.Q.

Web Eqpt and 100 rnds: belonging to Pte Downes B. T. Lost while travelling with other hospital evacuees in truck provided, between M.D.S. and Bn. H.Q. Finder to return same to Bn. H.Q.

D.V. 'Phone Set: Serial No 7055. Lost vicinity junction Routes 1 and 10. Finder, or any information on this matter, to report same to Bn. H.Q.

Motor Cycle: B.S.A. No 37819, Engine No. WM20/51730. Taken from Pontoon Wharf while rider absent on Lau Lau Island. Finder or any information on the matter, to report same to Bn. H.Q.

Arthur
Lieut.,
Actg. Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy (6)

7 Bn. H.Q. 8 C.O. 9 HQ Milne Force
10 Q.M. 11 7 Aust. Inf. Bde. 12-13 War Diary
14 File

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

WE 11/12/2
36X 874
att 1 x 6

2.5 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1	-	-
Majors	2	-	1
Captains	8	-	2
Lieutenants	26	5	-
2nd Lieutenants	-	-	-
Quartermasters	1	-	-
Totals	38	5	3

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	McDonald CBK	25 Aust Inf Bn	25 Nov	Transferred from 7 Inf Bde
Maj	Wessinger R	"	27 "	" " " " "
Lieut	Wilmott DR	"	27 "	" " " " "

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	Mathison TW	25 Bn	25 Nov	To 7 Bde as Staff Capt Learner
"	Jackson WJG	"	"	" " Bn
"	White E.G.	"	"	To 7 Bde as Staff of/ra course

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Capt. Lt Col	DX 36371	Miles Ed	25 Bn	yes	C.O.
Lieut. Maj	DX 34429	Webster C S	"	"	2 Lt
Capt. Maj	DX 40579	Whisper R	"	"	OC 118 Coy
Lieut. Capt	DX 35360	Stell P	"	"	OC C Coy
"	Q 21621	Ryan B J	"	"	OC A Coy
"	DX 36184	Shogun Y B	"	"	adit
"	DX 40576	McDonald C R W	"	"	OC D Coy
"	DX 35538	Fitzpatrick H J	"	"	OC B Coy
"	DX 36183	Just M E	"	"	OC E Coy
"	Q 21948	Robinson W	"	"	2 Lt E Coy
"	DX 36181	Foster J H A	"	"	2 Lt D Coy
"	DX 33915	Shull T G	"	"	Q M
Lieut.	Q 21661	McInnes R W	"	no	at 7th Bde West O
"	DX 36185	Jellies R W	"	yes	Pl Comd F Coy
"	DX 35561	Boyle J	"	"	2 Lt C Coy
"	Q 21800	Chernethy J J	"	"	2 Lt A Coy
"	Q 21854	Marsh A W	"	"	2 Lt B Coy
"	Q 31842	Martin J H J	"	yes	Pl Comd A Coy
"	Q 21976	Baker A J	"	"	" " C "
"	DX 35559	Green H A	"	"	" " B "
"	Q 21947	Leadbetter C F	"	"	" " E "
"	Q 21810	Baker J D	"	"	" " A "
"	Q 21794	Phillips J J	"	no	at 7th Bde
"	DX 35089	Wilmott R R	"	yes	Pl Comd A Coy
"	Q 22001	Bathurst J J	"	"	" " C "
"	Q 21952	Nelson W R	"	"	" " D "
"	DX 34431	McDonald A W	"	"	Acty I O
"	Q 21941	Ballins J J	"	"	Pl Comd D "
"	Q 21916	Harris J J	"	"	" " E "
"	DX 36426	Schneider E R	"	no	NGTC
"	Q 21857	Smith W	"	yes	Pl Comd B "
"	Q 21853	Schmidt A J	"	"	" " H B "
"	Q 21628	Bain E	"	"	" " " "
"	Q 22655	Morrison J B	"	"	" " B "
"	Q 22136	Deble J M	"	"	" " H B "
"	Q 22729	Hill J W	"	"	" " D "
"	Q 22005	Stule J D	"	"	" " C "

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	Q 123365	Rosenkjar J W	Chaplain Dept		Chaplain
	Q 123622	Williamson W A	same		RMO

75 Aust Inf Bde
(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)

27 Nov 42
(Date of Despatch.)

7 Aust Inf Bde
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

26 FEB. 1943

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. FORM 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Dec 1		Fine and warm with cool S.E. breeze.	
		0830	To conform with 7 Bde instns, sec posts throughout the Bn were marked by numbers. The purpose of numbering posts is to facilitate recognition and simplify ref to posts in 7 Inf Bde def area. Key map not to go beyond Bn HQ.	
		1400	'I' sec personnel constructed a sand table for discussion of tactical problems and battle procedure. R.S.M. accompanied by Lieut R. McDonald and Lieut. E. Bain, carried out initial testing of Owen sub-machine Gun under tropical conditions, and forwarded a favourable report.	
	" 2	0830	Hot and fine - slightly cloudy. Weapon Tng syllabus commenced. Until further notice, 3 days per week to be allotted to tng. 'A' Coy carried out musketry practice on 2/6 Rifle range.	
		1400	Conference of Coy Comds called by Lt-Col Miles, to discuss the weapon tng programme; also discussed and issued opening narrative for a T.E.W.T. to be attended by all Offrs on 5 Dec 42.	
	" 3		'I' sec drew 6 copies of the plateau area in which the T.E.W.T. was to be held.	
		0830	Fine, hot day with scattered clouds. 'HQ', 'A', 'B', 'D' and 'E' coys carried on with weapon tng throughout the day. 'C' Coy spend day on rifle range at rear of 2/6 Bn area, finishing the day with a miniature battle practice.	
		1400	27 men sent to hospital, the chief illness being malaria. Various syndicates of Offrs carried out recce of area around HAYS and WOODS PLATEAU, in preparation for forthcoming T.E.W.T.	
			Efficiency of Owen Sub-machine Gun for tropical warfare was established, and tests carried out so far acclaim its marked superiority over existing weapons of a similar type.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2113
(adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Dec 3	1800	Advise received that Lieut. A.T. Baker (13 Pl) and Lieut. Bathersby (15 Pl) who were in hospital suffering with malaria, were to proceed to Australia for treatment. Approx 87 O/Rs accompanied them for treatment also.	
	" 4		Hot and fine with scattered clouds. Maj. Weppner, O.C. HQ Coy was appointed field officer to replace Capt. T. Mathison now at 7 Inf Bde HQ.	
		1330	Lieut. R.D.K. Jefferies, and Ptes Mewing and Montgomery presented themselves at R.A.A.F. Stn for examination for enlistment in proposed Paratroop Coy, about to be formed.	
		1450	Lt-Col Miles and Maj Webster proceeded to 'D' Coy area to view machine gun practice by 'E(MG)' there, along bn beach front.	
			In order to prepare for any future participation in combined operations, by this Bn, a return was requested from all Coys, showing percentage of men able to swim with or without eqpt. Tests were carried out so that a full report could be made.	
	" 5		Fine and hot - scattered clouds.	
		0830	Unit supplied 3 Offrs and 80 O/Rs for working parties.	
		0900	Offrs congregated to discuss opening narrative for the T.E.W.T. held this day. All available Offrs attended. Each syndicate's solution was presented, and the conclusion of which Lt-Col Miles gave the D.S. solution. Narrative 2 was then presented, whereupon syndicates moved to plateau area. An interesting and instructive day was spent	Details of T.E.W.T. att.
		1330	2 members of the Bn who had volunteered for a special force XXXX went to R.A.A.F. Sick Hq for examination	
			Curiosity of tps was aroused today, by the appearance of 6 American landing craft and also 2 similar types produced in Australia. The latter's capacity was abt 40 personnel fully equipped. Craft were power driven by 'Mercury' engine said to have speed of 10 knots.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Dec 5		Malaria: Report furnished to 7 Inf Bde disclosed that the incidence of malaria is becoming higher in this Unit.	
	" 6		Report also furnished to 7 bde of men considered fit for battle.	
			Fine and warm, with cool S.E. breeze.	
			Day of rest.	
		1000	C of E church parade	
		1100	O.P.D. " "	
		1115	R.C. " "	
			Maj. C. S. Webster, 2 i/c Bn, left to attend course in Australia	
			Lieut A.T. Baker and Lieut Bathersby with approx 87 O/Rs evacuated to mainland suffering with malaria.	
			Report furnished to 7 Inf Bde on role of Bn.	
	" 7		Fine and warm	
		0930	Australian War Correspondent, Mr Legget, again visited the unit to record incidents in the xxxxxx action in Aug/Sep 42, as told by various members and Officers of this Unit.	
		0815	Jungle Tng School for N.C.Os. and potential N.C.Os. commenced with Lieut. Wilmott as instructor.	
		0900	Conference of Adjts at 7 Inf Bde Hqs to discuss uniformity of Bn tng with 7 Inf Bde. Emphasis laid on the necessity for tactical xxxxxxxxxx exercises being prepared to give tps full opportunities for studying tactical methods in jungle warfare.	
		1530	Lt-Col Miles carried out a recce of AWADUMA CK area, to obtain data for an OIFRS T.E.W.T.	
			Instructions were issued to Coys to make all personnel efficient swimmers to enable them to participate in any combined ops carried out by this Bn.	
			Lieut. Schlyder returned from Jungle Tng School held at port Moresby.	
			59 members of this Bn presented themselves at the Optical Unit	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Milne Bay	Dec 7		recently established at 2/10 C.C.S.. Approx 30 personnel require further refraction examination. 5 members, who were successful in aptitude test, reported for medical examination to R.A.A.F. HQ in connection with enlistment in R.A.A.F.	
	Dec 8	1400	Additional 5 men reported to Station Sick H.Q., R.A.A.F., GURNEY FIELD for medical exam. for R.A.A.F.	
		1750	At a conference of Officers called by Lt-Col Miles, Lieut Wilmott gave an outline of the syllabus of the course he was conducting for N.C.Os and potential N.C.Os. It was particularly interesting and beneficial as many of the subjects dealt with lessons learnt in recent jungle fighting. Thus Officers will not be placed at a disadvantage when N.C.O's return to their pls.	
		1800	Nominations called for one N.C.O. to attend O.T.S. at BONESILLA, Bic. Sgt Cameron was nominated.	
	Dec 9	0900	Fine and warm. Cooling S.E. breeze. Under direction of Force H.Q., an Intelligence School of eight days duration commenced. Personnel of Bn attending were I.O., Cpl and three O.Rs. The purpose of this School was to co-ordinate "I" procedure throughout the Force.	
		1400	A Unit of Aust Armoured Div. gave a tank demonstration to Offrs in the field. Lt-Col Miles attended. Lt-Col Wood and Maj Weppner (O.C. H.Q. Coy) visited Wood's Plateau NORTH No.3 strip to place Pl of M.M.G. for defensive tasks in that area.	
			A change over of 25 militia personnel in A.I.F. Units and A.I.F. personnel in Militia Units took place. Seven from this Unit returned pending further absorption.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2 18
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec To 31 Dec 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MILNE BAY	9 Dec	1645	1 Offr, 3 N.C.Os, 6 O.R nominated to attend Milneforce Pack Saddlery Course. Brig. Field and Lt-Col Miles made further recce of Wehuria Ck area with a view to selecting additional MMG defensive tasks.	
	10 Dec	0900	Fine and warm - cobling S.E. breeze. Lt-Col Miles interview with Brig. Field. Medical exam. of more men seeking enlistment in R.A.A.F. was conducted. The bridge over AWADUMA ck was completed. This bridge, which is of excellent construction and which takes a double stream of traffic will facilitate movement on Route 1. A 'phone map showing L/T comms of the Bn and also att. Units operating in the Bn area was completed. This will enable the Bn Comd to use the shortest line of comms to all areas in the event of emergency.	
		1400	Capt Harlin, Bde Sig. Offr gave a demp. of the Walkie Talkie Set to the Coy Comds of the Bn.	
	11 Dec	1400	Lt-Col Miles and Capt Duggan carried out a recce of the 61 Bn posns on left flank of 25 Bn posns, proceeding as far as RABI.	
		1900	Pictures were shown to the troops, the screen having been set up in the Bn area. The show was well attended and very much appreciated as it was the first seen by the troops for some five months.	
	12 Dec	0900	Bn Comd, Adjt and all Coy Comds attended a T.E.W.T. conducted by 7 Aust Inf Bde. Corresponding Offrs from the 9 and 61 Bns also attended.	
		1800	Lt-Col Miles called into conference with Milneforce and left with Force L.O. Warning Order for the movement of the Bn was received.	
13 Dec		Church parades for all demoninations were held throughout the morning.		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Dec

To 31 Dec

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
MILNE BAY	13 Dec	0900	Conference of all offrs. Warning Order issued for movement of Bn. Details of stores to be taken and method of packing same.		
		1530	Conference called for Coy Comds to give further details of movement. The Bn to be divided into two forces. One force to proceed to HATRACK under Maj. Weppner, the other to HANSOM under Lt-Col Miles. The combined forces to be known as HATFORCE under command Lt-Col Miles. Maj Weppner's contingent to comprise A and B Coys (strengthened by inclusion of personnel from H.Q. Coy) 19 Pl and sec 20 Pl MMG Coy, two dets Mortars, Sig. and "I" Personnel. Remainder of Bn to comprise force for HANSOM. Coys to forward nominal rolls by 1900 hrs. Q.M. to remain behind and establish a base. Force for HATRACK to move at 1600 hrs 14 Dec. Lieut Wilmott to act as Embarkation Officer.		
	14 Dec	1930	Conference Coy Comd. Nominal rolls of respective forces compiled and O.C. Ships notified. Fine and hot.		
		0930	Message received from 7 Aust Inf Bde stating that all stores for HATRACK to be at wharf by 1030 hrs. Heavy stores destined for HANSOM were also to be loaded on MELINGA (vessel transporting HATRACK FORCE) and forwarded from there to HANSOM at a later date. This was necessary as operational requirements necessitated speedy unloading at HANSOM with limited unloading facilities.		
		1030	Milneforce Order stating Bn det. from 7 Aust Inf Bde and under command Milne force as from 1400 hrs 14 Dec.		
		1420	I.O. handed maps of new area to Maj. Weppner.		
		1600	Weppner Force bound for HATRACK (Wanigela Mission) departed.		
			NOTE. As HATRACK and HANSOM are quite some distance apart and limited comms prevail, HATRACK is to compile separate diary.		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2218
(adapted.)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec To 31 Dec

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MILNE BAY	14 Dec	1700	Lt-Col Miles called conference of remaining Officers and informed them of necessary details concerning force for HANSOM. Times of loading and departure to be identical with those of Weppner Force.	
		2100	Adjt notified that movement of Force for HANSOM delayed 24 hrs. Coys immediately informed.	
	15 Dec	0830	Fine and hot. Day was spent reaching preparedness that would permit of any additional altered times of movement being complied with.	
		1600	Sgts Bell and Dameron left by 'plane to attend schools in Aust.	
		1900	Lt-Col Miles called conference of Officers to give final orders for movement.	
		2200	Adjt notified by Milne Force that Weppner Force had arrived at destination safely; also that two War Correspondents were to accompany the force.	
	16 Dec	0800	Coy notified that all stores were to be packed and clear of area by 1200 hrs.	
		1613	Loading of stores and embarkation of troops completed. Three corvettes (Broome, Colac, Ballarat) were the transport vessels. At the completion of the embarkation they anchored in Milne Bay preparatory to moving off in the early hours of the following morning.	
		0300	Corvettes left for HANSOM (Porlock Harbour). The day was fine and the sea calm, as a result of which no inconvenience was caused by sea sickness.	
		1400	Lt-Col Miles (corvette BROOME) called a conference of Offrs and N.C.Os and gave full particulars of destination and disposition of force known as HATFORCE. Expected arrangements re disembarkation were also given and ETA 2200 hrs.	
		1945	Corvette BROOME received instructions to investigate object seen on water, possibly a submarine. However, an investigation the object proved to be a barrel.	

WAR DIARY OF ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2518
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Dec

To 31 Dec

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PORLOCK HARBOUR	17 Dec	2000	Unidentified planes passed overhead and necessary precautions were taken.	
		2030	Corvettes anchored at PORLOCK HARBOUR.	
		2310	Lt-Col Miles disembarked and found unloading facilities to be better than anticipated. He was met by Capt Wetham, Milne-force Liaison Offr.	
	18 Dec	2400	Unloading completed and embarkation of 2/10 commenced. Tps dispersed to bivouac for remainder of night.	
		0300	Corvettes left Harbour.	
		0330	Capt Wetham notified MILNEFORCE of safe arrival of MILES FORCE. Also drew attention to the fact that no tents were available and wood fuel was very scarce. He suggested the immediate issue of sufficient two man shelters and also four Hydro burners.	
			Lt-Col Miles accompanied by Sig. Offr carried out recce of Sig. installations and 'phones were placed to cater for any immediate emergency. Party returned 0600 hrs.	
		0630-0930	Lt-Col Miles, Lieut Wilmott and I.O. carried out recce of feature subsequently named MORTAR HILL. It was found that Mortar Hill was the main tactical feature for the role of defending the harbour. Sheer slopes were found to be situated on both the north and south side of the feature. A track leading from D (Reserve) Coy posn to rear side Mortar Hill was considered to be of utmost importance.	
		1400	Capt Holt, O/C A/A att. tps liaisoned re the dispositions of six Bofors guns under his command.	
			Sig. Offr recd. message from HATRACK informing him of the shortage of phones in that area. A reply message stated '(nil to spare)'. Lt-Col Miles and Capt Duggan (Adjnt) reconnoitred C.O.S.C. Hill and N.E. side of Harbour. It was found that a track could be made from "D" Coy posn to O.P. on C.O.S.C. Hill. This O.P. was found to be ideally suited for such purpose as it commanded quite an extensive view of land and sea approaches.	
1430-1820				

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2218
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
PORLOCK HARBOUR	18 Dec	1930	Conference of offrs of all Units was called for 0900 hrs 19 Dec to be held at Capt. Lang's tent.		
	19 Dec	0900	Conference of all officers called by Lt-Col Miles was held. Role of the force - to hold the harbour - and policy of the Force Comd was given. Policy - determined defence, utmost vigilance and strict malaria discipline were the main factors outlined.		
		1200	Lt-Col Miles and Capt Steel (O.C. C Coy) carried out recce of west side of PORLOCK HARBOUR. MMG Sec posn altered to obtain better field of fire.		
			Nominal strength of HATFORCE forwarded to Milne Force in connection with A.C.F. Christmas hampers.		
		1800	Message sent to HATRACK requesting them to fwd at first available opportunity, stores originally destined for HANSOM. Order of priority for stores also given.		
		1806	Advice received from HATRACK that 9 militia personnel left behind by 2/10 Aust Inf Bn had been taken on strength.		
		1830	Capt Wetham, MILNE FORCE L.O. informed Milne Force of the necessity for a regular boat service between HATRACK and HANSOM. Present facilities inadequate.		
		20 Dec	0700	S57 arrived from HAIROIL and returned at 1930 hrs with 9½ ton 25 pdr amn, also rations.	
			0900	Lt-Col Miles carried out recce of the upper reaches of PORLOCK HARBOUR and south side of MORTAR HILL. It would appear that no suitable site is evident to which Field Amb. could be shifted. Also decided to lay line cable servicing O.P. on POLARIS HILL across narrow portion of harbour in preference to laying same under water as by this means the sharp coral limited its life to a few days.	
		1430	Lt-Col Miles, I.O. and Sig. O boarded a boat and carried out the laying of the sig line mentioned above. It was taken around		

(

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2.18
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Dec To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
PORLOCK HARBOUR	21 Dec		the mangrove outskirts of the bay which was crossed at the narrow point and affixing the line to a high tree on either side of the Bay. Satisfactory progress was made.		
		1550	Lt-Col Miles advised that spotting station at present located at MAFURA village is to move to its old site west of PORLOCK HARBOUR.		
		1830	MILNE FORCE L.O. (Capt Wetham) boarded vessel to WANEGILA. Vessel to leave about 0300 hrs the following morning.		
		0900-1300	Arty ranging practice took place. Targets - west of POLARIS PT and NORTH of harbour. As heavy rain has fallen during the last three nights and no tents are available all personnel have been busy constructing improvised shelters. Pathways up the mountain slopes have also been improved to facilitate the carrying of rations. All personnel have carried out a recce of their Coy area, also areas adjoining their own. Posns as chosen by 2/10 Bn have been taken over and improvements made to the existing posns. The 2/10 Bn had not been in occupation very long - only limited field works had been constructed. Maps as handed to this Unit before occupation of the area have been and are being improved by the addition of further details.		
		1400	C.O., Adjt and Coy Offrs carried out a recce from COSCVILLE to HOSPITAL CK VALLEY. Abmush posns were sited to prevent infiltration from direction of COSCVILLE		
		2105	O.C. HATRACK ordered to prepare B Coy plus one det. Mortars and one sec. M.M.G. to relieve Drakeforce (GOODENOUGH IS).		
		2205	Infm sought as to probable extent and nature of shipments to HANSOM so as to enable suitable dumps to be constructed to accommodate same.		
		2300	S.154 departed for ORQ ^{ex}		
		22 Dec	0830	Loading party of 20 men/changed for equivalent native labour. Such labour to be used for building Sig hut and storage place	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2318
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			for perishable rations.	
		1435	O.C. HATRACK informed that an extra det. Mortars making two in all, and also Sig. personnel would be added to No. previously advised as the strength for Drakeforce. Force to depart from WANEGILA on the DESIKOKO on morning of 26 Dec.	
		1535	I.O. paid routine visit to defensive posns at COSCVILLE. MMG personnel in this area were manning two American .30 Brownings in addition to the Vickers Guns. During the day Lieut Col Miles and Sig. Oftr supervised the completion of Sig. line to POLARIS PT. Portion of line tested and found to be satisfactory.	
	23 Dec	0300	I.O. left for WANEGILA to check posns there and also to supervise the packing of stores held there and destined for HANSOM.	
		1240	HATRACK sent message stating strip serviceable and situation normal. During day C.O. and Adjt made recce of possible landing posns on coast west of PORLOCK HARBOUR. ARKU and other villages visited.	
		1700	Sgt. McNab arrived from HATRACK bringing R.A.P. gear, and also two Mortars, which were placed in posn by 1745 hrs.	
		1910	Main Force Sigs notified that 2 109 sets stationed at HANSOM are not operating.	
	24 Dec		Heavy rain throughout day.	
		1315	I.O. returned with stores from HATRACK. 200 natives also arrived on DESIKOKO to be used for works in this area. Progressive work has been carried on improving steep mountain paths by installing steps. Additional detail has been added to the battle map. Maps are being prepared showing comms operating throughout this area. Copies of these maps are to be given to att. tps.	
	25 Dec.		Fine and clear.	
		0830	During morning rations were transported to cockhouses situated in the hills. As HANSOM is used for a forwarding base for the front line quite some activity takes place in the harbour.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C3118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn. Date and Time.—From 1 Dec To 31 Dec 43.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PORLOCK HARBOUR	25 Dec	1530	Rations and amm are forwarded almost daily.	
		1530	Lt-Col Miles informed Milne Force of the unsatisfactory sea transport arrangements existing here and applied for a launch for this Unit's unrestricted use.	
	26 Dec	2300	"MELINGA" from ORO BAY with General Johns, C.O.S.C. U.S. Army. Bully beef and biscuits for Christmas dinner.	
		0830	All defensive posns and arcs of fire of automatic weapons plotted. Comms maps issued to att. tps.	
		1240	HATRACK advised that only six days rations held in that area.	
		1800	H/R informed that as absence of launch prevented a visit to that area a weekly report be sent direct from there to MILNE FORCE.	
	27 Dec	0030	Notification recd as from 0001 hrs 26 Dec Milne Force was redesignated 11 Aust Div. HQ. MILNE FORCE now 11 Aust Div.	
		1200	During morning Lt-Col Miles allotted defensive localities to Coys and made arrangements for evacuation of natives from forward areas should the eventuality arise.	
		1400	C.O., I.O., Capt Steel and Capt McDonald left on recce of boundaries of defensive localities allotted. During day boat arrived bringing convalescent personnel, A.C.F. Christmas parcels and Canteen goods. A.C.F. parcels were distributed throughout the afternoon.	
	28 Dec	2000	HATRACK advised us that situation normal, strip serviceable.	
		2140	Jap plane circled harbour.	
		0900	I.O. and Sig. Offr with line party left to investigate possibility of line from POLARIS PT to spotting station at ARKU village. Line found to be impracticable due to length of line reqd and rugged nature of terrain.	
		1600	Native report recd that track PORLOCK-TUFI takes two days and one night to traverse.	
		1820	Message sent to 11 Div advocating the placing of HATFORCE on full scale rations, as rations were unavailable, and nature of country required high stamina.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 1 Dec To 31 Dec. 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PORLOCK HARBOUR	29 Dec	0930	Lt-Col Miles, Capt. Williamson M.O., and I.O. carried out recce for new site for Hosp. Site obtained in area 2/10 Bn base. Also decided	
		1430	C Coy defences extended further towards MORTAR HILL on right flank. Message sent to A.D.M.S. 11 Aust Div stating present boat arrangements for evacuation of sick not satisfactory. Also beds and staff insufficient at HANSOM. Further representations submitted for boat for unrestricted use transport HANSOM to HATRACK.	
		1620	C.O. wrote 11 Aust Div that on account of heavy mountain climbing and absence of mosquitoes in present that area that quinine issue be reduced from 10 to 5 grains daily. Steps taken to ensure that all posns in area properly camouflaged from aerial observation.	
	30 Dec	1000	Mail, one man tents and quantity of iron for covering ann arrived from 11 Aust Div. C.O. and Adjt made recce of defensive area and investigated the progress made on the defensive posns. 11 Aust Div reported safe arrival of safe hand bag containing report of activities at HANSOM. Extra details have been inserted in battle map now contains most tracks and features of military importance. G.Ps operating at POLARIS HILL, COSC HILL and MORTAR HILL give early infm of the approach of any aircraft or sea traffic approaching PORLOCK HARBOUR.	
		0800	9 patients evacuated to MILNE BAY, 5 to HATRACK.	
		1515 1830	Lt-Col Miles, Lieut Wilmott and I.O. sited weapon pits for Bn H.Q. personnel. Check again made on phones in area and necessary alterations placed on comms map. Message sent all Units indicating last issue of mutton available at 1830 hrs. No further supply until further notice.	

Appendices to December, '43 War Diary

- I - R.O. dated 4 Dec.
- II - R.O. " 9 Dec.
- III - R.O. " 29 Dec.
- IV - Hanson Force O.O. No 1 (24 Dec)
- V - Appreciation by Lt. Col. Miles on Defence of Porlock Harbour.
- VI - Report on Activities - Week Ending 26 Dec.
- VII - Army Form W3008

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A.E.R. & O. 1588 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

No. 20 a

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

4 Dec 42

Lt-col. R. S. MILNE

COMB. 25 AUST. INF. Btl.

1. ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON RECEIPT OF AIR RAID ALARM: It has been proved that more casualties are caused during enemy bombing, among men endeavouring to reach slit trenches some distance away, than among those who lie flat on the ground wherever they may be. Men must exercise self-control.

Unit Procedure: (a) one OR will be available by day as Air sentry and will be posted only upon receipt of AIR RAID RESP.

(b) Normal work will proceed until sentry gives warning that hostile planes are approaching that particular area.

(c) Alarm will be whistle blast -

'Take Cover' - * - * - *

'Paratp. landing'

'All clear' - - - - -

(d) Upon hearing warning from their own sentry, personnel will don steel helmets and take cover.

(e) Work will proceed when ALL CLEAR is given.

By Night:

(f) 'Take cover' will be sounded on receipt of AIR RAID RESP.

(g) Only lights in essential offices will remain on, but these will be screened and tent flaps closed.

Action by Drivers: Vehicles will NOT halt unless directly attacked, in which case vehicles will NOT be closer spaced than 30 yards. Ignition will be switched off.

At night, vehicles in movement will NOT halt and may continue to use lights except in vicinity of GUNNERY and MOUND dromes, wharves and gun emplacements or Unit biv areas. Lights will be turned out in stationary vehs.

General: Running to cover will NOT be allowed. Calling out to vehicles or within camps to put lights out, is to cease.

Except at aerodromes, NO signal other than whistle will be used.

2a. SECURITY OF INFORMATION: To prevent any possibility of the enemy gaining identification from mail, all personnel will immediately destroy envelopes and wrappers on receipt of personal mail. Stamps and contents may be retained provided that the letter contains no identification of addressee's unit.

2b. The attention of all ranks should be directed to the fact that the communication to any person, otherwise than in the course of official duty, of any naval, military or air force info is an offence under the Defence Act punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both.

An infringement of Army Field Censorship exists is an act of disloyalty which may incalculably harm the Allied cause. This fact will be impressed upon all ranks. Rigorous steps will be taken to punish every detected offender, irrespective of rank.

An officer is responsible if a letter, after being franked by him, contains military info. By aiding and abetting the commission of an offence, the officer himself commits an offence and is liable to punishment accordingly. This will NOT, however, absolve the writer of the letter from responsibility for the breach.

Penalties imposed for breaches of security will be notified in formation etc part of Routine Orders and, where practicable, such notification will be read out on parade to troops within the formation etc.

Contravention of this order, if committed by an officer, will be reported to HQ so that, if thought necessary, the individual concerned may be called upon to show cause why his commission should not be cancelled.

3. PRE-EMBARKATION KIT INSPECTION: Steps will be taken to ensure that kits of all personnel being embarked for evacuation to the mainland are inspected immediately prior to embarkation.

Instances have occurred recently of personnel having valuable unit equipment (e.g. a telescopic sight) in their kit.

4. BATHING IN WATER SUPPLY: Bathing and washing of clothes in WHIMBIE CREEK upstream from the water point situated on Route 3 in the vicinity of map ref Gill Gill map 1 inch to 1 m 058097 is prohibited.

5. ISSUE OF COMFORTS: A further issue of comforts have been made to members from the Australian Comforts Fund, and are gratefully acknowledged.

6. TRADING WITH NATIVES: The sub-joined list shows the maximum prices to be paid to natives for produce and curios:-

<u>PRODUCE etc</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Bananas	1/6 to 2/6 per bunch according to size.
Eggs	2/- per doz.
Fowls	2/6 each
Mandarins	9d per doz
Mangoes	1/6 per doz
Oranges	1/- per doz
Paw Paws	3 or 4 per 1/- according to size
Pineapples	3 or 4 per 1/- " " "
Potatoes (sweet)	2d per lb.
Pumpkins	6d each
Sipara (limes)	3d per doz
Beads (strings)	1/- to 2/- each
Baskets	3/- to 8/- each
Bows	3/- to 4/- each
Arrows	2/- to 1/- each
Carpas (medals)	2/- to 3/- each
Genas (armbands wide)	1/- to 2/6 each
Parics (grass skirts coarse)	5/- each
Parics (" fine coloured)	5/- each
Spoons	6d each
Sticks (Malila walking)	5/- to 15/- each

7. NATIVE SKINTS, COMED etc.: Second hand articles of native clothing - grass skirts, combs etc may be infected with the organisms that cause skin diseases tinea, leprosy, scabies etc and should not be sent overseas unless they are effectively sterilised.

8. APPOINTMENTS: The following appointments have been made within this Unit:-

Gas Officer: Capt. J. H. A. Foster

Unit education offr: Lieut. A. W. Marsh

Officer I/c canteen: Lieut. J. S. Curze.

9. LOST: A wallet containing a sum of money and personal photographs belonging to Sgt. R. Skuse - lost in Bn HQ area. Finder to return same to Adjt.,

John E. Duggan Capt.,
Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION: One copy per Coy (6)
7 Bn HQ
8 C.O.
9 HQ Milne Force
10 Q.R.
11 7 Aust Inf Bde
12-13 War Diary
14 File

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A.M.R. & O. 1599 B.

War Diary
 Coy No 11

No 22a AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

9 Dec. 42

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

Lt. Col. E.S. Miles

COMDG. 25 AUST. INF. BN.

UNAUTHORISED SHOOTING

Reference is drawn to Milne Force Routine orders 26 Sept 42, para 256 and 142, para 7 - "Fire arms will not be used except for Military purposes"

The Military purposes referred to do NOT include or permit of the firing of a round or rounds for the purpose of cleaning the bore of any firearm.

The substance of this order will be repeated in all R.Os

BARAGA VILLAGE - OUT OF BOUNDS

BARAGA and neighbouring native villages are out of bounds to all troops unless on duty.

Trading with natives for fruit and vegetables grown in the above area is prohibited as all supplies are required for native hospital.

PARCELS

Personnel are submitting articles for posting which cannot be accepted as they are over-weight or too long. As Army Mail is contained in 3ft. bran bags on account of the shortage of 4ft canvas bags, the maximum length of any parcel must not exceed 2ft 6ins, and the weight is limited to 11 lbs exactly. Anything over these dimensions is not acceptable.

ARMY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Applications are invited from pers. possessing qualifications in Music to fill a vacancy, which exists in Force HQ for WOI (Music)

Applications setting out qualifications should be forwarded to this HQ without delay.

LOST

Wallet green waterproof containing Ration Book and Pay Book No D/10950 for QX 4633 Pte. L.W. MUNROE. Finder please return to 2/9 Aust Inf Bn.

Lost between HQ & A Coy HQ, Pay Book belonging to NX 77860 Pte Abdy A. Finder please return Bn.HQ.

DISTRIBUTION: One per Coy
 7 Bn.HQ
 8 C.O.
 9 HQ. Milne Force
 10 Q.M.
 11 7 Aust. Inf Bde.
 12-13 War Diary
 14 File

John E. Drijza - Capt.,
Adjt., 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

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Copy No. 16.....

No. 23a
Lt-Col E.S. Miles

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.
ROUTINE ORDERS PART I.

29 Dec 42.

COMDG. HANSON.

1. AMM. In the absence of suitable iron for covering, immediate action must be taken by O.C. Coys and sub-units, and the R.S.M., to protect all amm in boxes in the sec. posts or in dumps. This can be temporarily covered with a native gunya' lashed with lawyer cane, and amm placed up on logs off the wet ground. All loose and wet bandolier amm found with-out boxes is to be collected and handed to the R.S.M. for use in range practices.

2. TRADING. To ensure equitable distribution of available fresh fruit, individual or sub-unit trading with natives is forbidden. Natives wish-ing to barter are to be directed to Gnr Hart who will arrange subsequent distribution through the normal rationing channels.

3. BATHING IN FRESH WATER STREAMS. A pure water supply for all Units is dependent upon strict observance of the following rules.-

(a) Bathing or washing of clothes above water point at HOSPITAL CK. is forbidden at all times except between the hours of 1600 and 1800 hrs.

(b) Washing in springs on WESTERN SLOPES of Mortar HILL is forbidden at all times.

(c) The practice of cleaning mess tins above water points other than during the prescribed hours (para a) will cease.

Strong disciplinary action will be taken against all offenders.

4. MALARIAL CONTROL.

(a) All swimming or bathing is prohibited after 1900 hrs.

(b) It is recommended that the routine time for evening meal be 1800 hrs.

(c) Personnel found after 1900 hrs NOT conforming to malaria control measures relating to wearing of long trousers and shifts with long sleeves will be charged.

5. DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT OF CASUALTIES.

Personal equipment, (i.e. clothing, necessaries, tents mosquito, blankets, respirators, arms, web equipment, helmet steel etc) of casualties will be disposed of as follows.-

Personnel evacuated from Units to Field Ambulances COS's etc.- ALL clothing, necessaries, helmets steel, blankets, tents mosquito and respirators will accompany the men to the medical Unit and during the whole period he is away from the Unit.

Amm in personal issue will be withdrawn from the man's possession before leaving the Unit R.A.P. Web equipment and arms will accompany the soldier to the medical Unit.

ALL personnel will be accompanied by their paybooks at ALL times.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. 1	C Coy
" " 2	D "
" " 3	E "
" " 4	R.M.O.
" " 5	R.S.M.
" " 6	Mortar Pl
" " 7	Q.M.
" " 8	2/17 L.A.A.
" " 9	2/5 Aust Pd. Regt.

Copy No. 10	2/16 Pd. Regts.
" " 11	ANGAU
" " 12-13	COSC
" " 14	11 Div.
" " 15	Hatrack
" " 16-17	War Diary
" " 18	File

John E. Duggan

Capt.
Adjt 25 Aust Inf Bn
HANSON.

HANSOM FORCE O.O. No. 1.

SECRET.
Copy No. ².....
Date 24 Dec 42.

Ref. Map TUFI - 1" - 4 M/

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy. The activity at PORLOCK HARBOUR reported to date is.-
 - (i) Recce aircraft.
 - (ii) Aerial bombing.
 - (iii) Jap barges (7) in search of Spotters Aug. 42.
2. Own Tps comprise.
 - a. Bn H.Q. 25 Aust Inf Bn
 - b. C & D Coys " " "
 - c. 3 secs. MMG 25 Aust Inf Bn
 - d. 3 dets 3" Mortar 25 Aust Inf Bn
 - e. 2 tps 2/17 Aust Lt. A.A. Bty.
 - f. 1 sec. 2/10 Bty 2/5 Aust Fd. Regt.
 - g. COSC reps.
 - h. 1 Lt. Sec. 11 Aust Fd. Amb.
 - i. Det 2/16 Fd. Engrs.
 - j. 4 E boats harboured at PORLOCK.
3. INTENTION. To hold PORLOCK HARBOUR.
4. METHOD. C Coy and supporting arms in fixed defensive posns.
D Coy (less 1 sec. on O.P.) in Mobile reserve.
5. Tasks. - C Coy 25 Aust Inf Bn.
 - (a) To hold fwd slopes of Mortar Hill (750') covering the harbour.
 - (b) To provide outposts at COSCVILLE DUMP and POLARIS POINT.
 - (c) To maintain O.P. on POLARIS POINT.
6.
 - (a) D Coy, 25 Aust Inf Bn.
 - (b) To constitute mobile reserve at short notice and bivouac on NORTH EAST slope of MORTAR HILL (750 ft).
 - (c) To maintain O.P. of one sec. on COSCVILLE HILL (720 ft).
 - (d) To reconnoitre routes and cut tracks from posn in reserve to top, rear and flanks of Mortar Hill (750 ft).
 - (e) To reconnoitre tracks to adjacent villages in rear and east and west of harbour.
7. MMGs.
 - (a) One sec. COSCVILLE DUMP, left of arc POLARIS PT.
 - (b) 2/30 cal. COSCVILLE DUMP manned by MMG personnel with left of arc POLARIS PT.
 - (c) 1 sec. (POLARIS PT) R of arc 3 deg. 6" NORTH of COSCVILLE DUMP.
 - (d) 1 sec. (JETTY AREA) covering harbour approaches.

8. MORTARS.
 - (a) In battery formation (3 dets) at about 500 contour on Mortar Hill (750 ft) covering crests of hills on both sides of harbour.
 - (b) Covering water front, jetty area.
 - (c) Observed water targets, enemy barges.
9. Sec. 2/10 Bty, 2/5 Fd. regt - two 25 pdrs.
 - (a) Covering possible enemy landing sites east and west of harbour mouth.
 - (b) Covering crests of hills on either side of harbour.
 - (c) Observed enemy surface craft targets.
10. 2 Tp 2/17 A/A Bty.
 - (a) Covering harbour, tps and dumps against enemy air attacks.
 - (b) Covering Goscville and EASTERN flank against enemy landing craft.
11. Det. 2/16 Fd. Coy.

Engineering tasks as directed.
12. Lt. Sec. 11 Aust Fd. Amb.
 - (a) Establishment of Fd. Hospital.
 - (b) Evacuation of serious cases to HATRACK or MILNE FORCE.
13. Other att. tps.
 - (a) Engrs will provide local protection for the Bofors in jetty area.
 - (b) COSC personnel will man defence posns prepared COSCVILLE.
 - (c) Staging tps will come u/c "C" Coy and will occupy fire posns in weapon pits already prepared in that Coy's area.
14. Amn.
 - (a) Inf. will maintain amn in Coy ~~xxx~~ posns on scale prescribed by C.O.
 - (b) All unprimed grenades will be left in that condition until operational requirements necessitate priming (to prevent deterioration of detonators).
 - (c) Every care will be exercised in maintaining amn in serviceable condition, particularly that left in sec. posts and reserve dumps.
15. CONCEALMENT.
 - (a) Tps will as far as is practicable, conceal presence of biv area and def. posns from aerial observation.
 - (b) On the approach of enemy aircraft all working parties will cease and disperse without running. There will be no movement of small vessels in or out of COSCVILLE.
 - (c) Lights will be screened from sea observation and will be extinguished on the approach of ALL aircraft by night.
16. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ WARNINGS.
 - (a) Q.Ps will maintain utmost vigilance and advise Sig.

exchange of shipping movements and approaching aircraft. Sig exchange will then convey this infm to A/A H.Q. and Adjt.

- (b) Mortar O.P. will raise yellow flag on approach of aircraft and red flag if enemy air attack imminent.

17. Stand-to.
All ranks 0530 to 0630. hrs.

18. Patrols.
(a) as directed.
(b) All Offrs and O.Rs will familiarise themselves with tracks and topography in area.

ADM.

19. FOOD AND WATER.
(a) All water containers to be filled in sec posts.
(b) Coys will retain 14 days rations for expenditure in Coy areas.
(c) Res. dumps to maintain the whole force will be established and stacked as directed by C.O.

20. MEDICAL.
R.A.P. on track between Bn H.Q. and native village.

INTERCOMM.

21. W/T Link to N.G.F., Milneforce and Hatrack.
22. L/T to COSC, Coys, O.Ps and supporting arms.
23. V.T. from POLARIS PT. and COSC HILL.
24. Flares, one green and one red from POLARIS PT. or COSC on approach by night of u/i or enemy vessels.

John S. Duggan Capt.
Adjt, 25 Aust Inf Bn.

Time of signature 1500 hrs L
Method of Distribution - Runner.

ACK.

Distribution as per key list.

APPRECIATION BY LT-COL E.S. MILES, C.O. 25 AUST INF BN ON
DEFENCE OF PORLOCK HARBOUR - 24 DEC 42.

OBJECT. - To hold PORLOCK HARBOUR.

FACTORS.

1. Forces available.

25 Aust Inf Bn.

H.Q. and details	68
C & D Coys	138
3 Sec M.M.G.	57
3 det. Mortars	18

281.

1 sec 2/10 Bty 2/5 Fd. Regt (2-25 pdrs)	36
2 tps 2/17 Aust Lt. A.A. Bty (6 Bofors)	91
Det 2/16 Aust Fd Coy Bagra	14
sig. details (J Sec)	5
C.O.S.C. Rep. & tps incl U.S.A.	17
Lt. Sec. 11 Aust Fd. Amb	7
	<u>451</u>

Small parties staging here, 2/10 Bn and men
waiting forward move ORO BAY.

59

490

4 - E Boats *based* in Harbour.

Deduction. I have sufficient fire power and troops to defend the
harbour.

2. TOPOGRAPHY.

(a) High Features. - Either side of Harbour and at rear -
West side - POLARIS HILL (670 ft) East side COSC HILL (720')
South East MORTAR HILL (750 ft).

Deduction. All features provide commanding view and suitable O.P.s -
MORTAR HILL (750 ft) dominating feature suitable for all
round defence.

(b) Harbour
Centre Anchorage for sea going vessels - depth reducing
from mouth 12 fathoms to Jetty, 4 fathoms (say 24 ft).

Sides. Coral restricting movement to shallow draft craft.

Banks. Large portion mangroves, balance rock from water to
bank, from 3 ft upwards.

Deduction. ~~Tracks of great assistance and now being improved~~
Landing would be rendered difficult and I can cover practically
all area with some fire.

(c) Tracks. - No roads - various tracks along re-entrants and up
mountain slopes. Excessive rain and over-head cover render
tracks slippery.

Deduction. Tracks of great assistance and now being improved, and grades reduced. I can utilise these for all supplies to man-handle loads.

SUMMARY DEDUCTION OF TOPOGRAPHY. - Favours defence.

3. SUPPLIES.

(a) Food. COSC DUMP for supplying forward and local tps - 500,000 rations as at 21 Dec 42.

Own supplies - 17 days held - being built up to 28 days.

Deduction. Food supplies satisfactory.

(b) Amn. Supplies in posns, Coy dumps and reserves as per physical check on App. attached.

Deduction. Amn supplies satisfactory.

(c) Water. Running stream in re-entrant between high features on EAST and SOUTH EAST of HARBOUR. Good drinking water - rainy season.

Deduction. Fresh water posn satisfactory.

4. COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) Sea - E Boats, small craft, native rafts.

(b) Land. Natives - villages on coast EAST and WEST of harbour and at rear,

(c) Air - W/T - 109 set and emergency 101 set - network HANSON - HATRACK - MILNEFORCE - N.G. Force.

Teleradio. - Spotting stn 2 miles south of MAPURA village (being removed to AKU village approx 2 miles WEST on coast line from HARBOUR MOUTH). Native messengers.

(d) W/T Arty H.Q. to Arty O.P. on POLARIS HILL (670 ft).

(e) L/T to all posns and three O.Ps; Mortar Hill (750 ft) POLARIS HILL (670 ft) and COSC HILL (720 ft).

(f) Visual (alt) to Arty O.P. POLARIS HILL (670')

(g) Native villages. Natives friendly. Would report any presence of nat enemy tps.

Deduction. I can get timely advice of any impending attack.

5. STORAGE ACCOMMODATION. - sites.

I. COSCVILLE - situated immediately below COSC HILL (720 ft). ~~Situated immediately below COSC HILL (720 ft).~~ Vulnerable in event of attack by harbour entrance. Well screened

from aerial observation. Unlikely enemy would ascertain extent of supplies held.

Fire power and troops either side of harbour. At dump site 2 MMG, 2 .30 calibre and sec. riflemen with Bren and Lewis gun. Approx. 15 U.S. personnel living there. Mutual support from west bank by 2 MMG, 1 sec rifles, Bofors if necessary and Arty from jetty area.

Deduction. In holding harbour I can give protection to this dump. Its advantage is accessibility and ready transportation of supplies for forward troops.

- (2) South west corner of Harbour. Amn area. Excellent camouflage, long jetty under construction.

Deduction. Defence on Mortar Hill (750 ft) with Pl on Polaris Point (670 ft) will give protection to this dump.

6. FACILITIES. - Jetty at SOUTH EAST of harbour lightly constructed and set in coral with an anchorage at end of jetty of approx. 16 ft. Suitable for small craft only but with intervening space covered by floating pontoon small ships can be unloaded.

Jetty at COSCVILLE - small craft only.

Jetty at S.W. corner of harbour - small craft only.

Deduction. Transshipping is naturally slow as everything landed has to be man-handled and good work is being done with natives and small craft.

COURSES.

Enemy.

- (1) Frontal assault preceded by naval and/or aerial bombardment. This is likely. Both reefs Curtis and Jones will render this course difficult without good navigation. I have sufficient fire power with essential comms to meet such an assault.

- (2) Bombing and strafing by aircraft followed by raids of small parties from destroyers to cover landings on north east or, TUFI side of harbour to occupy high commanding ground TUFI PENINSULA.

This is also likely. I have sufficient fire power to hold harbour and with Reserve Coy will prevent penetration from the North East.

To us.-

- (1) To distribute all forces available in fixed defence posns.

Deduction. This denies me power of manoeuvre and prevents me utilising any reserves in G/A role should penetration be made.

(4)

- (2) To dispose one Coy on dominating feature (MORTAR HILL 750') with outposts, and one Coy in reserve.

Deduction. This course will enable me to meet initial thrust and provide means of countering any penetration from either flank.

I will adopt this course.

PLAN.

- (1) Utilise all available fire power to destroy the enemy in the water.
- (2) Hold forward slopes of Mortar Hill (750') covering harbour.
- (3) Establish O.Ps with I/T on all three commanding points.
- (4) Maintain 24 hour vigilance and close liaison.
- (5) Provide outposts on COSC HILL and POLARIS HILL.
- (6) Hold D Coy in Mobile reserve on north slope of MORTAR HILL (750')
- (7) Reconnoitre all tracks in vicinity for quick move of res. Coy.

E. Miles

Lt-Col
C.O. 25 Aust Inf Bn.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

42 -
SECRET.

25 Aust Inf Bn.
HANSOM.
26 Dec 42.

MILNEFORCE.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES - W.E. 26 DEC 42.

1. Engineering works.
 - a. Jetty at COSCVILLE completed. This work is effectively screened by mangroves from aerial observation and will facilitate unloading of rations, particularly heavy loads. Bulk of work now performed by natives direct from surf boat to food dump.
 - (b) Good progress has been made by Engrs in constructing jetty for unloading of amm at amm dump S.W. section of harbour.
 - (c) Inf personnel have improved gradients and tracks to and from dumps and battle posns by laddering etc.
2. Tactical works. Bulk of stores and tools arr. from Wanigela by "DESICOCO" on 24 Dec. 2/10 Bn had insufficient time to prepare other than quickly constructed def. posns. Action is now being taken to build sangars and def. work in areas selected by C.O. and Coy Comds.
3. Patrols. Patrols to MARFURA, ARKID and TOMINI villages. Recce made to find alt. and better tracks to O.P on Mortar, COSC and POLARIS HILLS.

Sea and land recce made by C.O. and "I" pers. to discover possible concealed approaches to posn from flanks and rear.
4. State of health.
 - (a) Constant rain and the absence of cover mainly responsible for the number of admissions to A.D.S. rising to 24 for the week. Several cases of pyrexia occurred.
 - (b) An unsatisfactory state of hygiene existed on arrival. No provision was made for incinerators or the disposal of scraps. Flies were found breeding in certain areas. Supplies of kerosene, malarial and fly spray are needed to clear up the camp area; chloride of lime is required for latrines.
 - (c) Tps are performing heavy work on steep mountain tracks and a full scale ration is considered necessary. The field ration will prove inadequate in a short time. Additional salt ration or salt tablets are required owing to humid climate and heavy work causing profuse sweating. Fresh fruit is NOT available in any quantity locally.
 - (d) It is requested that a sea-going launch be made available for the unrestricted use of the C.O. to provide in addition to

other uses, means of evacuating sick from this area. No regular service exists at present and the development of ORO BAY may lessen the number of vessels visiting PORLOCK HARBOUR.

5. TRAINING.

(a) Other than patrol work and thorough recce of area, little training was carried out.

(b) A successful registration shoot was carried out by Arty and registration effected on ten probable target areas.

6. GENERAL.

Comms. L/T has now been extended to all O.Ps, thereby accelerating information. Cable laid to Bofor posn was found because of immersion in sea water, plus contact with coral, to be in an unserviceable condition. Action has been taken to lift all cable from water and place on trees along foreshore.

W/T. Both ~~101~~¹⁰⁹ sets are out of order and reliance is placed on 101 set. It is requested that a 109 set in working order be forwarded or a mechanic sent to make existing sets serviceable. A quantity of batteries for same also is required. Apart from W/T, comms are now greatly improved.

AMN. A physical check by R.S.M. reveals certain discrepancies in amn posn which are disclosed on ref. to amn state Appx. "A" of this report, and Appx. C to Milne Force O.O. No. 4. The chief point to which attention is directed is the grenade posn. Our total includes several grenades unserviceable because of penetration of moisture to detonators. Grenades distributed will now only be primed as operational conditions dictate. Climatic conditions generally have spoilt some amn and it is requested that consideration be given to forwarding sheets of iron to provide effective shelters.

RATIONS. Storage of res. rations also presents difficulties as far as weather conditions are concerned, but an endeavour is being made to stack all def. posns with 14-21 days reserve. A check reveals that this had NOT been done in many posns.

TENTAGE. It is requested that urgent consideration be given to the question of forwarding one man tents to HANSOM, together with some tarpaulins. Men travelled lightly as far as clothing is concerned, and unless protection is afforded against the adverse weather men will be forced to work and sleep in wet clothing.

HYDRA BURNERS. The constant rain makes the provision of hydra burners a necessity and it is requested that priority

(3)

be extended to this force. Five or six are required.

Summary of requirements.-

Motor sea-going launch (if unavailable, craft suitable for operating within harbour.)

One man tents.

Tarpaulins (to protect perishable foodstuffs)

Boots.

Hydra Burners (5 or 6)

Malarial

Fly spray

Chloride of lime.

Expense stores.

Kerosene

Spap etc.

109 set in operating condition, plus spare batteries.

Stationery

Information on other matters entrusted to Capt Wetham for attention.

Ellis

Lt-Col
C.O. 25 Aust Inf Bn.

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

SERIAL No. 3/42

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W.S. Ref. 11/12/2
A.B.P.
36 offrs 874 O.R.
Att. 1 " 6 "

25 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1	-	-
Majors	3	-	2
Captains	10	-	1
Lieutenants	21	1	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters	1		
Totals	36	1	3

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
		N I L		

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
		N I L		

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Capt-Lt-Col	OX36371	MILES R.S.	25 Bn	Yes	C.C.
" Maj	OX40879	ROPPNER R	"	"	O.C. H.Q. Coy
Lieut-Capt	OX35550	STEELE P.J.	"	"	C.C. C Coy
" "	Q.21621	RYAN B.T.	"	"	O.C. A Coy.
" "	Q.36184	DUGGAN J.S.	"	"	Adj't
" "	OX40876	MCDONALD C.R.K.	"	"	O.C. D Coy
" "	OX35558	PIPER A.H.K H.J.	"	"	O.C. B Coy
" "	OX36183	JUST H.E.	"	"	O.C. E Coy
" "	Q.21943	ROBINSON W	"	"	2 1/c E Coy
" "	OX36181	FOSTER J.H.A.	"	"	2 1/c D Coy
" "	OX35835	O'BRIEN P.J.	"	"	Q.M.
" "	Q.21661	McLIMES R.D.	"	No.	Att 7 Ide as L.O.
Lieut	OX36185	JENNINGS R.D.R.	"	"	Hosp. Milne Coy
" "	OX35551	COFFE J.S.	"	Yes	A/QM Hanson. 2 1/c C Coy
" "	OX40875	ABINGHAM T.J.	"	"	" HATRACK 2 1/c B Coy
" "	Q.21954	MARSH A.W.	"	"	DUGGAN 2 1/c B
" "	Q.21842	HARLTON D.H.J.	"	"	Pl Comd A Coy
" "	Q.35559	GRAY W.S.	"	"	" " B " "
" "	Q.21947	LEADBETTER C.F.	"	"	" " E " "
" "	Q.21510	BARRIE T.D.	"	"	" " A " "
" "	OX35735	WILSON D.R.	"	"	" " C " "
" "	Q.21754	PHILLIPS P.J.	"	"	" " D " "
" "	Q.21932	NELSON W.R.	"	"	" " " " "
" "	OX41451	MCDONALD R.N.	"	"	I.O.
" "	Q.21941	COLLINS T.J.	"	"	Pl Comd D Coy
" "	Q.21915	HARRIS H.A.	"	"	Pl " " " "
" "	OX34428	SCHLIDEN R.L.	"	"	" " A " "
" "	Q.21857	SMITH A.V.	"	"	" " B " "
" "	Q.22855	SCHINDLER R.J.	"	"	" " HQ " "
" "	Q.21828	BAIN B	"	"	" " " " "
" "	Q.22855	HARRISON L.B.	"	"	" " B " "
" "	Q.22856	DRUBER L.M.	"	"	" " HQ " "
" "	Q.22853	STEELE S.D	"	"	" " C " "
" "	Q.22721	HINE F.V.	"	"	" " D " "

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	123369	ROBINSKJAR J.H	Chaplains Dept		Chaplain.
"	123322	WILLIAMSON W.S.	A.A.M.C.		R.M.O.

25 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

E. Miles Rose
(Signature of Commander.)

26 Dec 42.

(Date of Despatch.)

BATFORCE.

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

19 FEB. 1943

836

WAR DIARY ~~OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn HATRACKDate and Time.—From 14 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MILNE BAY WANIGELA	Dec 14	0530 1830	Fine and hot. A Force comprising 'A' and 'B' Coys, portion of 'E(MG)' and 'HQ' Coys and Bn HQ Staff (totalling 14 Offrs and 227 O.Rs) Under comd Maj R. Weppner, left Milne Bay aboard S.S. 'MELINGA' of 243 tons at 1830 hrs to proceed to WANIGELA, Collingwood Bay, Papua. The boat was very crowded with 310 aboard, incl 36 pers of 2/10 Bn, 15 pers AASC, 7 pers of 11 Fd Amb and 6 RAE to handle winches.	
WAN IGELA	" 15	0530 1600	Showery in the morning. S.S. 'MELINGA' berthed at WANIGELA Jetty. C. O. and party moved to Bn HQ. Tps disembarked and moved to bivouac areas for the night. Native labour unloaded boat. Heavy storms experienced during the night.	
	" 16		C. O. (Maj. Weppner) on recce with C. O. of 2/10 Bn. Coy., Pl and Sec Comds went over individual posns of respective areas. 2/10 Bn patrols at UUE, KEPPLER Pt and SOUTH Pt relieved by 25 Bn.	
	" 17	0530 0830	Fine and hot. 2/10 Bn handed over posn to 25 Bn. Ketch - 'JACQUELINE MARIE' arrived for duty from MILNE BAY. 25 Bn move stores etc in respective areas.	
	" 18	1230 0530	2/10 Bn left for ORO BAY per S.S. 'DESIKOKO' and 'MELINGA' Cloudy but clearing. 'JACQUELINE MARIE' went to UUE with rations and signaller, and on to TUFU with RAAF Signaller. Reported running onto reef at UUE and damaging propellor shaft. 25 Bn checking amm and ration dumps. Big discrepancy found in rations and message sent to HQ Milne Force explaining posn. 4 pers sent to A.N.G.A.U. as native overseers.	

WAR DIARY ~~OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn HATRACK

Date and Time.—From 14 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
WANIGELA	Dec 19	0530	Fine Recce patrols of tracks towards TOTORE and ILIA R. Work continuing on dumps and building native shelters for same. Coys working on improving and camouflaging posns. Work by natives on bridge in 'B' Coy area and on road continued. Following pers evacuated per S.S. 'DESIKOKO' with Capt. Edelman	
"	" 20	0530	of 2/5 Fd Amb i/c:- 41 hospital cases, 5 RAE, 4 101 Ind Bde Wkshops. Showery in the morning. Recce patrols to SOUTH Pt, and of tracks to and from MURIN Vil. Day of rest. Swimming parades held, and instn given. Native labour used on road, bridge, hut building, and grass cutting in 'A' Coy area.	
"	" 21	0530 1230	Fine. Capt. Wheltham, Milne Force L.O., arrived from 25 Bn HANSOM. Ketch - 'JACQUELINE MARIE' - left for MILNE BAY to undergo repairs to propellor shaft.	
"	" 22	0530 0700	Fine. C. O. (Maj. Weppner) left by launch for recce UUE beach area. Coys continuing work in reconditioning of posns. 2/4 Fd Coy	
"	" 23	0530 1040 1115 1400	R.A.E., continuing laying of tramline on Causeway. Showery, but clearing. S. S. 'DESIKOKO' berthed from PORLOCK HARBOUR. Launch 'SAN CHRISTOPHELO' arrived with mail from PORLOCK HARBOUR. Loaded on stores on 'DESIKOKO' for 25 Bn det. at PORLOCK HARBOUR.	
"	" 24	1915 0530 0650 1456	Heavy tropical storm. Raining. Looks like clearing. S.S. 'DESIKOKO' departed for PORLOCK with 25 Bn stores and 200 natives. Launch 'MINERVA' left for UUE with relief patrol. Several flights of Cobras passed over our posn.	

1515 0.0 NR 1 uncl.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit. 25 Aust Inf Bn HATRACK Date and Time.—From 14 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
WANI GELA	Dec 25	0530	Fine and clear. Hot later on.	
		0845	S.S.'DESIKOKO' berthed	
		0900	'B' Coy loading eqpt and stores for move to GOODENOUGH ISLAND.	P.O. No 1 AH.
		1530	S.S.'DESIKOKO' left with 'B' Coy 25 Bn and att. pers totalling 5 offrs and 80 O/Rs under comd. Capt. H. J. Fitzpatrick, for GOODENOUGH ISLAND. 'B' Coy now under comd. DRAKE FORCE. Xmas Day celebrated quietly. Appropriate church parades conducted by Bishop of New Guinea, Bishop Strong.	
"	26	0530	Raining.	
		0700	A.N.G.A.U. Launch 'EADIE', left for McLAREN HARBOUR with rations.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
		0845	Conference for offrs called by C. O., and the purpose of the strip is not.	
1900	Notified Milne Force now designated 11 AUST DIV.			
"	27	1940	Launch 'EADIE' returned from McLAREN HARBOUR.	
		0450	U/I aircraft flying SOUTH	
		0530	Very dull weather Tropical storm during afternoon. Tps continuing work on def posns.	
"	28	0530	Fine	
		0930	Arrival of Gypsy Meth on strip, from MILNE BAY.	
		1015	'Plane left with RAAF Liaison Pilot and safe hand bag for MILNE BAY.	
			Native labour being used for clearing fields of fire and cutting grass on strip.	
"	29	0530	Considerable activity of friendly aircraft passing over area.	
			Stormy	
"	30	0830	N.C.Os. course in A/C identification commenced, under direction of 'C' Tp 2/17 Aust Lt A.A. Bty.	
		0530	Heavy rain through early morning. Storms all day. Mortars and M.M.G. pers carried out firing practice from def posns. Several 'Flying Fortresses' passed over posn during the day.	

[Handwritten signature]

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2115
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 25 Aust Inf Bn HATRACK Date and Time.—From 14 Dec 42 To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
WANIGELA	Dec 31	0340	U/I A/C circled over posn and COLLINGWOOD BAY for approx 30 mins with navigation lights showing.	
		0530	Fine and very warm	
		1115	Lugger 'MATOMA' berthed, from PORLOCK HARBOUR with mail, canteen supplies, supplementary rations, 6 hospital evacuations, 25 Bn Padre and Pay Sgt. Also carried repaired propeller shaft for S.S. 'BARRACONDA'.	
		1130	Native working parties unloaded 'MATOMA' under supervision. Morale of tps very high after distribution of mail and canteen goods. Pers were also paid for the first time in approx 6 weeks.	
		1600 1630	O.O. No 2 issued O.O. No 2 read and explained to Offrs at H. Qs Morale normal.	O.O. No 2 Att
				<i>[Signature]</i>
				<i>[Signature]</i> Maj. <u>C. O., HATRACK</u>

HATRACK O. O. NO. 1

Date 24 Dec. 48

- (1) Information:- B Coy. 25 Aust. Inf. Bn., plus No. 3 Sec. 20 Pl. M.M.G. and No. 1 & 2 Dets. Mortars as per nominal roll attached App. A. will cease to be part of HATRACK FORCE on clearing anchorage HATRACK and will become part DRAKE FORCE.
- A. Coy. 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. and attached tps. as per Nominal Roll App. B. will remain HATRACK FORCE.
- (2) Intention:- Force as per App. A will move by DESIKOKO to DRAKE.
- (3) Method:- DESIKOKO will berth at HATRACK by 1600 hrs. L/25.
- (4) DESIKOKO will leave HATRACK for DRAKE at 0630 hrs. L/26.¹⁵³⁰
- (5) E. T. A. BELIBELI anchorage 1500 hrs. L/26.¹⁰⁰⁰
- (6) O. C. Ship - Capt. H. E. Fitzpatrick., - Embarkation Officer - Capt. W. Robinson., Ships Adj. - Lieut A. W. Marsh.
- (7) Loading:- All unnecessary gear and equipment will be loaded into hold on arrival of DESIKOKO at HATRACK, and all loading less personal equipment and weapons will be completed by 0500 hrs. L/26.²⁵
- (8) Embarkation will commence at 0530 hrs. and complete Nominal Roll handed to O. C. Ship and one copy to O. C. HATRACK on completion.¹⁴³⁰
- (9) Loading Parties:- O. C. Ship will apply to Adj. for native loading party as required.
- (10) Natives will not be allowed to carry personal equipment in normal way on their backs, but may carry it on poles.
- (11) O. C. Ship will prepare complete inventory of equipment and gear for ships hold and forward copy to this H. Q. by 1200 hrs. L/25. Loading will be checked by this list.
- (12) On arrival DRAKE - CAPT. Fitzpatrick will take over role from 2/12 Bn. or receive orders there.
- (13) A. A. Protection:- During night loading if lights are used all lights will be extinguished on approach of an A/C.
Warning:- A/A Det. will blow whistle blasts or fire burst of T.S.M.G. to signal "LIGHTS OUT".
O. C. Ship will mount A.A. L.M.G.'s on board ship during voyage with 1 Box Magazine per gun.
- (14) Adm. - Medical:- 2 S. B. will accompany B. Coy. Gp.
- (15) Amm. 100 rds. per rifle will be carried.
Grenades will not be carried.
On arrival DRAKE - O. C. B. Coy. will arrange to draw from DRAKE Stock complete first and second line amm. for Gp. Balance of Dump to be loaded DESIKOKO for return FALL RIVER.
- (16) Tools:- B. Coy. Gp. will take normal tools as at present allotted (to be included in loading list) see para 11.
- (17) Transport:- Jeeps will be made available on application to Adj. for removal heavy equipment, also the use of the tramline.
- (18) Supplies:- One day's rations will be carried on the man, plus emergency rations, plus 2 days in Coy. or Pl. Bulk.

An additional 21 days quinine will be drawn from HATRACK Q. M. making total 28 days supply.

Water Containers - 1 per sec. will be carried with Sec. - FILLED. W/Bottles will be FILLED.

supplies (Contd).

On arrival DRAKE O. C.B. COY GP. will collect 28 days Rations from DRAKE STACK, balance reloaded DESIKOKO for return FALL RIVER.

- (19) Inter-comm:- Cpl. N. A. Jones and Three (3) Sig. Personnel will accompany B. Coy. Gp. 2/12 Bn. Lines will be left intact, five (5) Field Telephones being despatched from FALL RIVER.

signed 1515 L/24

Alayper
O/C HATRACK.

Major.

ACK.

Distribution.

- | | | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------|-------------------|
| No. | 1. | B. Coy. 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. | with APP. A. |
| " | 2 | Capt. W. Robinson | with App. A. |
| " | 3 | Q. M. | |
| " | 4 | C. O. 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. | with App. A & B. |
| " | 5 | O. C. Hatrack | |
| " | 6 | File | with App. A. & B. |
| " | 7 | War Diary | with App. A. |
| " | 8 | Milne Force | with App. A. & B. |

B. COY. & ATT. TPS.

QX35558 CAPT. H. E. FITZPATRICK
 Q21954 LIEUT. A. W. MARSH
 Q21857 " A. V. SMITH
 Q22855 " L. E. MORRISON
 QX35559 " H. S. GREEN
 QX34443 WOLL W. R. KNOWLES
 QX34444 SGT. P. R. JAY
 Q21718 " A. V. COX
 Q22468 A/SJT. W. F. CROSSLEY
 QX35698 CPL. M. BRUNCKHORST
 Q34177 " A. J. CHAPPELL
 QX35685 " W. E. K. DALZELL
 Q22847 " G. E. FARNHAM
 Q21719 " E. P. CURTIS
 Q22696 PTE. E. S. BYERS
 Q103189 " V. A. BENNETT
 Q103190 " J. BRUGGEMAN
 Q22476 " W. BACHMANN
 Q103187 L/CPL. A. E. BATZLOFF
 Q146538 PTE. G. A. E. BARCLAY
 Q128769 " H. S. BYRNE
 QX34445 " W. H. COOPER
 Q104134 " G. P. CARROLL
 Q22674 " M. COX
 N155588 " J. J. CARROLL
 Q22630 " R. E. COWLING
 Q104125 " J. C. COCKRANE
 Q103209 " J. F. MCLOUGHLIN
 Q22665 " F. J. RODGERS
 N156479 " R. PAYNE
 Q22494 " C. E. STRONG
 QX35169 " G. H. D. SMITH
 Q103181 " G. Y. VOWLES
 Q103222 " P. J. WILSON
 Q22459 " C. L. WALLER
 Q103185 " F. J. WITT
 QX35168 " J. R. SAXLEY
 Q22679 " R. DORRIES
 Q104148 " E. G. EBELING
 Q104149 L/CPL. J. G. FLYNN
 Q22490 " L. D. GOOS
 Q22470 PTE. W. GOOS
 Q103165 " S. T. HARRIS
 Q125293 " S. M. HUNG
 Q22480 " R. J. HAINES
 Q103550 " J. E. HAMILTON
 Q104194 " J. S. INWOOD
 QX41798 " J. M. JURD
 Q103204 " C. KELLY
 Q22464 " A. S. KING
 Q21786 L/CPL. G. C. LEITZOW

A/EPK J.W. MAYSON
 PTE. S.V.M. WHITE

Q103206 PTE. V. C. LANGE
 N296031 " W. A. LEWIS
 Q104225 " J. MILLER
 Q103208 " K. MCALPINE
 Q104229 " V. P. MCGAUL
 QX31197 " A. MCKANE
 Q22474 " R. H. NEUMANN
 Q22677 " W. E. CLIFFORD
 Q22626 " R. J. BRADLEY
 Q104225 " G. B. RAYMER
 Q21752 " P. J. LYNCH

ATT. TPSS. Es.

Q104112 PTE H. L. BRAZIER
 Q103184 L/CPL F. G. WILKES

B(MG) Coy

SET J C BURKE
 Q 22186 SGT R. J. ANDREWS
 Q 21882 CPL C. V. CROSS
 QX34439 PTE M. A. BURGESS
 Q 22556 " L. R. OSBORNE
 Q103353 " L. R. RONDE
 Q 21897 CPL N. F. MYERS
 QX39832 PTE W. P. KEALY
 Q104243 " G. R. ROSER
 Q103105 " J. E. SHEPPARD

MORTARS

Q 21781 SGT W. D. GREBERT
 Q104141 L/CPL B. DENSLY
 Q104292 PTE R. J. WILKES
 Q102396 " W. J. LYNAGH
 Q104218 " E. MASSIEY
 Q 22450 " E. R. LYNAGH

SIGS

Q 22299 CPL N. A. JONES
 Q 22770 SIG A. E. STANLEY
 QX37483 " J. T. YULE
 Q 203514 " F. B. GREEN

HATRACK O. O. NO. 2

Date 31 DEC. 42

Ref. Map TUFI 1" - 4 Mls.

Sketch Map WANIGELA 1" - 300 yds.

Track Map WANIGELA-UUE 1" - 2 miles

(All Map Ref. are for Sketch Map unless otherwise stated).

INFORMATION

1. : Enemy still holding BUNA and other pts. to north, also at present large shipping concentrations at RABOUL, an attack on HATRACK to gain landing strip and as a diversion cannot be disregarded.

OWN TPS.

2. : HATRACK comprises the following:-
Tps. under comd. C. O. Hatrack.
A. Coy. 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. (strength 72)
1 Det. Mortars 25 Aust. Inf. Bn.
19 Pl. M.M.G. 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. plus 1.50.
1 Sec. F. Tp. 2/5 Fd. Regt.
J. Tp. 2/2 A. T/k. Regt.
1 Tp. 2/17 Lt. A/A (3 Bofors) plus 2.50.
Det. Eng. 2/4 Fd. Coy. (expected to leave area)
Det 55 Special W/T Gp. (on 2 Jan. 43).
Lt. Det. 11 Fd. Amb.
Signal, Cypher, Canteen etc.

INTENTION

3. : Hatrack Force will hold drome for purpose of reinforcing this and other areas.

METHOD

4. : The Def. will be based on two areas and divided into Four Phases.
(a) Drome Area at A, B and C App. A.
(b) Beach Area from (incl) Mission to (incl) New Jetty App. A.
5. : PHASE 1. No information of Enemy Attack.
(a) Beach Gp. Def. Localities as per App. A will consist of:-
9 pl. less 2 Secs., 19 Pl. M.M.G. less 1 Sec. plus 1.50 Bng.
1 Sec. F. Tp. 2/5 Fd. Reg. (2.25 Pdrs. plus 3 L.M.Gs)
1 Tp. 2/2 A.t/k Guns less 2 Dets, plus 2 L.M.G.
1 Det. Lt. A/A (1 Bofor) plus 1.50 Bng.
Personnel of Con. Depot approx. 20.
Beach area will be subdivided into two Def. Localities:- Mission - Comd. Lieut. Purcell, Jetty-Tramline - Comd. Lieut Schlyder.
(b). Drome Gp. Def. Locality A area App. A.
A. Coy. less 9 Pl. H. Q. and 1 Sec.
1 Sec. 19 Pl. M.M.G.
1 Det. Mortars.
1 Tp. Lt. A/A less 1 det. plus 1.50 Bng. and 3 L.M.G
2 Dets. A/Tk. Guns plus 2 L.M.Gs.
(c) Gp. H.Q. will form perimeter in area C. App. A.
(d) Outposts as follows:-
A. Coy. at UUE (K2560 Ref. TUFI).
ANGAU Natives at TOTORE (J8862 Ref. TUFI)
" " CONGIGO (South Pt.)
6. : Mortar Tasks - Opportunity.
Fire Plan see App. B.
Arty., A/Tk. Bofors Beach Def. (Beach area).
Arty also UUE Track clearings (Registered).
7. : PHASE 2. For attack on beach on any information of impending attack.
(a) Gp. H. Q. will occupy position in Area A.
(b) All available H.Q. and Hospital personnel will take up posns. in A area as per App. A.
(c) Beach Gp. will hold beach as long as possible

or until ordered to withdraw. No additional support will be given from Drome area except possibly Mortar.

(d) Each Beach Gp. may be ordered to withdraw at different times.

W/DRAWAL

8 (a) On W/drawal 9 Pl. Gp. less 25 Pdr. and Bofors will w/draw to C. area. Bofor to B. area via Causeway. Comd. Lieut Schlyder. Delaying posn. if necessary. 25 Pdr. to A. area via Causeway.

(b) Mission Gp. less 25 Pdr. will move to B. area, plus 7 Pl. Comd. B. area Lieut Marlton. 25 Pdr. will move to A area. Delaying area Ref. Map. 158222.

(c) Route Mission Track.

(d) During Beach W/drawal 7 Pl. and 2 Secs. 9 Pl. may be required for delaying posns. mentioned above on other tracks.

(e) For complete fire plan on completion of w/drawal see App. B.

(f) If impossible to w/draw any weapons from beach they must be rendered u/s before leaving.

9. PHASE 3.:- Enemy approach from UUE track, or other tracks and beach landing.

Dispositions as per Phase 1.

(a) UUE patrol will fall back without being involved and report progress of enemy to H. Q.

(b) 7 Pl. plus FOO will move out to ambush pts. as directed and meet UUE patrol. 7 Pl. Comd. will arrange ambushes in conjunction with Arty Offr. and keep H. Q. informed by UUE phone.

(c) Beach Def. will hold until ordered to w/draw.

10. PHASE 4. Complete Def. of Drome area at A, B and C as App.B.

(a) In event of air attack in Phase 1. all tps will maintain posns. and report, unless ordered to w/draw to posn. Drome area.

(b) Def. will be passive except against low flying attack.

(c) Concealment is of paramount importance. All tps. will take cover on approach of any a/c whether identified as friendly or not.

(d) Strict blackout will be observed at night on approach of any a/c.

(e) All defences will be thoroughly camouflaged during all stages of construction.

PREPARATION (a) All Sub-unit Comds. will take steps to immediately Recce. and prepare posns. for all stages. (Recce reports and sketches available this H. Q.)

11.

PREPAREDNESS (a) Amn. will be carried at all times.

12. (b) 50% of Subunits will be within call by day, remainder within 1 hr. of posn.

(c) 1900-0530 hrs. All tps. to be at 3 mins. notice.

(d) Stand to 0530 hrs. to 0615 hrs.

(e) Sentries arranged by Sub. Unit Comds. but minimum of 1 per sec. at all times. Other arrangements due to shortage

of men with this H. Q.

TRAINING 13. Subject to Para 12. tng in all roles will be carried out, also, Fire discipline and control and range practices.

For Arty and Mortar registrations apply to H. Q.

WIRING 14. Wiring will be sited as per plan App. B. Single Concertina or two strand trip. Priority 1. Augmented by alarms, traps and wait-a-whiles.

MINEFIELDS 15. (a) Preparations for minefields will be made at Causeway at narrow neck strip (swamp) extrication pt. responsibility 9 Pl. and at wiring east end A area A Coys. responsibility.

(b) Mission track, swamp area and extrication pt. responsibility A/Tk. Comd.

GRASS-CUTTING 16. (a) O. C. A. Coy. is responsible for 400 yds. field of fire being cut all areas and runway (native labour)

ADM. 17. Amn. dumps for all areas arranged by A/R.S.M. under cover and off ground.

MEDICAL 18. R.A.P. at present H. Q. area 0800 hrs. and at Con. Depot 1100 hrs. daily.- Phase 1. And at A. area for Phases 2,3, 4.

Strict anti-malarial precautions will be enforced at all times.

TPT. 19. (a) Phase 1 - all Tpt. under control Q. M.

(b) Phase 2 & 3. Two Jeeps will be available Mission Gp. to w/draw 25 Pdr. and A/Tk. guns.

(c) Tram Trolleys and Two Jeeps Jetty Gp. to w/draw Bofors, 25 Pdr. and A/Tk. Gun and M. M.G. Sec.

(d), 1 Jeep to H. Q. and reserve.

SUPPLIES 20 (a) Shipping:- 9 Pl. is responsible for information of all shipping and speedy unloading. Q. M. or representative will assist in sorting stores.

(b) Ration Dump will be arranged for all areas (7 days) under shelters and off ground. All water containers will be filled before night for all phases.

INTER-COM. 21. H. Q. at 155231 for Phases 2, 3 and 4 at 145238.

INTERNAL 22. L/T to all areas A, B, C.
L/T UUE Patrol.
L/T D. F. Stn.
For Phases 2 & 3 ANGAU phone will move with Mission Gp. to B. area. 9 Pl. Phone to C. area. UUE Phone to A. area.

ACK.

SIGNED AT 1600 HRS.

ISSUED AT CONFERENCE. 1600

C.O. Hatrack MAJOR
C.O. HATRACK.

DISTRIBUTION

- 1. A. Coy. with App. A. B.
- 2 9 Pl.
- 3 19 Pl.
- 4 F. Tp. 2/5 Fd. Arty
- 5 2/17 Lt. A/A
- 6 J Tp. 2/2 A/Tk. Regt.
- 7 Q.M.

- 8. Lt. Sec. 11 Fd. Amb.
- 9. C. O. Hatrack
- 10. 11 Aust. Div. A. & B.
- 11. C. O. 25 Aust. Inf. Bn. A & B.
- 12 File
- 13 War Diary.