

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

Item number: 8/3/96

61 Infantry Battalion
February - March 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 1 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	1 Feb 45		<p>As from 0100 hrs the battalion reverted to "K" time and all watches were put back one hour. The following times will now be adhered to - STAND TO 0500 hrs, breakfast 0630 hrs, lunch 1200 hrs, tea 1645 hrs. Malaria precautions observed from 1700 hrs. A coy recce patrol 1 Offr 4 OR's and native guide moved out from D Coy perimeter 843698 along DAWES track S.E. towards MOSINA. Encountered enemy force unknown strength armed with LMG and rifles approx 2300 yds from D Coy at 1350 hrs. Enemy fired LMG inflicting one cas. Enemy cas NIL. Own 1 offr killed - QX19919 Lt. Robinson H.D. Remainder of patrol then withdrew and a fighting patrol of 1 pl was dispatched immediately from D Coy to search this area. Enemy were again contacted at the same posn but withdrew when fired on by our patrol.</p>	<p><i>Disposition and native map covering period 24-28 Feb 45 attached as appa 16</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Rowan</i> Capt Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn</p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time. From 1 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	FEB May 1 45		<p>Patrol than returned, having recovered Offr's body. 11 pl fighting patrol out for 2 days returned 1215 hrs and reported KUPON clear of enemy, but found evidence of approx 12 enemy having biv night 30/31 Jan in KUPON. Fires had been started with 75 mm charges and the patrol also reported that the enemy was apparently suffering from dysentery. A Coys 2 day recce patrol Lt Tomlinson 3 OR's and native guide from D Coy to NIGITAN returned at 1330 hrs. Searched area, and only enemy seen were an estimated 4 approx 800 yds NORTH of NIGITAN on KUPON-SISIRUAI road. Also heard sound of motor vehicles on bearing 268 degrees from NIGITAN. At BRINK BASE area a Jap 75 mm breech block, crank-handle, and extractor in fair condition were found approx</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 1⁴² Feb 45

To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	1 Feb 45		<p>816713. A Coy posn 812723 is now known as LAWSONS POST.</p> <p>During the day a recce of PAGANA R was made in an assault boat from B.L.P. No. 6 to D Coy. However, the river was considered unsatisfactory for an alternate L of C as craft ran aground in many places and engine was not powerful enough against the current. S39005 Pte Horgan G.J. who was accidentally wounded 29 Jan passed away at 1200 hrs. At 0816 hrs GOC Maj Gen Bridgeford and Bde Comd Brig Field visited this H.Q.</p> <p>(Routine Orders Pt. 1 issued as per Appx 1)</p>	Routin
	2 Feb 45		<p>-----</p> <p>12 Pl fighting patrol departed D Coy 845698 at 0800 hrs for KUPON-NIGITAN and arrived KUPON 1200 hrs without making contact. 9 pl fighting patrol established firm base at 852691 by 1205 hrs.</p>	Appx 1.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date ~~and Time~~ From 23 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	2 Feb 45		<p>Advance continued from firm base and by 1500 hrs patrol reached a point 500 yds beyond without making contact. This point being established as Jap ambush posn encountered 1 Feb 2000 yds S-E along DAWES track. Enemy posn was in the roots of large tree and fold in ground. Chopsticks and mess tins containing lily roots and other evidence of a hasty withdrawal was found. Pnr Offr accompanied 12 Pl patrol to KUPON and reported excellent dropping ground approx 873704, some clearing required. Local security and contact patrols nothing to report. Lt Sloan marched out to 11 Fd Amb.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>A coy moved fwd to area 840699 and est posn by 1130 hrs.</p> <p>9 pl patrol continuing adv from firm base 852691 made contact with one rifleman 700 yds S-E along DAWES track at 0900 hrs. Enemy escaped when fired on.</p>	
	3 Feb 45			

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date ~~and Time~~ — From 3 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	3 Feb 45		<p>At 1100 hrs contact was again made with unknown number of enemy, armed with 1 LMG and 3 rifles, at a Jap biv area of 12 huts approx 1000 yds from first contact. Arty fire was brought down on biv area and afterwards patrol completely destroyed huts. Patrol continued further 600 yds without making contact then returned. 12 Pl patrol returned at 1500 hrs having est firm base at KUPON night 2/3 Feb. A.M. 3 Feb patrol adv from firm base towards NIGITAN made contact at 1100 hrs with one rifleman approx 1200 yds from KUPON. After firing 3 or 4 shots at random enemy escaped. Patrol continued a further 300 yds and again contacted an estimated 4 enemy armed with rifles in a biv area of 4 huts. Enemy again withdrew. Patrol searched area and found huts recently constructed,</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 3 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	3 Feb 45		<p>mess gear, blankets, khaki clothing in good condition, rifle grenade and documents. Enemy diet consisted of shellfish, bananas and edible roots. Further evidence found of 75 m.m. propellant charges being used to start fires. After destroying biv area patrol returned with captured equipment.</p> <p>Local security and contact patrols nothing to report. During the night arty laid down harrassing fire on Jap biv area approx 848687. Request made for air dropping of rations and amn on 6 Feb at dropping ground 873704. Maj Phillips marched in to L.O.B. area from 2/1 A.G.H.</p>	
	4 Feb 45		<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Sec standing patrol from A Coy est posn on track junc TOMMYS track 862702. 10 pl plus one sub sec MMG, one det mortars and one sec pioneers moved fwd and by 1000 hrs had</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap est.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 4 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	4 Feb 45		<p>taken up a posn on junc EAST-WEST: KUPON-NIGITAN tracks and commenced clearing air dropping ground at 882699. 8 pl while digging in at firm base 846687 heard sounds of chopping 300 yds S-E of posn. Arty fire brought down but investigation failed to locate enemy. Local security and contact patrols nothing to report.</p>	
	5 Feb 45		<p>C Coy moved fwd and occupied CLARK BASE by 1010 hrs. B Coy moved fwd to join 10 pl and occupied junc EAST-WEST track - WHYBIRD road 885696 by 1015 hrs. 8 pl patrol moving S-E from firm base on DAWES track at 0845 hrs came under fire from 1 LMG and rifles at approx 851685. Arty fire was brought down on posn then patrol advanced further 500 yds again making contact at 1110 hrs with an estimated 15/16 enemy</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 5 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	5 Feb 45		armed with 3 LMG and rifles. Cas enemy unknown. Own 1 killed W52716 Pte Spark G.O. and one wounded QX35543 L/Cpl Beitz F.J. G.S.W. right forearm evac to 11 Fd Amb ADS. Patrol searched area and located biv area of 8 huts at 854682 which afterwards were destroyed. Two rimless cartridges marked DEN 42 and scraps of paper marked with Jap characters were found in area. Patrol then returned to firm base and were relieved by 7 pl. Area cleared for air dropping 200 x 75 yds now completed.	
	6 Feb 45		14 pl moved from CLARK 829708 at 0745 hrs, arrived firm base 851685 1015 hrs. 7 pl then moved fwd along DAWES track and at 1115 hrs encountered enemy unknown strength armed with 2 LMG's and rifles at 853681.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.

(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time—From 6 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	6 Feb 45		<p>Enemy withdrew and 7 pl consolidated in posn. At 1500 hrs patrol moved fwd 300 yds and again contacted enemy with 1 LMG enemy withdrew and patrol returned to base 1545 hrs. Cas enemy unknown, one bloodstained shirt found in area. Own Nil.</p> <p>10 pl patrol to NIGITAN moved along WHYBIRD road for 2600 yds and reached KAWATO river. Three clearings here were identified by police boy as NIGITAN. Patrol returned to B Coy 1455 hrs without making contact. 2 day contact patrol (Cpl Young A) to 2/8 Cdo Sqn SOVELLE MISSION returned to B Coy 886696 1410 hrs. Reported NO contact or signs enemy met. LAWSONS POST area -</p> <p>75 mm gun minus barrel marked 4 I BA No. 10396 52K was found in old garden area at 808726. Gun pit 4-ft deep with log roof and firing slit 4 x 3 feet containing 47 live rounds.</p> <p>Direction of fire towards JABA R mouth.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 6 Feb 45 To 7 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	6 Feb 45		<p>Bombing by our a/c had apparently caused gun to be moved from old pit in rear where 20 spent shell cases were found.</p> <p>At 0715 hrs Douglas tpt dropped supplies and amn over dropping ground 873704. Two chutes which dropped EAST of area were later found, making 100% recovery for the drop and all supplies and amn were in serviceable condition. Pioneers completed 4 bridges between ROBBIES REST and KUPON.</p> <p>(Routine Orders Pt. 1 issued as per (Appx 2))</p>	<p><i>Disposition and Patrol map covering period 1-6 Feb 45 attached as appx 6</i></p>
	7 Feb 45		<p>13 pl moved from C Coy CLARK BASE down DAWES track and arrived firm base 853681 at 1030 hrs. 7 pl then moved fwd from this posn 400 yds without making contact and returned to A Coy posn. 8 pl moved fwd from A Coy and joined B Coy 885696 at 0915 hrs.</p>	<p><i>Appx 2.</i></p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 7 Feb 45 To 8 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	7 Feb 45		<p>10 pl moved fwd from B Coy and occupied NIGITAN 872685 at 0900 hrs. Recce patrol 1 NCO 4 OE's from this posn was fired on by an estimated 6 enemy 500 yds SOUTH along WHYBIRD road. Patrol returned fire but enemy escaped into jungle on EAST side of track. Cas enemy unknown, Own Nil. Further search of Jap biv area 876690 revealed a diary and notes which were found in the roof of a hut. Ref 75 mm gun located in area 808726, barrel now recovered.</p>	
	8 Feb 45		<p>BnHQ moved fwd from BRINK BASE and est posn KUPON 883699 at 0900 hrs. Remainder of A Coy moved fwd from 840699 and joined 8 pl at HUTCH HAVEN 885696 at 1000 hrs. Remainder of B Coy moved fwd from 885696 and joined 10 pl at NIGITAN 872685 at 1000 hrs.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time—From 8 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	8 Feb 45		<p>C Coy HQ and 15 pl moved fwd from CLARK BASE down DAWES track to 859682 at 1300 hrs. 14 pl returned from firm base 851685 to CLARK BASE. B Coy fighting patrol from NIGITAN SOUTH along WHYBIRD road towards MOSINA located two large clearings 1700 yds from S.P. which showed signs of recent occupation by approx 10 enemy. Fires were still hot and empty tins and ration cartons scattered through area. Patrol continued on and at 2100 yds located a second area showing evidence of recent Jap occupation and found drums of water, invasion money, 3 rolls galvanised wire, type previously reported as having been used for sig wire, surrender phamplets and documents. Patrol salvaged wire and passed documents to FSS pers. As from 2400 hrs 7 Feb battalion reverted back to "L" time and all watches were put fwd one hour.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 8 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	8 Feb 45		Accidentally wounded Q107805 A/Cpl Betzel N. whilst cleaning rifle received GSW left foot and was evac to 11 Fd Amb ADS.	
	9 Feb 45		A coy recce patrol 1 NCO 3 OR's and native guide to NIGITAN via AGABAI 915670 arrived NIGITAN at 1140 hrs. Reported track overgrown and no signs enemy met. A Coy fighting patrol of 1 sec and native guide to MOSINA via AGABAI arrived MOSINA 1300 hrs without making contact. 12 pl moved fwd from B Coy 872685 and occupied MOSINA 869672 at 0900 hrs and patrolled 500 yds fwd of firm base without making contact, then returned to B Coy posn. C Coy moving fwd from firm base 859682 on DAWES track reached WHYBIRD road at 869668. 14 Pl 300 yds fwd of coy were fired on by an estimated LMG and 6 rifles approx 871667 at 1305 hrs.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date ~~and Time~~ - From 9 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	9 Feb 45		<p>P1 attempted outflanking move but enemy withdrew and further contact could not be made. Cas enemy unknown. Own 1 killed, QX62512 L /Sgt White G. C coy less 15 pl then formed firm base on junc WHYBIRD road and DAWES track 869668 at 1615 hrs</p> <p>15 pl returned along DAWES track to firm base 859682.</p> <p>Supply dropping - only one drop made and all packages recovered in good condition. Road work - Pioneers completed 3 bridges along WHYBIRD road from 865696 to NORTH bank KAWATA river and first jeep moved through by 1800 hrs. In all contacts to date enemy has adopted hit and run tactics.</p> <p>On making contact our fwd tps have returned fire while remainder execute an outflanking move to cut track behind enemy. However on each occasion the Jap had withdrawn before mvt was completed.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 9 Feb 45 To 10 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	9 Feb 45		The counter measure appears to be a wide outflanking move on a previously reced route with the object of setting an ambush behind the enemy before contact is made. After driving enemy back from 871667 a patrol found one Aust 36 grenade, 4 filled rusty Owen mags and observed footprints thought to be Aust. Lt Sloan marched in from 11 Fd Amb.	
	10 Feb 45		A coy moved fwd from 885696 at 1330 hrs and occupied new posn at MOSINA 869671 at 1515 hrs. D coy less 16 pl moved from 843698 and occupied posn vacated by A Coy at 885696 at 1230L. 16 pl remained 843698. 15 pl joined C Coy 869668 at 1200 hrs. A Coy fighting patrol of 1 offr 36 OR's comd by Lt Tomlinson departed 885696 at 1015 hrs. This patrol made RV with natives at AGABAI and reported at least 30	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time ~~From~~ 10 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	10 Feb 45		<p>enemy occupying WARAPA. Patrol moving fwd preparatory to dawn raid on this posn 11 Feb. A fighting patrol from C Coy in an outflanking move cut WHYBIRD road 800 yds fwd of C Coy posn. Patrol then searched rd from this point back to Coy sighting one Jap who fled into jungle. Own cas Nil.</p> <p>2 pl 23 Fd Coy now based at 870687. 5 pl now at NIGITAN 872685. 4 drops were made at NIGITAN dropping ground -700 rations for 6 days with 100 percent recovery. A dropping ground can be made with little clearing at MOSINA 869671. The battalion area of responsibility has been further extended. The bdy between 61 and 25 Aust Inf Bn now TUJU R and track to 830685 SOUTH along 83 grid to 830610 thence along & incl line HUPAI R from 830610 to 900617.</p>	<p><i>Eye-sketch WARAPA AREA made prior to attack attached as appx 5</i></p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 11 Feb '45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	11 Feb 45		<p>After extensive recce A Coy patrol raided WARAPA area shortly after first light concentrating on a large hut which appeared to be HQ and was crowded with occupants.</p> <p>Concentrated fire and grenades brought to bear on hut for approx 5 mins. NO enemy was seen to escape from hut after raid and after observing for short time patrol withdrew. Difficult nature of country and vulnerability of flanks prevented further investigation. Cas own Nil.</p> <p>Enemy estimated 12 to 15 killed. Patrol returned to MOSINA 1415 hrs and remained night 11/12 Feb at C Coy 869668. 13 pl fighting patrol left C Coy at 0730 hrs to clear track to WARAPA. Patrol reached 876657 at 1445 hrs encountering rifle fire on two occasions en route. Cas own nil, enemy unknown.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time—From 11 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	11 Feb 45		<p>A Coy less 8 pl moving fwd from MOSINA behind 13 pl arrived 876657 at 1515 hrs and formed firm base. 15 pl moved from C Coy 869668 and joined A Coy at 876657 at 1620 hrs. 13 pl patrol returned to C Coy. 16 pl joined D Coy 885696 at 1030 hrs. A Coy posn 876657 in future to be known as MAC BASE (on NORTH bank LOGILA R). WHYBIRD road from MOSINA to LOGILA R reported jeepable except for a few boggy patches and one broken down bridge originally built to take vehicles. Natives report several more huts between WARAPA and MENDAI thought to be occupied by enemy.</p>	
	12 Feb 45		<p>8 pl moved from MOSINA 869671 and joined A Coy and 15 pl at MAC BASE 876657 at 0820 hrs. With 8 & 15 pls as firm base at MAC BASE remainder of A Coy continued move S-E towards WARAPA.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap etc.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 12th 13 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	12 Feb 45		<p>approx 886651. By 1700 hrs coy had reached a point approx 1500 yds fwd of firm base without contact. B Coy recce patrol of 1 sec from MOSINA 869671 to AGABAI 915670 then 1500 yds S-W along track to WARAPA, object to report on any enemy mvt after our raid WARAPA 11 Feb. Returned 1700 hrs reporting no signs of enemy. The battalion area of responsibility has again been extended. The new area is bounded by line 900700 950700 950600 900600. Bde Comd Brig J. Field visited this HQ.</p>	
	13 Feb 45		<p>A coy less 8 pl moved fwd approx 300 yds from firm base occupied night 12/13 Feb and took upposn on junc WARAPA-MENDAI and WARAPA-SISIRUAI rds at 0750 hrs. 8 pl joined A Coy at 1000 hrs.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 13 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	13 Feb 45		<p>Track from this posn WEST towards TAVERA RIV was patrolled for distance of 600 yds without contact. This track had not been used for at least 3 days. Track bearing 66 degrees was later known as HENDERSON HIGHWAY was patrolled to MENDAI a distance of approx 1800 yds without contact.</p> <p>A search was made of the area raided by our patrol 11 Feb. 7 freshly dug graves were investigated and found to be containing 9 bodies incl one Lt. A large quantity of documents and maps, one JUKI HMG in fair condition, 4 swords, 3 pistols, 10 rifles, personal effects and med supplies were found in the area. A type 96 LMG in good condition and an Aust paybook belonging to SX39083 Pte Kelly J.C. were found near the rd junc. It is probable that a further search to be made 14 Feb will disclose more</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 13 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	13 Feb 45		bodies and equipment. WHYBIRDS RD from MAC BASE to WARAPA can be made jeepable but will require considerable maintenance to keep open. The construction of 2 bridges, grading of a 30-ft bank and corduroying of muddy patches would be required. Pioneer pl and rear coys had corduroyed road from LAWSONS POST to KUPON.	
	14 Feb 45		18 pl moved from D Coy 885696 and joined A Coy 887651 at 1145L. B Coy patrol from WARAPA 887651 WEST along TAVERA R contacted a patrol of 14 pl 25 Aust Inf Bn at 837648 at 1345L. This patrol returned to WARAPA at 1540 hrs and reported NO signs of recent enemy mvt. C Coy patrol from 869671 to WARAPA via AGABAI returned to C Coy 1630 hrs reporting the area clear of enemy.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 14 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	14 Feb 45		<p>A further search of WARAPA area was made and 6 more bodies found, bringing total Jap cas for our raid 11 Feb to 15 killed. 2 Off's boxes containing maps and documents and another 9 swords were found. A patrol of 9 pl moved S-E along road toward SISIRUAI . By 1645 hrs this patrol had reached a large clearing and track junc SOUTH of the TAVERA R. This area is believed to be SISIRUAI. The main track to MEIVO continued on from this point on a bearing of 235 degrees mag and is 10-ft wide. It is reported the track to SOVELE mission joins the main track 300 yds fwd of this posn but this has not yet been confirmed. 9 pl remaining in occupation of track junc until relieved by 18 pl. A good dropping ground has been reported in area. The garden in the WARAPA area at 889658 is approx 5 acres.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 14 Feb 45 To 15 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	14 Feb 45		<p>Crops incl corn and pumpkins NOT yet mature. The biv area appears to have provided accomodation for approx 50 pers. Contact R was flown at the request of the battalion to locate A Coy posn. This posn was placed at 887651. As from 2400 hrs Feb 14 the new Aust 1/25000 survey sheet dated 8 Feb came into operation. In cases where the locations ^{units} of do NOT occur on these sheets the MOTUPENA PT-PURIATA R one ^{inch} cm sheet will be used and the map references prefixed with the letter MP.</p>	
	15 Feb 45		<p>At 0915 hrs BnHQ closed MP883699 and opened MP870672. 18 pl moved from A Coy and relieved 9 pl patrol at SISIRUAI 886623</p> <p>This posn confirmed by Tac/R and ANGAU. Later the remainder of D Coy joined 18 pl at 886623.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 15 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	15 Feb 45		<p>16 pl moved fwd 300 yds to occupy junc of SISIRUAI 2 - SOVELLE SOVELLE and SISIRUAI-MOSIGETTA tracks. A fighting patrol from A Coy through MENDAI then SOUTH to SISIRUAI 2 arrived at 1115 hrs without contact. A patrol from A Coy out 14 Feb to WERETAPA MP938644 returned 1415 hrs reporting no contact. A Coy sec ambush est at garden 889658 reported NO enemy seen. The following message was received from GOC 3 Aust Div. quote. GOC desires to congratulate you and troops under your comd on successful actions leading to the occupation of MEIVO track junc. Unquote. The battalion bdy has been altered as from 1800hrs. The new Bde bdy is now line 950640 910600 910564 along track leading SOUTH to 913557 thence EAST along track to PURIATA R at 930550 thence WEST along PURIATA R to sea.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 15 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	15 Feb 45		<p>The battalion area of responsibility is now area NORTH of MARIVI R and EAST from previously designated 25 Bn bdy to bde bdy. Patrols are to be sent to contact and clear area to 9 Aust Inf Bn. Those patrols may move SOUTH of MARIVI R. A later signal states that the battalion will concentrate MEIVO area as early as possible as a prelude to operation EAST from 88 grid to bde bdy as already laid down. ANGAU camp site est MP869673.</p>	
	16 Feb 45		<p>Movement of battalion commenced to MEIVO area. B Coy moved fwd from NIGITAN MP 872685 at 0815L and occupied MAC BASE MP876657 at 0945L. 18 pl advanced S-E along govt track from D Coy 886623 and est firm base at 887607 at 0930L. C Coy moving fwd from MP879668 arrived D Coy at 1210L, continued adv</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 16 17 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	16 Feb 45		<p>and est coy perimeter MARIVI river X-ing 884603 at 1530L.</p> <p>This govt track runs generally S-E from 886623 to 893617 then S-SW to MARIVI river X-ing. Patrol of 1 co 10 OR's departed D Coy 0730L and contacted 9 Aust Inf Bn HQ at 838598 returning to D Coy 1530L. Maj Keinzle(ANGAU) with party natives scouts reported in to D Coy posn from SOVELE MISSION at 1040L and later departed for 7 Aust Inf Bde. Lt Fullarton marched out to L.O.B.</p>	<p><i>Disposition and Patrol map covering period 6-16 Feb 45 attached as app 7</i></p>
	17 Feb 45		<p>Mvt of battalion to MEIVO area continued as follows -</p> <p>BnHQ closed MP870672 at 0810L and opened 885624 at 0940L.</p> <p>C Coy moved fwd from MARIVI river x-ing 0820L and occupied posn vacated by C Coy at MARIVI river x-ing at 1230L. A coy moved fwd from WARAPA 887651 at 1300L and arrived 888619 at</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time. From 17 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	17 Feb 45		<p>1500L. Air dropping was carried out successfully on the new dropping ground cleared at SISIRUAI 2 886621. One plane load of supplies being dropped at 1430L resulting in 100% recovery. A.D.S. at KUPON closed at 0900L and future casualties occurring within the battalion will be evac fwd to A.D.S. MEIVO.</p>	
	18 Feb 45		<p>Mvt continued to MEIVO area. BnHQ fwd from 885624 and arrived MEIVO 878585 at 0930L. B Coy departed MARIVI river x-ing 0830L and arrived MEIVO 878586 at 0900L. D Coy less 18 pl departed SISIRUAI 2 at 0900L and coy complete arrived 884603 at 0945L. Local security patrols searched MEIVO JUNG area and located what appeared to be a Jap HQ site. Eqpt recovered incl documents and fd telephone in good condition. Request made for air photos covering area</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 18 19 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	18 Feb 45		870 590 950 590 950 520 870 520, same being required by 19 Feb. The battalion has received orders to clear the PIKEI area EAST to bde bdy concentrate in the PIKEI with one coy holding MEIVO MOSIGETTA. The bdy between 61 Bn and 9 Bn is the 88 grid.	
	19 Feb 45		A coy moved fwd from 888619 at 0800L and arrived MEIVO area 879588 at 0945L. D Coy moved fwd from 884603 at 0820L and arrived MEIVO area 878588 at 0910L. The battalion less L.O.B. pers and B-Ech is now concentrated in the MEIVO area in preparation for future ops EAST to PURIATA river commencing 21 Feb. Fighting patrol of one sec from C Coy 878584 to move EAST to WARIKI river approx 902584 did not locate track to this point, but encountered and killed 1	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 19 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	19 Feb 45		<p>Sgt at approx 888585 on a track running NW-SE. Enemy was in poor physical condition. A second patrol was dispatched to make further search of this area and reported no contact.</p>	
	20 Feb 45		<p>B Coy fighting patrol 1 offr 15 OR's to move EAST along NORTH bank of creek to 887576. Investigating garden area at 887573 patrol encountered estimated force 20 enemy armed with rifles. Our patrol replied to enemy fire with grenades which were accurately placed in enemy posn. Enemy were est in prepared posn and an attempt to outflank same was unsuccessful owing to thick bamboo. A further attempt was made to move EAST along NORTH bank of creek but again bamboo was found to be impenetrable. Cas own Nil. Enemy unknown. Patrol returned at 1345 hrs and 3" mortar fire was brought</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 20 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	20 Feb 45		<p>down on garden area. Bombs fell in target area but enemy still remaining in posn and now known to have at least one LMG. A Coy fighting patrol 1 offr 15 OR's from road junc 883568 S-E to track at 892561 then NORTH along track sighted 3 enemy who fled into jungle at 885568. Patrol continued on and at 893562 ambushed an estimated force 15 enemy killing 3. Own cas Nil. Patrol reported track at 887566 4-ft wide and well worn also Jap sig cable running along well worn foot pad at 893562. C and D Coy fighting patrols towards PIKEI followed very faint native pad from 878584 S-E to 890575 N-E to 900583 then S-E to road at 911570. Native guides who had lived in PIKEI area, definitely est posn of village as 910570 and pointed out original site of their huts. The WARIKI river is 200 yds SOUTH of this</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 20 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	20 Feb 45		<p>point and the river 1000 yds NORTH is wrongly named. Natives stated this is MARIVI river NOT MAVIRI as shown on map. C Coy patrol returned 1745L sighted one jap at 911568, Our patrol held their fire to ensure element of surprise for D Coy patrol who remained in this area for night 20/21 Feb. ANGAU est camp site at approx 879589. A message was received that until 9 Bn evacuated MEIVO MOSIGETTA area they will be responsible for the portion of the road 880577 to 880565. As they move SOUTH 61 Bn will assume responsibility for area EAST of 88 grid line.</p>	<p><i>Disposition and Patrol map covering Period 14-20 Feb 45 attached as appx 8</i></p>
	21 Feb 45		<p>A Coy moved fwd from 879588 at 1130L and est perimeter on MATTHEWS JUNC 879581 with 8 pl fwd protecting D.I.D. at 886578 ⁸⁸²⁵⁷⁸. A Coy fighting patrol strength one pl moved on</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time—From 21 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	21 Feb 45		<p>bearing 117 degrees mag from road junc 883568 and established ambush posn on track at approx 889564 at 1050L. Shortly after establishing posn patrol observed 7 enemy, armed with rifles and carrying large bundles, moving SOUTH along this track. Patrol engaged and the entire enemy party were killed. All wore boots, new clothing, and appeared well fed. While investigating, our patrol heard mvt of large enemy parties on both flanks and withdrew to road junc 883568 at 1150L. At 1315L patrol with F.O.O. again went fwd to this posn but no other contact was made. Patrol returned at 1500L and reported locating numerous pits 14-ft deep- 2 ft 6 ins in diameter, each with a sharpened stake placed point uppermost in the bottom. Stakes were approx 6-ft long but wood had rotted. B Coy moved from 878586 at 0730L to track junc</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 21 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	21 Feb 45		<p>884574 and then carried out encircling move with object of clearing enemy previously encountered, from garden area</p> <p>888574 and then moving SOUTH to cut the main PIKEI road EAST of rd junc 883568. Contact was made at 888572 with 4 enemy armed with rifles and 1 LMG, one enemy was probably killed and the remainder withdrew. An enemy biv area was found at this point. 3 swords, 6 filled packs and one blood-stained rifle were captured. Advance continued with 12 pl fwd. 12 pl reached main rd approx 888568 at 1700 hrs without further contact. 10 pl relieved 12 pl in this posn and 12 pl returned to B Coy. ^{Dispons}Disposns for night 21/22 Feb, Coy HQ</p> <p>11 and 12 pl 888570. 10 pl 888568. D Coy patrol to PIKEI out 20 Feb reported in 1230 hrs. This patrol biv night 20/21 Feb at 907574 and at first light 21 Feb moved NORTH to</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date-and-Time—From 21 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	21 Feb 45		<p>MARIVI R and searched gardens and surrounding areas at 915582 918577 922578 and 916576. All were overgrown and had not been occupied for some considerable time. Natives stated that enemy were in general area 910504 but time did not permit investigation. Patrol returned without contact. Sec patrol from D Coy moved EAST from 878585 to approx 889577 and returned without contact. Natives state that BOKU is on SOUTH side of main rd at approx 900563. LAVORO is on NORTH SIDE OF RD BETWEEN BOKU and rd junc 883568. Midway between BOKU and PIKEI 910570 a track frequently used by the enemy runs SOUTH through jap hospital to PURIATA R. Our patrol reports old site of PIKEI a good area for air dropping. The Bde Comd Brig J. Field and Bde I.O. visited this HQ.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time. From 22 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	22 Feb 45		<p>At 0700 hrs 10 pl at 888568 and remainder of B Coy in posn at 888570 were attacked by estimated 15 enemy armed with rifles and at least 1 LMG, Attack repulsed by 0800 hrs. Cas own 3 wounded evac 11 Fd Amb A.D.S. Cas enemy 6 known killed but it is thought that a further search of area may reveal more. While search was being made of area one enemy feigning dead attempted to throw grenade but was killed before doing any damage. Capture of eqpt incl 1 additional sword, 1 Aust grenade and one Aust rifle. Among rounds fired from Jap LMG 12 were found to be misfires. B Coy less 10 pl moved fwd and joined 10 pl at 888568 at 1000 hrs without further contact. Enemy biv area at 888570 revealed signs of hurried enemy evacuations. Documents, quantities of rice and emergency rations had been left behind.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 22 Feb '45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	22 Feb 45		<p>Some bodies were partially clothed, the missing garments being found in a hut which enemy had been occupying. Japs were in good condition and evidently well supplied with food. At least 5 pillbox type pits were found in area each capable of holding 2 men. Enemy reported probably killed by B Coy 21 Feb found to be Sgt-Maj who later suicided with own grenade. Immediately B Coy reported in posn astride main rd a pl patrol from A Coy was despatched to clear rd from 883568 EAST to B Coy. Patrol made contact at approx 886568 killing 2 enemy, wounding one and capturing 1 LMG and rifles. 4 pers lost contact with patrol and had not returned at dusk. Patrol continued on and contacted B Coy then returned to Coy. C Coy fighting patrol from rd junc 883568 made contact with enemy in strong def posn strength unknown armed with 1 HMG Mtrs and rifles at</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 22 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	22 Feb 45		<p>883565. Cas own 1 wounded evacuated 11 Fd Amb. Enemy one killed. Patrol withdrew and posn engaged with 3 inch mortar fire. On investigating results of mortar fire patrol again came under heavy fire from MG's and mortars. Posn was found to extend for at least 40 yds with an LMG on each flank and one HMG on left flank. Enemy fire was accurate. Jungle had been thinned out fwd of posns which were back in heavy growth and could not be located by our troops. 3 Unoccupied pits seen by the patrol appeared to have been freshly dug, had no overhead cover and were not visible at 5 yds.</p> <p>Patrol withdrew to road junc 883568 with intention of bringing mortar fire to bear on enemy posn but owing to missing pers from A Coy thought to be in area, fire was postponed. A fighting patrol from D Coy of 1 pl strength</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time From 22 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	22 Feb 45		left for area 910564 via PIKEI area 910570.	
	23 Feb 45		<p>Of the 4 pers missing from A Coy patrol 22 Feb, 2 reported in at C Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn at 0900 hrs and one wounded man QX35534 Cpl Bruce J. reported in at 1130 hrs. Other man had been wounded and unable to return. A patrol was despatched to locate him but reported search unsuccessful. After losing contact with their patrol these pers had stumbled into a Jap def posn at 885565 and being unable to escape spent night 22/23 Feb in enemy perimeter accounting for 8 japs definitely killed. Our 3 inch mortar fire on this posn at 0650 hrs caused the enemy to temporarily withdraw and the pers escaped under cover of this fire. They reported our mortar fire most accurate and also stated to have seen 2 HMG's</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time—From 23 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	23 Feb 45		<p>mounted on wheels and other handcarts being moved S-W along track from this posn morning 23 Feb. 10 pl moved fwd from B Coy 888568 and reached a track junc at 895567 without making contact. After clearing track for a further 300 yds EAST 10 pl returned to track junc 895567 and was joined by 12 and 15 pls at 1230 hrs. 12 and 15 pl occupied this posn and 10 pl returned to B Coy. A security patrol from B Coy found one additional Jap body at approx 889569. At 1025 hrs a C Coy patrol reported the road to B Coy clear. D Coy fighting patrol of 1 pl strength moved through garden area 887574 to B Coy then S-W along a track to 883561 then leaving track moved EAST= to 891559 then NORTH to 890568 without contact. Only signs of enemy were a freshly dug grave at 883561 and by foot traffic S-W along track</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~ - From 23 Feb 45 To 24 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	23 Feb 45		previously mentioned. Gardens at 885563 and 893564 are unused. D Coy fighting patrol to 910564 returned at 1000 hrs. Searched area sqs 8957, 9057, 9157, 9056, 9156. Only signs of enemy were four Japs reported to have been seen by a native in area 903563. A standing patrol of 1 NCO 10 OR's left D Coy at 1420 hrs to est a base at 902583 on 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn L of C. posn est at 1600 hrs.	<i>Disposition and Patrol map covering period 20-23 Feb 45 attached as appx 9</i>
	24 Feb 45		At 0730 hrs 15 pl departed LAVORO 894567 to patrol track leading SOUTH. C Coy less 15 pl departed 878584 at 0820 hrs and joined 12 pl at LAVORO at 1010 hrs. At 1215 hrs 14 pl left LAVORO to follow route taken by 15 pl. At 1235 hrs C Coy HQ 12 and ¹³ 12 pls occupied BOKU 898564 on junc of PIKEI rd and main track to PURIATA R. 15 Pl returned to C Coy at 1610 hrs	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C, 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit..... 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 24 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	24 Feb 45		<p>having patrolled from 895567 SOUTH to garden 894564 S-E to 895554 then NORTH along a well worn track to C Coy posn without contact. Documents were found in garden at 894564. 14 pl remained in posn on track at 895554. 12 and 15 pls moved back and occupied LAVORO by 1645 hrs. At 0930 hrs A Coy patrol left B Coy 888568 to search for men missing from patrol 22 Feb. Body of Q28077 Pte Stacey S. located at approx 886565 and brought back to B Coy at 1120 hrs. A patrol from B Coy investigated the Jap def posn at 885565 and found it unoccupied. Posn had accomodated 20-25 enemy. Patrol then followed track S-W to a junc approx 882558 where a well used track runs EAST-WEST, A Jap sign post was found here and was brought back. The patrol left the track and moved EAST to approx 890559 then NORTH to B Coy. No contact made.</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 24 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	24 Feb 45		5 pl departed BnHQ 878585 and arrived B Coy at 1400 hrs. A patrol from 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn contacted our standing patrol at 902583 at 1400 hrs. Both patrols then moved into BnHQ, arriving at 1505 hrs. The posn of LAVORO and BOKU have been fixed by compass traverse as 894567 and 898564 respectively. There is a good area for air dropping at BOKU.	
	25 Feb 45		At 0820 hrs D Coy moved from 878587 and at 1245 hrs D Coy less 16 pl occupied a track junc on PIKEI RD at approx 909568 with 16 pl on a track junc at 904564 at 0900 hrs. C Coy HQ and 13 pl moved SOUTH along a track and took up a posn on the HUPAI R x-ing at 895553. 14 pl remained at 895554. 15 pl moved to track junc 898564. 12 pl remained at track junc 895567. 10 pl patrol left B Coy 888568 at 0830	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C, 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 25 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	25 Feb 45		<p>hrs moved S-W along a track to 880558 then SOUTH to 880547 then N-E to PIKEI rd at 12 pl 895567. Patrol returned to B Coy at 1325 hrs. Track passed through numerous cultivated gardens with deserted biv areas and def posn. No contact made. A Jap hospital was found on PIKEI rd at 902564. The hospital had been evacuated for some time but had been used recently to accomodate small parties of enemy. The area which contained 15 huts now dilapidated was searched by FSS pers and documents and medical eqpt were recovered. A sterilizer and other unidentified eqpt has yet to be salvaged. Approx 400 yds SOUTH of the hospital was what appeared to be a convalescent camp with 7 huts. Most were screened from the air by close secondary growth. SOUTH of the track areas had been cleared for a parade ground and training. A grass dummy had been used</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 25 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	25 Feb 45		for bayonet practice. Two 1/4 acre gardens were located, one on either side of the track. These were well cultivated and productive although showing signs of recent neglect. Main crop was sweet potatoes ready for consumption in one month's time.	
	26 Feb 45		In accordance with Bde Op Instr No. 4 (attached as per Appx 3) the following movement commenced :- A Coy moved from 879583 and arrived 858544 at 1014 hrs relieving D Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn. 9 pl then moved fwd and occupied a posn on track junc 842532 at 1415 hrs. B Coy moved from 888568 at 0840 hrs to MOSIGETTA - MEIVO area with Coy HQ and 12 pl at 879583, 11 pl at 881578 and 10 pl at 883568. A pl patrol from C Coy moved SOUTH along a track, crossed the	Appx 3.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 26 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	26 Feb 45		<p>PURIATA R at approx 908528 and contacted 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn HQ at 1230 hrs. This patrol returned to C Coy at 1600 hrs without contact. The sig line taken by the patrol to est direct L/T with 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn HQ ran out at PURIATA R and it is estimated that a further 1500 yds of line is required to link up with 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn. The track followed by this patrol to the PURIATA R was only a footpad and showed no signs of recent enemy use. At 912535 the PURIATA R is 100-150 yds wide and 1-2 ft deep. Sand and mud banks divide the river and except after heavy rain the portion of the river from 912535 to 923544 could be forded at any point. A Sec patrol from D Coy moved from track junc 909568 at 0900 hrs SSE along a footpad to the PURIATA R at 917539 without contact. Patrol returned to D Coy at 1225 hrs. The track which showed no signs of recent</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 26 Feb 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	26 Feb 45		<p>use passed through an elaborate Jap biv area thought to have been a large HQ site at 911561. The area showed signs of having been evacuated a week to ten days previously but small parties had used portion of the area recently. Approx 30 native built huts and some recently dug def posn were found. 7 graves were found in area. In this area and at the hospital area, found 25 Feb at 902564, numbers of bomb proof shelters have been made by digging caves in the sides of re-entrants. Some of these have been used as sleeping quarters. FSS pers searched biv area and recovered documents. This area was later identified as HQ 13 Jap Inf Regt. The area covered approx 1/4 mile sq. The huts are in good condition with strong frames and raised floors of beetle nut palms. A fenced-off two storey building comprising separate living and sleeping quarters</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time ~~From~~ 26-27 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	26 Feb 45		<p>had apparently been used as a command hut. Small one man pits were the only defences along the track through the area.</p> <p>The evacuation of the area appears to have been orderly and very little clothing, private effects or equipment was left behind. Considering the size of the area few documents were found and there was evidence of systematic destruction.</p> <p>A patrol investigating a track S-W from 895554 found 2 biv areas and a Jap garden at approx 890553. Tools included sledge hammers and small items of wireless eqpt indicating that this had been a workshop. A few documents were recovered. The area had not been occupied for at least 4 days.</p>	
	27 Feb 45		<p>A Coy less 9 pl moved from 858544 at 0815 hrs and joined 9 pl at track junc 842532 at 0915 hrs. A patrol from A Coy of 1 Offr</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 27 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	27 Feb 45		<p>23 OR's to DARARA contacted 25 Aust Inf Bn at 0940 hrs returning to A Coy at 1330 hrs without enemy contact. 5 pl moved from 883568 at 0800 hrs to 872557. A patrol from 15 pl 899564 moving SOUTH through light scrub encountered and killed one Jap at 900555. The patrol continued S-W and reached C Coy 895553 at 0950 hrs. After a further search of area patrol returned NORTH along main track to 15 pl 899564 at 1200 hrs without further contact. The Jap killed was in poor condition, unarmed, and wearing shorts and shirt only. A blanket, 20 rds .256 amn and an empty haversack were recovered. A patrol WEST from C Coy 895554 followed a well worn track for approx 1200 yds. The track continued on in a WSW direction. A Jap biv area found 300 yds WEST of start point. Documents and 70 rds of .256 amn recovered.</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit..... 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. From 27 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	27 Feb 45		The bullets had been reversed in the cartridges. The patrol recced a faint track NORTH from biv for 400 yds and a track SOUTH to a ck at 894551. Returned to C Coy at 1150 hrs without contact. At 875559 5 pl discovered a large enemy biv area in a dilapidated condition with 21 limbers and bundles of horse shoes. Caves had been dug into bank of nearby ck to act as bomb proof shelters.	
	28 Feb 45		Patrols from D Coy operating in area sqs 9056 9055 9156 and 9155 and a patrol SOUTH to PURIATA R at 917539 report no signs of enemy. ANGAU patrol from D Coy 909567 located a large natural cave at 916564. This cave is reported by natives to have been used as a bomb proof shelter by Japs. C Coy patrolled area sqs 8855 8955 8854 8954 without	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 28 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	28 Feb 45		<p>contact. 5 pl moved from 872557 to 882576. 9 pl left A Coy 842532 at 1500 hrs and occupied a posn on track junc at 850534. A thorough search of Jap def posn at 885565 contacted by C Coy's patrol 22 Feb revealed that the enemy withdrawal, although hurried, had been orderly. There was evidence that some documents had been burnt and nothing of value had been left. Although enemy was known to have fired both LMG's and rifles, no spent cases could be found. Defences consisting of at least 15 rectangular weapon pits were sited to cover an approach from the NORTH. Only one pit protected the rear of the posn. Pits were effectively camouflaged with leaves tied in bundles and placed in front of pit. A HMG had been fired from one posn. Fire posns of our patrol had been 10 yds from enemy pits and our Mortar</p>	<p><i>Disposition and Patrol map covering period 24-28 Feb 45 attached as appx 100</i></p>

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

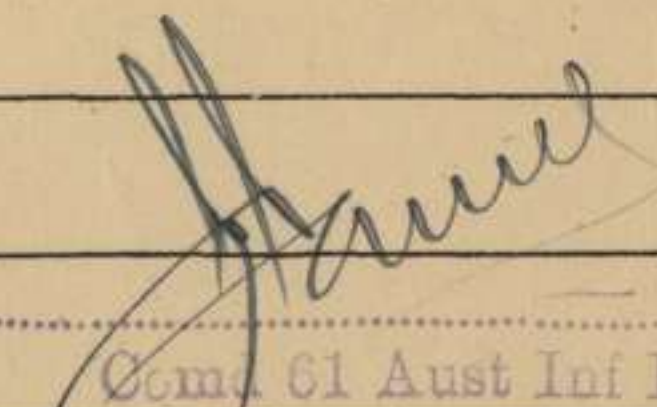
WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 28 Feb 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>Sth Bougainville</u>	<u>28 Feb 45</u>		<u>OP 15 yds. 15 huts were in the area, each with a shell proof foxhole.</u>	
			<u>(Routine Orders Pt. 1 issued as (Appx. 4)</u>	<u>Appx H.</u>
				<u>Adjts personal diary from Feb. 1 to Feb 28 attached as</u>
				<u>Appx. 11.</u>
				 Lt-Col Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn

Appx 1

Wardlaw

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by

Lt-Col W.R. DEXTER DSO

Copy No. ¹⁵.....

Serial No 4/45

Nos.18/19

COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

HQ 61 AUST INF BN

1 FEB 45

18. CENSORSHIP OF PARCELS

Attention is drawn to Unit RO 82/44, which states the manner in which parcels despatched through Army Postal Channels will contain the name of the sender and his or her official address.

"This shall be written, in the case of a parcel or newspaper, on a slip of paper enclosed therein....."

19. REGT TRUST FUND

On hand commencement of Month. £148.12. 6.

Received during month :

Canteen Advance Refund	£25. -. -. .	
Canteen Profit Distribution	<u>60. 1. 6</u>	85. 1. 6.

Expenditure during month:-

Trombone Oil	4. 6.	
Regt Barbers	6. -. -. .	
Assembly Book Shop	39.10.11.	
Angus & Robertson	55.16. 4.	
Aladdin Industries (Mantles)	<u>11. -</u>	102. 2. 9

Balance on hand 131.11. 3.

We certify that we have examined the Cash Book, Unit Trust Book and vouchers relating to 61 Aust Inf Bn Regt Trust Fund account, and that in our opinion this statement correctly sets out the position of the fund as at 31 Jan 45.

ROY L. FORD LT.) Signed.
W.H. SCOTT-TOMS LT)


Capt
Adjnt 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION : LIST 'A'

Oppo
War diary

RESTRICTED.

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

Copy No .14.
Serial No 5/45
Nos 20/ 24

by

Lt-Col W. R. DEXTER DSO

COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
6 FEB 45

20. SAFEGUARDING MT - UNATTENDED VEHICLES

1. A driver is personally responsible for the safety of his vehicle.
2. A driver will remain with his vehicle and NOT leave it unattended except in an authorised parking area where an AMF picquet is posted and after compliance with the directions of such picquet.
3. Experience has proved that removal of high tension wires and other similar precautions will NOT prevent the theft of an unattended vehicle.
4. Disciplinary action will be taken against any driver who leaves a vehicle unattended except as provided in para 3 hereof and application will be made for trial by Court-Martial where any vehicle is lost as a result of being left unattended.
5. A Copy of this Order will be kept posted at all times on the Notice Board in all Tpt lines.

21. DISCIPLINE - MT DRIVERS

1. Provost reports indicate that a large number of drivers are not in possession of work ticket (AAF G2) or driver's license (AAF G11) when driving, nor do they obey orders relating to carrying of identification discs, paybook and AAB 83 as a means of identification.
2. All drivers of transport operating inside the TOROKINA perimeter will be in possession of AA F G2 and AAF G11.

22. PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING CASUALTIES (GROA 487/44)

Cases will arise where a member of a unit receives a communication from a relative of a deceased soldier stating that he or she has been officially advised of the casualty and requesting details. To reply to such a letter is NOT to be considered a breach of the GRO. But reference should be made in the reply to the fact of the relative having been official advised e.g.

"Your letter 1 Jan mentions you have been officially told of 's death. In reply to your request I can tell you"

Otherwise private cables and telegrams reporting battle or other casualties are prohibited. In letters, no reference is to be made to any such casualty until after a period of one month from the date of its occurrence.

The prohibition and restriction imposed by the preceding para hereof are not applicable to communications sent by a member relative to a casualty sustained by himself.

23. PRESELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. It is a fundamental principle of the pre-selection scheme that every soldier, who considers himself suitable for appointment to commissioned rank in any of the relevant arms or corps, shall be entitled to submit an application to this HQ for interview by a local board and shall be entitled to be so interviewed.

26. IDENTITY DISCS, PAYBOOKS, AAB 83, AF F204.

1. Instances have come to notice that personnel have not been in possession of their Paybooks, AAB83, AF204 and were not wearing identity discs.
2. These must always be in the possession of the soldier, and carried at all times. Neglect to do so will be treated as a breach of discipline.

[Signature]
 Capt
 Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

0000000000

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND - ISSUE.

The following issue of comforts was received from the ACF and distribution made to Coys, 3 FEB 45.

- | | | |
|-----|-------|------------------|
| 675 | tins | boot polish |
| 675 | tubes | Tooth Paste |
| 675 | cakes | Toilet soap |
| 675 | cakes | washing soap |
| 675 | pkts | cigarettes |
| 675 | tins | tobacco |
| 675 | pkts | cigarette papers |
| 675 | pkts | chewing gum. |

00000000000000000000

War Diary

App 3

SECRET

7 AUST INF BDE OP INSTR NO 4

Copy No 3

Ref Maps : 1:25,000 series

25 Feb 45

INFM

1. Because of the rd and gen maintenance situation it has become necessary to lessen the number of tps inland as quickly as possible.
2. Against a weakened enemy 7 Aust Inf Bde less one bn is to clear the enemy from the area south to the PURIATA RIVER and secure all possible infm on which to base further attacks SE from that river.

ROLES

3. 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn
 - (a) Will patrol area bounded by PURIATA RIVER - 91 grid, HONGORAI RIVER with a view to securing infm, harrassing enemy, and destroying isolated gps.
 - (b) Will move Rear HQ from SOVELE to a posn in MOSIGETTA area as mutually agreed with 61 Aust Inf Bn.
4. 2 Aust Fd Regt

Until otherwise ordered will remain present locations prepared sp 25 and 61 Aust Inf Bns as required.
5. 9 Aust Inf Bn

Commencing 26 Feb will withdraw with all possible speed to selected rest area MAMAREGU - MOTUPENA PT.
6. 25 Aust Inf Bn
 - (a) Will consolidate in posns as at 0900 hrs 26 Feb 45, will clear enemy from area bounded by 50 grid from coast east to 887500, thence along PURIATA RIVER to sea.
 - (b) Will carry out only security patrols south of PURIATA RIVER.
7. 61 Aust Inf Bn
 - (a) Will secure MOSIGETTA - MEIVO - PIKEI area.
 - (b) Will relieve 9 Aust Inf Bn on track MOSIGETTA - MARIGA, will clear enemy from and make jeepable track to link up with 25 Aust Inf Bn at BARARA.
 - (c) Will actively patrol area bounded by track MOSIGETTA - BARARA to 857500, thence east along 50 grid to PURIATA RIVER, thence along gen river line to bde bdy.
 - (d) On 26 Feb 45 will clear enemy from track 897553 SE to PURIATA RIVER Xing at 917538 opening new L of C to 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn.
8. A Coy 1 NG Inf Bn

From firm bases established within, and by mutual arrangements with 25 Aust Inf Bn will patrol area bounded by PURIATA RIVER - west coast - HONGORAI RIVER, secure infm, harrass enemy, capture PW.

ADM

9. Adm instrs will be issued as required.

INTERCOMN

10. (a) 7 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec will establish direct links with all units under comd.
(b) This sec will establish direct line comn via MOSIGETTA - MARIGA with 25 Aust Inf Bn as soon as practicable - this consistent with fwd progress by 61 Aust Inf Bn.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Signed at 1710 hrs

Method of Issue : LO & DRLS

J. Summerton
Maj
BM 7 Aust Inf Bde

Appx 4
Washing

RESTRICTED

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by

Lt-Col W.R. DEXTER DSO

COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

Copy No ¹⁴
Serial No 6/45
Nos 25- 31

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
28 FEB 1945

25. SPEED LIMIT.

That area between TAGESSI south to forward positions is a restricted area. Speed limit for all vehicles is 15 MPH.

26. BOOBY TRAPS.

In view of the number of our own unrecorded booby traps being found in 5 Aust Div area of operations resulting already in the injury of a bulldozer operator, all Coys will, when evacuating a camp site, ensure that it is completely cleared of booby traps.

27. UNEXPLODED BOMBS.

In order to avoid a repetition of the recent accident in which five men were injured whilst attempting to break down an unexploded Japanese shell, all troops will be warned of the danger of interfering with any unexploded bombs, whether Australian, American or Japanese pattern. On discovery, this HQ will be notified immediately and arrangements will be made by this HQ for destruction or removal to be carried out.

28. SECURITY & CENSORSHIP

A frequent breach by officers, is inclusion in self-franked parcels of "prohibited articles" or failure to remove such articles from parcels submitted to them for franking.

Attention is drawn to Unit RO 82 of 31 Oct 44 and 120 of 18 Dec 44.

29. GREEN ENVELOPES.

In accordance with LHQ Field Censorship Instruction No 4, Appx "B" the Unit Censor stamp must be impressed on the front of green envelopes clear of the declaration and writer's signature. Green envelopes will NOT bear a franking officer's signature.

30. REGIMENTAL TRUST FUND.

<u>On hand commencement of month</u>		£131.11. 3.
<u>Received during Month</u>		
Canteen Profit Distribution	£49.12. 5.	49.12.5
<u>Expenditure during Month</u>		
Buysells Ltd - Mantles	11. -	
Unit Canteen Advance	150. -	150.11. -
Balance on hand		£30.12. 8.

We certify that we have examined the Cash Book, Unit Trust Book, and Vouchers relating to 61 Aust Inf Bn Regt Trust A/c, and that in our opinion this statement correctly sets out the position of of the Fund as at 28 Feb 45.

ROY L. FORD Lt (Signed)
D. W. HOOK Lt (")

31. COURT MARTIAL.

Attention is drawn to Appx "A" of this R/O, in which result of DCM convened by GOC 3 Aust Div is published.

[Signature]
Adjut 61 Aust Inf Bn Capt - 1

DISTRIBUTION : LIST 'A'.

APPENDIX 'A'

NATURE AND DATE OF TRIAL : DCM DATE 15 FEB 45

ACCUSED : Q. 28597 PTE Sydney Joseph BROMLEY, 61 AUS T INF BN

CHARGE : AA 40 WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE, CONDUCT TO THE
 PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER AND MILITARY
 DISCIPLINE

 in that he
in the field on 28/1/45 when his Coy was
proceeding to a forward position fell out
of the line and said to his Pl Comd "I'm
not going any further" or words to that
effect, and to his Pl Sjt, "I have been
dodging this day for four years and I'm
not going to be in it now" or words to that
effect.

FINDING :

GUILTY

SENTENCE:

89 DAYS FIELD PUNISHMENT AND 89 DAYS
FORFEITURE OF PAY.

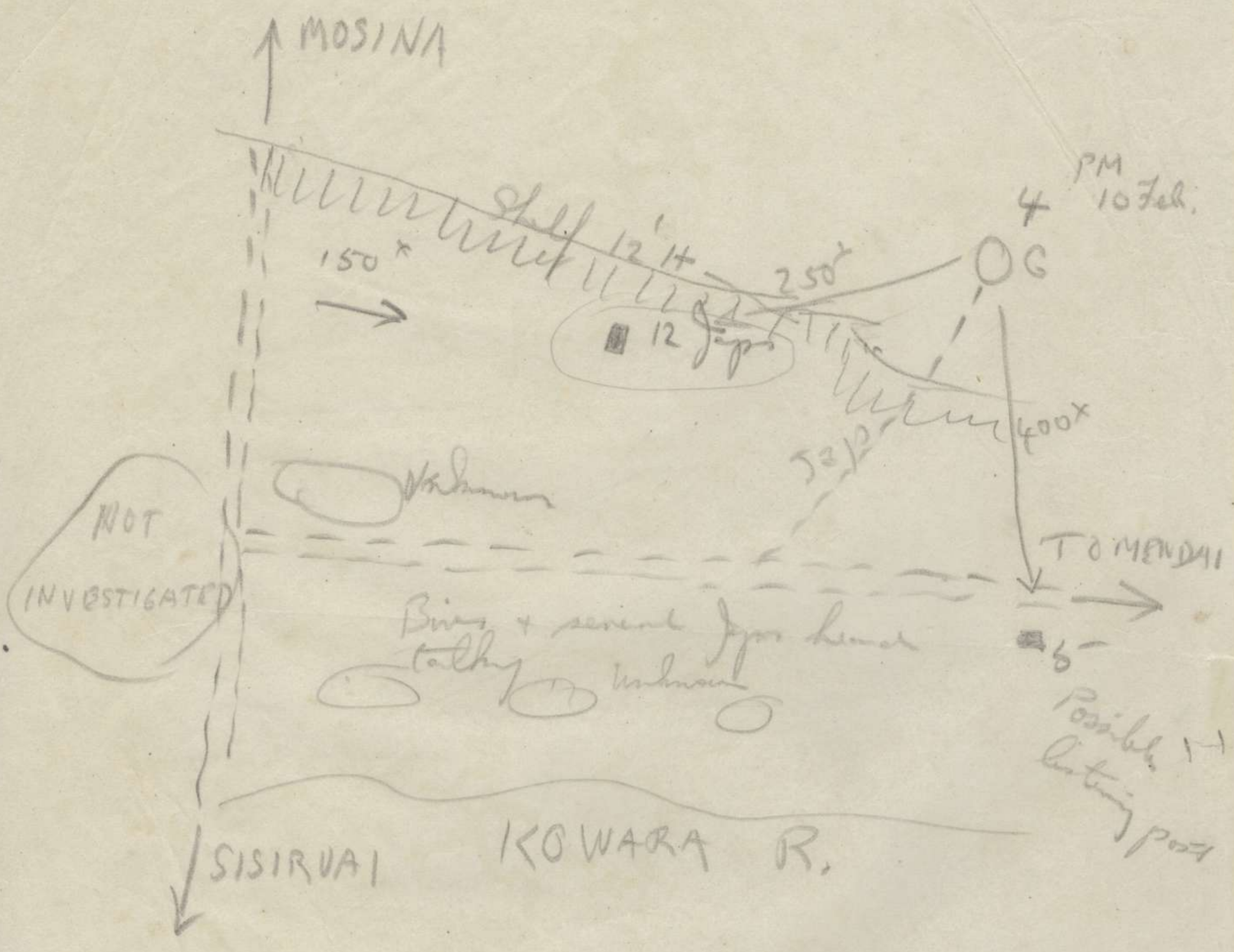
CONFIRMATION:

The finding and sentence were duly confirmed
on 20 Feb 45, and promulgated to the accused
in the Field on 24 Feb 45.

00000000000000000000000000000000

(Appx 5)

Estimated at least 30 (10%)
possibly more



4 PM
10 Feb.

11 FEB 45

Rough EYE sketch by Lt Lambson
preceding prior to attack Warapa area



1/25000
 Enlargement
MOTUPENA PT PURIATA R. TRACK MAP
 1 INCH TO 1 MILE
 SHOWING ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS BASED
 ON INFORMATION OBTAINED BY TRAVERSING
 WITH FORWARD PATROLS
 1 2 3 4 5 6 FEBRUARY 1945

APPX 6 TO 61 AUST INF BN
WAR DIARY
 DISPOSITIONS AS AT
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 FEB 45
 PATROLS FROM 1 FEB
 TO 6 FEB



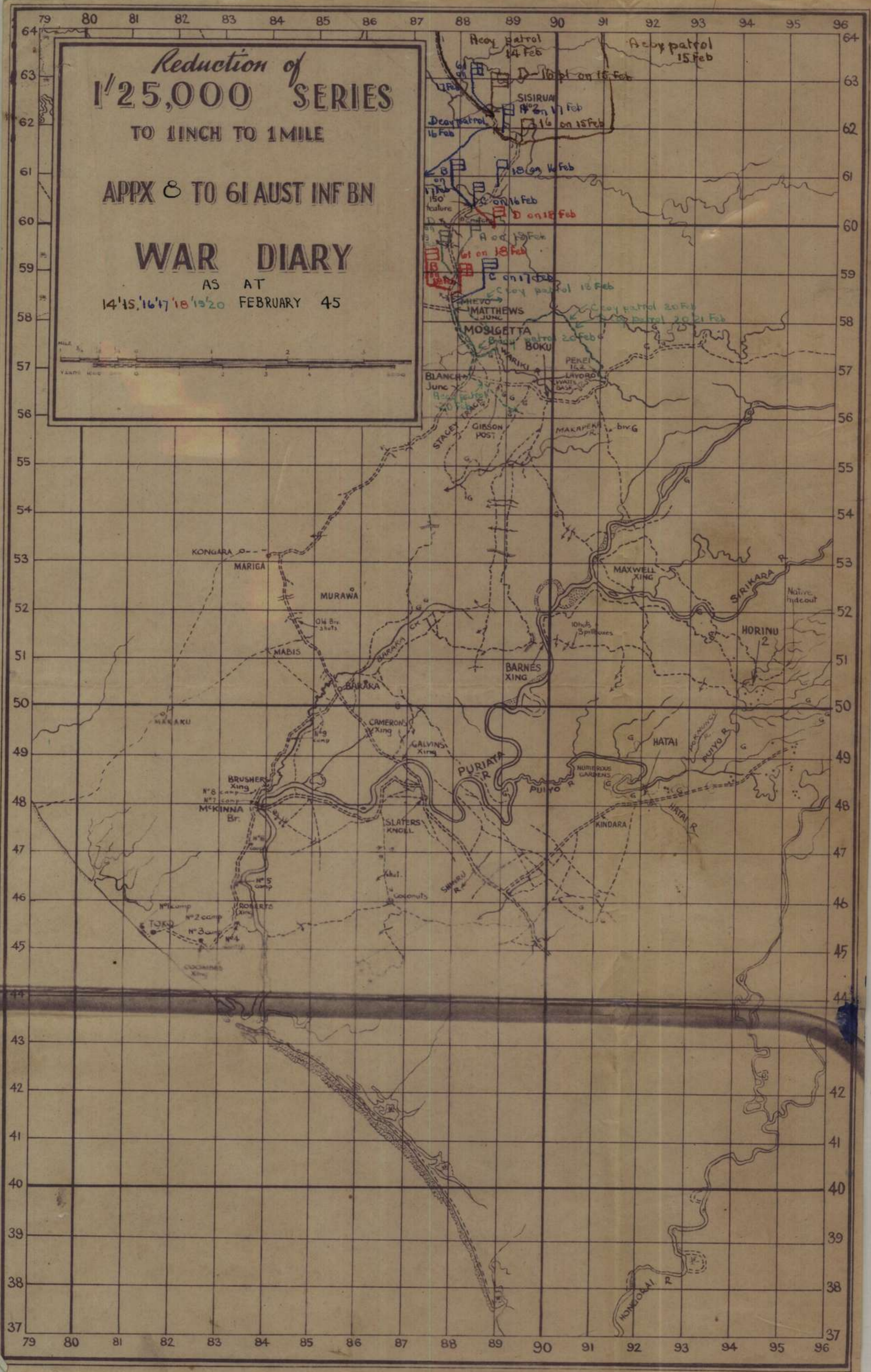
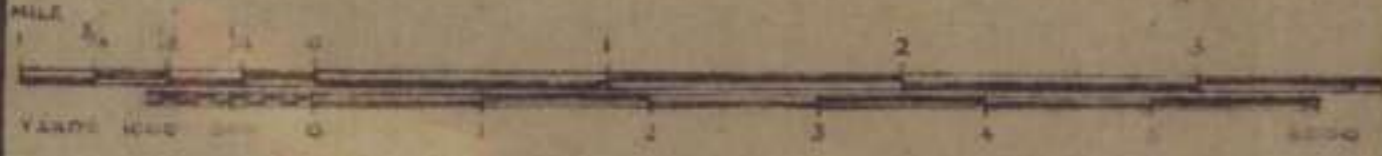
Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 8 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

AS AT
14[']15[']16[']17[']18[']19[']20['] FEBRUARY 45



Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

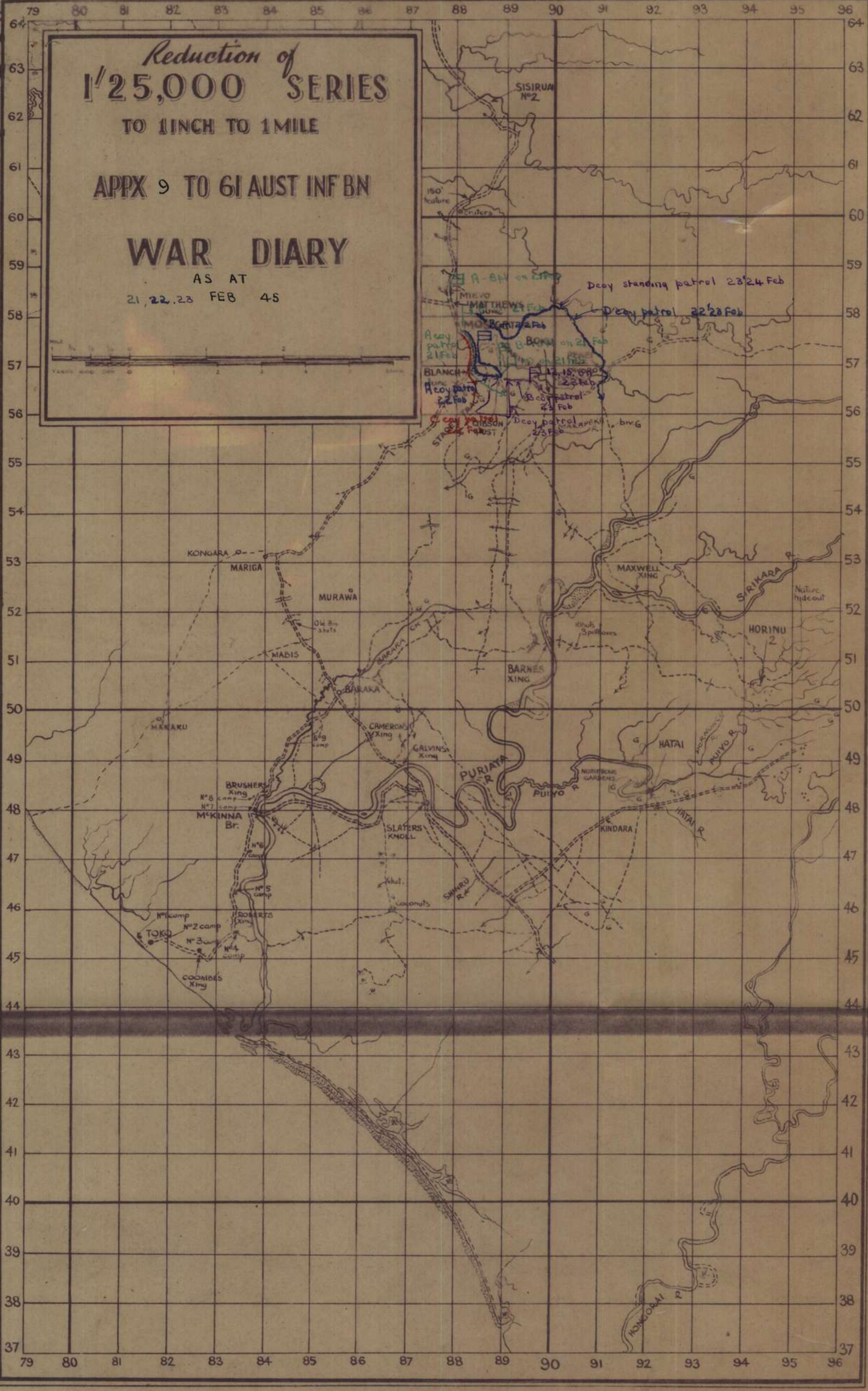
TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 9 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

AS AT

21, 22, 23 FEB 45



SISIRUA No 2

Decey standing patrol 23/24 Feb

Decey patrol 22/23 Feb

BLANCH

Decey patrol 22 Feb

Decey patrol 23 Feb

Decey patrol 23 Feb

KONGARA

MARIGA

MURAWA

MADIS

BARAKA

CRAMERON XING

GALVINS XING

PURIATA R

PUIYO R

MAXWELL XING

HORINU 2

HATAI

PUIYO R

HATAI R

SLATERS KNOLL

SHIRRU R

KINDARA

BRUSHERS XING

MCKINNA Br.

N° 8 camp

N° 7 camp

N° 6 camp

N° 5 camp

ROBERTS XING

N° 2 camp

N° 3 camp

N° 4 camp

COOMBES XING

TOKO

HONGORAI R

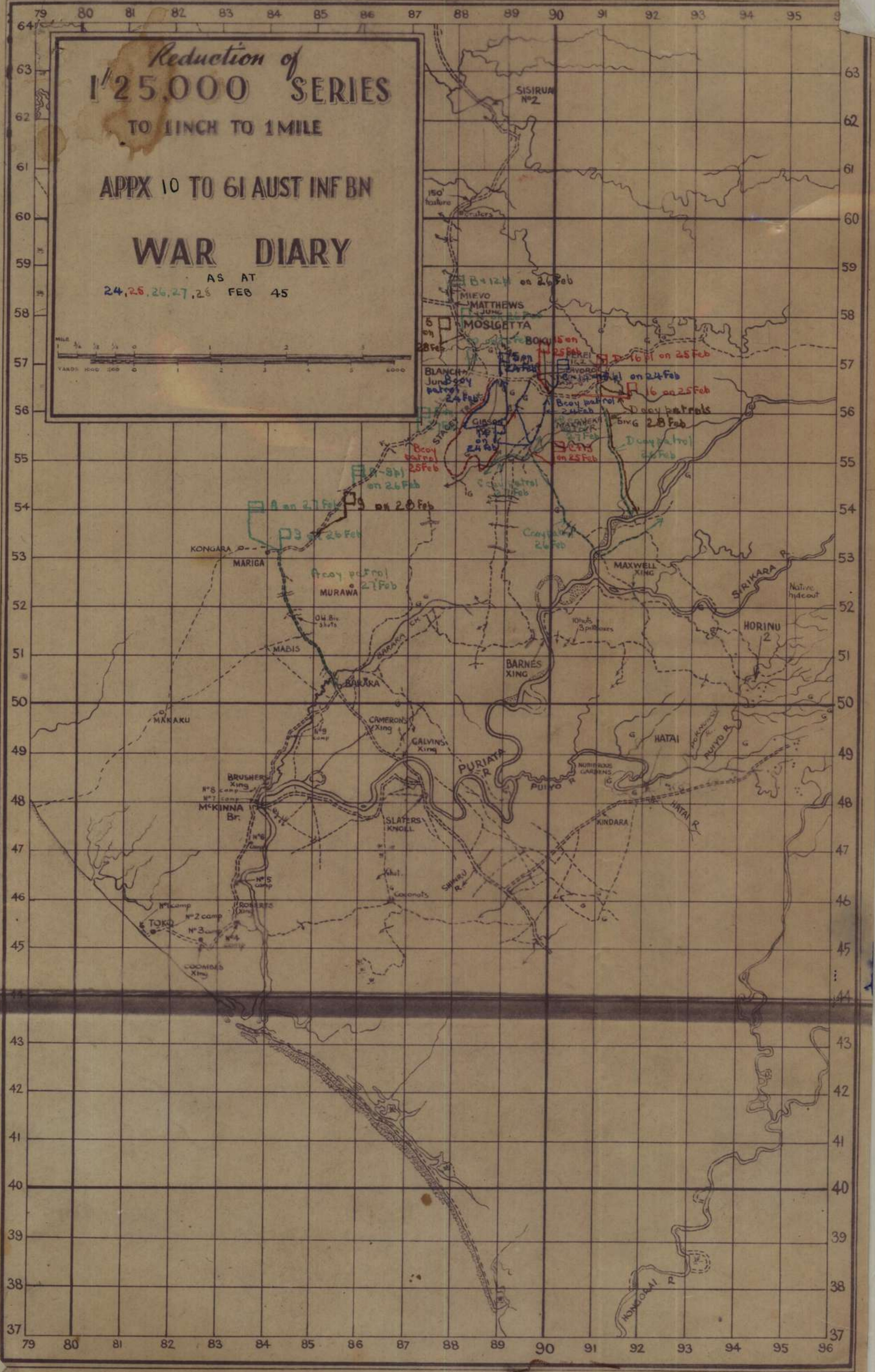
Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 10 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

AS AT
24, 25, 26, 27, 28 FEB 45



ADJT'S OPERATION & ACTION DIARY

Appx. 11

FEBRUARY 1945

- February 1. 11 pl fighting patrol returned and occupied KUPON, found track junc 400 yds EAST of village site and moved 800 yds down NIGITAN track. Found evidence of about 12 enemy having been in KUPON night before N.M.S. 8 pl recce patrol returned a day early, having been across to NIGITAN - moved up KUPON track, sighted 2 enemy and fired on them, unknown result. N.M.S. around NIGITAN - not occupied. 7 pl recce patrol (Lt Robinson) left for MOSINA track - contacted enemy 2500 yds down track - Lt Robinson killed by LMG - patrol withdrew. Fighting patrol D Coy (16 pl - Lt McKellar and Lt Henderson) contacted enemy same point and removed Lt Robinson's body. Pte Horgan (D Coy) died in hospital from Owen wounds received 29 Jan. Breech block of arty piece found SOUTH of A Coy posn.
- February 2. Patrol (2 day) 12 Pl (Lt Watts) went through to KUPON, thence to patrol NIGITAN track. Pioneer Offr went through with patrol and returned. Reported 800 yds fwd of D coy rather marshy, then pretty good going. Suitable air dropping area found near KUPON. Patrol (2 day) 9 Pl (Lt Fullarton) moved down MOSINA track to point where Lt Robinson was killed - N.M.S. Registered with arty. Padre held service at HQ Group at BRINK BASE on SOUTH bank of JABA R. Security patrol SOUTH from HQ Group and BRINK BASE went out last night and had not returned by 1830 hrs. Visitors - Chief Eng (Brig) C.R.E., O.C. 11 Fd Coy.
- February 3. 9 pl fighting patrol moving along MOSINA ^{Track} contacted about 4 enemy. Arty used and patrol pushed on to biv area of 12 huts about 2500 yds down track. Track very swampy. 12 pl fighting patrol moved down NIGITAN track, contacted about 3-4 enemy. Discovered biv area near NIGITAN, captured 1 rifle, 3 bayonets, documents and personal equipment. A Coy moved fwd from LAWSON'S POST to 840698 by 1130 hrs.
- February 4. 10 pl (Lt Gibson) and one sec pioneers occupied KUPON 1000 hrs - L/T intercomn. Commenced work on air-dropping ground KUPON 883799. 8 pl (Lt Tomlinson) moved down MOSINA track and est firm base at Jap biv area 2500 yds down track. Recce patrol reported sounds of chopping approx 300 yds fwd and arty brought down. Patrol moved fwd 500 yds, saw nothing, and returned firm base. Standing patrol, one sec (A Coy) est at KUPON-NIGITAN track junc 862702. 15 Pl (less one sec at track junc 862702) moved to CLARK BASE. 3 sec pioneers moved to 1000 yds fwd ROBBIE'S REST at 846798.
- February 5. 8 Pl (Lt Tomlinson) contacted enemy approx 3000 yds down MOSINA track. Discovered Jap biv area occupied by estimated 15-16 enemy with 3 LMG's and rifles. Arty brought down, then area reached and found clear - captured amn - Own cas Pte Sparks G. killed, Cpl Beitz F. wounded. B Coy all assembled at KUPON by 1030 hrs and C Coy at CLARK BASE. Pioneers completed second bridge 1000 yds long KUPON track. Visitors D.A.Q.M.G. (L) & D.A.D.O.S.

- February 6. 7 pl (Lt Henderson) moving along MOSINA track contacted enemy at biv area at 853682 and eventually drove them out. One enemy wounded. Pushed on 400 yds and contacted enemy possibly 2 LMGs and rifles - enemy withdrew. During these ops 15 pl formed firm base for 7 pl. Old 75 mm arty piece (Jap) discovered at 812721. 10 pl patrol entered NIGITAN - N.M.S. C Coy (15 pl) patrol under Cpl Young and ANGAU returned from contacting 2/8 Cdo Sqn at SOVELE MISSION and brought back valuable track information. First air dropping at KUPON and first jeep through to KUPON at 1530 hrs.
Visitors - D.A.Q.M.G., Staff Capt, Official War Historian (Gavin Long) D.A.N.L.
Bridges on KUPON TRACK named HORGAN BR - SPARKS BR.
- February 7. Gavin Long (War Historian) and Vic Holcroft (War Correspondent) came to stay at BnHQ.
Small fighting patrols operating from 10 pl (Lt Gibson) base at NIGITAN 872685 SOUTH along WHYBIRD RD contacted enemy 500 yds along road - shots exchanged, but enemy escaped - no cas. 13 Pl (Lt Plummer) moved from CLARK BASE along MOSINA track to base 853681. 7 Pl (Lt Henderson) then moved fwd 400 yds - no contact, and returned to A Coy. When 10 pl moved to NIGITAN, 8 pl (Lt Tomlinson) replaced them at KUPON with B Coy. Advance party of BnHQ to KUPON. Jeep as far SOUTH 800 yds along WHYBIRD RD.
- February 8. B Coy joined 10 pl at NIGITAN and A Coy joined 8 pl at KUPON. HQ Group moved from BRINK BASE to KUPON 0830 hrs. C Coy less 14 pl moved out along DAWES TRACK. Patrol from 11 pl (Lt Whybird) moved SOUTH to MOSINA and through village site for a further 600 yds. Discovered track running WEST 100 yds S of MOSINA. Signs of enemy occupation within past 24 hours. Pioneers completed two bridges on WHYBIRD RD.
Visitors - C.R.E., D.A.Q.M.G., Maj Nillikin.
- February 9. 12 pl occupied MOSINA at 0830 hrs. C Coy moved down DAWES TRACK and met main NORTH-SOUTH track 200 yds SOUTH of MOSINA. 14 pl and Coy HQ moved SOUTH, instead of NORTH, and contacted enemy 500 yds SOUTH of MOSINA. Enemy withdrew with unknown cas. Our cas 1 killed (L/Sgt White). C Coy then occupied WHYBIRD - DAWES TRACK junc. Patrols moved EASTWARDS and found new tracks into NIGITAN and MOSINA. Rations dropped to Bn by Douglas about 1600 hrs - 100% recovery.
- February 10. 8 pl (Lt Tomlinson) moved to AGABAI for R.V. with natives who had been reconnoitering WARAPA. Adjut visited NIGITAN and MOSINA. D Coy less 16 pl moved to KUPON. A Coy less 8 pl moved to MOSINA. Further four air-droppings - 100% recovery. Recce made for new air-dropping ground at MOSINA. Two pls 23 Fd Coy moved in - one at TOMMY'S TRACK - KUPON track junc and the other at NIGITAN.
- February 11. Sup Pt moved from CLARK BASE to KUPON. 16 Pl from ROBBIES REST to, KUPON to join D Coy.
8 pl with ANGAU raided WARAPA area at 0830 hrs. Concentrated on hut believed to be a headquarters. 12-15 enemy believed killed. Own cas NIL.
13 pl (Lt Plummer) patrolled to 875657 which posn later occupied by A Coy less 8 pl and plus 15 pl.
Native carrier camp moved in WEST of dropping ground.
Visitor - L.O.

- February 12. A Coy less 8 pl moved fwd from firm base at 875657 which was held by 8 pl and 15 pl. Reached point approx 1400 yds towards WARAPA. Sent out 9 pl (Lt Fullarton) to encircle clearing. Pl got ambushed and finished 2½ hrs later back in MOSINA.
B Coy started work on air-dropping ground at MOSINA.
Visitors - Bde Comd, L01 who stayed for lunch.
- February 13. A Coy moved fwd 300 yds and arrived at WARAPA on the KUPON-MENDAI government track junc. Patrols sent SOUTH located KONARA RIVER 250 yds from track junc. Patrol to EAST entered MENDAI discovering hut which patrol raided on 11 Feb. 9 bodies found (incl Lt, Sergeant Maj, Sgt.), and in addition 5 swords, 5 pistols, 10 rifles, 1 LMG, 1 MMG, and large quantity of documents. Two day patrol C Coy (Cpl Corbett) to AGABAI thence to MENDAI RD.
Adj, QM, Padre, RMO visited WARAPA at 0945 hrs.
- February 14. Further search of WARAPA revealed another 6 bodies, 10 swords, 3 rifles and many documents. Fighting patrol 9 pl (Sgt Bradley) moved SOUTHWARDS and reached SISIRUAI on TAVERA RIVER without contact. Occupied SISIRUAI No. 2. 18 pl moved fwd from KUPON to WARAPA. Patrol from MOSINA to WERETABA to MENDAI to WARAPA arrived and reported N.M.S. Contact patrol along TAVERA to 25 Bn outpost at 836650. Tac R flown over WARAPA-SISIRUAI No. 2 area.
Visitors - Lt-Col Fry. (Div Sigs) L.O.1 Div, G2, L01 Bde.
- February 15. HQ Group from KUPON to MOSINA. 18 pl moved from WARAPA to SISIRUAI No. 2. 9 pl returned to WARAPA from SISIRUAI No. 2. D Coy moved fwd from KUPON to SISIRUAI No. 2, with 16 pl on SISIRUAI No. 2 - SOVELE track junc. Patrol from WARAPA to MENDAI to SISIRUAI (A Coy). Fwd Coy 9 Bn entered MEIVO.
Tac/R flown over WARAPA - SISIRUAI - MAVIRI R area.
Air dropping prepared at SISIRUAI No. 2. Orders received from Bde to move with all haste to assemble at MEIVO to relieve 9 Bn.
- February 16. C Coy moved fwd from MOSINA to MAVIRI R FORD. 18 Pl moved fwd from SISIRUAI to MAVIRI R FORD. B Coy moved from NIGITAN to MACBASE. Air dropping at MOSINA, also Tac/R report dropped. Mortars & MMG moved to SISIRUAI No. 2 less 4 det Mortars. Patrol 17 Pl (Lt Dawes) contacted D Coy on track 847590 and returned to SISIRUAI.
- February 17. C Coy moved ^{from} MAVIRI RIVER to 500 yds NORTH of MEIVO TRACK junc (MATTHEWS JUNC) and contacted A Coy 9 Bn.
HQ Group moved MOSINA to SISIRUAI.
B Coy moved NIGITAN to MAVIRI R FORD. A Coy moved WARAPA to junc fwd of SISIRUAI. Successful air-dropping of supplies at SISIRUAI at 1430 hrs.
- February 18. HQ Group left SISIRUAI and arrived 500 yds NORTH of MEIVO track junc at 0930 hrs. B Coy moved from MAVIRI R to 100 yds NORTH of HQ Group at MEIVO. D Coy moved SISIRUAI to MAVIRI R. Security patrols only in MEIVO area.
61 Bn B-Ech established at 802615.
Op order received for attack to PEKEI - PURIATA R areas.
Visitors - BASCO, Bde Hyg Offr, Padre 25 Bn, S/Capt.

February 19. D Coy moved from MAVIRI R to MEIVO area 0900 hrs. A Coy moved from junc fwd of SISIRUAI to MEIVO area at 0900 hrs. Patrol (L/Cpl Raffan) C Coy killed 1 Jap approx 1500 yds EAST of SISIRUAI-MEIVO track at 890596. On way back secured document and equipment.

Note - Map refs now on new 1/25,000 sheet.

Visitors @ Capt. *OMSBY* (ANGAU)

February 20 Patrol 7 pl (Lt Henderson) moved SOUTHWARDS along WEST of track to 883568 thence to clearing at 884564. Contacted enemy in strength, killed 3. Patrol 11 pl (Lt Wyhbird) contacted enemy in strength at garden 888574. Target engaged later by our Mortars, but investigating patrol found enemy still there. Patrol 15 pl (Lt McIntyre) moved EASTWARDS to approx 910570 and established posn of PIKEI - saw only one Jap. Patrol 16 pl (Lt McKellar) moved towards PIKEI and remained for night, Several hundred yds from village site.

Visitors - B.M., S/Capt, Lt-Col Blair.

February 21 Patrol 16 pl (Lt McKellar) returned and reported general area NORTH EAST of PIKEI to MARIVI RIVER clear of Japs. Patrol 9 pl (Lt Sloan) ambushed 7 japs at approx 884564 and killed all. B Coy began advance from D Coy (9 Bn) approx 888574 - one Jap killed. 10 pl then got astride road at 889568 whilst rest of coy dug in for night at 889570. B Coy captured 3 swords, one flag, rifles, packs and equipment.

Maj Pitt (Adm Comd 57/60 Bn) and I.O. (Lt Hamilton) came to stay at BnHQ.

Bde Comd visited BnHQ approx 1030 hrs.

February 22 Patrol 13 pl (Lt Plummer) contacted enemy in strength at approx 884564 - 1 jap killed. Own cas 1 wounded (Pte Mulcahy). Enemy known to have at least one JUKU, two LMGs and probably grenade dischargers.

Patrol 7 pl (Lt Henderson) clearing from MOSIGETTA track junc to B Coy contacted enemy, killed 2, wounded 1, and captured LMG and 2 rifles.

10 pl on PIKEI rd attacked by approx 15 enemy at 0700 hrs. Attack repulsed - six enemy killed - own cas 3 wounded.

Rest of B Coy joined 10 pl.

18 pl patrol (Lt Clarkson) out for night PIKEI area.

57/60 observer party left.

February 23 Two of 7 pl's missing men, Pte Haines & White arrived back approx 0930 hrs. Had been separated from Cpl Bruce and had had to leave Pte Stacey who was badly wounded. However, they slept night in Jap perimeter and in all killed 8 japs. Cpl Bruce arrived in later and wounded. Search party 8 pl (Lts Tomlinson & Henderson) failed to locate Pte Stacey. One more dead Jap found in B Coy area. Mortar barrage on Jap biv area approx 884564. Patrol 17 pl (Lt Dawes) moved from B Coy to 882561 thence to 891562 then to B Coy. N.M.S. Patrol 14 pl (Lt Brinkley) cleared track between track junc 883569 and B Coy at 887568 without contact. Patrol (18 pl) Lt Clarkson returned and reported area about track junc 907566 clear of enemy. Standing patrol to contact 2/8 Cdo Syn est at 901583 near MAVIRI RIVER. 11 pl est perimeter at 894567 and when later joined by 12 and 15 pls, 11 pl returned to B Coy. Patrol 12 pl (Lt Watts) to gardens at 893565 found crops (beans, peas, corn etc in cultivation) N.M.S. 10 Bty 4 Fd Regt in sp.

February 24

15 pl (Lt McIntyre) left LAVORO 894567 to patrol track leading SOUTH. C Coy less 15 pl left 878584 and joined 12 pl at LAVORO. 14 pl left LAVORO ~~and~~ and followed route taken by 15 pl. C Coy HQ, 13 pl and 12 pl occupied BOKU 899564 on junc PIKEI road and main track to PURIATA R. . 15 pl returned to C Coy having patrolled from 894567 SOUTH= to garden 894564 S-E to 895554 then NORTH along well worn track to C Coy - N.M.S. 14 pl remained in posn track 895554. 12 and 15 pls moved back and occupied LAVORO. A Coy patrol (Lt Sloan) located body of Pte Stacey at approx 886565. 11 pl patrol (Lt Whybird) investigated Jap def posns 885565, and found them deserted, then followed track S-W to junc 882558 where well used track ran EAST and WEST. Jap sign post. Patrol returned - N.M.S. 5 pl (Lt Emmett moved to B Coy for work on PIKEI RD.

February 25

D Coy moved from 878587 along PIKEI RD and occupied track junc 909568. 16 pl at track junc 904564. C Coy HQ and 13 pl moved SOUTH to HUPAI R X-ING 895553. 14 pl at 895554. 15 pl moved to track junc 898564. 12 pl at track junc 895567 (BOKU) 10 pl patrol (Lt Gibson) moved S-W to 880547 then NORTH to PIKEI RD at 895567 - N.M.S., but track passed through many cultivated gardens. C.O. visited fwd coys (B & D) and inspected Jap Fd hospital at 902564.

Op Order received from 7 Bde .(No. 4). 61 Bn will relieve 9 Bn and hold PIKEI - MOSIGETTA - MARIGA, and patrol to PURIATA R. Further task to make MOSIGETTA - BARARA track jeepable. 9 Bn will be withdrawing to bn rest camp at MOTUPENA PT area. 25 Bn will assemble BARARA area. 2/8 Cdo Sqn will operate between PURIATA and HONGARAI RIVERS.

February 26

B Coy moved from LAVORO to as follows - Coy HQ and 12 pl MEIVO track junc(MATTHEWS JUNC), 11 pl D.I.D. MOSIGETTA, 10 pl to BLANCH JUNC. A Coy moved from MEIVO to relieve D Coy 9 Bn at 858844 and 9 pl(Lt Sloan) moved to 853534 and patrolled to MARIGA. 5 pl moved to BLANCH JUNC. Patrol 13 pl (Lt Plummer) to PURIATA R and linked with 2/8 Cdo Sqn at 925543. Patrol 18 pl (Sgt McGrath) to PURIATA R at 930551.

Leave draft from Mainland returned. Adjut visited fwd Coys (B & D) and inspected Jap 13 Inf Regt HQ. Maj Bicks appointed to P.W. Repatriation - Europe.

February 27

9 pl (Lt Sloan) contacted 25 Bn at DARARA at 0915 hrs. A Coy moved to MARIGA area. C Coy patrol 15 pl (Lt McIntyre) killed 1 jap near MA MAKAPEKA RIVER. Patrol captured 1 rifle, 1 Aust rifle, 1 Aust snipers rifle, one flag. D Coy patrols to PURIATA RIVER. Pioneers working on road SOUTH of BLANCH JUNC. Change of Bde plan - coys at present to stay put. C.O., B.M., I.O., Mortar Offr to DARARA to contact 25 Bn. Lt Scott-Toms to C Coy - Lt J.N. Whittaker to 4 pl.

February 28.

Patrols from D Coy NORTH of coy posn and to PURIATA R report N.M.S. ANGAU patrol located large natural cave at 916564 formed Jap bombproof shelter. C Coy patrol area SOUTH of coy posn - N.M.S. 5 pl moved from 872557 to 882576. 9 pl now in occupation at track junc 850534. B.M. rang at 1420 hrs. Orders from 7 Bde for 61 Bn less one coy to be withdrawn to MAMAREGU rest area. One coy remains MEIVO-MOSIGETTA.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

.....(Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday...../...../194..... (Unit) **5 45**

W.E...../..... OFFRS. **3 2 5 61 Aust Inf Bn** O.R's..... + OFFRS..... O.R's..... ATT. BY W.E.

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

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.										
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.						
-	-	-	1	Lieut.-Colonels											
-	-	-	2	Majors											
N/R 1	1	-	2	Captains											
2	2	-	7	Lieutenants	AANC	1	-	-							
-	-	2	22	Quarter-masters											
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.											
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.											
3	3	2	52	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.		
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).				A.	A	B	A	B							
				E.(1)	53	-	-	-							33
				E.(2)											

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

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

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
QX19919	Lt	ROBINSON H.D.	Killed in Action	1/2/45	
QX34104	"	ELOAN D.	11 Aust FA Amb	2/2/45	Angio Neurotic Right Eye.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. /..... /194.....

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 3 / 2 / 1945. (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Lt-Col	VX5172	DEXTER	W. R.	CO	Yes		
Maj	QX47482	DICKS	G. H.	B IG	"		
"	NX101030	PHILLIPS	G. V.	OC HQ	No	Evac 109 CCS	16.1.45
"	QX36035	TWENLOW	E. McE.	" D	Yes		
Capt	QX36051	LAWSON	A. N.	" A	"		
"	VX29956	CAIRNS	H.	" C	"		
"	QX48865	COWLAND	R. E.	2IG C	"		
"	QX48864	ROBBS	J. J. S.	Adjt	"		
"	QX48862	STANLEY	L. V.		No	Attending RAAF Army Co-op School CANBERRA	6.11.44
"	QX36365	PATERSON	J. S.	2IG D	Yes		
"	QX36029	RUDDER	W. L.	CM	"		
"	QX40906	HUTCHINSON	T. C.	OC B	"		
"	SX381	FORWARD	G. O.		No	Attending LHQ Tac School Course No 15	30.11.44
Lt	QX36030	EMMETT	H. E.	Par O	Yes		
"	QX51718	TOMLINSON	C. B.	A Coy	"		
"	QX19174	FORD	R. L.	HQ	"		
"	NX141459	CUMMINS	R. P.	FO	"		
"	QX58380	IRVINE	W. G.	IO	"		
"	QX51719	BRINKLEY	F. R.	C Coy	"		
"	QX35526	HENDERSON	P. V.	A	"		
"	QX53203	WHITTAKER	J. N.	A	No	On leave	22.12.44
"	QX36047	FULLARTON	A. W. J.	A	Yes		
"	QX51720	CLARKSON	A. G.	D	"		
"	QX55054	WATTS	A. A.	B	"		
"	QX50122	McINTYRE	D. C. C.	B	"		
"	QX61122	WHITE	J. J.	Sig O	"		
"	QX60195	JAMES	W. C.	HQ Coy	"		
"	NX115828	PLUMMER	R. T. V.	C	"		
"	NX116117	McKELLAR	D. H.	D	"		
"	QX59984	HOCK	D. V.	A/Adjt	"		
"	QX68058	WHYBIRD	J. G.	B Coy	"		
"	SX26584	BRAZIER	R. F.	A	No	Evac 7 Aust Pd Amb	10.1.45
"	QX38891	DAWES	C. W.	D	Yes		
"	QX34104	SDOAN	O. M.	B	No	Evac 11 Pd Amb	2.2.45
"	VX28129	GIBSON	J. M.	B	Yes		
"	SX22866	SCOTT-TOMS	W. H.	HQ	"		
"	SX21749	RUSSACK	H. V.	HQ	No	Attending LHQ Sch	16.11.44
"	QX40923	CHAMBERS	U. T.		No	Secondment Army Jnr Ldr's School secondment pending as Instr in a Trg Bn.	16.10.44
Capt	NX200122	CLIFTON-SMITH C.		IMO	Yes		

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

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Chaplain	NX149802	BEATTY C.A.	61 Bn	8.2.44	Padre
Mjr	QB159	BEDWELL N.R.C.	"	6.1.44	MGCA Welfare Offr.

3/2/45

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

5-45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 3/2/1945 61 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

W.E. 11, 129 3 OFFRS. 55 O.R's. 799 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 52 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.					
Reinfts. Required	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm of Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required	
-	-	1	2	W.Os. Class I.						
3	1	-	8	W.Os. Class II.						
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.						
			5	Staff Sergeants						
5	5	-	29	Sergeants	3	2	1	5	9	
5	5	-	62	Corporals	1	1	1	6	8	
107	107	13	564	Troopers, Privates, etc.				1	15	
				Civilians counting as O.R.						
116	116	14	667	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2	3	2	1	5	32	

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

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

Detail	A.I.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	..	TOTAL
		Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							
A	252		447							699
B(1)										
B(2)										

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong
4	9 Aust Inf Bn		
1	25 Aust Inf Bn		
7	Lt Sec A Coy 11 Fd Amb		
1	7 Aust Inf Bde (Padre's Batman)		
1	V Sec FSS		
1	11 Fd Coy		
15	2 Aust Fd Regt		
1	YMCA		
5	241 Aust LAD		
1	AA Amenities 3 Aust Div		
6	7 Aust Inf Bde Sigs		
1	ANGAU		
11	3 Aust Div Sigs.		

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

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	Records Office		
1	2 Aust Corp Fd Punishment Centre		
1	7 Aust Inf Bde		
20	Leave		
17	Hosp		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To (Unit) is Particularly Requested. 3/2/1945

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

Unit

Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 3 / 2 / 1945 .

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.			Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)			Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)			Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)			
W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	
Ammunition Examiners			Surveyors, Engineering			Operating Room Assis.			G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter			Surveyors, E.A.A.			Operator, Keyboard			Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)			Surveyors, Topographical			Operator, Line			Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)			Surveyors, Trigonometrical			Operator, Signal			Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)			Toolmakers			Operator, Switchboard			Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument			Turners			Operator, Wireless			Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio			Watchmakers			Opticians			Rangefinders	4	4	
Armament Artificer Signals			Welders			Painters			Blotters			
Armament Artificer Wireless			Batmen	35	35	Panel Beaters			Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery			Gen Duty	3	3	Photographers, Dry Plate			Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine			Hyg Duty	4	4	Predictor Numbers			Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1	LUG Rifle	307	50000	Printers			Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers	1	1	Mtr Nos	73	74	Radiographers			Stevadores			
Computers			MVC Nos	23	23	Eligees			Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital			GROUP II.			Sawyers			Storemen, Technical	1	1	
Coppersmiths			Armourers			Signalers	26	26	Tailors	2	2	
Dispensers			Axemen			Signwriters			Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen			Bakers			Telescope Identfn. Numbers			Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)			Bty. Comd's Asst.			Well Borers			Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)			Boilermakers			Wheelers			Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)			Carpenters	6	5	Winchman			Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)			Carpenters and Joiners			Wireman			TkA Nos	19	19	
Electricians			Cooks			Woodturners			Water Duty	2	2	
Electricians (M.V.)			Dental Mechanics			Orderlies	52	52	RSM	1	2	
Electricians (Signals)			Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)			Pns	32	26	RCMS	1	1	
Fitters			Driver-Operator			Pro Sjt	1	1	CSM	5	4	
Fitters (Cycle)			Drainers			Storemen	6	6	CCMS	5	5	
Fitters (Electrical)			Electricians			S. Bearers	21	22	Sjts	25	22	
Fitters (Gun)			Electricians (Engineers)			Regt Police	6	7				
Fitters (Instrument)			Fire Control Operators			GROUP III.			DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)			Gun Operator			Battery Surveyors			Chiropodist	1	1	
Fitters, Railway Signal			Hatchman			Butchers	1	1	Hyg Dntpr	1	1	
Fitters, Signals			Height Taker			Clerks	12	11	Med Ord	2	2	
Grinder, Precision	8	8	Helio Operator			Clerks, Supply			AAOC			
Mechanics, Instrument			Instrument Operator			Clerks, Technical			Shoemaker	1	1	
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)			Intelligence Duties	10	5	Coach Trimmers			Postal Sjt	1	1	
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)			Joiners			Concretors			Pay Clerks	2	2	
Mechanics, Radio			Lineman			Cooks						
Mechanics, Typewriter			Lineman, Signals			Dental Clerk Orderlies						
Mechanics, Wireless			Lithographers			Despatch Riders			ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights			Machinists, Metal			Draughtsmen, Signal	1	1	AAOC			
Operators, Excavator			Machinists, Wood			Drivers, H.M.T	10	9	Caterer	1	1	
Pattern Maker			Masons			Driver Mechanics		7	Cooks	25	25	
Pharmacist			Masseurs			Driver Tpin. Plant						
Photographer, Wet Plate			Mechanics, M.T.			Engine Hands, I.C.				32	32	
Photewriter			Miners			Equipment Repairers	1	1				
Plumber			Moulders			Farriers						
Saw Doctors			Nurses, Trained			Fitters' Mates						
Surveyors			Observation Post Assis.			Gun Layers						
CARRIED FORWARD	1	2	CARRIED FORWARD	532	451	CARRIED FORWARD	701	602	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	801	699	116

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

3/2/45

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander
Lt-Col
Comd 51 Aust Inf Bn

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in

WOI WOII S/SJTS SJTS CPLS WOI WOII S/SJTS SJTS CPLS

Category	GROUP II (cont.)				GROUP I (cont.)						
	WOI	WOII	S/SJTS	SJTS	WOI	WOII	S/SJTS	SJTS			
Tpt											
Cpl											
Int Dut											
Signallers											
Clerks											
Tailor											
Tech Storeman											
LMG Rifle Nos				36							
MMG Nos				2							
Mortar Nos				5							
Pnrs				4							
Pro Sjt			1								
S Bearers			1	2							
Tk A Nos				4							
RSM	1					2					
RQMS		1				1					
CSM		5				4					
CQMS					5						
Sjts			25				22				
		1	6	5	32	67	2	5	5	29	62
Attached											
AAMC											
Med Orderlies			1						1		
Chiropodist				1						1	
Hyg Inspector			1								
AAOC											
Shoemaker				1						1	
Postal Sjt			1							1	
Pay Clerks			1	1						1	1
AACC											
Caterer	1						1				
Cooks			5	5						5	5
	1		9	8			1			9	8

NOTE--(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorized trades or specialties not included in list will be added as required in space provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.B. and/or A.A.M.W.B. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where equipment is not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of "None" in col. "Remarks Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

Signature of Commanding Officer
Date of Despatch

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C 2118.
(adapted)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	1 Mar 45		<p>Patrols from D Coy operated in the sqs 9157-9257 and SOUTH from 909567 to PURIATA R without contact. A wide well-drained track with a Jap sig wire running along it was reported to run NORTH from 917573. C Coy's patrols operating in sqs 8755-8955-8754-8854-8954 and S-E to PURIATA R at 908532 reported no signs of enemy. A fighting patrol of pl strength from 880534 to investigate a Tac/R report of recent heavy activity in the general area 875520, followed a native pad to approx 858524 without contact and then cut across country. By nightfall the patrol reached 864524. At a village known to natives as MURAWA 858524 the patrol found a mary, estimated to have been dead 6 days. Death was caused by either a bayonet or bullet wound in the groin. Jap boots were found in one hut. At 859524 a garden 600 yds</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ruslan</i>Capt Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn</p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 1 MAR 45 To 2 MAR 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	1 Mar 45		by 400 yds contained pumpkins, tomatoes, sweet potato, corn and marrows, some fit for consumption. The garden had not been tended for approx 3 weeks. A group of native huts at Eastern end of garden was not known to native guides. The progress of the patrol was slow, due to large number of clearings and huts searched between 850534 and 864524 en route. A patrol from A Coy 842532 contacted 25 Aust Inf Bn 855502 at 0850 hrs.	
	2 Mar 45		A Coy fighting patrol continued EAST from 864524 through by jungle, and by 1430 hrs was estimated to have reached 875518. A wide track showing no signs of recent use and running NORTH-SOUTH with galvanised sig cable along it was crossed at approx 871518. By 1500 hrs no signs of huts and garden,	

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 2 MAR 45 To 3 MAR 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	2 Mar 45		<p>reported to be in area 875520 by tac/R, could be found.</p> <p>Patrol was ordered to return to A Coy 842532 and arrived 1700 hrs. A patrol from 25 Bn contacted A Coy at 0955L. A patrol from C Coy 895553 moved SOUTH along a well worn track to 888524 without contact. In a biv area at 877553 a security patrol from B Coy found one LMG minus breech block, 3 Jap rifles and one American rifle. A party digging in Jap HQ site at 913537 unearthed a Bren Mk I No. 2 T 6220, one mag and one mag box. Documents and maps were also found.</p>	
	3 Mar 45		<p>An A Coy patrol from 842532 contacted 25 Bn at BARARA at 0900 hrs and returned at 1120 hrs. No mvt seen. A patrol of 2 offrs 15 ORs from A Coy to recce all tracks leading to MARIGA from the EAST followed track from 855503 to 863524. After breaking</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 3 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	3 Mar 45		<p>scrub the patrol struck an old native pad approx 859523 which was followed to rd at approx 845519. The patrol then returned to A Coy at 1415 hrs without contact. B Coy patrol of 1 offr 8 ORs followed the track from 887568 to 882544. At this point the patrol split. The first party followed a track S-E and struck main SOUTH track at 888541. This party returned via C Coy 895553. The second party struck S-W breaking scrub and after striking a track junc at approx 872535 followed N-W track to MARIGA rd at approx 864548. A track 5 to 6 ft wide but NOT used for about 2 weeks was followed from 872535 SOUTH for 600 yds. Track continued. Patrol returned 1300 hrs without contact.</p> <p>A patrol from C Coy 895553 SOUTH to 888523 followed track to 875520. A biv area of 4 huts and garden was searched and contained Jap clothes, blankets, dishes and posters.</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time - From 3 Mar 45 To 4 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	3 Mar 45		<p>The patrol continued along the track to 886514, investigated a track running S-W for 500 yds and returned without contact.</p> <p>Routine patrol from D Coy to PURIATA. R returned 1030 hrs without contact. A patrol from D Coy to 917573 then NORTH along a good wide track discovered what appeared to be a vacated Jap arty HQ. This patrol returned at 1100 hrs with Jap equipment found at the HQ, which included a US Johnson auto rifle, arty instruments, tripods, extension drills, documents and maps.</p>	
	4 Mar 45		<p>At 0830 hrs A Coy less 7 pl moved from 842532 and by 1040 hrs occupied BLANCH JUNC 883568. 7 pl remained 842532. 10 pl moved from BLANCH JUNC and arrived at 905564 at 0900 hrs. C Coy less 13 pl moved fwd from 895563 at 0830 hrs and took up posn on S-E</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 4/5 MAR 45 To 5 MAR 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	4 Mar 45		bank PURIATA R 909531 at 1130 hrs. 16 pl moved from 905564	
			and arrived 895553 at 0930 hrs. Patrol from A Coy followed	
			a good wide track from 855503 N-W then NORTH to approx 878543.	
			10 to 15 lean-to were found at approx 872521. The patrol	
			searched all tracks leading EAST from main track but none	
			continued for more than 100 yds. Patrol returned to 842532	
			at 1625 hrs. On return to BARARA patrol was informed that a	
			track runs EAST from 858508. This was followed for 250 yds	
			but time did not permit further investigation. OC C Coy	
			liased with CO 2/8 Cdo Sqn ref enemy dispositions.	
	5 Mar 45		BnHQ moved from 878585 and ^{opened} observed at 899564 at 050900L.	
			8 pl departed 883568 and occupied junc 879583 at 0810 hrs.	
			B Coy less 10 pl moved from MEIVO area and occupied track	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time - From 5 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	5 Mar 45		<p>junc 909567 at 051000L. 10 pl remained 905564. 13 pl moved fwd from 895553 and joined C Coy 909531 at 1030 hrs. After successful attack by 2/8 Cdo Sqn on enemy posn 917523, C Coy less 14 pl moved fwd at 1400 hrs and occupied posn vacated by enemy who had withdrawn 250 yds SOUTH. D Coy less 16 pl moved from 909507 at 0825 hrs and occupied posn vacated by C Coy at 909531 at 1335 hrs. C Coy patrol along S-E bank PURIATA R to 899516 reported a good track followed river to 906533 then became very faint. A good foot track running EAST-WEST crosses PURIATA R at 899516. Patrol registered with Arty to locate their posn. A 16 pl patrol from 895553 followed previous patrol route to 888522 then SOUTH along a faint track which ended in a area of old fallen timber at 884508. The patrol found NO tracks leading S-E to PURIATA R</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit..... 61 AUST INF BN Date ~~and Time~~—From 5 Mar 45 To 6 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	5 Mar 45		A native patrol investigating N-W bank PURIATA R from 909533 to 901524 found no signs of enemy. A 7 pl patrol followed a track N-E from 858503 to 872512. The track continued N-E.	Patrol and disposition map covering period 1-5 Mar 45 att as appx 6
			The patrol returned to 858508 and followed a track SOUTH for 800 yds. No tracks could be found leading to PURIATA R.	
			Air dropping ground at BOKU 898565 completed for air drop	
			6 Mar.	
	6 Mar 45		7 pl departed 842532 at 0820 hrs and joined A Coy at 883568 at 1030 hrs. 9 pl departed A Coy and took up posn 882577 at 1110 hrs. 10 pl departed 905564 and joined 16 pl 895553 at 0825 hrs. At 0845 hrs 16 pl departed 895553 and joined D Coy 909531 at 1020 hrs. 14 pl departed D Coy and joined C Coy 917523 at 0855 hrs. 15 pl patrol to engage enemy posn at 919521 located	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 6 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	6 Mar 45		<p>it unoccupied at 1410 hrs. Defences were only in preliminary stages of construction and appeared to have been occupied NO longer than 30 hrs. Main posn consisted of 14 shallow pits incl 1 JUKI pit in semi perimeter sited to cover track leading in from N-W. NORTH of the posn were 2 listening post pits and fwd to the left flank 5 lean-tops were located at the foot of a 20 ft bank. These contained none of the usual indications of enemy occupation. On searching the area 1 rifle, 1 sword and a freshly dug grave were found. Evidence showed enemy had moved off the track when evacuating posn and our arty ranging was directly on the target. At 1430 hrs 14 pl moved fwd from C Coy and with 15 pl occupied this posn. D Coy patrol along S-E bank PURIATA R reached 899518 then proceeded on bearing of 112 degrees^M to approx 913517 where well worn foot pad runs at 95</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 6 Mar 45 To 7 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	6 Mar 45		degrees and 230 ^M degrees. Track showed signs of approx 6 enemy moving S-W a.m. 6 Mar. The track was patrolled for 400 yds each way from 913517. At approx 911515 a recent ambush posn for approx 9 men was found. Patrol returned D Coy 1645 hrs without making contact. A native patrol along SIRIKARA. R saw 2 Japs in garden at approx 932521. Native patrol down WEST bank PURIATA R reached 890495 and reported track x-ing at 896505 had been used by party Japs moving EAST 4/5 days previously. 4 police boys escorting 100 native refugees from HUPAI R area passed through this HQ en route MOSIGETTA at 1010 hrs. Air dropping at BOKU 898565 resulted in 90% recovery of supplies.	
	7 Mar 45		At 0615 hrs one Jap probing our perimeter at 919521 exploded	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 7 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	7 Mar 45		<p>a booby trap and was later killed by rifle fire. Document found on body. Patrol investigating, found footprints of 5 retreating enemy 200 yds fwd of this posn. C Coy patrol to BARNES X-ING 898505 saw signs of 2 Japs moving WEST at x-ing. Then followed a track for 1500 yds EAST and saw further signs of enemy mbvement at approx 912505. At this point patrol heard sounds of contact made by another patrol from C Coy, so decided to move N-E through jungle reaching track fwd of our posn 919521 and then returned to perimeter at 1600 hrs without making contact. C Coy patrol to HORINU 937517 returned at 1800 hrs and reported NO signs of enemy, also garden area 932521 clear. Patrol from D Coy strength 1 pl moved SOUTH along track from 919521 and at 1800 hrs made contact with an estimated party 20 enemy armed with 2 HMG, 1 LMG & rifles in a</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 7 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	7 Mar 45		clearing at approx 915510. Patrol withdrew and arty engaged posn. Own cas Nil - enemy 1 severely wounded. Owing to late hour result of arty fire could not be observed. Enemy killed fwd of our perimeter 919521 on 6 Mar was armed with rifle, had several rounds in pockets and wore stockings without boots. 3 further graves found in this area and 2 enemy bodies approx one week old found at 917523. A security patrol from B Coy located and destroyed one type 93 land mine at 912550, which appeared to have been lying on surface of ground for a considerable time. A second patrol found 2x 208 wireless sets and box of valves at 898561. At 1040 hrs signal sent to Bde requesting permission to name following places. Track SOUTH from 887568 STACEY TRACK - track junc 888568 GIBSON POST - track junc 895567 WATTS BASE. . As a result of air strike	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 7 Mar 45 To 8 Mar 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	7 Mar 45		5 Mar on enemy posn 917523, one unexploded bomb was found at 917524 and a further two suspected at 917523 in C Coy posn.	
	8 Mar 45		C Coy ambush 1 offr 12 ORs established at river x-ing 898505. Sec patrol from 10 pl 895553 followed well worn track to x-ing 898505 and contacted C Coy ambush at 1155 hrs, reporting fresh footprints of approx 6 enemy moving W and NNW for 900 yds from x-ing. 16 and 18 pls with attached arty offr and sigs moved out at 0800 hrs from 909531 to attack and clear enemy from posn 915510 encountered 7 Mar. Enemy posn found to be hurriedly vacated and a search of the area located 12 single weapon pits - 1 JUKA pit - 1 hut and 2 leanto's situated on left of main track. 18 pl moving fwd at 1240 hrs ambushed an enemy party estimated 15/20 on track killing 6. Pl then came under	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

N. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time.~~ - From 8 Mar 45 To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
South Bougainville	8 Mar 45		<p>heavy automatic and rifle fire from enemy in posn 922511 and withdrew. Own cas 3 wounded. Accurate arty fire was then brought down on posn and 16 and 18 pls moved fwd on either side of track to investigate. At 1640 hrs posn found to be hurriedly vacated and a search of the area revealed 24 weapon pits, incl 4 HMGs - 2 huts, 2 leanto's and 2 freshly dug graves which contained a 2nd Lt and Sgt Maj killed in previous action 7 Mar. Offr wore spectacles, jodphurs, puttees and clothing in excellent condition. Buried with the bodies were boots and field rations and leather attache case. Posn was sited on a 30 ft bank overlooking creek and astride main track. Enemy encountered were large in stature, appeared well fed and wore clean clothes. Evidence that a large proportion of party were suffering from dysentery. Owing to late hour our</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

N. 1003

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~. — From 8 Mar 45 To 9 Mar 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	8 Mar 45		force heavily booby trapped the area and returned to perimeter	
			909531 at 1830 hrs. C Coy ambush returned to Coy from x-ing	
			898505 at 1720 hrs. Nothing to report. Bn was instructed that	
			when operational advance permitted, track TOKINOTU-HATAI-	
			920483 - RUMIKI - SINANAI will be investigated to determine	
			suitability as L of C and medical evac via DARARA-TOKO for	
			troops on left flank of Bde advance. Native compound now	
			established at 898565.	
	9 Mar 45		Patrol from 10 pl 895553 followed track SOUTH then S-E to	
			BARNES X-ING 898505 then W to native village 877518, only	
			signs of enemy seen - 1 footprint at 891513, patrol returned	
			at 1400 hrs. C Coy recce patrol traversed track from 917523	
			to PURIATA R, then S along river to BARNES X-ING, then E for	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

N. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~ — From 9 Mar 45 To 10 Mar 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	9 Mar 45		approx 1000 yds returning to Coy at 1500 hrs. C Coy est	
			ambush at 922509 from 1000 hrs to 1430 hrs reporting 3 sets footprints seen on track otherwise NO enemy mvt. Patrol found that enemy had evac posn of 8 Mar along previously cut escape route.	
	10 Mar 45		Recce patrol from C Coy 915523 traversed track from BARNES x-ing to 922511 and returned NORTH along main track to Coy. Fresh footprints of 6 enemy were seen on track running SOUTH from 915513. Fighting patrol strength 1 offr 16 ORs from C Coy was dispatched and followed track SOUTH then S-E for 3000 yds and heard sounds of auto and rifle fire to the EAST. On investigating, saw party of Japs at approx 931514. Arty fire brought down at 1130 hrs but observed to be inaccurate.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time — From 10 Mar 45 To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	10 Mar 45		Patrol then searched area and moved a further 700 yds EAST along track, could NOT ascertain cause of fire previously heard and returned to coy 1700 hrs. Recce patrol from D Coy 909531 SOUTH along EAST bank PURIATA R in attempt to reach track junc 894485 returned to coy at 1520 hrs. Native guide knew of NO tracks and led patrol through bush and very swampy country to approx 911501. Only signs enemy were 9 sets footprints 4 days old near hut at 901508. C Coy recce patrol 1 NCO 5 OR's, ANGAU W.O. and 3 natives followed main track from 917523 to 922512 then broke scrub NE-EAST then SOUTH crossing main track at approx 933505. Contacted enemy at 933503 killing 2. Patrol then detoured WEST then NORTH crossing main track at 925508 thence through gardens 935515 to kanak a hide-out 950508, here biv the night contacting 2/8 Cdo Sqn patrol from NIHERO.	Patrol and disposition map covering period 6-10 Mar 45 attached as appx 7

G1 Col Hasset, Div L.O. Capt McDonald, C.O. 47 Aust Inf Bn Lt Col Coombes and Capt Barnes 2/8 Cdo Sqn visited this H.Q.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time - From 11 Mar 45 To 40

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	11 Mar 45		<p>B Coy commenced move to relieve C Coy. 10 pl departed 895553 at 0800 hrs and arrived 917523 at 1015 hrs. B Coy HQ and 11 pl departed 909567 at 0815 hrs and arrived at SIRIKARA. R at 1145 hrs, Disposns: B CoyHQ and 10 pl 917523 - 11 pl 919521 - 12 pl remaining at 909567. C Coy less 14 pl departed SIRIKARA R at 0850 hrs. Coy HQ and 15 pl arrived 909567 at 1225 hrs. 13 pl arrived 895553 at 1015 hrs. 14 pl remaining at 919521. 18 pl patrol SOUTH from 909521 and WEST to track junc 915513 killed 1 enemy approaching from BARNES X-ING at 0945 hrs. Own cas 1 wounded. Patrol returned with cas and was joined by remainder 18 pl, then departed to establish ambush on junc 915513 until 1600 hrs. Returned 1825 hrs and reported NO further enemy mvt. D Coy fighting patrol S-E along main track from 909531 encountered enemy unknown strength armed with 2 LMGs</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 61 AUST INF BN..... Date and Time From 11 Mar 45 To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	11 Mar 45		rifles and 1 grenade discharger at 1215 hrs. Arty fire brought down on posn and on moving fwd to investigate, patrol again came under heavy fire. Arty fire again brought down and patrol moved fwd at 1330 hrs. Found 6 weapon pits and killed 1 enemy moving fwd along track. Enemy again opened fire from right flank with LMG and rifles. Patrol replied with concentrated auto and grenade dischargers fire, and enemy fire diminished. Arty fire again brought down, but owing to shortage of amm and late hour patrol withdrew without further investigation. Cas enemy 1 killed, probably more. Own 1 killed, 3 wounded. C Coy recce patrol to kanak e hideout returned to coy perimeter 909531 at 1300 hrs accompanied by 2/8 Cdo Sqn patrol. 3 guns of "D" Tp 10 Bty 2 Fd Regt arrived 901564 p.m. Remaining gun still	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From... 11 Mar 45 To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	11 Mar 45		<p>en-route. Harrassing fire from "C" Tp to be brought down on enemy posn 929508 at 112200L - 120215L - 120630L. Infm gained from native source by patrol to kanaka hideout - topographical - river flowing from 964521 to PURIATA R at 894485 is known as PUIYO. Tributary of HONGORAI R flowing in from NORTH at 973481 is known as BORNARA R. A good road runs from NIHERO through SINANAI crosses PUIYO R and continues on to TOKINOTU. Another road from SINANAI crosses HONGORAI R at 973489 and leads to TAITAI. Placed at 942505 is HORINU 2 NOT HORINU 1. HORINU 1 is further SOUTH with track continuing SOUTH to join NIHERO - TOKINOTU road. RUMIKI is placed NORTH of NIHERO-TONINOTU road with track leading SOUTH to join road. Enemy disposns- there is a force estimated at 60 at approx 972487 feeding from gardens at</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 6~~1~~ AUST INF BN.....

Date and Time.—From 11 Mar 45..... To 12 Mar 45.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	11 Mar 45		<p>approx 970493. A further two forces of unknown strength are located at between NIHERO-TOKINOTU road and HONGARAI R in the vicinity of RUMIKI-HORINU 1 track junctions with this road. Further force located at approx 894464.</p> <p>Subject:- Div MT Maint Inspector's report attached as per (appx 2).</p>	APRX 1
	12 Mar 45		<p>A coy security patrol from MARIGA to DARARA returned 1500 hrs reported no mvt seen. 12 pl departed 909567 at 0810 hrs and arrived 919521 at 1100 hrs. 14 pl departed 919521 at 1230 hrs and arrived 909567 at 1600 hrs. D Coy fighting patrol SOUTH along track from junc 915513 reached creek approx 800 yds from junc. Encountered enemy rifle fire from SOUTH bank. Patrol then crossed creek under cover of arty fire</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 61 AUST INF BN.....

Date and Time.—From 12 Mar 45..... To 13 Mar 45.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	12 Mar 45		and found enemy had vacated posn. B Coy fighting patrol moved E-E along main track from 919521 to track junc 922511 then EAST and SOUTH through scrub to cut track at rear of enemy posn 931508. Patrol then moved back along track through Jap posn, found it vacated and returned to coy perimeter 1655 hrs. One section 15 Aust Fd Coy attached to Bn as from 0700 hrs.	
	13 Mar 45		D Coy less 16 pl moved fwd from 909531 through B Coy then SOUTH along main track. At 1230 hrs protective screen came under fire from 3/4 rifles at approx 932508. Enemy withdrew and D Coy moved fwd and occupied posn. 16 pl moved fwd from 909531 and occupied track junc 915513 at 1130 hrs. At approx 1530 hrs pl was attacked by enemy force unknown strength	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... 61 AUST INF BN.....

Date and Time.—From...13 Mar 45... To...14 Mar 45...

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	13 Mar 45		<p>armed with HMG, grenades and rifles. Cas enemy unknown. Own</p> <p>3 wounded. One sec from B Coy moved fwd to reinforce 16 pl</p> <p>at 1600 hrs. B Coy recce patrol followed track SOUTH to</p> <p>922508. After breaking scrub on bearing 120 degrees^M for 450</p> <p>yds reached 2 huts with number of foot pads radiating from</p> <p>it. Followed one pad to PUIYO R at 938495 and found several</p> <p>fresh Jap footprints, evidently small parties going for</p> <p>water. At this point river is 30-ft wide 5/6 ft deep, very</p> <p>fast flowing, banks 100-ft high and NOT fordable. Dropping</p> <p>ground cleared at 909532 for air drop 14 Mar.</p>	
	14 Mar 45		<p>BnHQ moved fwd from BOKU 899564 and opened 909531 at 0920</p> <p>hrs. One sec from D Coy 932508 moving fwd to creek x-ing</p> <p>933506, encountered and killed 2 enemy at 0700 hrs. At 0900</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~ - From 14 Mar 45 To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	14 Mar 45		<p>hrs D Coy less 16 pl, attempting to move fwd from 933506 came under fire from enemy unknown strength. Arty fire was then brought down and one sec moving fwd on EAST bank of creek encountered 6/8 enemy killing 2. Sec withdrew to coy and further arty brought down. 17 pl then crossed creek on right flank to investigate and found enemy had vacated def posn leaving 10 packs containing fresh fruit, field rations, and clothing. Posn contained 12 weapon pits, 1 HMG pit and 3 leant@s estimated to have been one week old. Our arty fire had fallen accurately on target. Remainder of coy then moved fwd across creek and formed perimeter at 935505 at 1300 hrs. While digging in, 18 pl sighted and seriously wounded a further one enemy. Cas own one Arty sig wounded. Enemy 4 killed 1 seriously wounded. At 0845 hrs B Coy moved fwd from</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 14 Mar 45 To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	14 Mar 45		<p>917523 through 16 pl at 915513. Sec used to reinforce 16 pl night 13/14 Mar rejoined coy and adv continued to creek x-ing 915508. En-route fwd pl encountered enemy ambush party of 6 at approx 915511. Enemy withdrew, cas nil. Mvt observed on SOUTH bank of creek and arty registered. Patrol then sent fwd to investigate and returned 1830 hrs reporting no signs of enemy. Coy then formed perimeter for night on NORTH bank of creek. 16 pl at junc 915513 reported sighting 1 enemy armed with rifle and accompanied by brown dog at 915520. Enemy escaped. BARNES X-ING ambush returned to 13 pl 895553 at 1700 hrs. Reported NO enemy seen at X-ING but 3 sets fresh enemy footprints observed moving SOUTH from garden at 889538. 9 pl departed 886578 at 0800 hrs and took up posn at 917523 at 1230 hrs. C Coy less 13 pl departed 909567 at 0815 hrs.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

N. 100M

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 14 Mar 45 To 15 Mar 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	14 Mar 45		CoyHQ and 14 pl est BOKU 899564 at 0900 hrs. 15 pl est	
			903563 at 0850 hrs, 13 pl remaining at 895553. 23 Bde trg team consisting of Capt Roberts, Lts Carmichael, Winkly, Ogden, WO Hibbel, 3 sgts, 2 cpls, 4 OR's attached to bn for op experience.	
	15 Mar 45		Owing to extended L of C, any fwd mvt of units will be restricted until native carriers est camp at PURIATA R. Camp to be est by p.m. 16 Mar. Aggressive patrolling was continued by coys from their firm bases. A Coy departed MOSIGETTA-MEIVO area at 0830 hrs and joined 9 pl at 917523 at 1250 hrs. 13 moved from 895553 at 0845 hrs and occupied MATTHEWS JUNC 878582 at 1100 hrs. One sec 14 pl now located at D.I.D. 880578.	
			5 pl moved from 883576 and arrived BLANCH JUNC 883568 at	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 15 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	15 Mar 45		0945 hrs. A patrol with native guides left D Coy 933505 moved SOUTH from approx 933506, crossed PORNUNGU creek at approx 932490, and reached PUIVO R at approx 933484. Returned to D Coy 1320 hrs without making contact. Patrol from D Coy moved N-E to track at 939507, S-E along track to PUIVO R at 941506, then S-W along WEST bank to main track at approx 940504 - natives found NO signs of enemy in HORINU 2. Patrol returned along main track to D Coy at 1205 hrs without making contact. Security patrol from 16 pl 915513 found footprints 1/2 days old of party enemy with dog at BARNES X-ING area. After reporting SOUTH bank SHIMON creek clear of enemy, B coy moved fwd across creek and est posn at 915507 at 0800 hrs. A fighting patrol moved SOUTH from coy perimeter and contacted enemy unknown strength dug in on high ground at 915504, armed with	<i>Patrol and disposition map covering period 11-15 Mar 45 att as appx 8</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~ - From 15 Mar 45 To 16 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	15 Mar 45		1 HMG, 2 LMGs, rifles and grenade dischargers. Patrol probed	
			posn and came under heavy fire. Cas 1 killed 1 wounded.	
			Under cover of arty and MMG fire cas were withdrawn - 12 pl	
			relieved patrol and further arty brought down before returning	
			to coy.	
	16 Mar 45		At 1200 hrs a pl of B Coy crossed creek 915505 under cover	
			arty fire, and moved on to enemy posn encountered 15 Mar and	
			found it vacated. Enemy had been well dug in and camouflaged.	
			While investigating, pl came under heavy fire from HMG, LMG	
			and rifles from slightly higher ground 50 yds ahead. Pl then	
			withdrew under cover of MMG fire and arty was brought down	
			on posn. On further investigation of posn, our tps again	
			encountered heavy volume of fire, and, unable to advance,	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time. — From 16 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	16 Mar 45		<p>returned to coy posn 915507. An air strike on this enemy posn was requested for 17 Mar. Patrol from D Coy investigated Jap track leading SOUTH from 935505, and at 935503 found vacated biv area of 10 huts and a freshly dug grave. Huts were destroyed and patrol returned without making contact. Tracks leading SOUTH from biv area did not continue any distance. Track leading EAST from area joined main track 400 yds fwd of D Coy posn. Patrol sighted one enemy sentry on junc but did not fire as own patrol operating in area. Patrol from D Coy with native guides moved to kanakā hideout 590508 then through bush towards SINANAI. Natives investigated SINANAI and reported 30 enemy collecting sac sac for construction of huts. Natives refused to guide patrol further to HORINU 1 and RUMIKI stating that large bodies of enemy were in these</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

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

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	16 Mar 45		<p>areas. Patrol returned through bush to D Coy at 1700 hrs without making contact. HORINU 2 reported to be clear of Japs but enemy were using adjacent gardens. C Coy patrol operating in area bounded by line MO SIGETTA-MARIGA-BARNES X-ING-BOKU reported no signs of enemy. Nil sighting also reported by patrol 2000 yds WEST along road from MATTHEWS JUNC, thence S-W to approx 855573, then EAST to main road at approx 881567. A Coy recce patrol 1 NCO 40Rs 2 native guides was dispatched to locate enemy tracks reported by 25 Aust Inf Bn in BARNES X-ING area at 0730 hrs. Tac/R requested for 17 Mar along track from fwd tps 915507 to HATAI, also information any other tracks leading SOUTH to PUIVO R, crossings of river, and enemy mvt this area.</p>	
	17 Mar 45		<p>After air strike by 8 corsairs (requested 16 Mar) and arty</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit.....61 AUST INF BN..... Date and Time.—From 17 Mar 45..... To.....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	17 Mar 45		<p>preparation on enemy posn 915504 at 0955 hrs, 10 and 12 pls followed by 9 pl moved fwd, and by 1215 hrs had occupied the posn. Posn vacated due to accurate bombing and arty fire. 10 and 12 pls commenced consolidating, while 9 pl moved fwd in an outflanking move to right. At 1410 hrs 11 pl relieved 10 pl. On reaching main track at 915501 9 pl came under fire from an estimated 20/30 enemy armed with HMG, 3 LMGs, grenade dischargers, rifles and possibly one Owen Gun. Cas own 1 wounded. Enemy unknown. P1 broke contact and returned to A Coy at 1650 hrs. B Coy locations - HQ and 10 pl 915507, 11 and 12 pls 915504. A Coy recce patrol out 16 Mar returned to Coy at 1605 hrs. Followed track S and W to BARNES X-ING, then along EAST bank PURIATA R to 892502, crossed river and broke scrub to 878503 where footpad runs SOUTH. This was</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time: From 17 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	17 Mar 45		<p>followed to 878500 thence to DARARA. Patrol returned to 878500 and followed double red sig cable to approx 882506, found 4 drums sig cable and continued on to 884512, sighting four Jap footprints heading SOUTH. Patrol again broke scrub to BARNES X-ING and returned to Coy without making contact.</p> <p>At 1420 hrs L/T between BnHQ and C Coy was cut. Investigating patrol found 40 yds of cable removed at approx 897557, discovered 3 sets enemy footprints leading WEST and took into custody an old kanak who was moving along track in this vic and escorted him back to C Coy for interrogation. Enemy posn vacated at 915504 was sited on track in bend of creek with steep 20-ft banks on three sides. All pits were covered as protection against bombing and arty fire with JUKI pit sited to cover track both fwd and rear. Bombs straddled target making very</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time From 17 Mar 45 To 18 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	17 Mar 45		little cratering and clearing jungle 30/40 yds radius from point of impact. 8 leanto's in area would accomodate approx 32 men.	
	18 Mar 45		8 pl moved from A Coy 917523 along track to 915504, then broke scrub WEST and SOUTH to reach approx 911500 at 1645 hrs. Country traversed by patrol most difficult, intersected by numerous watercourses and re-entrants. A track running EAST-WEST was crossed at approx 909503, had not been used recently, and at this point on old Jap biv area was found. Patrol biv for night with view to pushing EAST 19 Mar to cut track SOUTH of Jap posn 915502, and est ambush. At 0930 hrs one sec from A Coy relieved 16 pl at junc 915513 and 16 pl rejoined D Coy at 935505 at 1030 hrs. Native patrol to HORINU 2 returned to D	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time—From 18 Mar 45 To 19 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	18 Mar 45		Coy at 1830 hrs and reported large numbers of enemy in garden area sqs 9450 - 9550 - 9449 - 9549. ABSTER DRLS now servicing Bn daily at 0735 hrs.	
	19 Mar 45		At 0710 hrs 8 pl ambush patrol moved easterly direction for 500 yds from 911500 to approx 914497. Recce patrol operating from this base reported signs of fresh clearings in jungle 100 yds EAST, and a small party sent to investigate, encountered 10 enemy with LMG and rifles, killing 3 and probably wounding others. Own cas NIL. As no tracks were found in this area enemy party thought to be a patrol from Jap posn 915502. Patrol returned to A Coy at 1215 hrs having removed portion of own sig cable and booby trapping cable at 909500. D Coy patrol from 935505 moved SOUTH through scrub to PUIVO R at	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 19 mar 45 To 20 mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	19 Mar 45		940500, then S-W and WEST along NORTH bank to 928488, thence NORTH to coy without making contact. Another patrol from D Coy operating in same area returned to coy at 1640 hrs and reported no signs enemy.	
	20 Mar 45		A Coy patrol from 915523 moved through scrub and then by track to 942507. A small recce party from this point reported no enemy in HORINU 2, but observed fresh Jap footprints a few hours old on track. Section ambush to BARNES X-ING remained until 1530 hrs then returned to A Coy, reporting no signs enemy. B Coy security patrol reported no signs enemy 300 yds fwd of coy perimeter. D Coy patrol from 935505, S-E to PUIVO R, crossed river at 940500, proceeded 200 yds striking native footpad, and remains of huts in clearing 50 yds square showing signs of recent occupation by 6 enemy. Small party investigating from this point was fired on by 3 enemy and returned fire killing 1. Own cas NIL, Patrol returned to D Coy at 1230 hrs without making further contact. Recce and fighting patrol from D Coy, EAST along main track to PUIVO R at 941503, est half hour ambush on WEST bank and returned to coy 1200 hrs reporting no signs enemy, but numerous Jap posns at least one week old along track. At 1545 hrs patrol from BnHQ moved N-E along track to investigate site of ambush reported by 2/8 Cdo Sqn at 914533, and to patrol track along PURIATA R to 923540. No signs enemy seen and only footprints observed were Aust. At 1600 hrs 220 native	<p><i>Patrol and disposition map covering period 16-20 Mar 45 att as appx 9</i></p>

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

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

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	20 Mar 45		refugees escorted by 3 police boys arrived at BnHQ from 2/8 Cdo Sqn en-route to MOSIGETTA.	
			Signal received from Bde ref inter bn relief stated as follows— On relief, 61 Bn will occupy posns along L of C, patrol areas as lateral allotted and be prepared to assist or reinforce 25 Bn as required. Message of congratulation to 25 Bn, and message of thanks from 25 Bn attached as per (Appx 2).	APPX 2
	21 Mar 45		A coy patrol moved EAST along SIRIKARA R to 934519, thence N-W to OPAI R, returning via BnHQ to coy at 1215 hrs, NO contact made. At 1400 hrs one section 8 pl relieved section 7 pl at junc 915513. B Coy patrol from 915505 moved SOUTH on EAST side of main track for 500 yds then EAST for 150 yds, crossing two disused footpads running EAST-WEST. Continued S-W to creek at 918498 then WEST to cut main track at 915498 returning along main track to coy at 1345 hrs. Saw no signs of recent enemy mvt or def posns. C Coy patrol moved S-E to 2/8 Cdo Sqn old HQ site, then N-E to 931551 contacting traversing patrol from 2/8 Cdo Sqn. Both patrols then moved N-W through old biv site 912577 to C Coy without making contact. One sec from A Coy was dispatched to BARNES X-ING to contact and guide A Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn, who were moving into this area to relieve D Coy at 935505. Relief of D Coy completed by 1025 hrs and coy moved via BARNES X-ING passing through DARARA at 1645 hrs en-route to TOKO. Coy arrived McKINNA BR 839480 at 1830 hrs	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~ From 21 Mar 45 To 22 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	21 Mar 45		and biv for night. At 1635 hrs 188 native refugees arrived at BnHQ from 2/8 Cdo Sqn en-route to MOSIGETTA. A-B-D coys 9 Aust Inf Bn now under comd this HQ until relief of Bn effected. At 1130 hrs supplies and amn were delivered per air drop on dropping ground at 909532.	
	22 Mar 45		A Coy two day ambush patrol to HORINU 2 area, departed 0915 hrs. B Coy fighting patrol moved SOUTH along track to 916501, then EAST through scrub for 300 yds, encountering 2/3 enemy, who fled when fired on. A further search of area fwd of coy posn located a deserted Jap cave at approx 913501. Patrol heard sounds of chopping WEST of this point which ceased on investigation, saw no signs of enemy and continued to 914497, returning to coy at 1630 hrs, without making further contact. At 1510 hrs B Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn moved into posn 915508 NORTH of B Coy perimeter. D Coy moved from McKINNA BR 839480 and arrived TOKO 816453 at 1130 hrs. Lt-Col Matthews C.O. 9 Aust Inf Bn and party arrived this HQ at 1510 hrs. Patrol from A Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn with F.O.O, from 935505, moved along track to PUIVO R 940503. During arty registration on X-ING, heard rifle shots from EAST bank which did not appear to be directed at our patrol. Arty fire brought down on suspected enemy posn and patrol returned to coy at 1100 hrs. Supplies were delivered per air drop on dropping ground 909532.	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C, 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

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

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	23 Mar 45		<p>A coy security patrols to BARNES X-ING , EAST to X-ING 935519, and N-W to OPAI R reported no enemy seen. A Coy ambush patrol spent night 22/23 Mar at kanakā hideout 950508. Acting on infm supplied by natives, patrol proceeded to garden 957497 and set ambush on track leading into garden until 1100 hrs. Natives reported 4 Japs in this garden morning 21 Mar but patrol sighted no enemy and returned to kanakā hideout, then proceeded to HORINU 2, where search revealed no signs enemy mvt. Patrol returned to coy at 1620 hrs. Relief of B Coy by B Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn completed by 0900 hrs, and coy moved via BARNES X-ING arriving McKINNA BR at 1600 hrs. Patrol from B Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn moved from 915503, 500 yds fwd of coy posn reporting no signs enemy mvt. Patrol from A Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn crossed PUIVO R at 939500, proceeded EAST to clearing 940499 sighting 5 enemy. On investigating further, patrol came under heavy fire from strong pillbox posn at 942499, enemy estimated 20/30 armed with 2 LMGs, rifles, grenade dischargers and possibly HMG. Patrol endeavoured to outflank posn but enemy fire too intense, and withdrew, returning to coy at 1200 hrs. Amm and supplies were delivered per air drop on dropping ground at 909532.</p>	
	24 Mar 45		<p>Patrol from A Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 935505, moved to 935500, then S-W along WEST bank PUIVO R to 937489, then WEST to PORNUNGU R</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 24 Mar 45 To 25 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	24 Mar 45		930488, thence N-E along river to coy area returning 1450 hrs. Arty registered at 1100 hrs on enemy posn 942499, (encountered previous day). At 1000 hrs 3" Mortars registered on crossing 940503. Patrol from B Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 915504 moved SOUTH along track and contacted enemy unknown strength, astride track at approx 914497 at 1100 hrs. Arty registered on posn but owing to poor visibility, due to thick undergrowth and heavy rain, results were unobserved and patrol returned to Coy at 1445 hrs. D Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn arrived SIRIKARA R area and at 1550 hrs. Coy HQ, 17 and 18 pls at 919521. 16 pl relieved sec A Coy at track junc 915513, and sec rejoined coy at 917523. Location amendment:- B CoyHQ and 10 pl 940479. 11 and 12 pls 838479. Supplies and amn were delivered per air drop on dropping ground at 909532. Maj Twemlow O.C. D Coy appointed temporary comd Bn pers TOKO area, until arrival of HQ Group.	Patrol and disposition map covering period 21-25 Mar 45 att as appx 10
	25 Mar 45		A Coy relieved by D Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn, and departed 917523 at 0845 hrs moving via BARNES X-ING-DARARA, arriving 873487 at 1500 hrs. Patrol from B Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 915504 through scrub to 928503, then S-W to overgrown garden at approx 919496, encountered one Jap who escaped. Patrol continued on, cutting track at 919495 and est ambush. Only signs enemy, were 4 sets fresh footprints on track and patrol returned to coy at 1430 hrs. Patrol from A Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 935505, moved SOUTH, then S-W to 930488. At this point a log x-ing and well worn footpad	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 25 Mar 45 To 26 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	25 Mar 45		crosses PORNUNGU R. After crossing river NORTH of log x-ing, patrol came under fire from approx 6 enemy armed with rifles at 928488. Patrol withdrew and returned to coy at 1330 hrs.	
	26 Mar 45		Patrol from A Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 935505 to investigate area 916485, returned at 1255 hrs and reported moving along EAST bank of FUTUGO R to 920493, at which point a well worn track running S-E, N-W crosses river. Patrol observed 38 Japs moving N-W along this track, heard sounds of mvt in rear, and believed total enemy party to be no less than 50 strong. Enemy wore full packs, and clothing was camouflaged with vegetation. Patrol from B Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 915504 moved SOUTH along track to approx 916497 encountering 1 Jap who fled. Patrol then moved EAST along creek bank for 100 yds, crossed creek and continued S-W for 400 yds through very dense jungle, but did not locate main track and returned to coy by same route. Patrol from D Coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 917523 moved WEST then SOUTH along EAST bank of PURIATA R, crossed PUIVO R at approx 903485, continued SOUTH for 500 yds, here crossing a wide well worn track showing signs of recent very light foot traffic. After continuing a further 700 yds patrol returned, again crossing track and discovered track had been used in interim by a large body of enemy moving WEST. C Coy 9 Bn arrived 900514 at 1530 hrs. 9 BnHQ arrived 909531 at 1600 hrs. As from 1800 hrs 9 Aust Inf Bn assumed responsibility of	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 26 Mar 45 To 28 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	26 Mar 45		61 Aust Inf Bn area. Acting on infm supplied by a 9 Bn patrol, (ref large force of enemy moving WEST along NIHERO-TOKINOTU road in sq 9048) A Coy was instructed to actively patrol area in vic coy posn as from 27 Mar.	
	27 Mar 45		BnHQ Group moved from 909531 at 0800 hrs, and arrived TOKO area 804463 at 1630 hrs. A Coy patrol from 873487, moved E across GALVIN'S X-ING, to 880490, then S-E along track to 894482, returning to 885485, thence WEST through scrub to coy via GALVIN'S X-ING without making contact. A further patrol from A Coy searched area sqs 8649-8749 without sighting enemy	
	28 Mar 45		At 0615 hrs C Coy located 6 sets fresh enemy footprints leading NORTH from coy posn 898565 across WARIKI R. A fighting patrol 1 NCO 5OR's moved out at 0800 hrs to contact enemy, and encountered party at 903566. After short engagement, enemy withdrew SOUTH across river leaving behind 9 packs containing explosives, rations and clothing, and 1 LMG mag. Patrol crossed river and moved EAST to 909568, here encountering a further 3 enemy who fled when fired on, and left behind 3 rifles and 3 LMG mags. A recce patrol 1 NCO 6 ORs investigating site of patrol clash at 903566, were fired on by 4 enemy armed with rifles and grenades. Patrol returned fire and enemy dispersed. Bloodstains found at scene of action indicated that possible all 4 were	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time: From 28 mar 45 To 29 mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	28 Mar 45		<p>wounded. Further fighting patrols searched sqs 8855-8856 8955-8956 reporting no enemy seen. A Coy patrol from GALVIN'S X-ING moved S-E along NORTH bank PURIATA R following faint pad to 876484. At this point fresh footprints of 3/6 Japs were seen leading to river. Patrol continued along river to 882485, then returned through scrub to coy via GALVIN'S X-ING. En-route further footprints of several small parties of enemy were observed. Patrol from GALVIN'S X-ING moving N-E along track observed 4 sets fresh enemy footprints at 871497, then continued EAST through scrub. At approx 881497 heard sounds of enemy, on a faint footpad running at 150 degrees M. Patrol then est ambush for one hour without results. While attempting to cross creek to investigate area, patrol was observed, and an enemy automatic weapon brought to bear on them, misfired. Patrol withdrew moving S-W to 875486 thence to A Coy via GALVIN'S X-ING. A Coy posn 873487 was attacked by enemy in strength between 2050 hrs and 2400 hrs. Attack repulsed. Enemy cas 3 known killed. Own cas NIL. MAT. E.M.K TWEMLOW EVAC TO HFDAMB. ROUTINE ORDERS PT 1 ISSUED AS PER APPX 3.</p>	APPX 3
	29 Mar 45		<p>A Coy patrol moving to contact 25 Aust Inf Bn HQ, came under fire from 2 enemy LMGs, rifles and grenades 40 yds fwd of coy perimeter at 0800 hrs. Cas enemy unknown. Own 2 killed 2 wounded. Contact patrol from 25 BnHQ moving on SOUTH side of road made contact with A Coy at 1100 hrs. At 1245 hrs enemy posn 40 yds fwd of A Coy was engaged with MMG fire and grenades, while 7 pl moved to attack posn from S-W.</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C, 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time: From 29 Mar 45 To 30 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	29 Mar 45		<p>Attack unsuccessful, and pl withdrew to coy perimeter, reporting enemy strength estimated 70, armed with HMG, 5 LMGs and rifles, dug in on both sides of track. Cas enemy unknown. Own NIL. Standing patrol from A Coy moved out at 1645 hrs to est posn at 875485, observe enemy mvt, and remain in posn until</p> <p>A.M. 30 Mar. A Sec from B Coy escorting carrier line to DARARA, was ambushed by enemy party at 840483. 10 pl followed by 11 pl moved fwd from coy posn at McKINNA BR and engaged enemy ambush killing 5. Own cas 1 wounded. Both pls then returned to ANGAU compound and formed perimeter, while 12 pl engaged in evacuating natives. At 1505 hrs B Coy complete</p> <p>moved NORTH to clear road to DARARA arriving without further contact. Coy returned to original posn McKINNA BR at 2045 hrs bringing with them battle cas from 9 Bn. 17 pl departed D Coy 816453 arriving B Coy posn at 1215 hrs. Pl occupied B Coy posn during coy's absence, and due to late hour of coy's return from DARARA, remained at McKINNA BR for night. Security patrol from BnHQ 804463 moved SOUTH along bank of lagoon to D Coy 816453, reported no signs of enemy and found no tracks throughout this area. B-Ech moved from MAKATOWA and joined BnHQ Group at 804463. Flame-thrower pl from 15 Aust Inf Bde arrived B Coy posn at 0930 hrs.</p>	
	30 Mar 45		<p>Patrol from B Coy departed first light for ANGAU compound to investigate report of enemy force in vic. At 0800 hrs one pl departed B Coy to investigate ANGAU compound, reported area</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 30 Mar 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	30 Mar 45		<p>clear of enemy and after assisting A Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn to est perimeter, returned to coy at 1330 hrs. A Coy standing patrol at 875485 returned at 0900 hrs, reporting no signs of enemy. At 0910 hrs the line party attempting to move from A Coy to 25 BnHQ, returned and reported sighting approx 12 enemy moving SOUTH across route. A Coy contact patrol along road to McKINNA BR contacted B Coy patrol at 1130 hrs, reporting road clear. A Further contact patrol to 25 BnHQ made contact with 25 Bn patrol at 1215 hrs, reporting EAST side of road clear of enemy. Two standing patrols together with 25 Bn patrol moved from A Coy at 1300 hrs along WEST side of road to est posns on L of C between A Coy and 25 BnHQ, and observe for enemy mvt. At 1400 hrs road reported clear and jeeps moved through to evacuate 25 Bn wounded. At 0900 hrs 18 pl patrol moving through to DARARA from McKINNA BR, encountered and wounded one Jap at approx 843490, and arrived DARARA without further contact. Patrol departed DARARA at 1415 hrs, and at 843490 again encountered 4 Japs killing 3 and wounding 1. Own cas NIL. At this point sig line was badly cut about and patrol attempted to effect repairs then returned to McKINNA BR at 1710 hrs. 18 pl departed D Coy at 1720 hrs for ROBERT'S X-ING, thence across country to endeavour to contact C Coy 25 Bn from whom no reports had been received over a period of 48 hrs. Owing to recent heavy rain Pl was unable to cross PURIATA R and remained night 30/31 Mar at 836458. Security patrol from BnHQ along SOUTH bank of lagoon to D Coy reported no signs of</p>	

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time - From 30 Mar 45 To 31 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	30 Mar 45		<p>enemy in area. 4 pl departed BnHQ area 806462 and arrived A Coy at 1200 hrs. 2 Tps "B" Sqn 2/4 Armd Regt arrived B Coy posn at 1645 hrs, then departed under protection of one pl from A Coy and arrived A Coy posn 873487 at 1845 hrs. At 1900 hrs A Coy perimeter was subjected to enemy fire from the SOUTH. Fire returned with grenades. Cas own NIL. Enemy unknown. Later at 2100 hrs mvt seen on EAST side of perimeter, and 1 enemy was killed with rifle fire. Captured eqpt incl 1 LMG type 96 and 5 grenades. Water party from 25 Bn "B-Ech" to PURIATA R was fired on from NORTH bank at 1830 hrs and suffered 1 wounded. Patrol of 1 offr 12 ORs from A Coy was then dispatched to engage area with mortars. CAPT. G. O. FORWARD REJOINED UNIT FROM LHQ TAC. SCHOOL</p>	
	31 Mar 45		<p>At 0715 hrs patrol departed B Coy 840479, contacted A Coy 873487 and returned to coy at 0930 hrs, reporting road clear of enemy. A Further patrol with line party departed B Coy at 0930 hrs and laid cable to DARARA, returning to coy at 1410 hrs without making contact. En-route patrol observed 12 sets of enemy footprints leading S of road at 844494. At 1000 hrs 18 pl, who had camped night 30/31 Mar at 836458, swam the PURIATA R and proceeded EAST to contact C Coy 25 Bn. Pl returned to BnHQ at 1900 hrs and reported having reached posn occupied by C Coy, but saw no signs of coy, and found sig line to posn cut beyond repair. 17 pl departed McKINNA BR and arrived 843481 at 1300 hrs. Later BnHQ Group moved from 806462 and opened 843481 at 1500 hrs.</p>	<p><i>Patrol and disposition map at covering period 25-31 Mar 45 att as appx 11</i></p>

L.

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

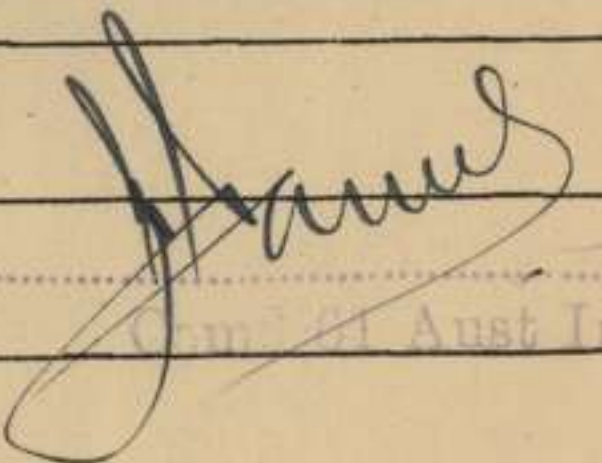
WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time—From 31 mar 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	31 Mar 45		17 pl now attached to BnHQ during 4 pl's absence. A Coy patrol along EAST side of road fwd of coy posn, found line to 25 Bn cut, and made repairs. Another patrol crossed PURIATA R at approx 875482, then moved EAST through scrub to a track which was followed NORTH to GALVIN'S X-ING. Only signs of enemy seen, were a number of abandoned fox-holes on EAST bank of river. Patrol returned to coy at 1700 hrs. After rejoining D Coy, 18 pl was dispatched as a protective force for 'B'-Ech at 806462. LT A.W.S. FULLERTON MARCHED OUT TO NEED TO ADKINA MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM GOC 2 AUST CORPS MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM GDC 3 AUST DIV	Adyts personal and action diary atts as appx 12. APPX 4 APPX 5
				

SUBJECT : DIV MT MAINT INSPECTOR'S REPORTS

Q32/40

APPX 1

HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde AIF

11 Mar 45

61 Aust Inf Bn.

1. Copies of Div MT Maint Inspector's reports on inspections of MT carried out on 20 and 21 Feb 45 are forwarded herewith.

2. GOC 3 Aust Div has directed that units be congratulated on the very high standard of vehicle maintenance in all cases. The Bde Comd wishes to express his appreciation and satisfaction with these reports and his desire that this standard will be maintained.

W.M.PRENTICE Capt
Staff Capt 7 Aust Inf Bde.

0000000000000000

INSPECTION REPORT

61 AUST INF BN - 21 FEB 45

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Standard of Maintenance | : | Very Good |
| 2. Method of Maintenance | : | Vehs grounded to enable thorough maintenance to be carried out at least weekly. |
| 3. Greasing & Lubrication | : | Thoroughly carried out. |
| 4. VOL items | : | Small percentage only held. |
| 5. Supervision of Maintenance | : | Very Good. Capable and keen Transport officer. |
| 6. Records | : | Up to date and correct in detail. |
| 7. Remarks. | : | Vehs are being very well maintained by a capable tpt section. As these vehs are operating under severe conditions, more frequent essential maintenance is being carried out as directed by Transport Officer. Standard of maintenance is a credit to a unit in operations. |

?? Capt

Divisional MT Maintenance Inspector.

CIPHER MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

<i>1322</i> Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions <i>APPX2</i>
---------------------	----------	----------	---

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) <i>25 Bn</i>	Originator	Date—Time of Origin <i>210945h</i>	Office Date Stamp
--------------------------	------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------

TO <i>61 Bn</i>	For Action <i>H.</i>	Message Instructions
	(w) For Information (INFO.)	GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

0560 confidential O very many thanks for your message of congratulations it is greatly appreciated by all ranks

War Diary with copy of message we sent them H.

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means { except } Wireless

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Signed

Signed *1925*

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
<i>1926</i>		
Time Cleared		

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
------	----------	----------	---------------------------

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) 61 Aust. Inf. Bn	Originator	Date—Time of Origin 201900 L
-------------------------------------	------------	---------------------------------

Office Date Stamp

TO 25 Aust. Inf. Bn	For Action
(w) For Information (INFO.)	

Message Instructions **GR**

ORIGINATOR'S No.

Any CONFIDENTIAL sincere admiration
and heartiest congratulations on magnificent show
19 Nov 0 it is an epic of this campaign

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { except } Wireless

Signed

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

Signal

Signal Log 1454
July 1918

Time	Station	Of
Time	Station	Of
Time	Station	Of

Message
 { }
 This message may be sent via AIRMAIL

General Instructions
 If possible to be sent by air

Details of Delivery
 Originator's Instructions

Message to be sent by air
 This message may be sent via AIRMAIL
 Message to be sent by air
 This message may be sent via AIRMAIL

TO: [Handwritten: 2nd Lt. Kingd. 1st]

FROM: [Handwritten: 1st Lt. Kingd. 1st]

Originator: [Handwritten: 1st Lt. Kingd. 1st]

Date—Time of Origin: [Handwritten: 10/10/18]

Message Instructions: [Handwritten: 1st Lt. Kingd. 1st]

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

Name (Printed)
 (Last name first)
 No. 100

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

The information contained in this document is not to be communicated directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

war diary
APPX3

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

Copy No 15
Serial No 7/45
Nos 32 - 55

by

Lt-Col W. R. DEXTER DSO

COMD 61 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
23 MAR 45

52. NATIVES - VILLAGES & RELATIONSHIP OF TROOPS WITH

Native villages are out of bounds to all ranks unless permission to visit them has been granted by ANGAU or except where necessary for a specific duty where there are no ANGAU representatives.

Providing such permission has been granted arrangements may be made for officers, NCOs and/or parties of AMF personnel to visit native villages at times convenient to the inhabitants.

Personnel below NCO rank will not make visits unless accompanied by an officer or NCO who will be responsible for their conduct.

ANGAU will not issue passes to ORs unless a leave pass covering the period of visit is presented for inspection.

Native gardens are out of bounds to all personnel other than ANGAU.

The natives of the Territory of New Guinea can be of great assistance to troops in operational areas, provided their confidence and co-operation is obtained.

They should be considered as our Allies, and friendly relations must be maintained between troops and the natives, but not to the extent of fraternising or "spoiling the natives" on or off duty.

Natives will not be transported in MT unless such transport is officially arranged by representatives of ANGAU or unless natives are being transported to and from native labour camps by the unit to which such native labour has been allotted. The practice of "giving lifts" is prohibited. In no case will natives be permitted to ride in the front seat of vehicles.

Patrols should not camp in native villages as the primitive native sanitary arrangements will probably endanger the health of the troops.

53. TRADING WITH NATIVES.

Trading with Army rations is prohibited.

Maximum prices to be paid for native curios have been fixed as follows:-

Baskets	3/- to 8/-
Beads (strings)	1/- to 2/-
Bow	3/- to 4/-
Arrows	2 for 1/-
Canoes (models)	2/- to 5/-
Combs (wooden)	2/- to 5/-
Ganas (arm bands, wide)	1/- to 1/6
Ramies (grass skirts) coarse	3/-
Ramies (grass skirts) fine, coloured	5/-
Spoons	6d. each
Sticks (manilla walking)	5/- to 15/-

Purchases should be made through ANGAU wherever possible.

ANGAU will make arrangements with the natives for the purchase of items in large quantities where required.

Natives frequently offer fruit and vegetables for sale or as a gift and generally they can ill afford to part with these. The recipient does not always know whether payment is or is not expected. For the above reasons articles of food from natives should be procured with great care; where practicable through ANGAU.

54. TRAFFIC CONTROL POSTS - ASSISTANCE TO PROVOST.

It is the duty of all ranks to co-operate with Provost personnel who are on duty at Traffic Control Posts.

When ordered to do so, all vehicles will stop at Traffic Control posts and the driver, or occupants of the vehicles, will give the provost personnel the information required.

Disciplinary action will be taken against the driver or senior occupant of the vehicle for failure to comply with the above.

35. NOTICES ON ROADS OR IN CAMP AREAS.

Members will strictly observe and treat as if the same were embodied in these orders notices as to speed, bounds, or any other matters placed on roads or in camp areas whether such notices are placed by Aust or US Army authorities.

36. RESTRICTION TRAFFIC THROUGH HOSPITAL LINES.

A member of the AMF will not attend any cinema show or other entertainment at an Aust General Hospital unless he is a member of or attached to or a patient in the hospital or is invited by a member of the staff of the Hospital.

MF will not proceed to a hospital unless in accordance with this order.

37. TRAFFIC IN CIGARETTES, TOBACCO AND CIGARETTE PAPERS.

A member will not, except to the extent that his duty requires him to do so, sell, exchange, or part with the possession of any cigarettes tobacco, or cigarette papers, for money or alcoholic liquor, or for any goods, articles or things whatsoever.

A member will not except in the course of his duty or where he has been given specific authority by his CO personally and in possession of a pass issued by Local Adm Area Comd in conjunction with Movement Control be aboard any ship, vessel, or water craft of any kind, between 1700 hrs and 0800 hrs.

38. INTRODUCTION OF PLANT DISEASES TO AUSTRALIA.

A member of the AMF will not send or take with him from New Guinea to the mainland any plant which grows in New Guinea, or any bud, seed or cutting from such plant. Permission will be granted for the despatch to herbaria or scientific bodies as approved by Director-General of Health (Quarantine Section - Plants, Canberra.)

39. AREAS OUT OF BOUNDS.

The following areas are out of bounds to all tps unless on duty, or in the case of Medical units during the approved visiting hours.

- i. ANGAU HQ and native compounds.
- ii. All native villages.
- iii. Hospitals and Casualty Clearing Stations.
- iv. Bulk Canteen.
- v. Air Strips and administrative offices attached thereto.
- vi. Such other places as are indicated to be out of bounds by notices on signposts.

40. UNLAWFUL DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE GARDENS OR FRUIT-BEARING TREES.

No member will.

- a. damage a native garden except when the exigencies of the service so require.
- b. Remove any article from a native garden except for his preservation in an emergency.
- c. Destroy any tree or plant for the purpose of obtaining fruit therefrom.

41. POSSESSION AND DISPOSAL OF FIREARMS.

No member will have in his possession any pistol or other firearm not authorised issue to him, except with the written permission of his CO.

Except as provided by orders, permission to possess a pistol will be granted only where duties necessitate. Personnel who have pistols in their possession will keep such articles in their immediate personal possession at all times.

42. UNAUTHORISED USE OF EXPLOSIVES IN HARBOUR AREAS.

The use of explosives in harbour areas is prohibited without special authority for a distance of one mile from high water mark.

43. UNAUTHORISED SUPPLY OF ARMS, AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVES TO NATIVES.

A member will not supply or cause to be supplied any arms, ammunition or explosives to a native other than a native who has been authorised in writing by an ANGAU District Officer or an ANGAU Assistant District Officer acting under instructions to be in possession thereof.

Where a native has been so authorised arms, and ammunition and explosives will not be supplied to him for any purpose other than set out in the authority.

44. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS IN VICINITY OF NATIVE VILLAGES.

The indiscriminate use of firearms near native villages has an adverse effect on the morale of the natives and consequently on their utility to the armed services, and renders the task of native rehabilitation by ANGAU more difficult. No member will discharge a firearm near any native village except in the course of duty.

45. MINING AND SALE OF GOLD.

It is an offence against the laws of the Territories of Papua and New Guinea to

- i. fossick for gold or otherwise engage in mining, without being in possession of a Miner's right; or
- ii. take or remove gold from the claim of another person (even if in possession of a Miner's Right); or
- iii. be in possession of gold without lawful excuse; or
- iv. export gold from those territories without a license.

These laws apply to and will be observed by, all members of the 1 AMF.

46. PRODUCTION OF SOUVENIRS.

Whilst the making of souvenirs as a recreation is approved, this work is not to be permitted to interfere with the due performance of Military Duties. Under no circumstances will any arms, Military equipment, ammunition or other articles of Military issue be used for manufacture into souvenirs. Mutilitation of coins in the making of souvenirs is a criminal offence.

47. GAMBLING.

No member shall take part in gambling in the South-West Pacific area.

No member shall make or have in his possession any instrument of gaming.

48. VISITING HOURS - GENERAL HOSPITALS.

Visitors will be permitted to see patients at Aust Gen Hosps between 1400 hrs and 1600 hrs and 1900 hrs and 2030 hrs daily.

Permission to see patients, will in all case, be first obtained from the sister i/a ward.

49. LOSS OF ARTIFICIAL DENTURES.

In the event of the loss by a member of an artificial denture supplied at public expense that member is liable to a forfeiture of pay within the terms of GPO 28/43

All ranks are to be instructed that no members will go swimming while wearing artificial dentures.

50. DRIVERS' RATIONS etc.

Where drivers or crews are to remain with vehicles during repairs, they will be directed to report to the Orderly room in order that arrangements may be made for their rations and quarters. Drivers are to carry unconsumed portion of day's rations when reporting to workshops.

51. ANIMAL MASCOTS AND PETS.

No animal or bird which is not on an authorised war establishment will be permitted to accompany troops or any member of the AMF. The entry of animals or birds into Australia from places outside Australia is subject to strict regulation under the Quarantine act.

When moving from one location to another, animals which have been permitted by the CO to be kept in unit lines, by members during their stay in the locality should not be left to fend for themselves or starve, but suitable action should be taken for their disposal or humane destruction.

52. THIRD VICTORY LOAN

1. The third Victory Loan of £100,000,000 cash will open for subscription on 13 Mar 45 and close not later than 27 April 45.

2. Arrangements have been made for paymasters to accept applications for Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock or Treasury Bonds from members of the AMF who desire to invest their savings in the loan.

Particulars of Loan.

3. Loan applications may be made for an amount of £10 or a multiple of £10.

4. Treasury Bonds are payable to bearer and are issued at par for £10, £50, £100, £500 and £1,000.

5. Inscribed stock may be purchased at par for amounts of £100, or multiples of £10 over £100.

6. Interest is payable at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum if invested for five years and at $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum if invested for sixteen years, and will be credited half-yearly to a member's savings bank account or current account, if desired.

7. Interest will be subject to Commonwealth Taxation but not to any income tax under the law of a State. During the period of uniform taxation, a re-bate of 2/- in the pound on interest will be allowed to cover freedom from State taxation.

8. Any bank nominated by a member will, if requested, hold the bonds in safe custody.

Procedure for lodging applications.

9. Application forms will be available from paymasters and unit pay representatives and are required to be completed in duplicate. An applicant's signature will be witnessed by an officer.

10. Sufficient credit must be available in the member's pay book to cover the amount he or she desires to invest in the loan. The amount subscribed will be debited in the pay book.

11. Cash may be accepted in payment of a loan subscription, in which case the amount tendered will be entered in the pay book to establish the necessary credit and a pay sergeant's or cash office receipt issued and pasted in the pay book.

12. Deposits on account of loan subscriptions will not be accepted. Where members desire to subscribe by instalments, the procedure set out in GPO F303/1944 will be observed.

13. The Commonwealth Bank will forward to a member an interim receipt for the amount subscribed.

14. Both Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock are readily realisable and may be sold at any time. Any bank will arrange this for a member, if desired.

53. SERVICES CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

A number of previous Services Christmas Books are still available, and are set as follows.

Navy	:	"H.M.A.S."	1942 - 5/6 -	SOLD OUT
		"H.M.A.S Mk II"	1943 - 5/6 -	1788
Army	:	"Active Service"	1941 - 5/6 -	753
		"Soldiering On"	1942 - 5/6 -	1187
		"Khaki & Green"	1943 - 5/6 -	4291
WDS	:	"On Guard"	1944 - 6/- -	2816
RAAF	:	"These Eagles"	1942 - 5/6 -	1174
		"RAAF Log" at	1943 - 5/6 -	1210

The above figures are as at 15 Feb 45

Orders are still being accepted for the 1944 Books. Members of the Army are entitled to apply for copies of the RAM (HMAS Mk III) and of the RAAF "RAAF Saga" at the special Service price of 5/6 each.

It is necessary for orders by members of the Army for copies of RAM and RAAF Books to be accompanied by a remittance. This is also now advisable in the case of orders for the 1941, 1942, and 1943 Army Christmas Books.

54. ANTI-MALARIAL PRECAUTIONS.

The undermentioned precautions will be strictly adhered to.


1. No bathing permitted after 1715 hrs.
2. Anti Malaria Dress will operate from 1730 hrs to 0645 hrs daily.

55. REGIMENTAL TRUST FUND.

On hand commencement of Month		£30.12. 8.
<u>Received during month</u>		
Canteen Profit Distribution	52. 8. 8.	
Christmas Messing Allowance	<u>36.17. --</u>	89. 5. 8.
<u>Expended during month</u>	-- -- --	-- -- --
Balance on hand		£119.18. 4.

We certify that we have examined the Cash Book, Unit Trust Book, and vouchers relating to 61 Aust Inf Bn Regt Trust A/c and that in our opinion this statement correctly sets out the position of the fund as at 28 Mar 45.

ROY L. FORD LT (SIGNED)
D. W. HOOK LT (")


Adj't 61 Aust Inf Bn Capt

DISTRIBUTION : LIST 'A'

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call <i>XFA</i>	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions <i>QVR 12</i>
			<i>Appx 4</i>

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) <i>1 Bde</i>	Originator	Date—Time of Origin <i>MAR. 3/1030V</i>	Office Date Stamp
<i>224 sep depot pl</i>		For Action <i>MC OY / NB / B</i>	<i>ga regt 61 Bn</i>
<i>DET ANGMU 1 Bde regt met 241 LAD 20 pl 24</i>			
TO <i>9 Bn 25 Bn 2nd Regt 2/8 CWO sqn</i>	(w) For Information (INFO.)	Message Instructions <i>GR</i>	<i>11 pd amb</i> <i>85</i>

ORIGINATOR'S No.

90103 restd @ following message

*received from GOC 2 corps by GOC 3 div @
Quote @ followed your ops yesterday and
to day with great interest @ congratulations
on splendid fight put up by ffs under
your comd @ have complete confidence
your general direction and FIELD'S LEADERS-
HIP in fwd area @ the going will be
tough but profitable @ please inform
FIELD of my admiration for what
he and his men have done and my
confidence in his leadership and fighting
ability of his ffs @ good luck to
you all @ unquote*

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means { except } Wireless	If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER	Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority	Time	System	Op
			THI or TOR <i>1415</i>	<i>F/6</i>	
Signed	Signed		Time Cleared		

216409 216409

LOG 1762-11

FILE

LINK CLASS	
LINK NO	
LINK	

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text on lined paper]

TO: *[Faint handwritten recipient information]*

FROM: *[Faint handwritten sender information]*

DATE: *[Faint handwritten date]*

OFFICE: *[Faint handwritten office information]*

MESSAGE FORM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION NO.

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			QVR 3 Appx 5

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) 7 Bde	Originator	Date—Time of Origin MAR 31 1030L	Office Date Stamp
<p><i>For Action</i></p> <p>9 Bn 25 Bn 61 Bn 2 fa regt 2/8 cad 224 sup depot pl A Coy 1 N G I B det Regt</p>			<p>sgn 11 fa amble angou 7 Bde Regt</p>
TO sig sect 241 LAD 20 Pl 2/140	(w) For Information (INFO.)	Message Instructions	

ORIGINATOR'S No.

90102 resd © following message
received from GOC. 3 Div © quote © I wish
to convey to you and all ranks of
your Bde my congratulations and apprec-
iation of the magnificent job being
done © unquote

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means { except } Wireless	If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER	Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority	Time	System	Op
			THI or TOR 1420		
Signed	Signed		Time Cleared		

21812

21812

log 1767
 [Signature]

pa and message
 This message may be sent by AIRTEL

sent in cipher
 unless you are sure message may be sent in plain

Date and Time of Origin

[Faint, illegible handwritten text in the main body of the form]

TO		Message Instructions	
(a) For Information (INFO)		[]	
For Action		[]	
FROM	Originator	Date - Time of Origin	Office Date Stamp
(A)	[]	200012	[]

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNS USE ONLY

Co. No.	Branch	Transmission Instructions	Register No.
[]	[]	Box 2	[]

MESSAGE FORM

22 MAR 1945

873/96

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

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

9 / 45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 3 / 3 / 1945 61 AUST INF BN (Unit)

W.E. II / 1203 OFFRS. 33 O.R's. 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 52 ATT. BY W.E.

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

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.								
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.				
-	-	-	1	Lieut.-Colonels	AAMC	1	-	-	-				
n/a 1	1	-	2	Majors									
1	1	-	8	Captains									
-	-	3	23	Lieutenants									
				Quarter-masters									
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.									
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.									
2	2	3	34			1	-	-	-				
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).		DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
		A.		35									35
		E.(1)											
		E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
QX53203	Lt	WHITTAKER J.N.	LTD BRISBANE	26/2/45	Ex Leave Draft
SX21749	Lt	RUSSACK H.W.	LHQ Sch MI	2	6x Attending School.
QX48862	Capt	STANLEY L.W.	RAAF Army Co-Op School	"	6x Attending School.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
QX47482	Maj	BICKS C.H.	PW Reception Gp, UNITED KINGDOM	27/2/45	Seconded As Liaison Offr - Land Forces MS13213 refers.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 61 AUST INF BN (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. 3 / 3 / 1945

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 3 / 3 / 1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Lt-Col	VX5172	DEXTER	W. R.	CO	Yes		
Maj	NX101030	PHILLIPS	G. W.	OC HQ	Yes		
"	QX36035	TWENLOW	R. MCK.	" D	"		
Capt	QX36031	LAWSON	A. N.	" A	"		
"	VX29956	CAIRNS	N.	" C	"		
"	QX49965	GOWLAND	R. E.	2IC C	"		
"	QX48864	HOBBS	J. J. S.	Adjt	"		
"	QX48862	STANLEY	L. W.	2IC A	"		
"	QX36365	PATERSON	J. S.	" D	"		
"	QX36029	RUDDER	W. L.	QM	"		
"	QX40906	HUTCHINSON	T. C.	OC B	"		
"	SX381	FORWARD	G. O.	2IC B	No	En route to unit ex-LHQ Tac School	
Lt	QX36030	EMMETT	H. E.	Prs O	Yes		
"	QX51718	TOMLINSON	C. B.	A Coy	"		
"	QX19174	FORD	R. B.	HQ	"		
"	NX141459	CUMMINS	R. P.	TO	"		
"	QX56380	IRVINE	W. G.	IO	"		
"	QX51719	BRINKLEY	F. R.	C Coy	"		
"	QX35526	HENDERSON	P. W.	A	"		
"	QX53203	WHITTAKER	J. N.	A	"		
"	QX36047	PULLARTON	A. W. J.		"		
"	QX51720	CLARKSON	A. G.	D	"		
"	QX55054	WATTS	A. A.	B	"		
"	QX50122	McINTYRE	D. C. C.	C	"		
"	QX61121	WHITE	J. J.	Sig O	"		
"	QX60195	JAMES	W. C.	HQ Coy	"		
"	NX115828	PLUMMER	R. T. V.	C	"		
"	NX116117	McKELLAR	D. H.	D	"		
"	QX59984	HOOK	D. W.	A/Adjt	"		
"	QX60295	WHYBIRD	J. G.	B Coy	"		
"	SX26584	BRAZIER	R. F.	A	No	Evac 7 Aust Fd Amb	10-1-45
"	QX38891	DAWES	C. W.	D	Yes		
"	QX34104	SLOAN	O. H.	A	"		
"	VX28129	GIBSON	J. M.	B	"		
"	SX22866	SCOTT-TOMS	W. H.	C	"		
"	SX21749	RUSSACK	H. W.	A	"		
"	QX40923	QX40923	CHAMBERS	W. T.	No	Secondment pending Second Aust Army Jnr Ldr's School as instr in Ttg Bn 16.10.44	
Capt	NX200122	CLIFTON-SMITH G.		IMO	Yes		

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

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Chaplain	NX149802	BEATTY	G.A. 61 Bn	8.2.44	PADRE
Mr	QB159	BEDWELL N.R.G.	"	6.1.44	YMCA Welfare Offr.

3/3/45

Date of Despatch

W.R. Duff
Lt-Col
Comd 61

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 3 / 3 / 1945 61 Aust Inf (Unit)

W.E.II / 12c / 3. OFFRS. 33 O.R's 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 32 ATT. BY W.E. / 1945

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1 2 3 4				5	6 7 8 9 10								
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.								
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arms or Corps.			Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.		
-	-	1	2	W.Os. Class I.									
-	-	-	6	W.Os. Class II.			1	1	-	-	-		
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.									
-	-	1	6	Staff Sergeants									
2	2	-	30	Sergeants	1	21	4	8	-	1	1		
7	7	-	60	Corporals	1	1	1	5	8	-	-	-	
127	127	16	547	Troopers, Privates, etc.			1	12	13	-	1	1	
				Civilians counting as O.R.									
136	136	18	651	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2	AAOC	AAPC	AAMC	AAPU	AACO	30	-	2	2

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

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

Detail	A.L.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N	R.A.A.F	* *	TOTAL
		Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							
A	241		440				█	█		681
B(1)										
B(2)							█			

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

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

Required.

Cpl

Cpls

61 AUST INF BN

Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

9 / 45 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 5 / 5 / 1945 .

of men.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers	4	4	-
				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
				Batmen	35	35		Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
				Gen Duty	3	3		Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
				Hyg Duty	4	4		Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
	1	1		LNG Rifle	397	281	116	Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
		1		Mortar Nos	73	75		Radiographers				Stevadores			
				MMG Nos	23	22	1	Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine	1	1	
				GROUP II				Sawyers				Techn Sjt	3	4	1 sjt
				Armourers				Signallers	26	28		Storemen, Technical	2	2	1 sjt
				Axemen				Signwriters	Incl 4	Cpls		Tailors			1 sjt
				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Textile Refitters			1 sjt
				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Tinsmiths			
				Bellermakers				Wheelers				Vulcanizers			
				Carpenters	6	5	1	Winchman				Wagon Erectors			
				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman				Whitesmiths			incl 4 Cpls
												TRA Nos	10	16	3

of Part A to be shown
Only units notified in
for compilation of
analysis of Part B (1)
belonging to a
in the analysis will
analysts will be shown
to H.R. Forces.
Other Units

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
Serial No. 45

Unit 500th Signal Coy

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in

S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS S/LTS S/TS

Category		Group II (cont.)		Group I (cont.)		Group I (cont.)		Group I (cont.)		Group I (cont.)	
TPT	CPL	TPT	CPL	TPT	CPL	TPT	CPL	TPT	CPL	TPT	CPL
SIGNALLERS		1		2		4		6		1	
CLERKS		2		6		8		2		6	
TAILOR		1		1		1		1		N/-	
TECH STOREMAN		1		1		1		1		1	
LMG RIFLE NOS						36				36	
MMGS NOS						2				2	
MTR NOS						5				5	
PNRS						4				4	
PRO SGT		1		1						N/1	
S. BEARERS		1		1		2		2		1	
TKA NOS						4		4		4	
RS M		1		1		4		4		4	
RQMS		1		1		1		1		1	
CSM		5		5		5		5		5	
CQMS		5		5		5		5		5	
SJTS		25		25		25		25		24	
ATTACHED		1		6		5		32		67	
AAMC - Med ord								2		6	
ATTACHED								6		30	
ATTACHED								6		60	
ATTACHED								6		60	
ATTACHED								6		60	
ATTACHED								6		60	
ATTACHED								6		60	
ATTACHED								6		60	

Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

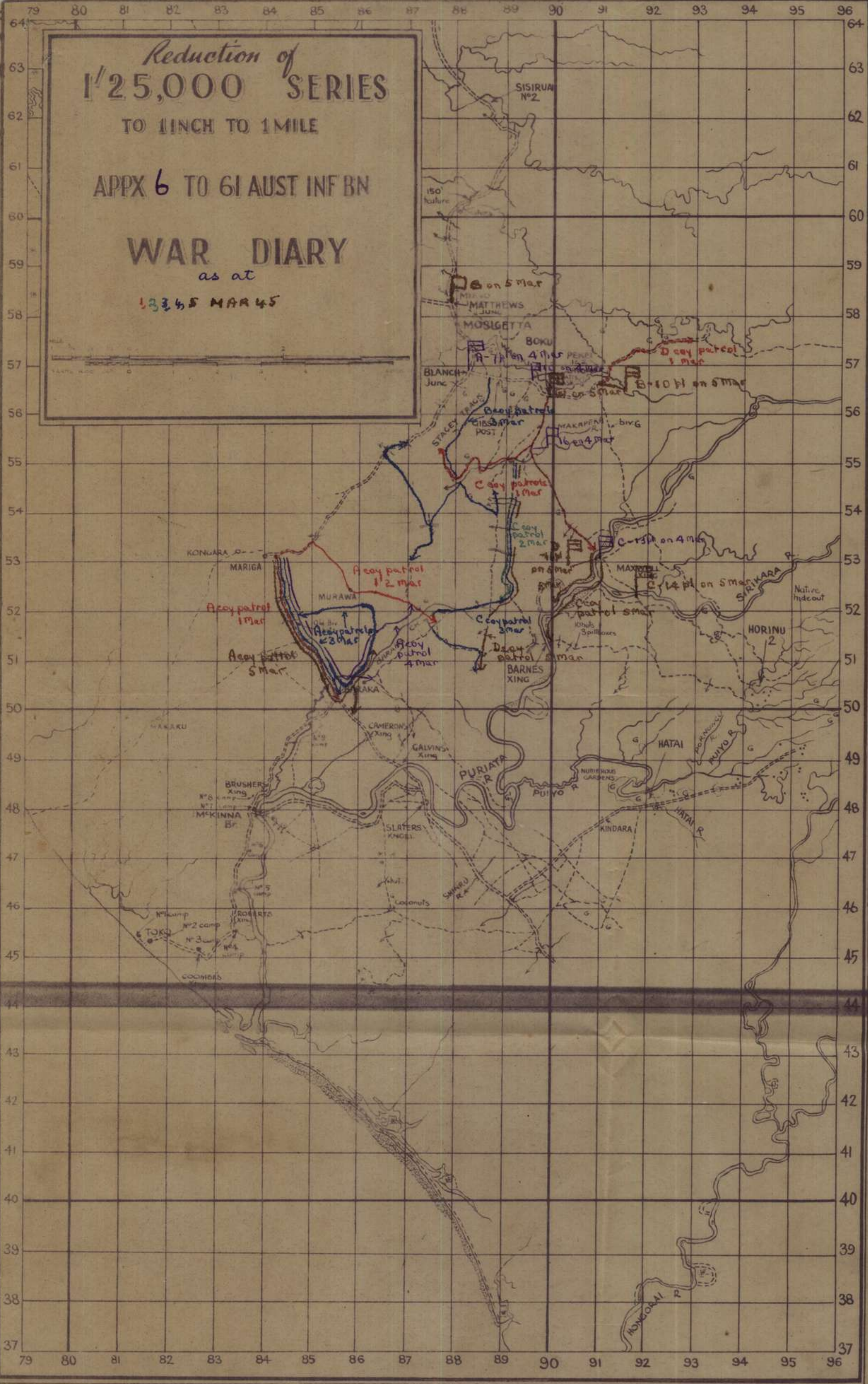
TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 6 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

as at

13 3 45 MAR 45



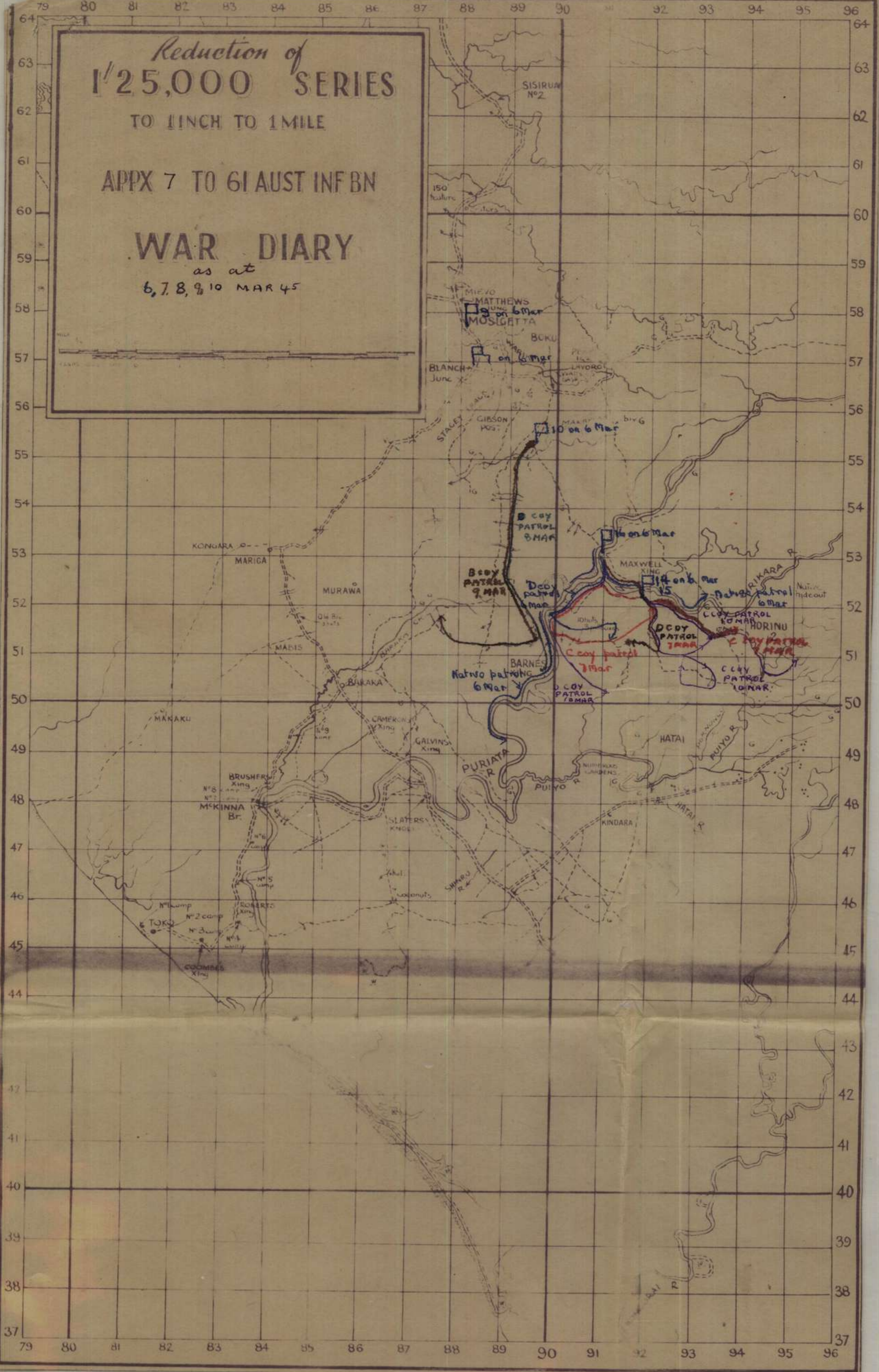
Reduction of
1:25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 7 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

as at
6, 7, 8, 9, 10 MAR 45



Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

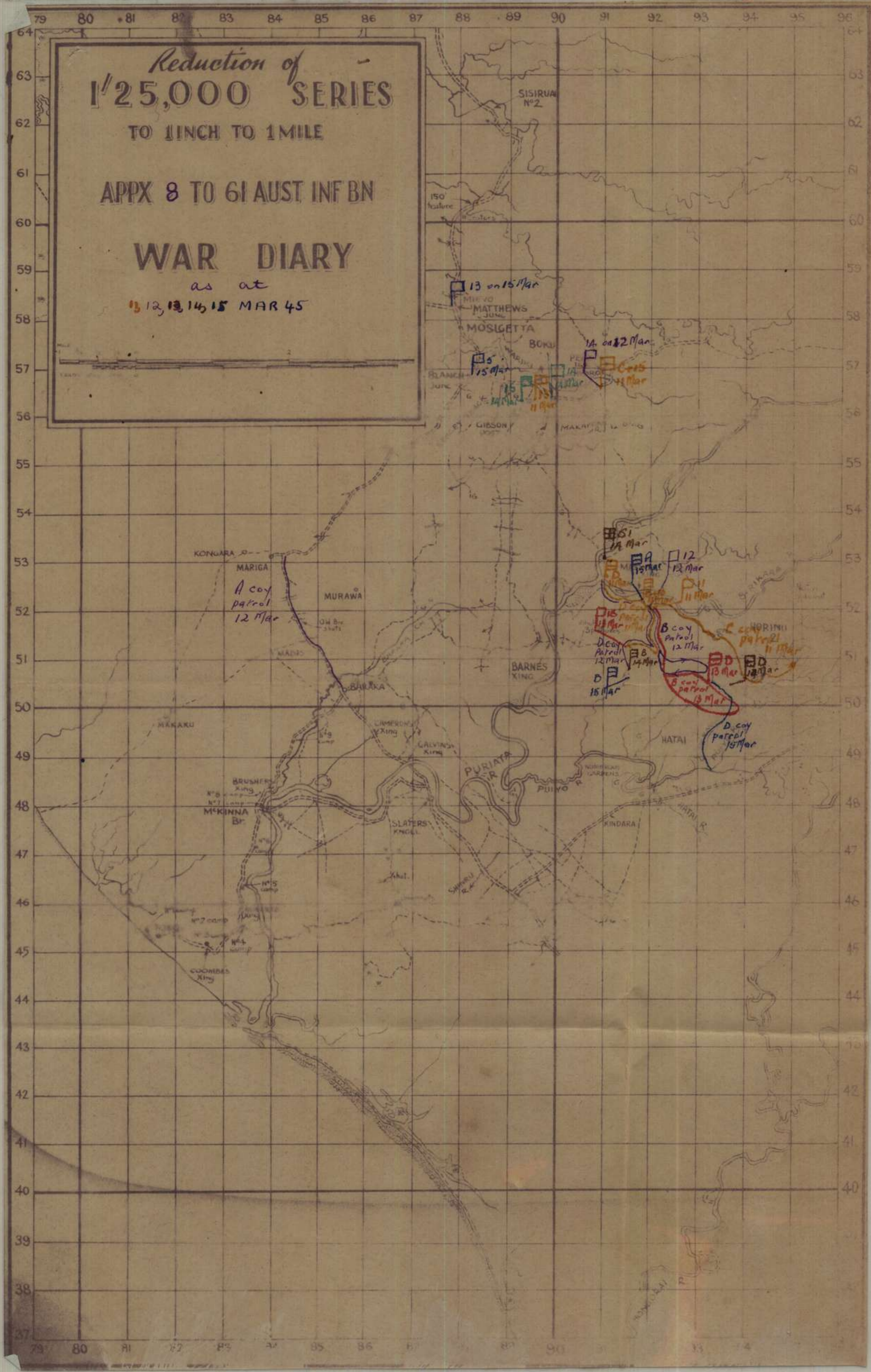
TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 8 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

as at

12, 13, 14, 15 MAR 45



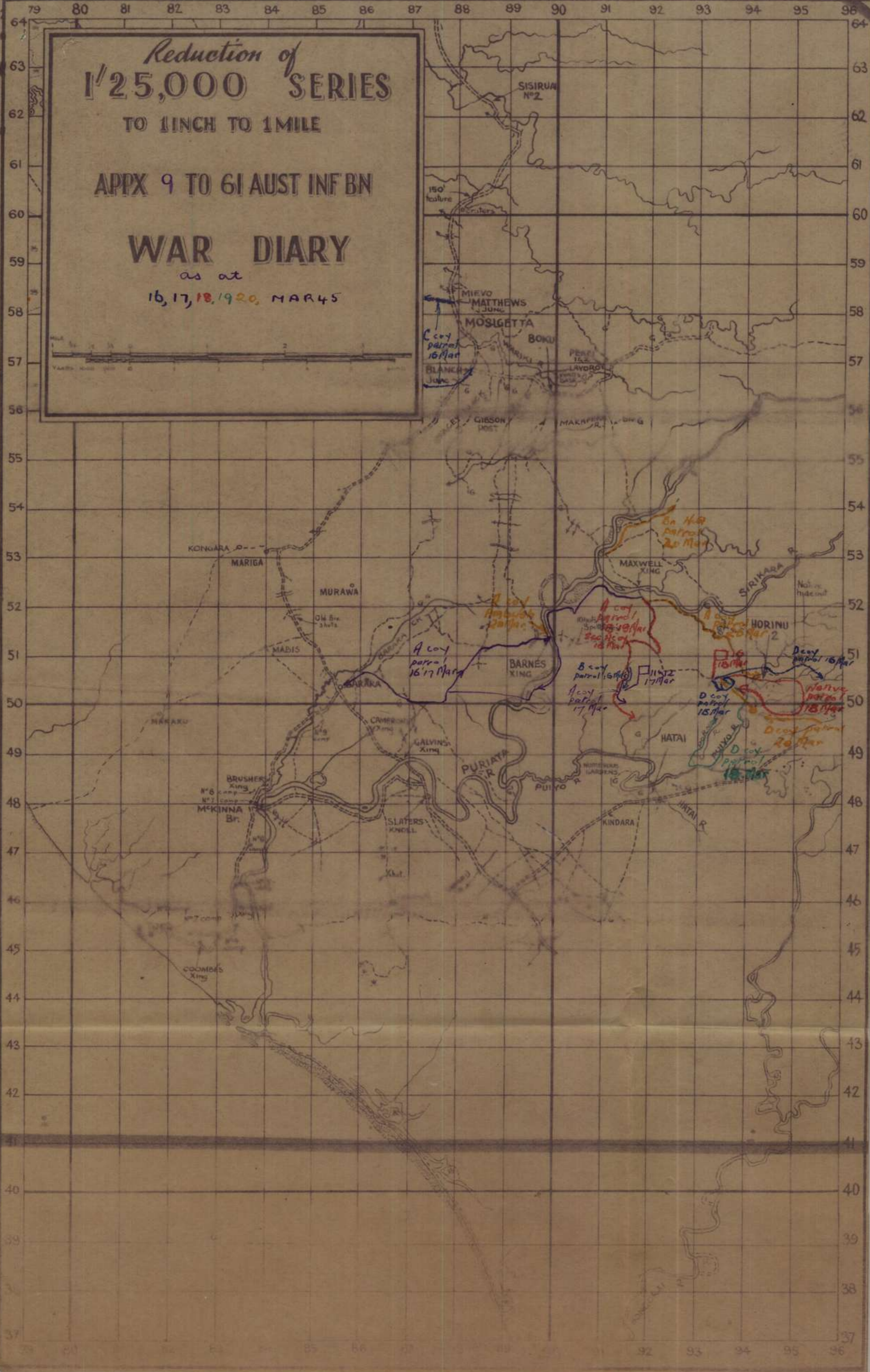
Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 9 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

as at
16, 17, 18, 19 20, MAR 45



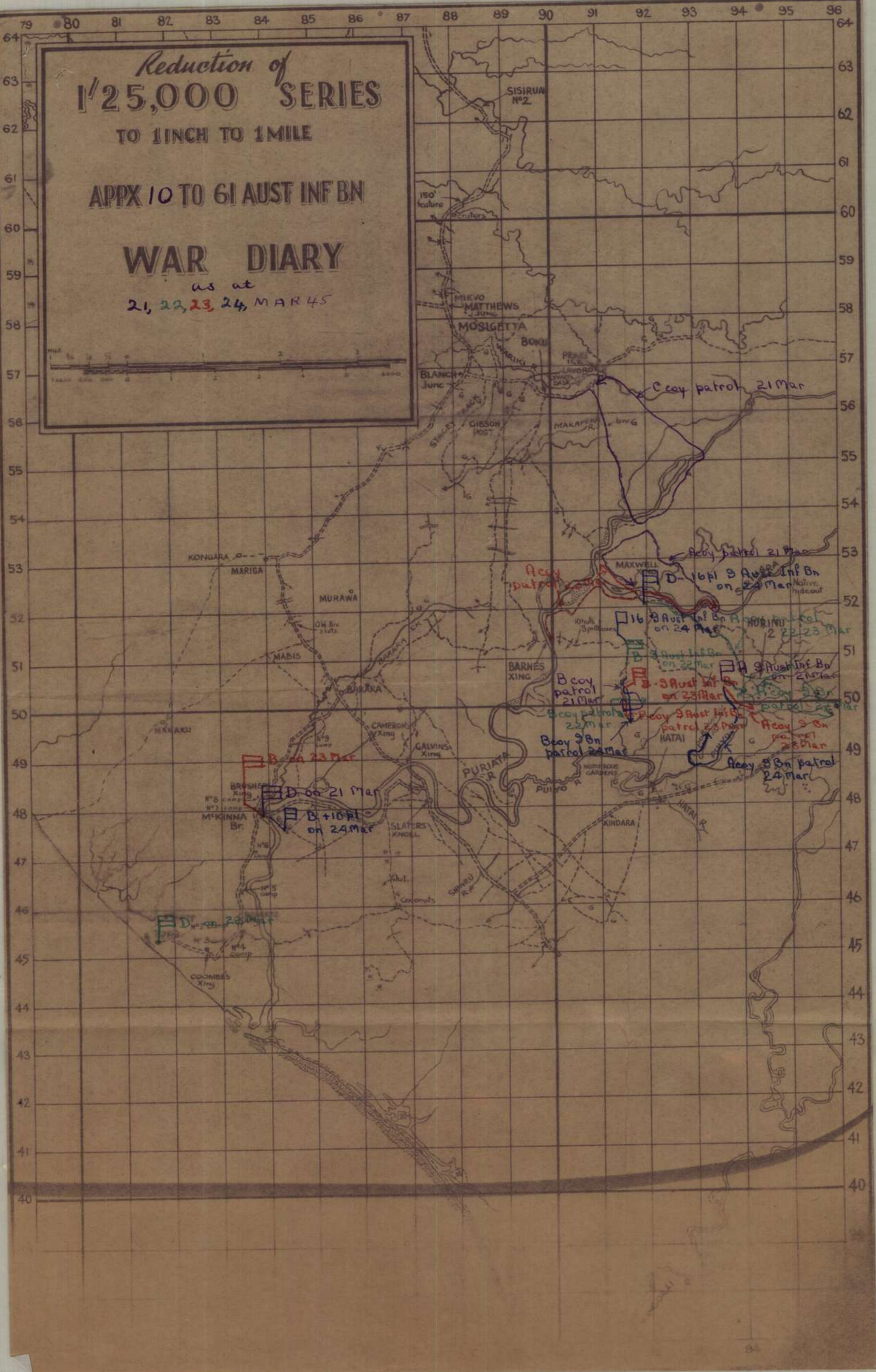
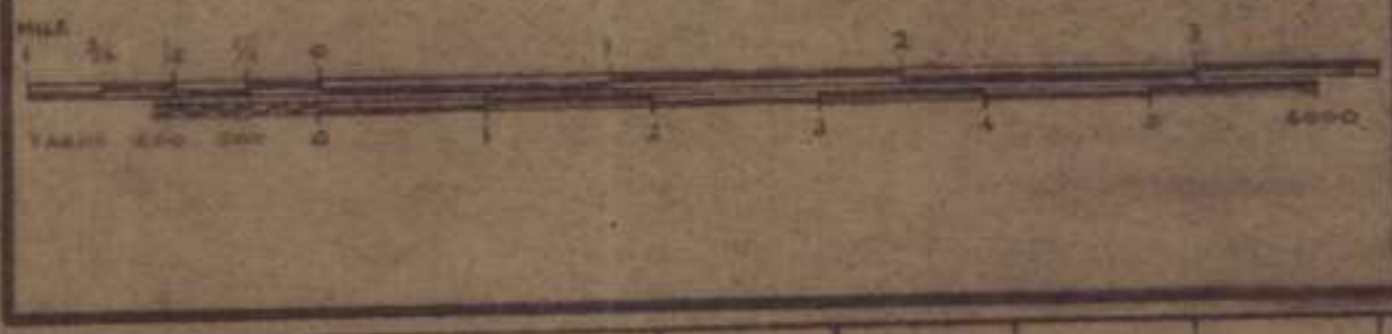
Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 10 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

as at
21, 22, 23, 24, MAR 45



Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

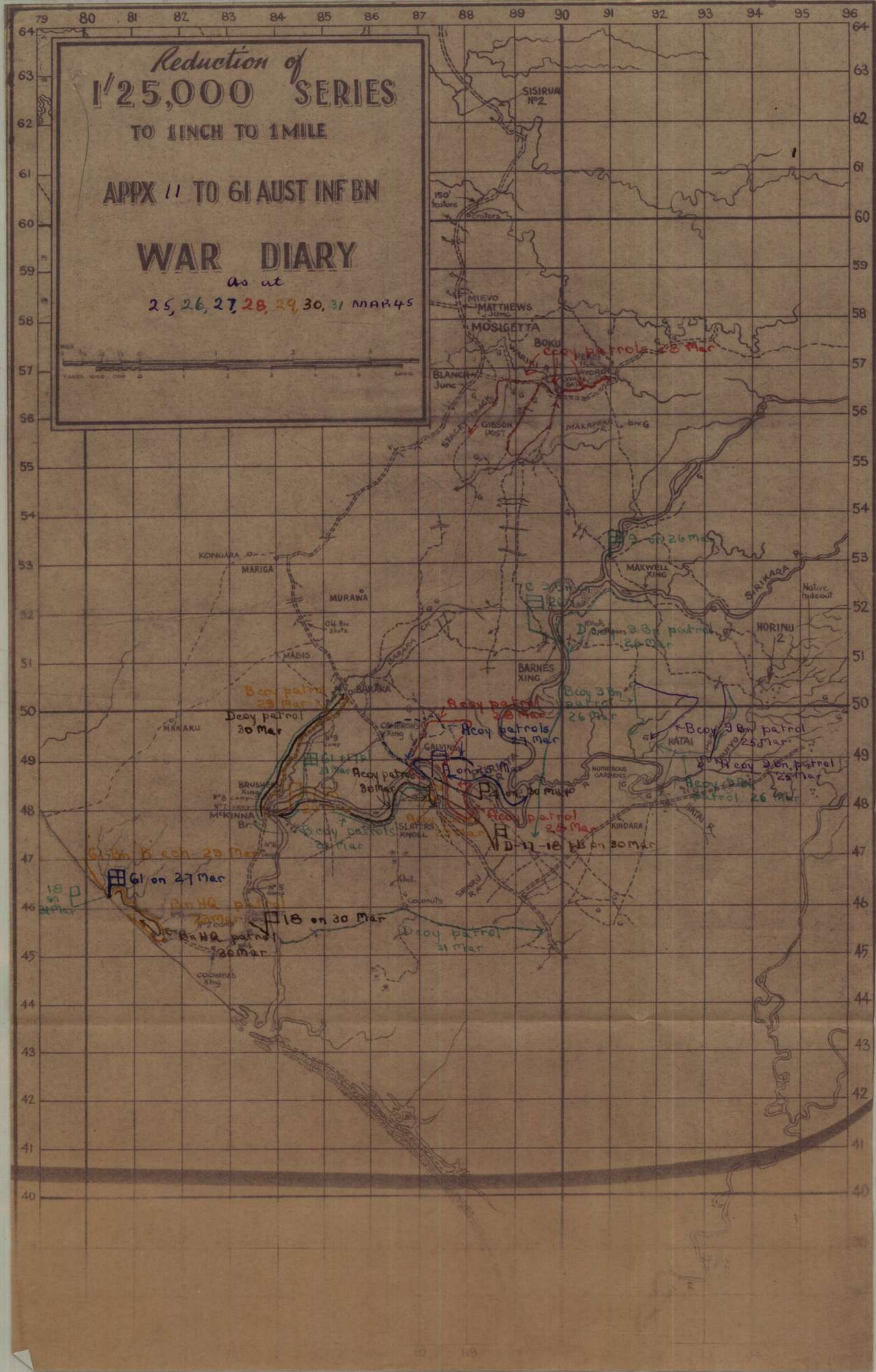
TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 11 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

As at

25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 MAR 45



- Mar 1. Patrols from D Coy operated SOUTH from 909567 to PURIATA R and NORTH-EAST of PIKEI. C Coy patrols SOUTH-EAST to PURIATA R - N.M.S. Fighting patrol 7 pl (Lt Henderson) from MARIGA to general area 874518 (two day). Patrol dug in for night at 864524 - found wounded mary at MURAWA at 858524. Garden 600 yds by 400 yds at 859524 - pumpkins, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, water melons, corn, marrows. Patrol from A Coy contacted 25 Bn at DARARA.
- 0800 hrs - Adv party incl Maj Twemlow & Lt James left to recce battalion biv area on beach.
- Order for move of 61 Bn to beach cancelled at 1815 hrs.
- Mar 2. 7 pl (Lt Henderson) patrol continued from 864524 through heavy jungle - N.M.S. in area 875520. C Coy patrol 15 pl (Lt McIntyre) moved to 888524 and returned - N.M.S. One LMG found by B Coy at 877553 also 3 Jap rifles and one U.S. rifle. One Bren was dug up at 13 Inf Regt HQ. Documents & maps also found.
- Digging in Jap HQ 13 Inf Regt revealed 1 LMG, 1 Aust Bren, 1 Aust rifle, 4 Jap rifles, 1 air-raid siren.
- Recce party to beach area returned, as move cancelled.
- Mar 3. A Coy patrol (Capt Lawson) contacted 25 Bn at BARARA. Patrol (Lt Tomlinson) 8 pl, followed track from 887568 to 882544 where track split S-E and S-W - both followed - N.M.S. Patrol 13 pl (Lt Plummer) from 895553 to 888523 and followed track to 875530. Found Jap biv area, old clothes, 4 huts - N.M.S. D Coy patrol discovered 1 Bn 6 Fd Arty HQ at 917573 - Arty eqpt and instruments recovered - N.M.S..
- Mr Aldridge - War Correspondent to stay at BHQ.
Bde Comd visited BHQ approx 1030 hrs - new orders.
- Mar 4. 7 Bde O.O. No. 9 - 61 Bn to patrol fwd of PURIATA R to HONGARAI R with 2/8 Cdo Sqn on left flank and the 25 Bn on right flank.
- A Coy less 7 pl moved to BLANCH JUNC. 10 pl moved from BLANCH JUNC to 905564. C Coy less 13 pl moved across PURIATA R to 909531 and contacted 2/8 Cdo Sqn. 16 pl moved from 905564 to 895553. A Coy patrol (Lt Whittaker) to 878543 thence 872521 - N.M.S. Adv BHQ digging party to BOKU area.
- Mar 5. HQ Group moved fwd to BOKU. 8 pl occupied MATTHEWS JUNC. B Coy less 10 pl occupied track junc 909567. 13 pl joined C Coy at 909531. After successful attack by 2/8 Cdo Sqn on enemy posn 917523, C Coy less 14 pl occupied it. D Coy less 16 pl moved from 909567 and occupied posn vacated by C Coy at 909531. C Coy patrol (Lt Brinkley) along S-E bank PURIATA R to 899516 - N.M.S. Patrol from D Coy to 888522 thence to 884508 - N.M.S.. 7 pl patrol followed track from 858508 to 872512 - N.M.S. Adv digging party for HQ Group moved to BOKU. Air-dropping ground at BOKU completed.
- Mar 6. C Coy ranged with 3-inch mortars on suspected Jap posn at 919522. Pte Ireland (3 pl) wounded by shrapnel, and died. 15 pl (Lt McIntyre) moved re an encircling movement and took Jap posn without opposition. Captured 1 sword and 1 rifle. Posn 250 yds SOUTH-EAST of C Coy posn 14 & 15 pls occupied. Patrol 18 pl (Lt Clarkson) moved SOUTH along PURIATA R (East bank) to 913517 then EAST to 911515 - N.M.S.

- Mar 6. 7 pl rejoined A Coy from MARIGA and 9 pl moved to defence of D.I.D. at MOSIGETTA.
Air-drop at BOKU - three plane loads incl fresh rations.
Patrols (native) down WEST bank PURIATA R and to HORINU.
100 native refugees moved through this area - were horribly emaciated.
- Mar 7. At stand-to Jap exploded 14 pl booby trap and was later shot. Thought to have been ~~found~~^{found} from enemy further along track.
C Coy patrol to BARNES X-ING (Lt Scott-Toms) saw signs of a few Japs and followed track EAST for 1500 yds, heard JUKI then struck NORTH-EAST and came in through C Coy. 13 pl patrol (~~Lt-Russack~~) (Lt Plummer) to HORINU and beyond to 937517 -N.M.S.
Patrol 17 pl (Lt Russack) SOUTH along track and contacted enemy at approx 915510 - 2 Japs wounded (later found dead). Arty brought down, patrol did NOT investigate.
- Mar 8. 14 pl ambush (Lt Brinkley) at BARNES X-ING at 898507 - N.M.S.
Sec patrol from 10 pl to contact this ambush found fresh footprints. D Coy less 17 pl moved SOUTH along track. 18 pl (Lt Clarkson) investigated enemy posn at 922511 ambushed party killing 6 Japs. Pte Creed H.R., Pte Rose, Pte Sweeper wounded. Heavy rifle and Juki fire, pl withdrew, and arty brought down. 16 pl then investigated on right flank - N.M.S. and D Coy moved fwd and took posn without further opposition - 24 weapon pits incl 4 MG - area booby-trapped before leaving.
- Mar 9. Sec patrol 10 pl followed track SOUTH to BARNES X-ING, then went to native village at 877518 - N.M.S. C Coy recce patrol (Cpl Knight) traversed track SOUTH along PURIATA to BARNES X-ING, then EAST for 1000 yds.

Lt-Col F. Hassett G1 3 Aust Div called.
Lt-Col Coombes - C.O. 47 Bn came to stay as observer.
- Mar 10. Sec patrol C Coy (L/Cpl Pender) traversed track from BARNES X-ING 898515 to 922511. Fresh footprints seen. Patrol 15 pl (Lt McIntyre) followed track SOUTH then S-E for 3000 yds - made contact at 931514. Enemy engaged - arty brought down - posn taken - enemy withdrawing - no cas.
Patrol 17 pl (Lt Dawes) on recce along EAST bank of PURIATA R to 911501 - very swampy - found hut at 901508. Recce patrol C COY (Cpl Doyle & W.O.11 Edgell, ANGAU) on two-day recce of general area EAST of HORINU - NIHERO.
- Mar 11. 10 pl moved to 917523 and B Coy arrived SIRIKARA R to relieve C Coy at 917523. 11 pl at 919521, 12 pl still in PIKEI area. C Coy less 14 pl ~~at~~ PIKEI area and 13 pl at 895553. 18 pl patrol (Lt Russack) to track junc 915513 killed 1 Jap. Pte Holland wounded (later died). Ambush est but N.M.S.
16 pl patrol (Lt McKellar) along main track to 909531 encountered LMG fire, grenade discharger etc - arty brought down - patrol investigated and were heavily engaged - 1 Jap killed - Pte H. Irvine killed. Ptes Hampson, McDonald A.J., Oakes wounded. Cpl Doyle & ANGAU 2 day patrol returned from NIHERO area having killed 3 Japs. 3 Guns D Tp 10 Bty 2 Fd Regt at 901564 and harrassing fire on 929508 during night.
C.O. visited B & D Coys with Lt-Col Coombes.
Adjt ill 8 - 11 Mar.
- Mar 12. Patrol 11 pl (Lt Whybird) moved S-E along track to approx 923508 then encircled to right and reached track again. Some 400 yds to EAST of where 16 pl had contacted enemy 11 Mar - def posn deserted. Patrol moved back along track - N.M.S.
Patrol 17 pl (Lt Dawes) moved SOUTH from track junc 916513 for approx 700 yds to creek where contact was made with small enemy party.

Patrol encircled and enemy withdrew. Interchange of posns of C and B Coys complete.

G1 (Lt-Col Hassett) called on way back from 2/8 Cdo Sqn. B.M. stayed night at BnHQ.

Mar 13.

D Coy less 16 pl moved fwd from 909531 with protective screen from 12 pl (lt Watts) - made contact - enemy withdrew and coy occupied posn at 932508. 16 pl (Lt McKellar) moved fwd from 909531 and occupied track junc 915513. Was later attacked by enemy in strength - attack repulsed - Cas own 4 wounded (Pte Hicks, Pte Williams J., Pte Tuffin, Pte Patzel). Enemy 1 killed. One sec B Coy moved fwd to 16 pl. B Coy recce patrol 10 pl (Lt Gibson) to PUIYO R returned - N.M.S.

B.M. returned to Bde.

Mar 14.

Observer party - 4 Offrs 8 ORs arrived from 23 Bde.

HQ Group moved to PURIATA R 909532. First drop on dropping ground at PURIATA. 9 pl moved from D.I.D. to 917523.

B Coy moved from 917523 to 915506 ^{BRUSHING} ~~breaking~~ aside light enemy opposition. Arty registered.

C Coy less 13 pl moved general area BOKU and to look after Arty 902564.

One sec D Coy moved fwd to Ck X-ing at 933506, encountered & killed 2 Japs. D Coy less 16 pl moved fwd and made contact - 2 Japs killed - Arty brought down - 1 Arty sig wounded. Perimeter formed at 935505. 13 pl ambush at BARNES X-ING returned - N.M.S.

Mar 15.

A Coy moved fwd from MOSIGETTA-MEIVO area to join 9 pl at 917523. 13 pl moved from 896553 to MATTHEWS JUNC to protect A.D.S. 1 sec 14 pl to D.I.D., 5 pl to BLANCH JUNC ^{Patrol 10 pl (Lt Gibson)} moved across creek against light enemy opposition, and B Coy followed and formed perimeter. Patrol continued for 300 yds and came under heavy fire. Cas own 1 killed (Pte Forster) 2 wounded (Pte Cotterill, Pte Hughes). Patrol returned to coy perimeter. Arty brought down. Patrol from D Coy SOUTHWARD to PUIYO R at 932488 - N.M.S.

Mar 16.

11 pl (Lt Whybird) crossed creek at 915505 under cover Arty and found enemy posn vacated. Whilst investigating pl came under heavy fire from higher ground 50 yds ahead. Pl withdrew - arty brought down. Pl further investigated but again came under heavy fire. Patrol D Coy investigated Jap track leading SOUTH from 935505 - found biv area of 10 huts - tracks leading SOUTH from biv area did not continue any distance. Track leading EAST, patrol sighted Jap sentry. Recce patrol NORTH report Japs vicinity of HORINU No. 1, ROMIKI, & SINANAI. Patrols from C Coy thoroughly searched area between PURIATA R and MARIGA track for signs of large Jap raiding parties reported to be making for TOROKINA.

Mar 17.

Air strike - 8 Corsairs bombed posn 915505 - target indicated by Arty smoke. Posn taken by B Coy. Patrol 9 pl (Lt Sloan) encircled B Coy and cut track 300 yds further SOUTH. Made contact with strong enemy party dug in 400 yds SOUTH of bombed posn. Own cas 1 wounded (Pte Dean). Patrol withdrew - Arty registered - Patrol 17 pl (Lt Dawes) in general area S-E of D Coy - N.M.S. A coy 2 day recce patrol (Sgt McKenzie) returned from DARARA - N.M.S.

Phone lines cut between BnHQ and C Coy at BOKU. Patrol searched area but found only one old kanaka.

L O 2 returned from Cdos.

- Mar 18. Patrol 8 pl (Lt Tomlinson) moved to B Coy thence round right flank to approx 911500 where night was spent. Native patrol report Japs numerous in RUMIKI, HORINU NO. 1 and had visited HORINU NO. 2. 16 pl were relieved at track junc 915513 by one sec of A Coy, and rejoined D Coy at 935506. Arty registered on enemy posns at 915503. LO2 (Lt Hammond) visited fwd tps.
- Mar 19. Bn role changed to one of holding ground won. Verbal orders per L/T from B.M. Later in day orders issued for relief of 61 Bn by 9 Bn. 61 Bn to take up posns on 25 Bn L of C. 8 pl patrol (Lt Tomlinson) moved EASTWARDS and pl comd and two men went fwd to recce and make contact. At least 3 Japs killed. Recce patrol 17 pl (Lt Dawes) down WEST bank PUIYO R - N.M.S. Recce patrol 16 pl (Lt McKellar) SOUTH from D Coy to PUIYO R - N.M.S. LO2 and party returned via BARARA to Bde.
- Mar 20. Fighting patrol 18 pl (Lt Clarkson) cleared track from D Coy to PUIYO R - N.M.S. Recce patrol D Coy (Lt Russack) crossed PUIYO R further SOUTH. Saw many tracks on EAST side - 1 Jap killed. Patrol A Coy (Lt Whittaker) left for HORINU No. 2 - did not reach village but natives reported enemy had been in village that morning. C.O. visited B Coy. Small party of 2/8 Cdo Sqn ambushed approx 924544. Patrol from HQ Group (Lt Ford) and natives investigated - found Aust hat - N.M.S. A Coy 9 Bn arrived BARNES X-ING. Two small patrols B Coy fwd of coy posn report N.M.S. for 300 yds. Two native refugees spent night at ANGAU camp.
- Mar 21. A Coy 9 Bn relieved our D Coy at 1030 hrs. C.O. visited D Coy and A Coy 9 Bn. Patrol A Coy guided A Coy 9 Bn from BARNES X-ING. Patrol A Coy (L/Sgt Potter) followed SIRIKARA R to 935521 then NORTH-WEST along track to old HQ 2/8 Cdo Sqn thence to HQ Group - N.M.S. 10 pl patrol (Lt Gibson) moved out 800 yds in front of B Coy and returned - N.M.S. D Coy arrived McKINNA BR 838478 at 1730 hrs. 188 Native refugees (further to others) spent night at ANGAU camp. LO3 (Lt Rudd) en-route to 2/8 Cdo Sqn.
- Mar 22. D Coy arrived TOKO area at 1130 hrs. B Coy 9 Bn arrived our B Coy posn at 1600 hrs. Recce party (C.O., I.O., Q.M., Sig O) 9 Bn arrived this HQ at 1515 hrs. Two day patrol 7 pl (Lt Henderson) with ANGAU to lay an ambush in gardens at HORINU NO. 2. 12 pl fighting patrol (Lt Watts) made contact some 500 yds SOUTH of B Coy - enemy fled. Patrol moved through scrub for 800 yds and returned without further contact. Patrol from A Coy 9 Bn moved down track to PUIYO R Ford and registered EAST bank with arty - enemy fired few shots. LO3 (Lt Rudd) returned from 2/8 Cdo Sqn.

- Mar 23. B Coy 9 Bn relieved our B Coy at 0900 hrs. C.O. 9 Bn visited his fwd coys (A & B). 7 pl two day patrol returned having been out as far as 960500 - N.M.S.. B Coy arrived at and formed perimeter at McKINNA BR.
Lt James moved with B Coy to act as LO for mvt of battalion.
LO3 ^{LT RUDD} (left for Bde - ~~Lt Radd~~)
- Mar 24. D Coy 9 Bn arrived at A Coy posn at 917523. 9 Bn took over all patrolling between PURIATA - PUIYO - HONGARAI Rivers.
- Mar 25. A Coy relieved by D Coy 9 Bn at 0845 hrs. A Coy arrived 872486 approx 1500 hrs.
BnHQ advance party (13) under R.S.M. moved with A Coy.
Advance party B.Ech arrived TOKO area.
A Coy at GALVIN'S X-ING shelled by enemy 75 mm approx 0400 hrs - no cas.
LO2 (Lt Hammond) arrived at this HQ en-route to 2/8 Cdo Sqn.
- Mar 26. 9 BnHQ Group arrived at PURIATA base and C Coy 9 Bn at BARNES X-ING. Lt-Col Matthews took over comd of areas as from 1800 hrs.
A Coy at GALVIN'S X-ING shelled by enemy 75 mm gun - no cas.
B.M. (Maj Summerton - ~~99 Bde~~) left 7 Bde. Maj J. Stromb ~~B.M. 29/30~~ now A/B.M.
- Mar 27. HQ Group handed over to 9 Bn and left base at PURIATA R at 0805 arriving BARARA 1045 hrs and McKINNA BR at 1300 hrs, and TOKO 1500 hrs.
C.O. interviewed Bde Comd.
Pioneer pl at BLANCH JUNG killed 1 Jap with pack containing Aust tinned foods and groundsheet of Pte H. Barton.
LO1 visited battalion (now Capt Brown) - Sub. rank of Capts Cairns, Rudder, Stanley, Gowland, Paterson, Forward and Hobbs through since 1 Mar 45.
- Mar 28. HQ Group settling in at TOKO. 8 pl patrol (Sgt Grant) to PURIATA R - Sgt Grant & Pte Henderson accidentally wounded by Bren - N.M.S. 8 pl patrol (Lt Tomlinson) searched area NORTH of PURIATA R and A Coy posn - contacted enemy, but patrol withdrew.
C Coy patrol contacted enemy on WARIKI R - cas enemy 2 killed, 4 wounded - 9 packs and several rifles captured. Enemy found to be carrying explosive, evidently after Arty.
- Mar 29. B Sqn 2/4 Armd Regt moved in. Adjut saw Bde Comd. B-Ech complete now at TOKO.
Enemy attacked A Coy in force early morning - attack repulsed - cas own 2 killed (Pte Low N., Pte Laing J.), 2 wounded Pte Bowler, Pte Jacobs. Enemy cas at least 3 killed. Patrol 7 pl (Lt Henderson) attempted to attack enemy from flank without success. Enemy force estimated about 70 with 1 HMG, 5 LMG and rifles dug in between A Coy and 25 BnHQ.
B-Ech 9 Bn at BARARA attacked by 50 Japs who moved SOUTH to attack 9 Bn boong train escorted by 10 pl. 11 pl joined 10 pl and held enemy. Our cas 1 wounded (Pte Rolfe) - enemy cas 5 killed. B Coy then moved through to BARARA.

Mar 30.

Report from 25 Bn - their B Coy overrun and their C Coy out in the blue. 18 pl (Lt Clarkson) sent to locate their C Coy - failed to cross flooded PURIATA R - spent night at ROBERT'S X-ING.

Patrol 17 pl (Lt Dawes) moved through to BARARA - met and wounded 1 Jap en-route NORTHWARDS - met 4 Nips on way back - killed 3 wounded 1. Own cas NIL. D Coy (Lt McKellar) less 17 & 18 pls moved to 25 BnHQ. 4 pl (Lt Ford) moved to join A Coy. A Coy killed 1 Jap and captured LMG on perimeter about dusk.

It is said that battalion has broken record for longest continuous period in action for a battalion.

Mar 31.

Capt Paterson visited us from L.O.B. - keeping beer at MAWARAKA.

Lt Tomlinson sent back to B-Ech.

Tanks into action with 25 Bn.

Patrol 11 pl (Lt Whybird) escorted sig and amn train to BARARA - N.M.S.

Patrol 4 pl (Lt Ford) searched area NORTH of PURIATA R general areas 875495 and 878483 - N.M.S.

Water party 25 Bn B-Ech fired on near A Coy from NORTH of PURIATA R - Mortar fire brought down.

Contact patrol B Coy to A Coy - N.M.S.

18 pl patrol crossed PURIATA R at ROBERT'S X-ING assisted by Swimmers Woll Newcomb and A/Sgt Brough. Arrived area C Coy 25 Bn and found it deserted. Evidence of plenty of Nips. Found 2 dead on track.

HQ Group moved to 842480 - 17 pl in perimeter.

Cpl ^{KRETCHEMAN} ~~Hutchinson~~ accidentally wounded with LMG at HQ Group.

-----c0o-----