

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

Item number: 8/3/96

61 Infantry Battalion
April - May 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

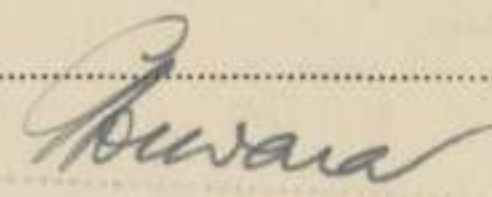
Army Form C.2108
(adapted.)

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Unit 61 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 Apr 45

To 2 Apr 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
sth Bougainville	Apr 1		<p>12 pl patrol from B Coy 839480 to BARARA returned to coy 1550 hrs. Reported sig line to BARARA and 1200 yds towards MARIKA intact. Line BARARA - BARNES X-ING followed for 1000 yds and found cut beyond repair. NO enemy seen. At 1320 hrs escort party for carrier line to BARARA moved out and returned with 12 pl together with 9 Aust Inf Bn cas. A coy nothing to report. 16 pl departed D Coy 874484 in a further attempt to contact C Coy 25 Bn. A section patrol from 13 pl at MATTHEW'S JUNC est ambush posn at 869585. At 0830 hrs 2 enemy were sighted moving along road and when fired on leapt into creek. Patrol followed killing one and wounding the other who escaped into scrub. Search failed to locate Jap and patrol returned to dead body. While searching same our sentry was killed by a rifle shot from wounded Jap who then dashed fwd and captured sentry's Owen Gun. Patrol opened fire but two Owen Guns failed to operate and although grenades were thrown enemy escaped along creek with captured Owen Gun. 14 and 15 pls recce and protective patrols in BOKU area reported no signs of enemy mov.</p>	
	Apr 2		<p>16 pl together with C Coy 25 Bn arrived ROBERT'S X-ING at 0830 hrs. 16 pl who had departed previous day to contact coy followed sig cable from 865482 and arrived C Coy posn 895457 at 1600 hrs 1 Apr. Pl est posn on BUIN Road at 896456 while C Coy prepared to withdraw. At 1630 hrs 2 enemy approached.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date ~~and Time~~ From 2 Apr 45 To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	2 Apr 45		<p>from S-E and were killed. Coy with 16 pl then moved back along sig cable until 1730 hrs when darkness prevented further mvt. With the rise of the moon mvt continued from 0100 hrs to 0500 hrs WEST along kanaka pad. After a short rest, force moved off at first light on final stage of journey. An enemy posn located 600 yds WEST of C Coy posn contained numerous foxholes, a network of new tracks and 5 enemy dead. D Coy:- CoyHQ departed 816455 arriving track junc 866482 at 0930 hrs. 17 pl departed BnHQ and rejoined coy at 0935 hrs. 18 pl departed B-Ech and rejoined coy at 1100 hrs. 16 pl arrived BnHQ from ROBERT'S X-ING at 1115 hrs and rejoined coy at 1400 hrs. 4 pl which had been attached to A Coy returned to BnHQ at 1030 hrs. A Coy patrol from 873488 to 877495 thence to 868495 returned to coy at 1300 hrs reporting tracks crossed en-route showed no signs of recent enemy use. B Coy patrol to DARARA returned to coy at 1040 hrs hrs reporting no signs of enemy. At 1645 hrs a sentry on road WEST of BnHQ perimeter was fired on and wounded by small enemy party. Sentry returned fire but enemy escaped. Sentry stated that Japs were wearing Aust clothing. Patrol from B Coy moving EAST along SOUTH side of road to investigate, found no signs of enemy. GOC 2 Aust Corps (Lt-Gen Savige) and Bde Bde Comd Brig Field visited this HQ 1330 hrs.</p>	

874484

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L.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 3 apr 45 To 4 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	3 Apr 45		<p>Patrol from A Coy was fired on by small enemy party at 868489 at 0945 hrs. Cas own NIL. Enemy unknown. At 0810 hrs escort patrol with carrier line departed B coy for DARARA. Native carriers reported sighting one enemy at 844492, but on investigating patrol found NO signs of enemy. Continued on to DARARA and returned to coy at 1130 hrs without further contact. D Coy - at 1225 hrs 2 enemy (one wearing Aust clothing and Jap cap) were seen on N-E edge of perimeter 866482. Enemy were engaged and one Jap wounded. Patrol investigated but did not locate enemy. Patrol from coy SOUTH along sig line track to coconuts 867460 reported no signs of enemy. C Coy plus 5 pl departed BOKU-MEIVO area en route to TOKO. Locations now - C CoyHQ - 14 pl 880578, 13 and 5 pls 878582, 15 pl MAWARAKA. Enemy arty shelled area 873485 from 1912L to 1935L firing 59 shells incl 6 duds. A Coy posn 873486 bracketed. 2 shells fell in area 86248 2. NIL damage. Cas 2 2/4 Armd Regt pers wounded.</p> <p>Maj Twemlow E. Mc K marched in from 11 Fd Amb.</p>	
	4 Apr 45		<p>A Coy patrol of one section moved from CALVIN'S X-ING along SOUTH side of road to within 300 yds of DARARA returning via EAST side of road to coy at 1330 hrs. Between 867490 and 859498 signs that small enemy parties had struck off into scrub in</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 4 apr 45 To 5 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	4 Apr 45		<p>N-E direction approx 3/4 days previously. Saw evidence of recent enemy shelling at 871488 and 870489. B Coy escort patrol to DARARA reported no signs of enemy. D Coy patrol of one sec moved SOUTH along sig line track to cocoanuts 867460 and returned to coy at 1125 hrs reporting no signs of enemy. 8 Tp 2/4 Armd Regt arrived B Coy posn at 1615 hrs. Enemy arty shelled area sqs 8447-8547 from 2215L to 2240L firing 48 shells incl 10 duds. NIL damage or cas. Maj Phillips G.W. detached for duty Town Major Area Comd TOKO.</p>	
	5 Apr 45		<p>Enemy arty shelled area sqs 8447-8547 from 0010L to 0020L firing 23 shells incl 6 duds and from 0117L to 0130L firing 41 shells incl 7 duds. NIL damage or cas. At first light a small enemy party threw grenades into A Coy perimeter 873487, Own cas NIL. Enemy unknown. B Coy:- patrol from 840479 followed a track S-E and N-E to D Coy 866482 reporting no signs of enemy mvt. Escort patrol to DARARA reported nil sightings. D Coy patrol SOUTH along sig line track to cocoanuts 867460 reported one fresh enemy footprint at approx 865472. B-Ech now located at 803464. C Coy arrived "B-Ech" at 1245 hrs and later were joined by 5 pl at 1435 hrs. Secret alternate sig lines laid from BnHQ to B and D Coys, line to be continued to A Coy 6 Apr.</p>	

L.

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit..... Date and Time.—From 5 aple 45 To 6 aple 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	5 Apr 45		<p>Sentry manning listening post at BnHQ fired on one suspected enemy. Patrol to investigate reported no mvt seen. A pl of A Coy escorting tanks fwd to 25 Bn provided covering fire from SLATER'S KNOLL.</p> <p>Enemy arty fired 14 shells in area sq 8646 at 1900 hrs and a further 15 shells in area 863477 at 2000 hrs. NIL damage or cas.</p>	<p><i>Patrol and disposition map</i></p> <p><i>covering period 1-5 Apr 45</i></p> <p><i>att as appx 9.</i></p>
	6 Apr 45		<p>A coy patrol escorting line party to GALVIN'S X-ING then S-W along bank of PURIATA R to 865485 reported no signs of enemy. B Coy patrol operating in area sqs 8447-8547 reported no signs of enemy. B Coy escort patrol to DARARA reported one set of fresh enemy footprints at 842485 otherwise no mvt seen. D Coy:-</p> <p>patrol SOUTH from 866482 to track junc approx 865474 then NORTH along a parallel track to 864478 reported no signs of enemy.</p> <p>A further patrol investigating track leading EAST from junc 865474 found evidence that a small enemy party had moved WEST along track to approx 868474 and then returned EAST. Patrol set ambush on track and no further mvt seen. Patrol SOUTH along sig line track to observe suspected enemy biv area investigated track to 875455 and area NORTH incl sq 8746 found no signs of biv area but located numerous Jap tracks in area leading towards BUIN road. Fresh Jap footprints were observed on track leading WEST towards PURIATA R from 867459. At 1800 hrs A Coy sighted one wounded Jap outside the perimeter who escaped before action could be taken.</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 Apr 45 To 7 Apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	6 Apr 45		From 2018 hrs to 2035 hrs enemy arty shelled area GALVINS X-ING and 860478. Estimated 2 guns fired 62 shells plus at least 3 duds. NIL damage or cas.	
			GOC 3 Aust Div (Maj Gen Bridgeford) and Bde Comd Brig Field visited this HQ.	
	7 Apr 45		Patrols from B Coy and BnHQ operating in areas sqs 8447-8547 reported no signs of enemy. D Coy:- patrol from 866482 to 865474 thence to 872474 reported no signs of enemy. A further patrol moved from 866482 and at 866463 fwd scout observed 15/20 enemy wearing haversacks on their belts and armed with 1 LMG. Enemy party appeared to be engaged in salvaging our sig cable. Fwd scout's Owen Gun failed to operate and enemy fled into scrub. After waiting in ambush for 30 mins patrol returned to coy without making further contact. At 0815 hrs 3 Arty jeeps moving WEST along road were fired on by a small enemy party strength estimated 4, armed with an LMG and grenades at approx 845483. NIL damage or cas. At 1330 hrs one enemy grenade was thrown at Y.M.C.A. jeep moving WEST along road at 860477. Patrols dispatched to investigate both these incidents found no further signs of enemy. Located in area approx 870474 12 one-man weapon pits also small biv area estimated to accomodate 8 enemy. Posn not occupied for several days and thought to have been used for only one night.	

L.

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~.—From 7 Apr 45 To 8 Apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	7 Apr 45		C.O. Lt-Col W.R. Dexter evac to 2/1 A.G.H. and Maj E. Mc K Twemlow appointed Adm Comd.	
	8 Apr 45		<p>At 0745 hrs contact patrol moving from BnHQ to D Coy encountered and engaged party of enemy armed with rifles and grenades at 853480. A stronger patrol sent to investigate killed 2 enemy at this point and found 3 enemy bodies resulting from previous encounter. Own cas NIL. Enemy killed were in good condition and incl 2nd Lt, Sgt, and Superior Pte, one wearing Aust shirt. A search of area revealed a biv 50 yds SOUTH of ambush posn, with accomodation for 8 men. Captured equipment incl a haversack containing 250 rds of .30 cal U.S. amn, and 85 rds of .256 - 10 grenades - one B.A.R. magazine - 6 rifles - Aust pack and rubber bag containing atebirin and bandages. Standing patrol now established at this posn from 0700 to 1900 hrs daily. B Coy routine patrols to DARARA and D Coy reported no signs of enemy.</p> <p>Composite patrol, strength 2 offr 24 ORs from A and D Coys moved from 866482 SOUTH along track to 867460 and reported area SOUTH of this point inundated due to previous heavy rain.</p> <p>Maj W.G. Fry 2 i/c 9 Bn arrived this HQ to Adm Comd.</p> <p>Maj E. McK Twemlow appointed 2 i/c, Capt G.O. Forward appointed A Adjt, Capt L.W. Stanley appointed O.C. D Coy.</p> <p>+ List of captured equipment from 18 Jan - 8 Apr att as Appx 1.</p>	Appx 1

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~ From 9 apr 45 To 11 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	9 Apr 45		<p>B Coy routine patrols to DARARA and D Coy reported no signs of enemy. D Coy ambush patrol on track junc 866475 returned at 1600 hrs and reported no signs of enemy mvt seen.</p> <p>Capt Hobbs J.J.S. marched out to LHQ Tac School, Beenleigh.</p>	
	10 Apr 45		<p>At 0945 hrs C Coy relieved A Coy at 873484 and A Coy moved to 802464. D Coy ambush patrol of 1 offr 8 ORs from 866482 SOUTH along track to track junc 866475 returned at 1525 hrs reporting no mvt seen. B Coy escort patrol to DARARA and security patrols reported no mvt seen.</p> <p>Lt O.M. Sloan and Lt C.B. Tomlinson marched out this HQ to L.O.B. TOROKINA.</p>	
	11 Apr 45		<p>From 0448L to 0452L enemy arty fired 27 shells (75 mm) in area vicinity GALVIN'S X-ING. NIL damage or cas. D Coy 9 Bn patrol serial 200 arrived C Coy 873484 at 1200 hrs and departed on return journey at 1300 hrs. Security patrols reported N.M.S. Following instns received from Bde:-</p> <p>A Coy will take over from C Coy 57/60 Bn road construction via Lagoon 785486.</p>	<p><i>Patrol and disposition map covering period 6-11 Apr 45 att as appx 10.</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 12 apr 45 To 14 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	12 Apr 45		From 0100L to 0108L enemy arty fired approx 22 shells (75 mm) in GALVIN'S X-ING area and a further 26 shells in same area from 0150L to 0154L. NIL damage or cas. HQ fighting ty B Sqn 2/4 Armd Regt arrived B Coy at 1230 hrs. Security patrols reported signs of recent enemy shelling at 851473 otherwise N.M. S.	
	13 APR 45		At 0055L enemy arty fired 16 shells in general area 860485. In accordance with 7 Bde O.O. No. 10 attached as per (appx 2), coy and pl comds carried out recces of new areas of responsibility. Security patrols reported N.M. S. Signal (re confirmation verbal instr) 7 Bde O.O. No. 10 attached as per (Appx 3).	appx 2 appx 3
	14 Apr 45		At 0004L enemy arty fired 16 shells (75 mm) incl 3 duds in GALVIN'S X-ING area. In accordance with Bn Op Instr No. 2, attached as per (Appx 4), mvt of Bn to new areas of responsibility was completed by 1600 hrs. Location amendment - BnHQ plus 4 and 5 pls 833468. A Coy 792478. B Coy less 10 pl 840479. 10 pl 839482. C CoyHQ 814454. 13 Pl 819454. 14 pl 815454. 15 pl 820448 D Coy 811458. B.M. (L) Capt Kelly, LO1 Capt Brown, Lt Freeman (Mil History Sec) visited this HQ. Field return of offr. Army form W3008 attached as per (Appx 5). Field return of other ranks. Army form W3009 attached as per (Appx 6).	appx 4 appx 5 appx 6

L.

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

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Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 15 Apr 45 To 17 Apr 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	15 Apr 45		<p>C coy section patrol from 8204⁴8 along coast to PURIATA R mouth, returned at 1100 hrs reporting N.M.S. 11 pl departed B Coy and took up posn with 7 Bde HQ 843482 at 1320 hrs. Security patrols reported N.M.S.</p> <p>At 1510 hrs Maj R. Weppner 2 i/c 25 Bn arrived this HQ to Adm Comd from Maj W.G. Fry, who has been appointed T/Lt-Col comd 47 Aust Inf Bn. Bde Comd Brig J. Field visited this HQ a.m.</p>	
	16 Apr 45		<p>A coy patrol from 792478 S-E along coast was unable to cross PURIATA R due to strong current. A line laying party which later crossed river, laid cable to approx 860419, and returned at 1315 hrs, reporting N.M.S. B Coy patrol from McKINNA BR to 850498 then SOUTH and S-W to PURIATA R at 845484, returned to coy at 1120 hrs reporting N.M.S. C Coy patrol from B Coy 840479 S-E along track to 851470 then SOUTH along track which petered out at approx 852463, returned through scrub to McKINNA BR at 1215 hrs reporting N.M.S. As from 0700 hrs D Coy commenced road maintenance under supervision Engineers on road TOKO-MOTUPENA PT.</p>	
	17 Apr 45		<p>A Coy patrol, with native guides, from 792478 N-E to MAKAKU 818498, thence S-E to MABIS 823488, returned at 1415 hrs reporting N.M.S. B Coy patrol from 840479 EAST along road,</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 apr 45 To 18 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	17 Apr 45		<p>followed track SOUTH from 865477 to 867459, then traversed track WEST across PURIATA R at 837457 to TOKO road and returned to coy at 1330 hrs without making contact. C Coy patrol crossed PURIATA R mouth, moved S-E along coast, swam lagoon and investigated area 872412. Patrol found no signs of garden or tracks and continued along coast and inland along lagoon to 885393, and returned to coy at 1410 hrs without making contact. Pioneer pl moved to camp site vic lagoon 785486, to assist 5 Aust Fd Coy in construction of a retaining wall, where heavy seas had encroached on TOKO-MOTUPENA road. At 1000 hrs coy comds conference was held this HQ and BnHQ group pers were lectured by Bde Educ Offr on "World Affairs". Maj Pitt 2 i/c 57/60 Bn visited this HQ at 1300 hrs re Y.M.C.A. set-up.</p>	
	18 Apr 45		<p>C Coy (2 day patrol) of 1 Offr 16 ORs moved S-E along coast and est firm base at 853425 at 1125 hrs. A patrol from this base moved inland along coast to 890376 and returned without making contact. B Coy patrol from McKINNA BR through DARARA-KONGARA-MAKAKU and MABIS returned 165-0 hrs reporting N.M.S. B Coy patrol from McKINNA BR to 865477 then SOUTH and EAST along track to Bn body 880455 returned 1315 hrs reporting N.M.S. C Coy HQ joined 14 pl at 815454. At 1435 hrs Bde Comd Brig Field visited this HQ. As from 0730 hrs a working party of 1 NCO 12 ORs will be supplied daily to RAE 3 Aust Div.</p>	<p><i>Patrol and disposition map covering period 12-18 Apr 45 att as appx 11.</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 19 Apr 45 To 20 Apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	19 Apr 45		<p>A Coy patrol from 792478 through MAKAKU to DARARA arrived DARARA 1310 hrs and returned to coy - N.M.S. C Coy patrol from firm base at 853425 moved S-E along coast to 882395 and searched area 872412, then returned to coy at 1130 hrs -N.M.S. D Coy patrol from 865477 moved SOUTH and EAST along track to 880455, and found track leading SOUTH from this point ended in swamp at approx 880447. Patrol returned WEST via kanaka pad to ROBERT'S X-ING 833457 - N.M.S.</p> <p>WO1 N.E. Baldwin, WO11 A.L. McDonald, WO11 D.S. Lowndes, MM, Sjt J.D. Wilson MM appointed rank Lt as from 12 Apr, and were interviewed by C.O. at 1000 hrs. The following offr were appointed as panel of regimental auditors, Capt J.S. Paterson, Lt A.A. Watts, Lt N.E. Baldwin, Lt D. McKellar. Band pers marched out this HQ to entertain 25 Aust Inf Bn, and will remain their HQ until further notice.</p>	
	20 Apr 45		<p>B Coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs from McKINNA BR through scrub to CAMERONS X-ING, returned via GALVIN'S X-ING - N.M.S.</p> <p>C Coy patrol of 1 offr 8 ORs EAST along coast reported PURIATA R mouth flooded, and was unable to cross. D Coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs from ROBERT'S X-ING 3000 yds EAST - N.M.S.</p> <p>Signal from Bde stated that Bn will be relieved by 42 Aust Inf Bn, and after relief concentrate MOTUPENA PT, preparatory to moving TOROKINA. The following transfers took effect as from 0830 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 20 apr 45 To 22 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	20 Apr 45		Capt R. E. Gowland from C Coy to 2 i/c A Coy, Lt A.L. McDonald from A Coy to comd 16 pl D Coy, Lt D.S. Lowndes MM from D Coy to comd 9 pl A Coy. Warning received for DCM to be held this HQ 24 Apr.	
	21 Apr 45		At 0315 hrs a small enemy raiding party infiltrated to EAST end McKINNA BR and succeeded in causing temporary damage to bridge structure with a demolition charge. Party escaped without being seen. Later, a patrol located the place where one enemy had relieved himself, using a Japanese 6 Div Colour patch as a substitute for toilet paper. Fighting patrols (strength 1 offr 12 ORs) from B Coy and BnHQ were dispatched at 0800 hrs to search area from GALVIN'S X-ING, SOUTH along EAST and WEST banks PURIATA R to mouth. Both patrols reported N.M.S. A Coy relieved B Coy at McKINNA BR by 1000 hrs and B Coy moved to beach area 792478. By 1030 hrs McKINNA BR was open for traffic. Security patrols reported N.M.S. Routine Orders Pt 1 issued as (per (appx 7)).	Appx 7.
	22 Apr 45		BnHQ patrol of 1 offr 8 ORs from McKINNA BR SOUTH along WEST bank PURIATA R to mouth, reported N.M.S., but found two slabs enemy picric explosive at 842474. A Coy patrol of 1 Offr 12 ORs from 865477 SOUTH along track to 875455, then S-W and S-E to 865440, reported N.M.S.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time ~~From~~ 22 apr 45 To 24 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	22 Apr 45		Patrol investigated track (reported by Tac R) running from 864444 to 861443.	
			Track was apparently cut by enemy, is wide, well defined and showed no signs of recent use, but had carried heavy traffic 2 to 3 weeks previously. Area vic 863443 (shown on map as swamp) found to be bananas and some pit pit.	
	23 Apr 45		D Coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs along coast from PURIATA R mouth to 888378 reported N.M.S. D Coy patrol of 1 offr 12 ORs, operated in sqs 8645-8745-8644-8744 and reported N.M.S.	<i>Patrol and disposition map covering period 19-23 Apr 45 att as appx 12.</i>
		But located an enemy biv area 2 to 3 weeks old at approx 873443, which would accomodate 40 men. Entire area traversed, consists of swamp and maze of tracks. On receiving instr from Bde, the following targets were registered by 3-inch mortars from A Coy:- river bends 841478-841475-843472, garden 843478, creek x-ing 845476. Bde Legal Offr (Capt Ash) called this HQ re D.C.M.		
	24 Apr 45		A coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs through DARARA-KONGARA-MABIS reported N.M.S. C Coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs from McKINNA BR S-E to 852472, thence SOUTH TO 12022 851455 and WEST to ROBERT'S X-ING, returned 1330 hrs. Patrol found 2 sets enemy footprints, 2 to 3 days old at 851467 otherwise N.M.S. At 0830 hrs DCM commenced this HQ, Lt-Col Hale president.	

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 apr 45 To 26 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	25 Apr 45		<p>A Coy patrol of 1 offr 12 ORs, incl 2 Int pers, followed track SOUTH from 865477 to 869458. All side tracks en-route petered out, except one which patrol followed to 861447. At this point track ended in waist deep swamp. Patrol reported signs of small enemy party having moved EAST from 865475 within last 48 hrs, otherwise N.M.S. D Coy patrol of 1 offr 8 ORs from PURIATA R mouth S-E along coast to AITARA R, returned 1615 hrs- N.M.S. D Coy patrol of 1 NCO 6 ORs from ROBERT'S X-ING SOUTH along EAST bank PURIATA R to coast, reported N.M.S. At 1400 hrs all available offrs, NCOs and 12 rifle bombardiers attended demonstration M9 A1 grenade trials and PITA test, in area vic PURIATA R mouth. D.C.M. continued this HQ throughout the day. Routine Orders Pt 1 issued as per (Appx 8)</p>	appsc 8
	26 Apr 45	c	<p>A coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs from 865477 SOUTH along track to 866470, then WEST through scrub to 841470, thence SOUTH along EAST bank PURIATA R to ROBERT'S X-ING, reported no contact. But saw footprints of 2 enemy moving NORTH at 857470 and 852470. C Coy patrol of 1 offr 10 ORs from ROBERT'S X-ING EAST along track to 880455 - N.M.S. At 1025 hrs Bn received instr from Bde (for the regrouping of coys) which stated that D Coy will occupy def location, road and track junc 834455(No 4 Camp) by 1800 hrs, with standing patrol at river x-ing 838454.</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 apr 45 To 28 apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	26 Apr 45		<p>Role:- to cover possible enemy approach from EAST, and to patrol fwd to inter Bde bdy 880455. D Coy completed move by 1340 hrs. This move will not affect supply of working parties to 3 Aust Div. At 1500 hrs C.O. held conference with offr, subject:- Malaria control and responsibility of all offr.</p>	
	27 Apr 45		<p>D Coy patrol of 1 offr 8 ORs from PURIATA R mouth S-E along coast, reported sea had broken through to lagoon at 856423,, and could not proceed further. Patrol attempted to move inland, but encountered deep swamp. A Coy patrol of 1 offr 12 ORs from 865477 SOUTH along track to 869458, thence SOUTH and WEST along track to 863447, returned via ROBERT'S X-ING - N.M.S. D Coy standing patrol - N.M.S. 1155 hrs Maj Bostock (LHQ) Maj Little (3 Div Sigs) called this HQ re sig eqpt. 1500 hrs C.O. lectured offr on malaria control.</p>	
	28 Apr 45		<p>A Coy patrol of 1 NCO 6 ORs from McKINNA BR S-E along track to 852473, then SOUTH through scrub to 852455, returned via ROBERT'S X-ING - N.M.S. C Coy patrol of 1 offr 10 ORs from 865477 SOUTH and S-E along track to 880455, returned via ROBERT'S X-ING- N.M.S. D Coy standing patrol - N.M.S. Received instr from Bde, stating that after relief, Bn will now occupy 24 Aust Inf Bn area 645941 TOROKINA 1 in to 1 ml.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 28 Apr 45 To 30 Apr 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	28 Apr 45		After a short address by the C.O., first leave draft of 1 offr (Lt Whybird) 59 ORs departed "B-Ech" for BLP No. 11 and thence moved by barge to NG DD TOROKINA to await tpt to Australia.	
	29 Apr 45		D Coy patrol of 1 offr 8 ORs from PURIATA R mouth S-E along coast, crossed lagoon at 873409 and searched area vic 873412 - N.M.S. A Coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs through DARARA-MARIGA-KONGARA-MAKAKU-MABIS returned 1600 hrs - N.M.S. D Coy patrol of 1 NCO 6 ORs from ROBERT'S X-ING EAST to 852455, NORTH to 852473, then N-W to MCKINNA BR, returned along EAST bank PURIATA R. - N.M.S. Padre Smith (Senior Chaplain 3 Aust Div) held service this HQ p.m.	
	30 Apr 45		A Coy patrol of 1 NCO 6 ORs from MCKINNA BR along NORTH bank PURIATA R to 847484, N-E to CAMERONS X-ING, then WEST to DARARA road - N.M.S. D Coy patrol of 1 offr 6 ORs from 860477 SOUTH through scrub to 860458, then WEST along track to ROBERT'S X-ING - N.M.S. After a short address by the C.O., second leave draft of 2 offr (Capt Hutchinson, Lt Scott-Toms) 66 ORs departed for NGDD TOROKINA.	<i>Patrol and disposition map covering period 29-30 Apr 45 att 95 appx 13.</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 30 Apr 45 To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	30 Apr 45		<p>Summary of Infm from patrols in Bn area of responsibility EAST of PURIATA R - <u>Coastal sector</u> from PURIATA R mouth S-E along coast to 855424 and along N-E edge of lagoon to 864418, numerous attempts have been made to patrol inland. But in each case swamps proved impenetrable. No tracks could be found. From this point S-E to AITARA R mouth, the area inland from a narrow coastal fringe, continues to be of the same swampy nature.</p> <p><u>Inland Sector</u> - area bounded by PURIATA R on NORTH and WEST, 87 grid on EAST, and SOUTH to 45 grid, is swampy but NOT impenetrable. SOUTH of 45 grid becomes waist deep swamp.</p> <p><u>Tracks</u> - from 869458 a track runs SOUTH to 869446 S-E to 864445, then N-W to 863447. Enemy had apparently intended to construct a secret track through this area, as only the lower growth had been cut, making it necessary to stoop below overhead growth and vines in many places. The idea of cutting this route seems to have been abandoned when waist deep swamp was encountered at 863447. In sq 8745 there is a network of faint tracks and other signs of temporary enemy occupation. These tracks appear to have been made when enemy parties bivouacked a few hundred yards on either side of main track prior to attacks on 25 Bn.</p>	<p><i>Adj't's personal and action diary att as appx 1A.</i></p>

[Handwritten Signature]

LIST OF CAPTURED EQUIPMENT FROM 18 JAN - 8 APR

Appx: 1

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
APR 45.

18 Jan 45 1 MEJI type 38 rifle - 1 haversack.
19 Jan 1 LMG type 96 - 6 rifles type 38 - 1 sword - documents
and personal effects.
20 Jan 1 rifle type 38 - 1 leather belt - 1 cloth cap - 2 gren-
ades and 6 ballistite cartridges.
23 Jan Leather map case and documents.
24 Jan Bayonet - 1 haversack containing badges of rank or
decorations - amm dump incl 80/90 75 mm shells.
25 Jan 1 rifle type 38 - documents.
29 Jan 1 LMG type 96 (mag) - 1 rifle - dixies - 27 x .256 rds
31 Jan 2 rifles - bayonets - personal effects.
50 x 75 mm shells - spare gun parts (sights pressure
dials) handspikes - tools - 3 jungle carts and spare
parts - 2 pack saddles - rifle type 38 and 2 American
M3 Garrands - 3 American SCR 536 sets.
1 Feb 75 mm gun breech block crankhandle extractor.
3 Feb Blankets - khaki clothing - dixies - rifle - grenades
and documents.
5 Feb 2 rimless cartridges DEN 42 - papers or documents.
6 Feb 75 mm gun less barrel marked 41 BA No 10396 52K,
4 1/2 x 75 mm shells.
7 Feb 75 mm gun barrel - diary and notes.
8 Feb Invasion money - 3 rolls galvanised sig wire - documents
13 Feb Large quantity documents and map - 1 HMG - 13 swords
3 pistols - 10 rifles - 1 LMG type 96 - personal effects
medical supplies.
18 Feb Quantity documents - field telephone.
21 Feb 4 swords - 6 packs - 3 rifles and .256 rds - clothing
documents - 1 LMG - personal effects.
24 Feb Documents.
25 Feb Documents - med eqpt - sterilizer eqpt - tools -
wireless eqpt.
27 Feb Blanket - haversack - 90 x .256 rds - documents and maps
21 timbers - bundles of horse shoes.
2 Mar 1 LMG - 8 rifles - 1 Amer. Rifle - documents and maps
3 Mar Amer Johnson auto rifle - arty instruments - tripods -
extension drills.
6 Mar 1 fifle - 1 sword.
7 Mar 1 rifle - .256 rounds - 1 type 93 land mine. 2 x 108
Amer sets - box of valves.
14 Mar 10 packs field rations clothing.
23 Mar 9 packs containing explosive rations and clothing -
1 LMG mag - 3 rifles - 3 LMG Mags.
30 Mar 1 LMG type 96 - 5 grenades.
8 Apr 1 haversack with 250 rds .30 amm US - 85 rds .256 rds
10 grenades one BAR Mag - 6 rifles - atebirin and bandages

Lt
Int Officer 61 Aust Inf Bn

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
		OP	QVR3

Appx. 2

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM	Originator	Date—Time of Origin	Office Date Stamp
(A) 7 Bde		130105L	

TO	For Action	Message Instructions
9 Bn 25 Bn 61 Bn B Sqn 2/4 Armd Regt	1 pl 5 Fd Coy A Coy NGIB	GR

(w) For Information (INFO.)	355
15 Bde 2 Fd Regt 11 Fd Amb	

ORIGINATOR'S No.

GO 147 SECRET 7 Bde 0010
 INFMN inter bde bdy line PURIATA
 RIVER incl 7 Bde INTENTION 7 Bde
 will be relieved by 15 Bde METHOD
 ONE 24 Bn is to occupy location
 BUIN RD fwd of 25 Bn with fwd coy
 vicinity SHINRU CK 884466 25 Bn
 will provide covering force fwd
 SHINRU CREEK during occupation
 by 24 Bn 7 tp B Sqn 2/4 Armd
 Regt with 1 sec 1 pl 5 Fd Coy and
 bulldozer will accompany any
 leading coy 24 Bn 58/59 Bn will
 relieve 25 Bn commencing 130800L
 with coy localities SLATERS KNOLL
 and present posn A and D coys
 878476 Elements 25 Bn at these
 localities will NOT vacate areas
 until occupation 24 Bn localities
 completed Bn will

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		
Signed			Time Cleared		

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

For Action

page 2

TO

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions

GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

Commence move NOT before
130800L to MAWARAKA to relieve
57/60 Bn staging on coast at TOKO
in area to be advised later @ TWO
@ 61 Bn less A and B Coys will
prepare move 14 apr to following
localities @ Bn less 4 coys area
833468 One coy ANGAU compound
PURIATA one coy div maintenance
area @ A and B Coys remain present
locations @ Tasks to be notified
later @ THREE @ Time completion
all above moves will be signalled
to this HQ @ FOUR @ 9 Bn will
continue present role and will
be relieved on date to be
advised @ FIVE @ Following tps
pass to comd 15 Bde as follows @
7tp B sqn 2/4 armd regt and one
sec 1 pl 5 Fd Coy at 130800L @

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		
Time Cleared		

Signed

Signed

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

For Action

TO

page 3

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions

GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

8 and 9 tps B SqW A Coy NGIB less
1 pl 57d Coy less one sec 14 apr
time to be advised @ my GO 144 of
12 apr is cancelled @ ADM @ 25 B W @
move pers 13 apr by 3 ton truck
loaded dropping ground to RV
833468 thence to new area later
in day @ Details subsequent moves
later @ Stores by 8 jeeps and trailers
reporting ben HQ 130800L @ One
days rations normal SAA on man
@ Remainder amm rations pol
will be handed over to 58/59 ben @
61 Bw move complete with all stores
rations amm pol @ INTERCOMM @ 25
Bw will leave sig lines @ 61 Bw
will recover sig lines @ ACK

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		
0900	F	WPG
Time Cleared		

Signed

Signed

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

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

Appx: 11 3

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) <i>7Bde</i>	Originator	Date—Time of Origin <i>131015L</i>	Office Date Stamp <i>APR 14</i>
For Action			
TO <i>25Bn 61Bn</i>	(w) For Information (INFO.)	Message Instructions	GR <i>92</i>

ORIGINATOR'S No.

GO 148 @ Confidential @ Confirmation verbal instruction @ 7Bde @ 00. ~~10~~ @ 25Bn will now move to prepared staging area MOTUPENA POINT 707582 back loading and Bn as stated in 00 @ 61Bn will now occupy following localities with tasks shown @ Bn less four coys 833468 @ one coy vicinity MCKINNA Bridge protect ANGAU compound MCKINNA BR and bde HQ @ two coys dist maint area protect and provide working parties dist maint area assist protection U Hy Bty by daily patrol EAST of bty to mouth purata river @ one coy 792478 for rd constn lagoon area

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>1040</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>WPG</i>
Signed	Signed		Time Cleared		

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
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Appx. 4
11

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) 61 Bn.	Originator	Date—Time of Origin 131140L	Office Date Stamp
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For Action

APRIL

TO HQ A B C D Coys Beach (w) For Information (INFO.)	Message Instructions	GR-
--	----------------------	-----

ORIGINATOR'S No.

A241 SECRET (1) 61 bn op units no two (1)
 INTENTION (1) 61 bn will relieve sub units of 15 bde
 on 14 apr (1) METHOD (1) ONE (1) HQ gp less ration
 staff plus pm pl will move to 833ub8 (1) ration staff
 move to Beach (1) All tps from HQ coy will move and
 remain with present coys (1) pm pl will move from
 Beach to 833ub8 (1) TWO (1) A coy will move to 792ub78
 for ad const lagoon area (1) THREE (1) B coy remain
 vicinity MCKINNA BR with protective responsibility one
 pl ANGAU compound one pl MCKINNA BR one pl
 Bde HQ new area (1) FOUR (1) C and D coys move to
 div maint area protect and provide working parties
 div maint area and assist protection U by ltr
 by daily patrols EAST of ltr 15 MONIE PURIATA B (1)
 FIVE (1) A coy comd will receive new area pm 13 apr be
 prepared to move less by stores at 140900L (1) SIX (1)
 B coy comd liaise direct with ANGAU pm 13 apr make
 receive and report proposed plan to CO NOT later than
 12130L (1) pl for prot bde HQ will be subject of further
 direction [bde HQ propose move 15 apr] (1) pl comd
 responsible report CAPT ASIA ^{bdeHQ} coord def (1) SEVEN (1)
 C and D coy comds report BMO jeeps will be at respective
 HQ at 131300h and receive parties will move direct to
 bde HQ (1) EIGHT (1) times for mov and mode of ltr will
 be advised later (1) ADM (1) all stores under pol
 will be moved with coys (1) nine

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		
1147		
Time Cleared		

Signed

[Signature]

Signed

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

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

15 / 45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 14 / 4 / 1945 . 61 AUST INF BN (Unit)

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

Appx. 5

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

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
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	1	-	-	*					
1	1	-	2	*					
1	1	-	8	Lieut.-Colonels					
-	-	2	22	Majors	AAMC	1	-	-	-
				Captains					
				Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
3	3	2	32			1	-	-	-

DETAIL	A	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.	32	1									33
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

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

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

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

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX5172	Maj	DEXTER W.R.	11 Fd Amb MDS	7/4/45	Neuritis neck.
	(T/Et-Col)				
QX48864	Capt	HOBBS J.J.S.	LHQ Tac School	9/4/45	Not attend Course No 17 B Wing.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 61 AUST INF BN (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. 14 / 4 / 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 14 / 4 / 1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

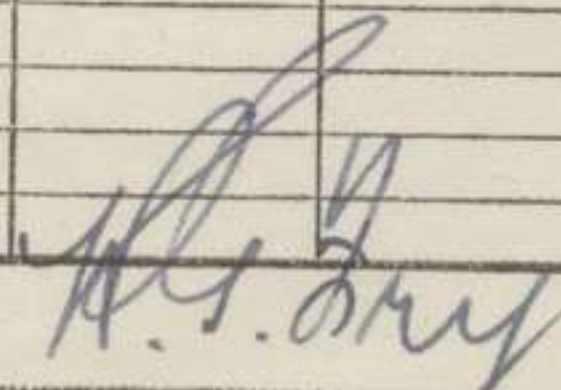
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Maj (T/Lt-Cd)	VX5172	DEXTER	W.R.	CO	No	Evac 11 Fd Amb	7/4/45
Maj	NX101030	PHILLIPS	G.W.		No	Det Area Comd TOKO	4/4/45
Maj	QX36035	TWENLOW	E.McK.	OC HQ	Yes		
Cap t	QX36031	LAWSON	A.N.	OC A	"		
"	QX40906	HUTCHINSON	T.C.	OC B	"		
"	VX29956	CAIRNS	N.	OC C	"		
"	QX36029	RUDDER	W.L.	QM	"		
"	QX48862	STANLEY	L.W.	OC D	"		
"	QX36365	PATERSON	J.S.	2IC D	"		
"	QX48865	GOWLAND	R.E.	2IC C	"		
"	SX381	FORWARD	G.O.	Adj t	"		
"	QX48864	HOBBS	J.J.S.		No	LHQ Tac School No 17 Course.	9/4/45
Lt	QX36030	EMMETT	H.E.	HQ Coy	Yes		
"	QX51718	TOMLINSON	C.B.		"		
"	QX19174	FORD	R.L.	HQ Coy	"		
"	NX141459	CUMMINS	R.P.	TO	"		
"	QX56380	IRVINE	W.G.	IO	"		
"	QX51719	BRINKLEY	F.R.	HQ Coy	"		
"	QX35526	HENDERSON	P.W.	A Coy	"		
"	QX53203	WHITTAKER	J.N.	A "	"		
"	QX51720	CLARKSON	A.G.	D "	"		
"	QX55054	WATTS	A.A.	B "	"		
"	QX50122	McINTYRE	D.C.C.	C "	"		
"	QX61121	WHITE	J.J.	Sig O	"		
"	QX60395	JAMES	W.C.	HQ Coy	"		
"	NX115828	PLUMMER	R.T.V.	C Coy	"		
"	NX116117	McKELLAR	D.H.	D "	"		
"	QX59984	HOOK	D.W.	A/Adj t	"		
"	QX62058	WHYBIRD	J.G.	B Coy	"		
"	SX21749	RUSSACK	H.W.	D Coy	"		
"	QX38891	DAWES	C.W.	D "	"		
"	QX34104	SLOAN	O.M.		"		
"	VX28129	GIBSON	J.M.	B "	"		
"	SX22866	SCOTT-TOMS	W.H.	HQ "	"		
Cap t	NX200122	CLIFTON-SMITH G.		RMO	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.
Maj	VX117038	FRY W.G.	9 Bn	8.4.45	Adm Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn

14/4/45

Date of Despatch



Maj Lt-Col

Signature of Commander
Adm Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn.

ART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 14 / 6 / 1945.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Range-takers	4	4	
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless				Batmen	35	35		Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery				Gen Duty	3	3		Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine				Hyg Duty	4	4		Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	1	1		LMG Rifle	397	245	152	Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers		1		Mortar Nos	73	71	2	Radiographers				Stevadores			
Computers				MMG Nos	22	22		Riggers				Stokers, Staz, Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II				Sawyers				Tech Sjt	1	1	
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	26	28		Storemen, Technical	3	4	
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters	incl 4	opls		Tailors	2	2	1 Sjt
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Textile Refitters			1 Lt
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's Asst.				Well Borers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Bellmachers				Wheelers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters	6	5	1	Winchman				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman				Whitesmiths			incl 3 opl
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners				WKA Nos	19	16	3
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics				Orderlies	32	32		Water Duty	2	2	
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)				Pioneers	32	25	9	RSM	1	2	
Fitters				Driver-Operator				Pro Sjt	1	1		RQMS	1	1	
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers				Storeman	6	6		CSM	5	5	
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians				S. Bearers	21	20	1	COMS	5	6	
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)				Regt Police	6	6		Sjts	25	25	2
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III					769	612	172
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers	1	1		Chiropodist	1	1	
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	12	12		Hyg Inspr	1	1	
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply				Med Ord	2	2	
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				AAOC			
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	10	10		Coach Trimmers				Shoemaker	1	1	
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners	incl 1	sjt		Concretors				Postal Sjt	1	1	
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman	2	Cpls		Cooks				Pay Clerks	2	2	
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals	1	1		AACC			
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, M.T.	11	9	2	Caterer	1	1	
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics		9		Cooks	23	25	
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tpin. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hand's, I.C.					32	34	
Photewriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	1					
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	1	2	-	CARRIED FORWARD	551	397	155	CARRIED FORWARD	701	546	167	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	801	646	172

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.E. 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.

14/4/45

Date of Despatch

Ma J
 Signature of Commander
 Adm Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn.

Warshaw
Appx 7

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

Maj. R. WEPPNER

ADM COMD 61 AUST INF BN

Copy No
Serial No 8/45
Nos 56 - 59

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
21 APR 45

563. WASHING OF ISSUE CLOTHING.

Due to the short supply of all raw materials, it is necessary that the maximum life be obtained from all items of clothing on issue to AMF personnel.

Incorrect methods of washing, exposure to strong sunlight, excessive sweating and using too much of certain soap powders, may seriously affect the dyes and weaken the fibre of clothing material. Failure to remove completely all soap and perspiration by thoroughly rinsing after washing, is one of the reasons for the breakdown of fabrics.

Neglect to pay due attention to regular and efficient washing of garments has been responsible for many cases of dermatitis. Observance of the following instructions will assist in decreasing the incidence of all skin complaints.

Washing flannels and woollens.

- (a) Worsted shirts, socks, woollen drawers, etc should be washed in lukewarm water and never in boiling or hot water as this shrinks the material. A Tablespoonful of ammonia added to every two gallons of water will remove grease and perspiration stains;
- (b) Good quality yellow soap only should be used, and, after washing, the garments should be well rinsed in clean, tepid water and stretched by hand before drying.

Washing of cottons.

- (a) If cotton garments are boiled, the washing compound or soap soap will be added to the water prior to putting in the garments to be washed;
- (b) If washing compounds, which are usually sold in packets under well-known brands and frequently known as soap powders, are used, not more than one tablespoon of the compound will be added to each gallon of water to be boiled;
- (c) If ordinary soap is used, 1-oz (approx a 1-in cube) should be added to each gallon of water to be boiled;
- (d) It is most important that, after washing, the garments are thoroughly rinsed to remove all trace of soap.

It is realised that washing facilities and an adequate supply of water are not always available. Nevertheless, the hints and instructions contained in this order will be carried out whenever possible, especially in regard to rinsing thoroughly after washing. (GRO 103/45)

E7. SALUTING.

Normal compliments will be paid at all times. This order may be waived at Coy Comds' discretion during operations.

58. REGT TRUST A/C AUDITORS.

A panel of the following officers :-

CAPT	J. S.	PATERSON
Lt	D. H.	McKELLAR
Lt	A. C.	WATTS
Lt	N. E.	BALDWIN

have been appointed ~~members~~ of the Regt Trust Fund.

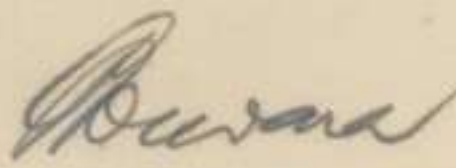
59. GIFT PARCELS FOR UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSEES - DUTY FREE CONCESSION

The conditions of the concession as announced in Routine Orders Serial No 15/44 of 27 Nov 44 are hereby cancelled.

The following are the conditions applicable as from 6 Apr 45:-

- (a) The usual postage rates are payable.
- (b) Parcels must not weight more than 5 lbs each and must not include -
 - i. any drinkable spirits;
 - ii. more than $\frac{1}{2}$ lb weight of tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes (50 cigars or 200 cigarettes) or any tobacco goods marked "H.M. Ships only";
 - iii. more than $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of scent;
 - iv. more than 2 lbs of any one foodstuff.
- (c) The maximum value of the contents of parcels which can be sent by one person in any one year is £12, and this value may be made up as follows :-
 - i. one parcel of £12 value; or
 - ii. two or more parcels up to a maximum of six parcels aggregating £12 value.
- (d) Special Customs Declarations (AFs W5192) must be affixed to all parcels in order to secure the duty free concession. These declarations, where not already in possession of units, are obtainable through normal stationery channels.
- (e) Issues to personnel will be under unit arrangements on the basis of a maximum of six AFs W5192 per year to any one sender.
- (f) Each Customs declaration represents a permissible value of £2 within the parcel to which it is attached.
- (g) Where the value of the contents of any one parcel exceeds £2, a further declaration for each additional £2 (or fraction thereof) up to the maximum of £12 must be attached.
- (h) Gifts under this concession arrangement may also be forwarded by letter post. In such cases normal letter postage rates will be payable and, if the sender so desires, the article may be tendered for transmission by registered post. The same conditions for parcels applies to letters, with the exception that the maximum weight for letters ($4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs) will apply.

It is stressed that full duty will be levied in the United Kingdom (for collection from the addressees) in respect of the contents of parcels and packets which infringe the restrictions contained in sub-sec b. In addition to these duty charges, the contents of any parcel or packet not bearing a customs declaration received in the UK are subject to purchase tax amounting in many cases to 100 per cent of the value of such contents.


Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION : LIST 'A'

NOTICES

The following sentences by Courts Martial and/or summary award are published for information -

- (a) Failure to use Mosquito Net.
 - One Sjt - 32 Aust Hy AA Bty - Severely Reprimanded and Fined £5.
 - One Pte - HQ 2 Aust Corps - Fined £5 and forfeit 28 days pay.
- (B) Failure to take atebirin.
 - One Pte - B Aust Corps Sigs - Fined £5 and forfeit 28 days pay.
- (c) Failure to attend Atebrin Parade.
 - One WOII - HQ 2 Aust Corps - Reprimanded.

.....

The conditions of the concession as announced in Notice Order No 1044 of 27 Nov 1944 have been cancelled.

- (a) The usual postage rates are payable.
- (b) Parcels must not weigh more than 5 lbs each and must not include -

- i. any drinkable spirits;
- ii. more than 1 lb weight of tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes (50 cigars or 200 cigarettes) or any tobacco for making "K.M. Cigarettes";
- iii. more than 1 pint of beer;
- iv. more than 2 lbs of soap.

NOTICES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA TO AUSTRALIAN TROOPS.

On the recent visit to New Guinea and the Solomons area of the Acting Minister for the Army (Senator the Hon J.M. Fraser) he conveyed the following message from the Prime Minister of Australia:-

"The Australian Government and people have ever had cause to be proud of their fighting forces. In this war new names have been emblazoned on the banners of Australian units, to join those made sacred in our memory in 1914-18.

"The stage through which the Pacific War is now passing finds such places as New Guinea, New Britain, Bougainville and the Solomons having the strongest impact on our minds and on our hearts. Our thoughts are constantly with you.

"Your Government knows the obstacles in your path - a tenacious and ferocious enemy and shocking terrain.

"The Acting Minister of the Army (Sen. Fraser) comes to you at my request to ensure that what can be done will be done. I ask that you do not hesitate to tell him fully what he should know.

"That God will watch over you and protect you is the hope and prayer of Australia."

[Handwritten signature]

DISTRIBUTION: 1000

NOTICES

The following sentences by Courts Martial and/or summary courts-martial are published for information -

- (a) Failure to use Messing to 1st Lt - 100 days
- (b) Failure to use Messing to 1st Lt - 100 days
- (c) Failure to use Messing to 1st Lt - 100 days

War Day

Appx. 8

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by

Maj R. WEPPNER

ADM COMD 61 AUST INF BN

Copy No 13.....
Serial No 8/45
Nos 60 - 62

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
25 Apr 1945

60. SPEED LIMIT

All vehicles proceeding along the road leading from LARUMA RD to ANZAC BEACH will observe a speed limit of 10 mph.

61. MOTHER'S DAY 13 MAY 45 - GREETINGS TELEGRAMS.

To ensure delivery to addressees before 13 May 45 Mother's Day Greetings Telegrams should be lodged at FPOs not later than 5 MAY 45.

62. LOSS OF MAILS.

All Air Mail, surface letter mail, and registered despatched on 17 Apr 45 by Aust Base Post Office BOUGAINVILLE to NEW GUINEA and the Mainland was lost in transit between BOUGAINVILLE and FINCSCHHA FEN.

Details of postings of airmail and first class mail matter through the various offices which may be regarded as lost are as follows :

<u>Office</u>	<u>Postings Included</u>
FPO 068 att 7 Aust Inf Bde	between 1000 hrs 15 Apr & 1000 hrs 16 Apr.

Senders of postal notes included in either registered or unregistered mail lost will be entitled to be issued with duplicate postal notes after a period of six months upon payment of a fee equal to the poundage rates.

Applications for duplicate postal notes should be made to the Deputy Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Brisbane, either direct or through the Formation Postal Officer, giving the following particulars.

- i. No, Rank, Name and Unit of sender,
- ii. FPO and date of purchase.
- iii. No and value of each postal note.
- iv. Statements from the payees affirming non-receipt of the postal notes.
- v. Postage stamps to the value of the poundage of the postal notes should be pinned to the application.

G. J. ... Capt.
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION : LIST 'A'

NOTICE

Students who intend to sit for 1945 examination in subjects taken through Victorian Education Department correspondence School, Fitzroy Melbourne, must have applications lodged with the School on or before 30 Apr.

Intending candidates should contact Education Officer at once.

Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

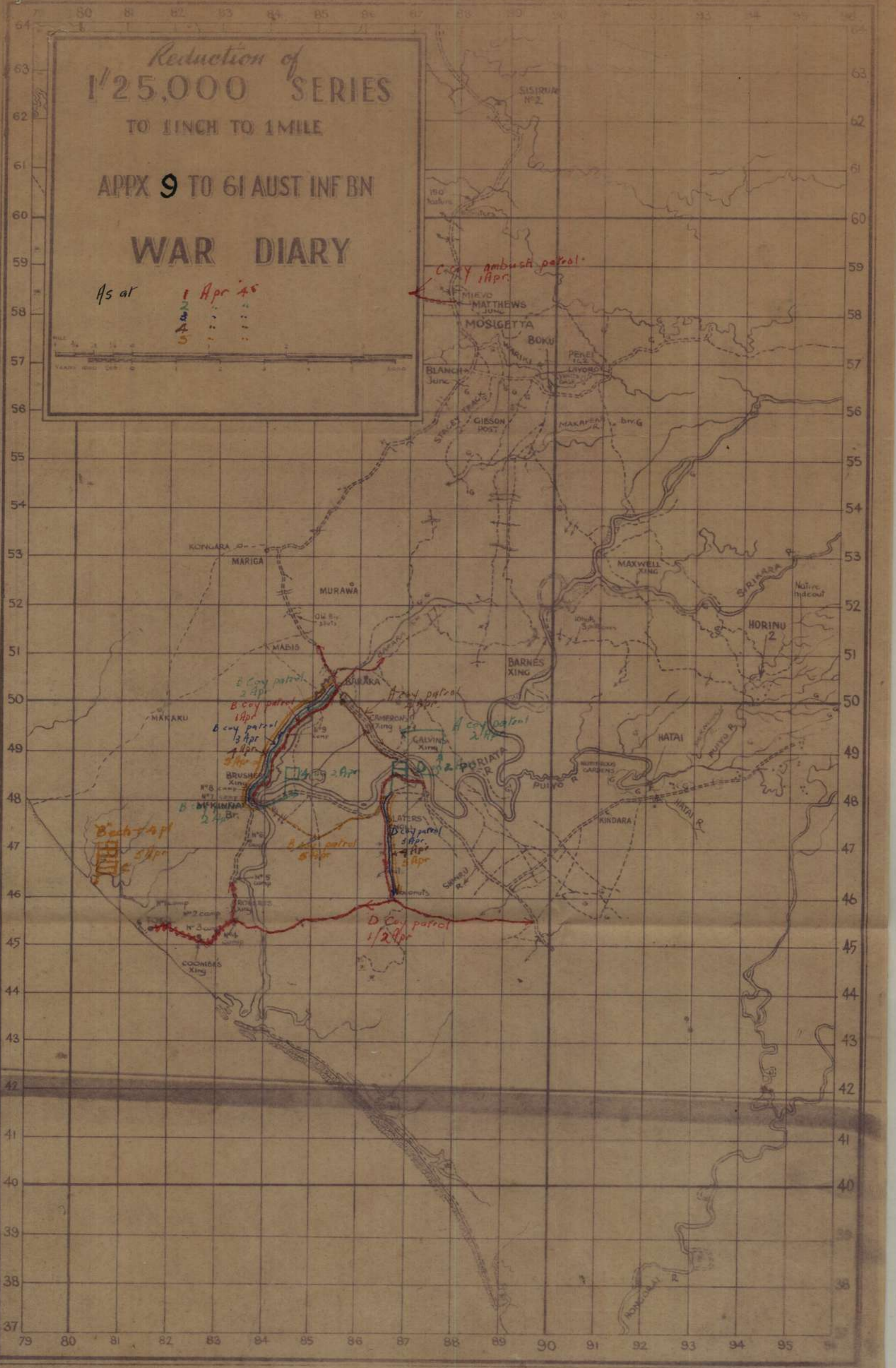
TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 9 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

As at

1 Apr '45
2 Apr '45
3 Apr '45
4 Apr '45
5 Apr '45



Reduction of
1:25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

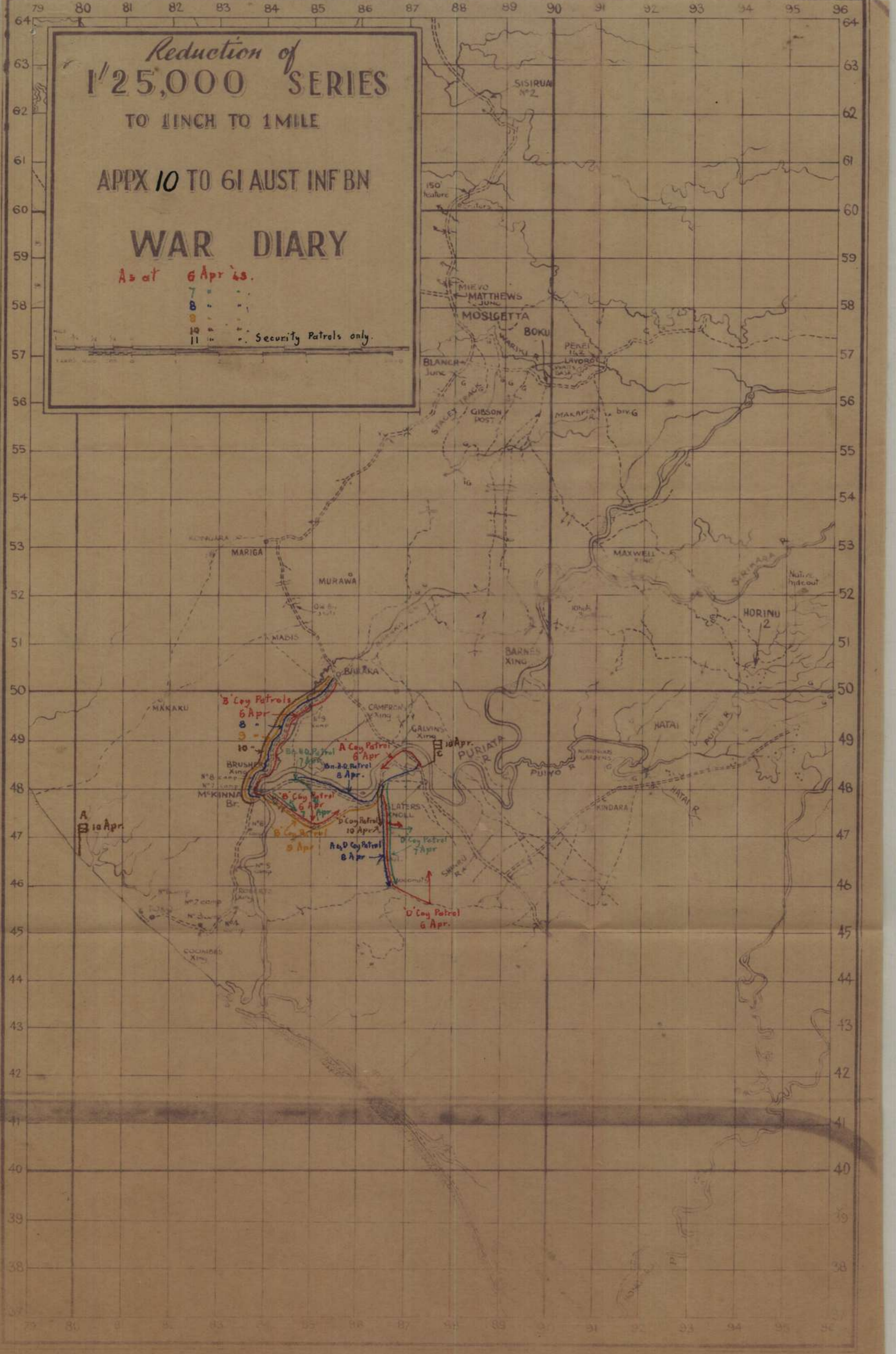
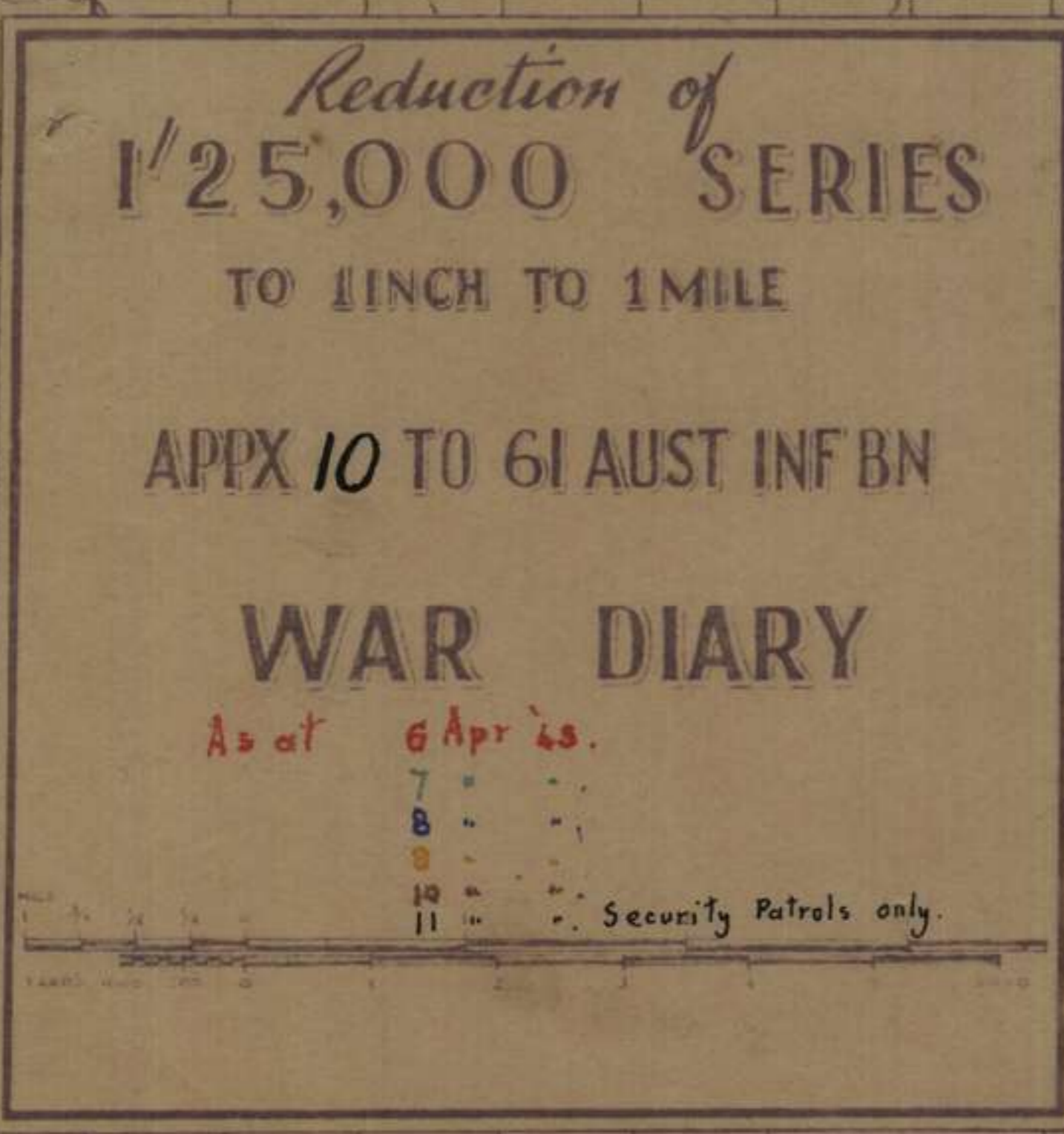
APPX 10 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

As at 6 Apr 43.

7	•	•	•	•
8	•	•	•	•
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11	•	•	•	•

• Security Patrols only.



Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX II TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

12 to 13 Apr 45 Security patrols only

As at:

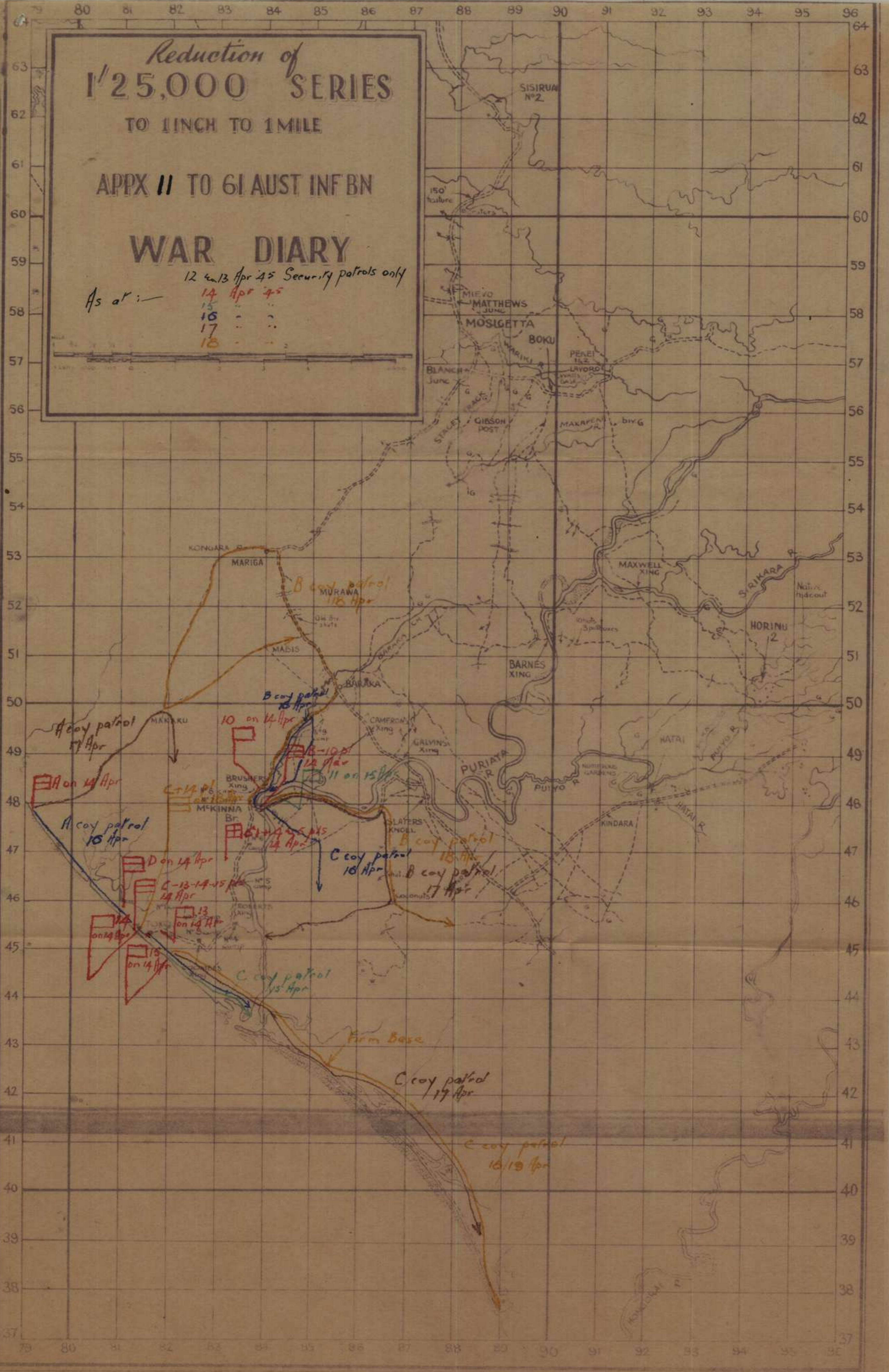
14 Apr 45

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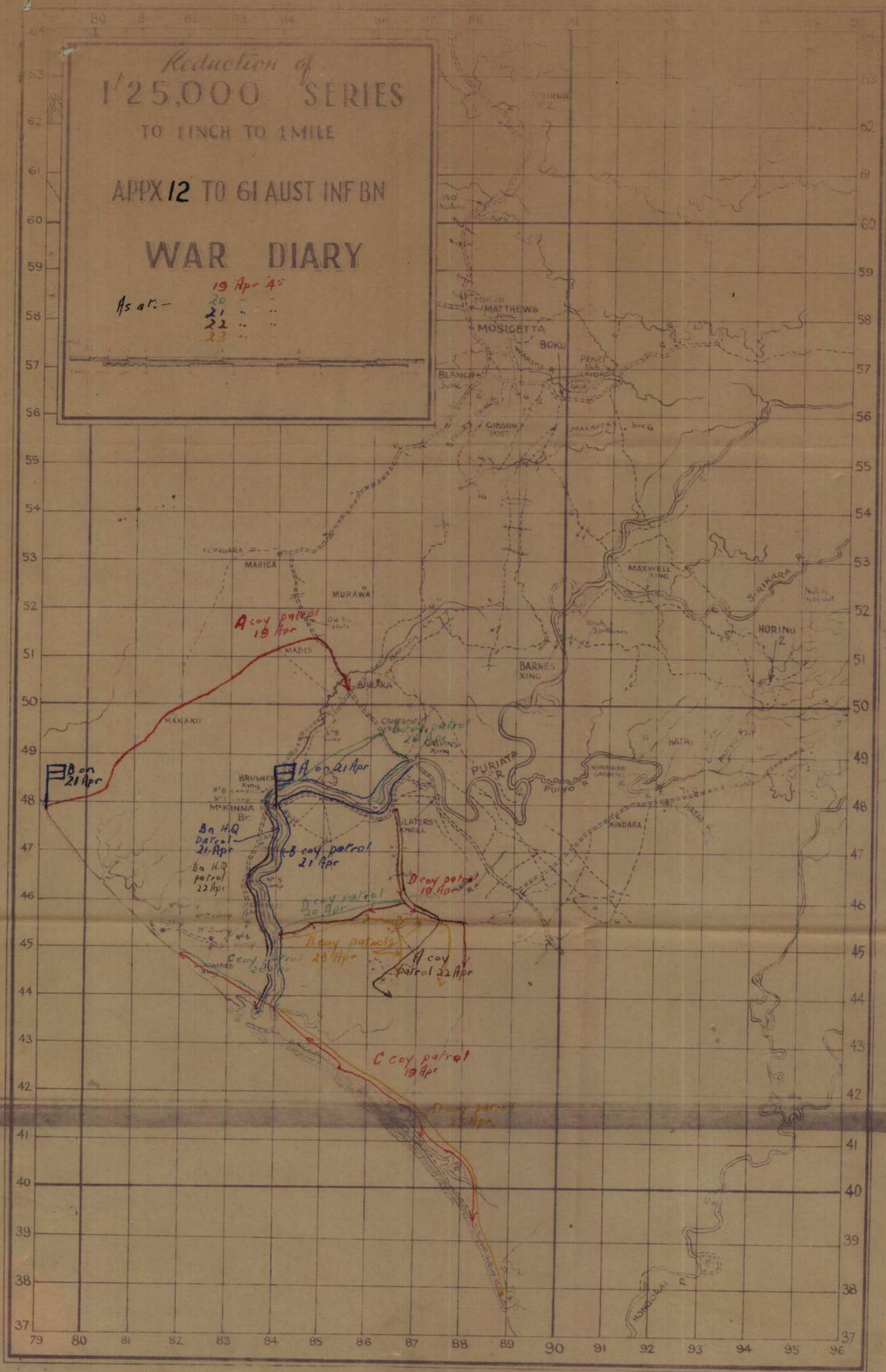
Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 12 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

As at: -
19 Apr 45
20
21
22
23



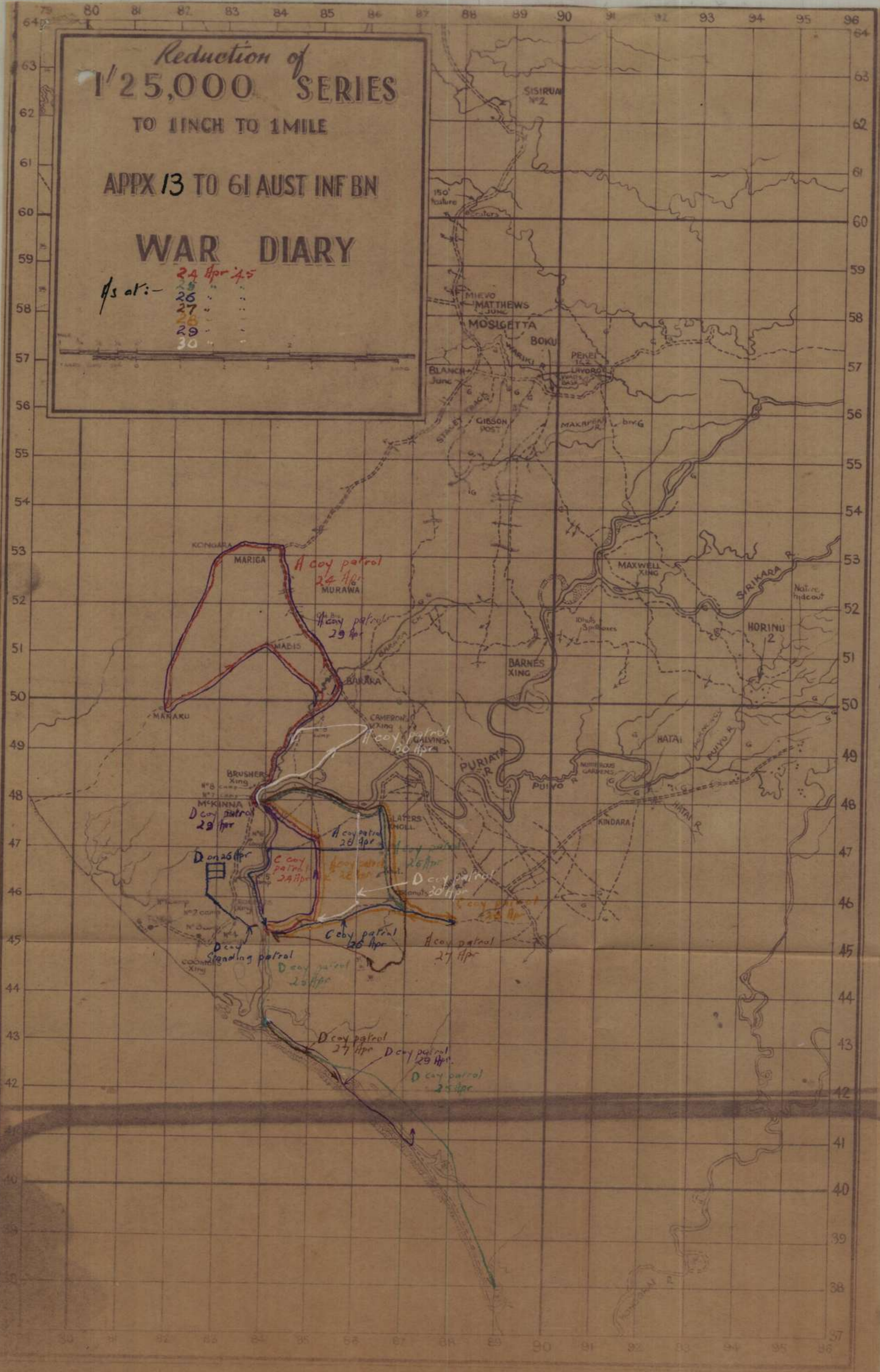
Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

TO 1 INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 13 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

As at:-
24 Apr 45
25
26
27
28
29
30



ADJUTANT'S DIARY

APRIL 1945

Appx. 14.

- Apr 1. A Coy found another Jap killed on 30 Mar. Patrol from 13 pl set ambush along MAWARAKA TRACK 1000 yds WEST of MEIVO. Two enemy approached - 1 killed, 1 wounded. Whilst examining body of dead Japs, one of our sentries (Pte Ward A.E.) was shot and killed. Escort 1 NCO 10 ORs with sig party to BARARA. 16 pl (Lt Russack) moved out S-E from 870486 in search of C Coy 25 Bn. Lt Sloan sent back to B-Ech. Patrol 12 pl (Lt. Watts) to BARARA, 1000 yds towards MARIGA and 1000 yds forwards BARNES X-ING found sig wire to this x-ing badly cut about. Last 3 days fighting 25 Bn with tanks - Cas own 8 killed, 58 wounded - Enemy 138 counted killed.
- Apr 2. 16 pl (Lt Russack) returned via ROBERT'S X-ING with C Coy 25 Bn - killed 2 Japs and found 5 dead. D Coy assembled at 865482. Wiring completed round HQ Group. Small party enemy HQ Group area 1645 hrs wounding sentry (Pte Brosnan). 7 pl patrol (Lt Henderson) searched area S-E of BARARA -N.M.S. 10 pl patrol (Lt Gibson) to BARARA - N.M.S. C.O. visited D, A Coy., and BHQ 25 Bn. Several orderly rooms held at BnHQ. Lt-Gen Savige and Brig Field called and interviewed C.O. and Adjt at 1330 hrs.
- Apr 3. Enemy guns (75 mm) shelled 500 yds west A Coy area at GALVIN'S X-ING 0530 hrs - 24 rds. Patrol A Coy crossed PURIATA R and were fired on 100 yds NORTH of river. Patrol did not investigate. Enemy guns shelled vicinity A Coy 1900 hrs - 59 rds - 2 Armd pers wounded. Lt-Col Farg - C.O. 3 Div Sigs visited BnHQ. Maj Twemlow returned from hospital.
- Apr 4. Patrol A Coy moved up left of track from GALVIN'S X-ING to BARARA and returned right of track - N.M.S. B Coy escort patrol to BARARA - N.M.S. C Coy now assembled at MAWARAKA with 5 pl. A Tp 2/4 Armd ~~Regt~~ Regt harboured for night with B Coy. B-Ech moving along beach EAST of lagoon. Adjt visited A & D Coys and 25 BnHQ. Maj Phillips B2 and appointed Area Comd TOKO.
- Apr 5. 25 Bn HQ & Slater's Knoll later other coys attacked early morning. A Coy 61 Bn just brushed by attack. B Coy escort patrol to BARARA - N.M.S. C Coy and 5 pl arrived at TOKO and took up posn along side B-Ech. Enemy arty shelled SOUTH-EAST of 4 Bty - no cas - 14 rds. Comp. pl A Coy and *sp/arms* moved fwd with tanks through 25 BnHQ as protection - 16 Japs killed. Final count 25 Bn action - 321 Japs buried - 3 Jukis and 41 LMGs captured. Believed Col Mudo & Col Kwana killed in action.
- Apr 6. Patrol 16 pl (Lt Russack) moved SOUTH from D Coy to COCOANUTS AREA - N.M.S. Lateral tracks investigated.

B Coy escort patrol to BARARA - N.M.S.

Enemy arty shelled GALVIN'S X-ING area and between A & D Coys and between D Coy and 4 Bty cutting sig line - 69 rds - no cas.

Secret L/T to A, D, and B Coys laid.

GOC 3 Div and Brig Field called.

Apr 7. Jeep train ambushed 200 yds EAST HQ Group by small party of Japs - no cas. Patrols investigated - N.M.S.

Two coys 58/59 moved through to GALVIN'S X-ING.

Lt-Col Blair visited this HQ. C.O. ordered to and left for hospital. Bde Comd called.

Maj Twemlow adm comd.

Recce patrol (Lt Dawes) moved SOUTH to cocoanuts, contacted enemy party estimated 30 and withdrew.

Grenade thrown at Y.M.C.A. Jeep 200 yds WEST D Coy - no cas.

Apr 8. Maj W. Fry adm comd from 1000 hrs.

HQ Group security patrol returning from D Coy contacted small party of enemy 200 yds EAST of 4 Bty. Killed 3 Japs. Further patrol HQ Group inspecting area killed 2 more Japs. 3 rifles, 10 grenades, 400 rds captured (some B.A.R.) rds. One Jap a 2nd Lt.

Patrol 16 pl (Lt McKellar) and 7 pl (Lt Henderson) moved SOUTH from D Coy to COCOANUTS area 867460 - country under water-N.M.S.

Secret L/T to 4 Bty laid.

WO1 Baldwin to pl comd C Coy.

Apr 9. BnHQ changes - Maj Twemlow 2 i/c, Capt Forward A/Adjt - Capt Hobbs departed for LHQ Tac School - Capt Stanley to O.C. D Coy. ADMS (Col Wallace), Lt-Col Blair, and Maj Durbridge called p.m.

Patrols mainly security. Ambush set by D Coy on track 400 yds SOUTH of coy posn - N.M.S.

Maj Fry visited A & D Coys.

Lt Brinkley to Asst QM and i/c B-Ech beach area.

Apr 10. A & C Coys change posns. A Coy to beach.

Bde Comd visited C.O. and A Coy.

DAD Hyg (Maj Exton) and Bde Hyg O called.

C.O. visited B Coy p.m.

Security patrols only - N.M.S.

Lts Tomlinson and Sloan to LOB Group.

Apr 11. C.O. visited C Coy, 25 Bn and D Coy with I.O.A Coy patrol p.m.

Lt Plummer accompanied patrol to 25 Bn to SHINRU ck. N.M.S.

Two members FSS reported for duty with Bn for duration of ops.

C.O. Called on Bde Comd p.m.

A Coy take over from C Coy 57/60 Bn on road construction.

Recce parties 15 Bde will report approx 120900L.

- Apr 12. Recce parties 15 Bde did NOT arrive.
A/BM (Maj Strom) and new B.M. (Maj McNamara) called on C.O. p.m. and gave him general picture of relief.
Bn will take over from 24 Bn.
- Apr 13. 7 Bde O.O. No. 10. 61 Bn will take over 24 Bn area commencing 14 Apr. C & D Coys will move, 14 Apr. A & B Coys remain - tasks later. 61 Bn *Op Instr No 2 issued*
Bde Comd called a.m. C.O. visited B, C, D Coys a.m.
Recces made of new areas by Bn parties p.m.
- Apr 14. Bn moved to new locations.
C.O. visited A, C, D Coys in new area p.m.
LO1, BM (L) (Capt Kelly) and Lt Freeman of Mil History Sec visited BnHQ p.m.
- Apr 15. C.O. visited B Coy a.m. 11 pl moved to protect Bde HQ.
Received 7 Bde Op Instns No. 6 ref patrols responsibility.
Maj Fry promoted Lt-Col and to Comd 47 Bn.
Bde Comd called on C.O. p.m.
Maj Weppner arrived 1510 hrs to take over.
A & D Coys on working parties - rd maintenance under 5 Fd Coy.
- Apr 16. C.O. visited B Coy, B-Ech, & Bde HQ a.m.
S.C. called a.m. Legal Offr called a.m.
A Coy patrol along beach to PURIATA R.
C Coy patrol to DARARA.
- Apr 17. Coy Comds conference at BnHQ.
S.C. rang re prep in anticipation poss move.
Maj Pitt (2 i/c 57/60 Bn) called re Y.M.C.A. set up.
Lt Mills (Bde Educ Offr) gave lecture to coys.
Patrol Lt Emmett and ORs C Coy along coast 5000 yds - N.M.S.
Patrol to MABIS - N.M.S.
Pioneers on road construction with 5 Fd Coy.
- Apr 18. C.O. visited C & A Coys and 25 Bn a.m.
Bde Comd visited C.O. p.m. *and* made for recall band instruments for entertainment 25 Bn.
C.O. visited D Coy p.m. - arrange transfer doubtfuls.
Patrol Lt Emmett and ORs C Coy out 2 day patrol investigation inland tracks from coast and ambush poss Jap stragglers.
- Apr 19. C Coy patrol Lt Emmett two day patrol to AITARA R returned - N.M.S.
A Coy patrol (Lt Whittaker) *from* A Coy to MAKAKU to BARARA - N.M.S.
D Coy patrol (Lt Clarkson) EAST of PURIATA R and 500 yds SOUTH to swamp - N.M.S.
C.O. visited B Coy a.m. B-Ech & *D Coy* HQ a.m.
Capt Cairns called HQ.
Education Offr lecture B, C, A, Coys.
Baldwin, Lowndes, McDonald, Wilson Lts from 12 Apr.
Band marched out to entertain 25 Bn until further notice.

- Apr 20. C.O. visited Coys a.m.
Patrols only local - N.M.S.
B.M. (Maj Butler) called for first time p.m. & LO1.
Tk A guns fwd to L.O.B.
Warning received for DCM to be held BnHQ 24 Apr.
- Apr 21. Japs infiltrated under noses of Fd Coy area B Coy during early a.m., and blew McKINNA BR. Damage fortunately slight, and bridge in operation again by 211030L.
A & B Coys changed over and def reorganized to incl another MMG.
Patrols along both sides PURIATA - N.M.S. Tracks of 2 Japs reported leading into pit pit SOUTH of Bn - one Jap had relieved himself.
C.O. to Bde Comd a.m. and A Coy a.m. & p.m.
- Apr 22. Patrols EAST of PURIATA R - Lt Lowndes - N.M.S.
Lt James - N.M.S.
B.M. called p.m. - arranged registering DF task for A Coy from mortars - for 23rd.
Capt Stanley, Capt Lawson called p.m.
- Apr 23. Patrol to mouth AITARA R - Lt Russack - N.M.S.
Patrol to SOUTH COCOANUTS EAST OF PURIATA - area patrolled by Lt Lowndes previous day. Tracks and old enemy biv area capable holding 40. Entire area swamp - N.M.S.
Capt Ash (Legal Offr) called re DCM.
- Apr 24. Patrol to MABIS-KONGARA-DARARA - A Coy - N.M.S.
Patrol to McKINNA BR - 2000 yds EAST of PURIATA *back through* ROBERTS X-ING - N.M.S. Lt Wilson - Two sets Jap footprints 2-3 days old 2000 yds S McKINNA BR. DCM begun in unit lines. Lt-Col Hale president - Capt Brown (LO) called p.m.
C.O. visited A Coy a.m.
- Apr 25. Lt Lowndes 10 ORs traversed Jap track SOUTH from cocoanuts after 2000 yds track cut out in waist deep swamp. Signs of small enemy party moving EAST 500 yds SOUTH main road. - N.M.S.
Lt Russack 8 ORs patrolled coast PURIATA-AITARA - N.M.S.
Cpl Fox 6 ORs patrolled EAST bank PURIATA from ROBERTS X-ING to mouth - N.M.S.
Continuation DCM.
- Demo. M9 A1 grenade-user trials. PITA tested 1400 hrs.
- Apr 26. Sgt Worthy and 6 ORs - 1000 yds SOUTH along COCOANUTS track, thence WEST through scrub to PURIATA, SOUTH along EAST bank to ROBERTS X-ING. Only signs of enemy - footprints of 1 or 2 moving NORTH 800 yds WEST cocoanuts track and again 1600 yds WEST cocoanuts track.
Lt Baldwin and 10 ORs patrolled kanaka pad EAST to Bn bdy without contact.
C.O. to Bde a.m. . D Coy move to new posn near 833455 ROBERTS X-ING.
C.O. conf with Offrs re Malaria Control- 1500 hrs,

- Apr 27. B.M. (L) called on C.O. a.m. C.O. to D Coy a.m.
C.O. lectured remdr Offrs malaria discipline 1500 hrs.
Lt Clarkson patrolled along coast - N.M.S.
Lt Lowndes - cocoanuts - kanaka pad ROBERT'S X-ING- N.M.S.
Maj Bostock (LHQ) Maj Little (3 Div Sigs) called re sig eqpt.
- Apr 28. LO(11) Lt Hammond called a.m..
Two patrols - Lt Plummer & Cpl Burns - N.M.S.
First leave draft 60 personnel - Lt Whybird O.C.
C.O. and Coy Comds to Bde HQ for talk by Bde Comd
Gallup poll on general knowledge of malaria at bde.
- Apr 29. 3 patrols - Lt Baldwin - Lt Henderson - Sgt Ockenfels.
Padre Smith - Senior chaplain 3 Div held service at Bn HQ p.m.

C.O.. and 2 i/c to Bde a.m.
C.O. out to beach area p.m.
- Apr 30 . Second leave draft 68 away a.m.
Capt Hutchinson and Lt Scott-Toms offrd.
C.O. to B-Ech and beach coys a.m.
Lol called p.m. Maj Lawson as from 17 Apr.
A Coy patrol McKINNA BR through scrub to CAMERON'S X-ING-N.M.S.
D Coy patrol area 2000 yds EAST of PURIATA to McKINNA BR -
N.M.S. Lt McDonald.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 1 MAY 45 To 3 MAY 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	1 May 45		<p>D Coy patrol searched scrub on NORTH and SOUTH side of track from ROBERT'S X-ING EAST to approx 862459 - N.M.S.</p> <p>A Coy patrol in sqs 8447, 8547, 8446, 8546 - N.M.S.</p> <p>D Coy patrol of 1 offr 20 ORs departed at 1515L to follow up footprints of 12 enemy reported by ANGAU to be moving SOUTH from 865470. Native guides failed to locate any footprints other than Australian. Patrol moved to 880455 then returned to COCOANUTS set ambush until moonrise and returned ROBERT'S X-ING at 2345 hrs.</p>	<p><i>Burawa</i> Cent Adj 61 Aust Inf Bn</p>
	2 May 45		<p>A Coy patrol from McKINNA BR searched area for depth of 300 yds along EAST bank PURIATA R to river - N.M.S.</p> <p>Patrol in sq 8447 - N.M.S. D Coy patrol to set ambush in vic 860458 unable to cross PURIATA R. HQ Coy patrol between road and PURIATA R from McKINNA BR to ROBERT'S X-ING - N.M.S.</p>	
	3 May 45		<p>Bn now under comd 29 Bde. A Coy patrol from McKINNA BR to CAMERONS X-ING 862494 returned McKINNA BR along NORTH bank PURIATA R - N.M.S. D Coy patrol from McKINNA BR S-E to 850454 N-E to 865466 returned McKINNA BR - N.M.S.</p> <p>Lt-Col W.R. Dexter marched in L.O.B. from 2/1 A.G.H.</p> <p>Capt A.N. Lawson promoted to rank of Major.</p> <p>Routine orders issued as per appx 1</p>	<p><i>appx 1</i></p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN Date and Time: From 4 MAY 45 To 6 MAY 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	4 May 45		<p>A Coy patrol from McKINNA BR S-E to 866466 SOUTH along track to COCOANUTS 867460 investigated tracks leading WEST, SOUTH and S-E for 500 yds. Returned to coy 041315L - N.M.S.</p> <p>Lt-Cpl Fry C.O. 47 Aust Inf Bn and B.M. 29 Bde visited area.</p>	
	5 May 45		<p>A Coy patrol in sqs 8447, 8547, 8446, 8546 - N.M.S.</p> <p>D Coy patrol from ROBERT'S X-ING EAST to 880455 and SOUTH from 869458 to 867454 - N.M.S.</p> <p>The adv party for move back to TOROKINA was composed as follows:- BnHQ, Bn 2 i/c 5 ORs, HQ Coy Lt Ford 18 ORs each rifle coy. Coy 2 i/c, Storeman one NCO per pl.</p> <p>Comd group to consist of C.O. I.O., one I man, Sig O, 2 Sigs, Ord Room Sgt, R.M.O. and med orderly.</p> <p>Message of appreciation from OC 19 War Graves Unit as per appx 2). FIELD RETURN OF OFFRS (W 3008) attached as APPX 3 FIELD RETURN OF O. R.'s (W 3009) . . . APPX 4</p>	<p><i>Patrol and disposition map covering period 1-5 MAY 45 att. as appx 18</i></p> <p><i>Appx 2 appx 3 appx 4</i></p>
	6 May 45		<p>A Coy patrol to MABIS, MAKAKU, KONGARA - N.M.S. D Coy patrol from ROBERT'S X-ING along EAST bank PURIATA R to McKINNA BR - N.M.S. Patrol from ROBERT'S X-ING EAST to 880455 - N.M.S.</p> <p>The adv party for movement was altered. It now consists of Bn 2 i/c and Coy 2 i/c's.</p> <p>Message received that adv party was to be concentrated B-ECH by 070830L.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap 600)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time: From 7 MAY 45 To 10 MAY 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	7 May 45		<p>A Coy patrol from 868483 to COCOANUTS 867460 EAST to 880455 returned to BARNES X-ING - N.M.S. D Coy and Bn adv party departed TOKO area 070830 hrs arrived MOTUPENA PT 728583 at 1000 hrs. Bn adv party departed MOTUPENA PT for TOROKINA at 1445 hrs and arrived L.O.B. area 1800 hrs. D Coy remained MOTUPENA PT for working parties.</p> <p>Message received that one sec will provide protective picquet OXLEY strip daily from 1800 hrs to 0700 hrs.</p>	
	8 May 45		<p>A Coy patrol in sqs 8447, 8547, 8446, 8546 - N.M.S.</p> <p>At 1342 hrs WARNING ORDER received to the effect that 42 Bn will relieve 61 Bn not before 090500L. Word received from 29 Bde that a coy will move to TOKO-TOROKINA on 9 May.</p> <p>Lt-Col Dexter W.R. marched out on Rec Leave.</p>	
	9 May 45		<p>Patrol from McKINNA BR S-E to COCOANUTS 867460 returned via ROBERT'S X-ING. A Coy departed TOKO area 1130 hrs for TOROKINA. Word received that C Coy will move TOROKINA 10 May. Capt McKew, Bde T.O., Lt Baker 29 Bde LO, 2 i/c 42 Bn me visited area.</p>	
	10 May 45		<p>Patrol from McKINNA BR to DARARA SOUTH to 855482 returned to McKINNA BR - N.M.S. C Coy departed TOKO area 0930 hrs. C Coy less 1 offr 21 ORs arrived TOROKINA 1700 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 13 MAY 45 To 16 MAY 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	13 May 45		Security guard party of 1 NCO 10 ORs maintained at LOB Area (att to Bde) for guarding of dump and buildings. Capt Brown (LO 7 Bde) visited this HQ a.m.	
			C.O. visited Bde HQ a.m.	
	14 May 45		Lt Baldwin and guard party (AANS Quarters 109 CCS) relieved by a pl 9 Bn, returned to Bn area. C.O. and I.O. reced bn area of responsibility a.m. Bde T.O. Bde AES Offr and Bde Amenities Offr visited this HQ p.m.	
		C.O. visited Bde HQ p.m.		
	15 May 45		Coy Comds reced Bn area of responsibility a.m.	
		Bde AES offr visited this HQ a.m.		
		Adjy attended conference at Bde HQ (a.m.) Subject- Bde Parade. Lt-Col Blair (C.O. 11 Fd Amb) visited this HQ p.m.		
	16 May 45		D Coy arrived Bn area from MOTUPENA PT at 1730 hrs.	
		Bn now complete at 645942 TOROKINA 1" to 1 mile. Bn parade 0930 hrs to 1030 hrs.		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 61 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 17 May 45

To 20 May 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	17 May 45		<p>Received Bde O.O. No.12 and accordingly Bn issued O.O. No. 9 as per (Appx 6).</p> <p>Ref above Bn O.O. D coy disbanded from 0830 hrs and personnel absorbed into A, B and C Coys.</p> <p>Capt Kelly B.M. (L) visited this HQ a.m.</p> <p>Bde I.O. visited this HQ p.m.</p> <p>Bn parade 1400 hrs to 1445 hrs</p> <p>Bde O.O. No. 12 attached as (appx 7)</p> <p>Bn Trg Instr No. 1/45 attached as (Appx 8)</p>	<p>appx 6</p>
	18 May 45		<p>Bn departed 0800 hrs for Bde Parade GLOUCESTER FIELD returned to area 1045 hrs for inspection by GOC 2 Aust Corps Lt Gen Savige).</p>	<p>appx 7</p> <p>appx 8</p>
	19 May 45		<p>Word received from Bde that Lt-Col T.J. Farrell appointed Comd 61 Bn ex 2 Inf Trg Bn. Lt-Col Dester to RSL Medical 13 May.</p> <p>Sports officer and committee conference p.m.</p> <p>Padre Beatty and Lt Irvine departed 0930 hrs for NGDD.</p> <p>Padre Beatty being transferred from Bde and Lt Irvine for leave and school.</p>	
	20 May 45		<p>Church Parades held a.m.</p> <p>Bn rest day.</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 MAY 45 To 24 MAY 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	21 May 45		Bn assumed responsibility of all working parties required by 7 Bde for week ending 27 May. Party 1 NCO 10 ORs detached to 53 Fd Park dump. Leave draft of 3 Offrs 68 ORs departed 0400 hrs. Bde L.O. visited this HQ a.m. Routine Orders serial 11/45 attached as (appx 9) Overlay showing patrols as set down in 7 Bde O.O. No. 12 attached as per (Appx 10).	appx 9 appx 10
	22 May 45		Capt Corbolt (Adjnt 25 Bn) visited this HQ p.m. List of new posting of Offrs attached as (Appx 11).	appx 11
	23 May 45		Sec patrol along EAST WEST trail to 713932 thence SOUTH along CHOP CHOP trail to coast at 716862 departed 0810 hrs returned 1520 hrs - N.M.S. Lt Moore (Hyg Offr) and Amenities Offr Bde visited this HQ a.m. Lecture to Offrs by Bde Legal Offr p.m. Bn Trg Instn No. 2/45 attached as (Appx 12).	appx 12
	24 May 45		Sec patrol from road junc 664954 to track junc 653982 to river x-ing 672973 thence SOUTH along WEST bank TOROKINA R to EAST WEST track departed 0830 hrs. Capt Kelly B.M. (L) visited this HQ a.m. Lt-Col Hannon (A.D. Dental Service) visited this HQ a.m.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 25 MAY 45 To 29 MAY 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	25 May 45		Lts C.B. Tomlinson and O.M. Sloan marched out to 2 Aust Corps reception camp for disposal. Sec patrol 24 May, from road junc 664954 to track junc 653982 to river x-ing 672973 thence SOUTH along WEST bank TOROKINA R to WEST EAST WEST trail returned 1400 hrs - N.M.S. Capt Prentice (Bde Staff Capt) and Capt Corbolt (Adjnt 25 Bn) visited this HQ a.m.	
	26 May 45		Chaplain A.C. Prior new Chaplain for Bn arrived 1745 hrs. Offrs Instr Syllabus period 28 May-2 June issued and attached as (Appx 13).	appx 13
	27 May 45		Church parades held a.m. Bn rest day	
	28 May 45		C Coy held range practice. Bde T.O. (Capt McKew) visited this HQ a.m. Party 1 NCO 10 ORs attached to 53 Fd Pk dump relieved by party from 25 Bn and returned this area.	
	29 May 45		B Coy held range practice. Guard party (Lt Watts) departed for 109 CCS MOTUPENA PT 0700 hrs.	

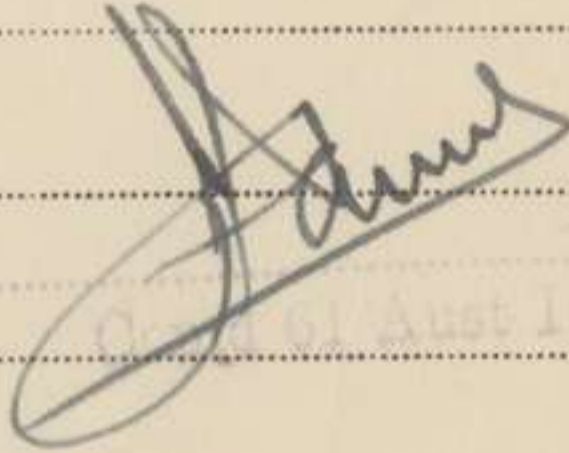
WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

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Unit 61 AUST INF BN

Date ~~and Time~~ From 30 MAY 45 To 31 MAY 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Sth Bougainville	30 May 45		Lt-Col T.J. Farrell arrived and assumed Comd Bn 30 1310L. Acting Bde Comd (LT-COL MATTHEWS) visited this HQ a.m. Bde AES Offr (Lt Mills) visited this HQ a.m. Lts Plummer and Gibson and Pte Haines, winners of MCs and MM respectively in recent campaign paraded before Acting Bde Comd 11.20 hrs.	
	31 May 45		A Coy held range practice. Bde L.O. visited this HQ a.m. Bn Trg Instn No. 3/45 attached as (Appx 14). Overlay showing Trg areas and ranges 7 Bde attached as per (Appx 15). Adjts personal diary 1/10 May attached as (Appx 16). Ref Map TOROKINA 1" to 1 mile attached as (Appx 17).	appx 14 appx 15 appx 16 appx 17
				 Lt-Col 61 Aust Inf Bn

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61 AUST INF BN

SUMMARY OF OPS - PERIOD 29 JAN to 7 MAY 45

30 May 45

INTRODUCTION

1. TYPE OF OPERATION.

The entire operation was composed of a series of patrol clashes with small parties of enemy, and rarely was there more than one pl of the bn engaged at one time. There were a few occasions when coys were used against enemy posns, but there were no operations in which the bn was used as such against an enemy posn.

2. GROUND AND L of C.

The operation was confined to mov along tracks through flat country, heavily timbered, and often swampy. Mov off the track was very limited, and confined to local ops only.

The track was jeepable only in fine weather, and a vast amount of constr was undertaken by the bn to improve L of C for jeeps in all weather, with only moderate success, necessitating the almost constant employment of native carriers and the use of air dropping to maintain sups.

8/3/96

29 JAN. HQ Group moved fwd from 792738 to BRINE BASE 821715 and communications by 0900 hrs. D Coy:- 18 pl fighting patrol out 0730 hrs moved EAST along KIAP trail followed up by 17 pl fighting patrol and encountered enemy at 844698 at 0843 hrs killing 1 jap. 17 pl executed outflanking move to right and reached main track at 845697 killing 1 jap. 18 pl then joined 17 pl and both proceeded, killing a further jap at 850698. On combing this area patrols killed 2 japs and seriously wounded 2. Total enemy cas 5 killed 2 wounded. Own cas nil. Equipment captured incl one LMG magazine, rifle type WEJI 38 and dixies containing hash. Patrol reported track branching off 700 yards from D Coy perimeter, bearing 145 degrees. On return of 17 pl and 18 pl, a fighting patrol from 12 pl moved out to lay ambush on this track junc. B Coy fighting patrol 1 offr 16 ORs moved out from D Coy area down track bearing 193 degrees and reported NO track running SE to NOSINA. Part of patrol continued along track and swung WEST then NORTH and joined KIAP track 300 yds WEST of CLARK BASE. C Coy LOG X-ING patrol reported fresh bare footprints at 789728 and heard Owen gun fire from SW. At 1500 hrs patrol was dispatched to lay an ambush 29/30 Jan at LOG X-ING area. Local security and contact patrols, nothing to report. Accidentally wounded, SX39005 Pte Horgan C.J. received GSW's left shoulder and groin and was evacuated to 11 Fd Amb.

Further information ~~from the day's operations:-~~ of 27 .256 rifle rounds captured by D Coy, 10 had misfired. Enemy killed at 850698 in fairly good condition, clothes good and boots fairly new possibly Australian. Jap bodies found in bivouac area 825700 were wearing good clothing but had NO boots, also without weapons. One dead Jap who was shot through the head was found 300 yards forward of CLARK BASE. Body was 4 to 5 days old and believed to have been killed in attack on CLARK BASE night 23/24 Jan. Heavy rain during the afternoon caused EAST-WEST track to deteriorate and no traffic was allowed forward of B-Sch 792738 until further orders. Seven days reserve rations and amm sufficient for 2 coys is now store at CLARK BASE. 12 pl fighting patrol returned from ambush posn 5/800// yds fwd of D Coy perimeter at 1800 hrs. Reported sighting 2 japs moving EAST whilst setting ambush posn. Patrol opened fire but results NOT known. ANGAU personnel consisting of a Warrant Officer and 10 natives are now stationed with B Coy. During the day 'A' Tp 4 Sty carried out D.F. registration forward of D coy perimeter. Total cas to 1800 hrs 29 Jan are listed as :- ENEMY - 20 killed 5 wounded. OWN - 4 wounded.

30 JAN. Local security and contact patrols nothing to report. 10 and 17 pls with ANGAU offr and 3 natives patrolled along KUPON track to approx 857704 without contact. Located excellent coy biv area on high ground at 848698. Natives estimated distance to KUPON as being 2000 yds from this point. 18 Pl fighting patrol of 29 Jan now found to be responsible for forcing the enemy back along the track to NOSINA, this having been confirmed by ANGAU. Captured documents had repeatedly referred to a SECRET track running to NOSINA and this was found to be the one to which they had attached so much importance. Accidentally wounded by shrapnel from Mortar bomb Q121300 Pte Mills C.D. BWS calf right leg left forearm and QX32212 Pte Gilchrist R.E. BWS back and scalp, both were evacuated to 11 Fd Amb. At 1900 hrs 2 japs were sighted outside D Coy perimeter 842698. Fired on but results unknown. Tac/R of KUPON-NIGITAN-NOSINA area carried out in the afternoon.

31 JAN. Owing to heavy rain night 30/31 Jan condition of L of C along East West Jeep track greatly deteriorated, thus preventing fwd movt of A Coy to CLARK BASE and B Coy to high ground 848698. D Coy moved fwd from 842698 and occupied track junc 843698 by 1245 hrs. Fighting patrol strength 1 pl from coy moved approx 1600 yds down SE track thought to lead to NOSINA. No contact made, and one Jap body found 500 yds along track which evidently was an extra Jap killed by patrol of 29 Jan. Located small Jap biv area of 2 huts at approx 1500 yds. Here found evidence of decomposed bodies and equipment incl rifles, bayonets and personal effects. B Coy patrol located old Jap gun posn approx 838699. Several large dug-outs in area and much equipment incl 50 x 75 m.m. shells, spare gun parts, sights, pressure dials, handspikes, tools, 3 carts with spare parts, 2 pack saddles, rifles incl 2 American M3 Garands, 3 American SCR 536 sets (unserviceable) and personal effects.

1 FEB. As from 0100 hrs the Bn 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 ORs and native guides moved out from D Coy perimeter 843698 along DAWES track SE 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 H. D. Robinson. Remainder of patrol then withdrew and a fighting patrol of one pl was despatched immediately from D Coy to search this area. Enemy were again contacted at the same posn but withdrew when fired on by our patrol. Patrol then returned, having recovered offrs 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 bivouaced night 30/31 Jan in KUPON. Fires had been started with 75 m.m. charges and the patrol also reported that the enemy was apparently suffering from dysentery. A coy 2 day recce patrol, Lt Tomlinson, 3 ORs 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-SISIRGAI road. Also heard sound of motor vehicle on bearing 268 degrees from NIGITAN. At BRINK BASE area a Jap 75 m.m. breech block, crankhandle and extractor in fair condition were found approx 818713. A coy posn 812723 is now known as LAWSONS POST. During the day a recce of PAGANA R was made in an assault boat from BLP No. 6 to D Coy. However, the river was considered unsatisfactory and engine was not powerful enough against the current.. SX39005 Pte Horgan C.J. who was accidentally wounded 29 Jan passed away at 1200 hrs. At 0818 hrs GOC Maj-Gen Bridgeford and Bde Comd Brig Field visited this H.Q.

2 FEB. 12 pl fighting patrol departed D Coy 843698 at 0800 hrs for KUPON-NIGITAN and arrived KUPON 1200 hrs without making contact. 9 pl fighting patrol est firm base at 852691 by 1205 hrs. Advance continued from firm base and by 1500 hrs patrol reached a point 500 yds beyond without making contact. This point being est as Jap ambush posn encountered 1 Feb 2000 yds SE along DAWES track. Enemy posn was in the roots of a 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.

3 FEB. A coy moved fwd to area 840699 and est posn by 1130 hrs. 9 pl patrol continuing adv from firm base 852691 made contact with one rifleman 700 yds SE along DAWES track at 0900 hrs. Enemy escaped when fired on. 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. AM 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, 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 fire. After destroying biv area patrol returned with captured eqpt. Local security and contact patrols nothing to report. During the night arty laid down harassing fire on Jap biv area approx 848687. Request made for air dropping of rations and amm on 6 Feb at dropping ground 873704.

4 FEB. Sec standing patrol from A Coy est posn on track junc TOMMYS track 862702. 10 pl plus one sub sec MGC, one det Mortars, and one sec pioneers moved fwd and by 1000 hrs had taken up a posn junc EAST-WEST.

KUPON-NIGITAN tracks and commenced clearing air-dropping ground at 0800 hrs. 8 Pl while digging in at firm base 846887 heard sounds of chopping 300 yds SE of posn. Arty fire brought down but investigation failed to locate enemy. Local security and contact patrols nothing to report.

5 FEB. 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 SE from firm base on DAVES 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 armed with 3 LMG and rifles. Cas enemy unknown. Own 1 killed W52716 Pte Spark G.O. and 1 wounded QX35543 L' Cpl Beitz F.J. GSW right forearm evac to 11 Fd Amb ADS. Patrol searched area and located biv area of 6 huts at 854632 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. 14 Pl moved from CLARK BASE 829708 at 0745 hrs, arrived firm base 851685 1015 hrs. 7 Pl then moved fwd along DAVES track and at 1115 hrs encountered enemy unknown strength armed with 2 LMGs and rifles at 853681. 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, 1 blood-stained shirt found in area. Own Nil. 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 B Cdo sqn SOVELLE MISSION returned to B Coy 886696 1410 hrs. Reported NO contact or signs of enemy mvt. LAWSONS POST area - 75 m.m. gun minus barrel marked 41 BA No. 10598 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. Direction of fire towards JABA river mouth. Bombing by our a/c had apparently caused gun to be moved from old pit in rear where 20 spent shell cases were found. At 0715 hrs Douglas Tpt dropped supplies and amm over dropping ground 873704. Two chutes which dropped EAST of area were later found, making 100% recovery for the drop and all supplies and amm were in serviceable condition. Pioneers completed 4 bridges between HOBBIERS REST and KUPON.

7 FEB. 15 Pl moved from C Coy CLARK BASE down DAVES 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. Recce patrol 1 HQ 4 ORs from this posn was fired on by an estimated 6 enemy 300 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 873690 revealed a diary and notes which were found in the roof of a hut. Ref 75 m.m. gun located in area 808726, barrel now recovered.

8 FEB. BnHQ moved from BRINK BASE and est posn KUPON 883698 at 0900 hrs. Remainder of A Coy moved fwd from 846899 and joined 8 pl at HUTCH RAVEN 885696. ~~Body~~ joined 10 pl at NIGITAN 872685 at 1000 hrs. C Coy HQ and 15 pl moved fwd from CLARK BASE down DAVES track to 859632 at 1300 hrs. 14 Pl returned from firm base 851685 to CLARK BASE. B Coy fighting patrol from NIGITAN SOUTH along WHYBIRD road towards NOSINA located two large clearings 1700 yds from SP which showed signs of 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 pamphlets and documents. Patrol salvaged wire and passed documents to F33 pers.

12 FEB. 8 pl moved from MOSINA 889671 and joined A Coy and 15 Pl at
MAC BASE 876657 at 0820 hrs. With 8 and 15 pls as firm base at MAC BASE
remainder of A Coy continued move SE towards WARAPA approx 886651. By
1700 hrs coy had reached a point approx 1500 yds fwd of firm base without
contact. B Coy recce patrol of one Sec from MOSINA 889671 to AGABAI
915670 then 1500 yds SW along track to WARAPA, object to report on any
enemy movt after our raid WARAPA 11 Feb. Returned 1700 hrs reporting no
signs of enemy. The Bn area of responsibility has again been extended.
The new area is bounded by line 900700, 950700, 950800, 900600.
Bde Comd Brig. J. Field visited this H.Q.

13 FEB:

A coy less 8 pl moved fwd approx 300 yds from firm base occupied night 12/13 Feb and took up posn on junc WARAPA - MENDAI and WARAPA - SISIRUAI rds at 0750 hrs. 8 pl joined A coy at 1000 hrs. 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 86 degrees mag. later known as HENDERSON HIGHWAY was patrolled to MENDAI a distance of approx 1800 yds without contact. A search was made of the area raided by our patrol 11 Feb. 7 freshly dug graves were investigated and found to contain 9 bodies incl one Lt. A large quantity of documents and maps, one JUKI MAP in fair condition, 4 swords, 3 pistols, 10 rifles, personal effects and medical sups were found in the area. A type 96 LMG in good condition and an Aust. paybook belonging to 8233033 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 bodies and eqpt. WERBIBIS RD from MACESS to WARAPA can be made jeepable but will require considerable maintenance to keep open. The construction of 2 bridges, grading of a soft bank and corduroying of muddy patches would be required. Pnr Pl and rear coys corduroyed road from LAWSONS POST to KUPON.

14 FEB:

18 Pl moved from D Coy 885698 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 837848 at 1345L. This patrol returned to WARAPA at 1540 hrs and reported no signs of recent enemy movement. C coy patrol from 888671 to WARAPA via AGABAI returned to C coy 1830 hrs reporting the area clear of enemy. A further search of WARAPA area was made and 6 more bodies found bringing total Jap cas for our side 11 Feb to 15 killed. 2 Oxfr boxes containing maps and documents and another 9 swords were found. A patrol of 9 pl moved SE along rd toward SISIRUAI S. 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 S. The main track to MEIVO continued on from this point on a bearing of 235° mag. and is 10 ft wide. It is reported the track to SOUTH 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 888658 is approx 5 acres. Crops incl corn and pumpkins NOT yet mature. The biv area appears to have provided accommodation for approx 50 pers. Contact R was flown at the request of the Bn to locate A coy posn. This posn was placed at 887651. As from 2400 hrs 14 Feb the new Aust 1/25000 survey sheet dated 8 Feb came into operation. In cases where the locations of units do NOT occur on these sheets the MOUTUPENA PT - PURIATA one inch sheet will be used and the map references prefixed with the letter W.

15 FEB:

At 0915 hrs RMRQ closed WY 883699 and opened WY 870672. 18 pl moved from A coy and relieved 9 pl patrol at SISIRUAI 888653. This posn confirmed by TAC/R and ANGAN. Later the remainder of D coy joined 18 pl at 888653. 18 pl moved fwd 300 yds to occupy junc of SISIRUAI S - SOUWIE and SISIRUAI - MOKSOMETA tracks. A fighting patrol from A coy through MENDAI then SOUTH to SISIRUAI S arrived at 1115 hrs without contact. A patrol from A coy out 14 Feb to WERTARA WY 933644 returned 1415 hrs reporting no contact. A coy sec ambush est at garden 888658 reported no enemy seen. The following message was received from 600 3 Aust Div. Quote. 600 desires to congratulate you and troops under your Comd on successful actions leading to the occupation of MEIVO track junc. Unquote. The Bn bdy has been altered as from 1800 hrs. The new Bde bdy is now line 886640 - 910600 - 910664 along track leading SOUTH to 913557 thence EAST along track to PURIATA R at 936580 thence WEST along PURIATA R to sea. The Bn area of responsibility is now area NORTH of WARIVI R and EAST from previously designated 88 Bn bdy to Bde bdy. Patrols are to be sent to contact and clear area to 9 Aust Inf Bn. These patrols may move SOUTH of WARIVI R. A later signal states that the Bn will concentrate MEIVO area as early as possible as a prelude to operation EAST from 88 grid to Bde bdy as already laid down. ANGAN camp site est W888673.

16 FEB:

Movement of Bn commenced to MEIVO area. B coy moved fwd from MOUTUPENA 8878685 at 0815L and occupied WAC WAC WY 8878657 at 0945L. 18 pl advanced SE along government track from D coy 886893 and est firm base at 877607 at 0930L. C coy moving fwd, pos 8878685 arrived. D coy at 1215L, continued adv and est Coy perimeter WEST river along 886893 at 1830L.

This govt track runs generally SE from 886623 to 893617 then SW to MARIVI river X-ing. Patrol of 1 Offr 10 ORs departed D coy 0730L and contacted 9 Aust Inf Bn HQ at 833598 returning to D coy 1830L. Maj KEINZLE (ANCAU) with party native scouts reported in to D coy posn from SOVELE MISSION at 1040L and later departed for 7 Aust Inf Bde. Lt Fullerton marched out to LOB.

17 FEB:

Movement of Bn to MEIVO area continued as follows :-
BnHQ closed MP870672 at 0810L and opened 885624 at 0940L. C coy moved fwd from MARIVI river X-ing 0820L and occupied perimeter MEIVO area 878584 at 1000L. B coy moved fwd from MAC BASE 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 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. ADS at KUPON closed at 0900L and future ops occurring within the Bn will be evac fwd to ADS MEIVO.

18 FEB:

Movement continued to MEIVO area. BnHQ moved 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 10 Pl departed SISIRUAI 2 at 0900L and coy complete arrived 884603 at 0945L. Local security patrols searched MEIVO JUNC area and located what appeared to be a Jap HQ site. Equipment recovered incl documents and fd telephone in good condition. Request made for air photos covering 870590, 950590, 950580, 870520 ~~same~~ same being required by 19 Feb. The Bn has received orders to clear the PIKEI with one coy holding MEIVO - SOSIGETA. The bdy between 61 Bn and 9 Bn is the 88 grid.

19 FEB:

A coy moved fwd from 888619 at 0800L and arrived MEIVO area 878588 at 0945L. D coy moved fwd from 884603 at 0820L and arrived MEIVO area 878588 at 0910L. The bn less LOB 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 enemy Sjt 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.

20 FEB:

B coy fighting patrol 1 Offr 15 ORs to move EAST along NORTH bank of creek to 887576. While investigating garden area at 887573 patrol encountered estimated force 20 enemy armed with rifles. Our patrol replied to enemy rifle 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 down on garden area. Bombs fell in target area but enemy still remains in posn and now known to have at least one ~~MB~~. A coy fighting patrol 1 Offr 15 ORs from road junc 883568 SE 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 887568 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 SE to 890575 NE to 900583 then SE 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 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. ANCAU est camp site at approx 879589. A message was received that until 9 Bn evacuated MEIVO SOSIGETA 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.

area EAST to Kade bdy and concentrate in PIKEI area

21 FEB:

A coy moved fwd from 879588 at 1130L and est perimeter on MATTHEWS junc 879581 with 8 Pl fwd protecting DID at 886578. A coy fighting patrol strength one Pl moved on bearing 117° 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 movement of large enemy parties on both flanks and withdrew to rd junc 883568 at 1150L. At 1315L patrol with POC again went fwd to this posn but no other contact was made. Patrol returned at 1500L and reported locating numerous pits 14 feet 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 884574 and then carried out encircling move with object of clearing enemy, previously encountered, from garden area 888574 and then moving SOUTH to cut the main PIKNI 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 bivouac 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 at 888568 at 1700 hrs without further contact. 10 Pl relieved 12 Pl in this posn and 12 Pl returned to B coy. Disposns for night 21/22 Feb - Coy HQ, 11 and 12 Pl 888570. 10 pl 888568. D coy patrol to PIKNI out 20 Feb reported in 1230 hrs. This patrol bivouacked night 20/21 Feb at 907574 and at first light 21 Feb moved NORTH to 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 910564 but time did not permit investigation. Patrol returned without contact. Sec patrol from D coy moved EAST from 878586 to approx 889577 and returned without contact. Natives state that BOKU is on SOUTH side of main rd at approx 900563. LAVONO is on NORTH side of rd midway between BOKU and rd junc 883568. Midway between BOKU and PIKNI 910570 a track frequently used by the enemy runs SOUTH through Jap hospital to PURIATA R. Our patrol reports old site of PIKNI a good area for air dropping. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

22 Feb:

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 Rd Amb ADS. 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 death attempted to throw grenade but was killed before doing any damage. Captured equipment 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 p 1 moved fwd and joined 10 pl at 888568 at 1000 hrs without further contact. Enemy bivouac area at 888570 revealed signs of hurried enemy evacuation. Documents, quantities of rice and emergency rations had been left behind. Some bodies were partially clothed the missing garments being found in a hut which enemy had been occupying. Japs were in good condition and ~~xxxx~~ 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 Sjt-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, mortars and rifles at 883568. Cas own 1 wounded evacuated 11 Rd Amb. Enemy 1 killed. Patrol withdrew and posn engaged with 3 inch mortar fire. On investigating results of mortar fire patrol again came under by fire from MGs and mortars. Posn was found to extend for at least 40 yds with enemy 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 by growth and could not be located by our tps. 3 unoccupied pits seen by the patrol appeared to have been freshly dug, had no overhead cover and were not visible at 5 yds. Patrol withdrew to rd 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 B coy of 1 pl strength left for area 910564 via PIKNI area 910570.

Summary of Bn Ops from 23 FEB to 10 MAR 1945

23 FEB: Of the four 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. Patrol was despatched to locate him but reported search unsuccessful. After losing contact with their patrol these pers had stumbled into Jap defensive posn at 885585 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 accurately, and also stated to have seen 2 HMG's mounted on wheels and other hand carts being moved SW along track from this posn, morning 23 Feb. 10 pl moved forward from B coy 885568 and reached a track junc at 895567 without making contact. After clearing track for a further 300' 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 885569. 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 SW along a track to ~~888~~ 893561 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 SW along track previously mentioned. Gardens at 885563 and 893564 are unused. D coy fighting patrol to 910564 returned at 1000 hrs. Searched area Sqs 9057, 9057, 9157, 9056, 9156. Only signs of enemy were 4 Japs reported to have been seen by a native in area 903563. A standing patrol of 1 NCO 10 Gns left D coy at 1430 hrs to est a base at 902583 on 2/8 Cav Cde Sqn 1 of C. posn est at 1600 hrs.

24 FEB: 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, 13 and 12 Pls occupied BOKU 896564 on junc of PIKRI rd and main track to PUKIATA RIV. 15 Pl returned to C coy at 1610 hrs having patrolled from 895567 south to garden 894564 SE 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 0830 hrs A coy patrol left B coy 888568 to search for men missing from patrol 22 Feb. Body of Q28077 Pte STAGY 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 885585 and found it unoccupied. Posn had accommodated 20-25 enemy. Patrol then followed track SW to a junc approx 892558 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. 5 Pl departed BnHQ 878585 and arrived B coy at 1400 hrs. A patrol from 2/8 Cav Cde Sqn at 1400 hrs contacted our standing patrol at 902583. 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 896564 respectively. There is a good area for air dropping at BOKU.

25 FEB: At 0820 hrs D coy moved from 878587 and at 1245 hrs D coy less 10 Pl occupied a track junc on PIKRI RD at approx 909568 with 18 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 896564. 12 Pl remained at track junc 895567. 10 pl patrol left B coy 888568 at 0830 hrs moved SW along a track to 880558 then South to 880547 then NE to ~~888~~ PIKRI 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 PIKRI RD at 902564. The hospital had been evac for some time but had been used recently to accommodate small parties of enemy. The area which contained 15 huts ^{now} demolished was searched by F35 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 for bayonet practice. Two $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 months time.

26 FEB: In accordance with Pde OP instr No. 4 the following movement commenced :-

A coy moved from 879583 and arrived 858544 at 1015 hrs relieving D coy 9 Aust Inf Bn. 9 Pl then moved fwd and occupied a posn on track June 842532 at 1415 hrs. B coy moved from 888568 at 0840 hrs to MOSIETTA - WIVVO 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 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. 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 the 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn. The track followed by this patrol to the PURIATA R was only a foot pad 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 June 909568 at 0900 hrs SW along a foot pad to the PURIATA R at 917539 without contact. Patrol returned to D coy at 1225 hrs. The track which showed no signs of recent use passed through ~~an~~ 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 the re-entrants. Some of these have been used as sleeping quarters. 783 pers searched biv area and recovered documents. This area was later identified as HQ 13 Jap Inf Regt. The area covered approx 1/2 mile sq. The huts are in good condition with strong frame and raised floors of betel nut palms. A fenced off two storey building comprising separate living and sleeping quarters had apparently been used as a comd hut. Small one man pits were the only defences along the track, through the area. The evacuation of the area appeared to have been orderly and very little clothing, private effects or eqpt was left behind. Considering the size of the area few documents were found and there was evidence of systematic destruction. A patrol investigating a track SW from 893554 found 2 biv areas and a Jap garden at approx 890553. Tools incl sledge hammers and small items of wireless eqpt indicated that this had been a workshop. A few documents were recovered. The area had not been occupied for at least 4 days. R

27 FEB: A coy less 9 pl moved from 858544 at 0915 hrs and joined 9 pl at track June 842532 at 0915 hrs. A patrol from A coy of 1 Ofpr 23 Ofpr 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 1 Jap at 900555. The patrol continued SW 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 30 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 and documents and 70 rds of .256 amn recovered. The bullets had been reversed in the cartridges. The patrol reced a faint track NORTH from biv for 400 yds and a track SOUTH to a creek 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 creek to act as bomb proof shelters.

28 FEB: Patrols from D coy operation 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, 8954, 8954 without contact. 5 Pl moved from 872557 to 882576. 9 Pl left A coy 842532 at 1500 hrs and occupied a posn on track June at 850534. A thorough search of Jap def posn at 885565 (contacted by C coys 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 LMGs 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 the pit. A HMD had been fired from one posn. Fire posns of our patrols had been 10 yds from enemy pits and our mortar OP 15 yds. 15 huts were in the area each with a shell proof fox-hole.

1 MAR: Patrols from D coy operated in the sqs 9157, 9257, and SOUTH from 909567 to FURIATA 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 patrols operating in sqs 8755, 8855, 8955, 8754, 8854 8954 and SK to FURIATA R at 908532 reported no signs of enemy. A fighting patrol of Pl strength from 850534 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 six 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 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 0950 hrs.

2 MAR: A coy fighting patrol continued EAST from 864524 through heavy 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, reported to be in area 875520 by Tac/R, could be found. Patrol was ordered to return to A coy 842532 and arrived 1700 hrs. A patrol from 25 Bn contacted A coy at 0955 hrs. A patrol from C coy 895553 moved SOUTH along a well worn track to 886524 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. 2T 6220, one mag and one mag box. Document and caps were also found.

3 MAR: An A coy patrol from 842532 contacted 25 Bn at BAKARA at 0900 hrs and returned at 1120 hrs. No movement seen. A patrol of 2 offrs 15 ORs from A coy to recce all tracks leading to WARTOA from the EAST followed track from 855503 to 863524. After breaking scrub the patrol struck an old native pad approx 859525 which was followed to road at approx 845519. The patrol then returned to A coy at 1415 hrs without contact. B coy patrol 1 offr 8 ORs followed the track from 887568 to 882544. At this point the patrol ~~the~~ split. The first party followed ~~SK~~ a track SW and struck main SOUTH track at 888541. This party returned via C coy 895553. The second party struck SW breaking scrub and after striking a track June at approx 872535 followed NW track to MARIGA rd at approx 864548. A track 5 - 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. A patrol from C coy 895553 SOUTH to 886523 followed track to 875520. A biv area of 4 huts and garden was searched and contained Jap clothes, blankets dishes and posters. The patrol continued along the track to 886514 investigated a track running SW for 500 yds and returned without contact. Routine patrol from D coy to FURIATA 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 eqpt found at the Hq, ~~xxxx~~ which included a US Johnson Auto rifle, Arty instruments, tripods, extension drills, documents and maps.

4 MAR: At 0830 hrs A coy less 7 Pl moved from 842532 and by 1040 hrs occupied BLANCH JUNG 883568. 7 Pl remained 842532. 10 pl moved from BLANCH JUNG and arrived at 905564 at 0900 hrs. C coy less 13 Pl moved fwd from 895563 at 0830 hrs and took ^{up} posn on SE bank FURIATA 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 NE then NORTH to approx 878543. 10 to 15 lean to's were found at approx 872521. The patrol searched all tracks leading EA ST 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. 00 C coy liaised with 00 2/8 Cav Co Sqn ref enemy dispo.

5 MAR: BNUQ moved from 878585 and opened at 899584 at 050900L. 8 pl departed 883568 and occupied rd June 878583 at 0810 hrs. B coy less 10 pl moved from 87150 area and occupied track June 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 Cav 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 10 pl moved from 909567 at 0825 hrs and occupied posn vacated by C coy at 909531 at 1335 hrs. C coy patrol along SW bank PURIATA R to 899518 reported a good track following river to 905533 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 10 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 884528. The patrol found no tracks leading SW to PURIATA R. A native patrol investigating SW bank PURIATA R from 909533 to 901524 found no signs of enemy. A 7 pl patrol followed a track SW from 888503 to 872512. Track continued SW. The patrol returned 888508 and followed a track SOUTH for 900 yds. No tracks could be found leading to PURIATA R. Air dropping ground 899565 completed for air dropping 6 Mar.

6 MAR: 7 pl departed 842532 at 0820 hrs and joined A coy at 893568 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. 18 pl patrol to engage enemy posn at 919521 located 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 JURT pit in semi perimeter sited to cover track leading in from SW. NORTH of the posn were 2 listening pits, and fwd to the left flank 6 lean to's 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 SW bank PURIATA R reached 899518 then proceeded on bearing of 112 degrees to approx 913517 where well worn foot pads run at 95 degrees and 230 degrees. Track showed signs of approx 6 enemy moving SW 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 C coy 1645 hrs without making contact. A native patrol along SIKKANA R saw 8 Japs in garden at approx 938521. Native patrol down WEST bank PURIATA R reached 899495 and reported track X-ing at 897505 had been used by party of Japs moving EAST 4/5 days previously. 4 police boys escorting 100 native refugees from HUPAI R area passed through this Sqn enroute MOSIETTA at 1010 hrs. An air dropping at DOKU 898568 resulted in 00g recovery of supplies.

7 MAR: At 0615 hrs one Jap probing our perimeter at 919521 exploded a tummy 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 BARBARA 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 movement at approx 912505. At this point patrol heard sounds of contact made by another patrol from C coy so decided to move SW through jungle reaching track fwd of our posn. 919521 and then returned to perimeter at 1600 hrs. without making contact. C coy patrol to BORINU 937517 returned at 1800 hrs and reported no signs of enemy, also garden area 938521 clear. Patrol from D coy strength 1 pl moved S along track from 919521 and at 1300 hrs made contact with an estimated party 30 enemy armed with 2 M16, 1 M1 and rifles in a 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 C coy located and destroyed one type 93 land mine at 918557 which appeared to have been lying on surface of ground for a considerable time. A second patrol found 2 x 208 wireless sets and box of valves at 909561. At 1040 hrs signal sent to Pde requesting permission to move following places. Track SOUTH from 907568 STAGY TRACK - track June 908568 GIBSON POST - track June 908567 WATTS BASE. As a result of air strike 5 Mar on enemy post 917523 one unexploded bomb was found at 917524 and a further two suspected at 917523 in C coy post.

9 MAR: C coy ambush 1 offr 12 OMs est at river x-ing 908505. Recce patrol from 10 pl 905553 followed well worn track to x-ing 908508 and contacted C coy ambush at 1155 hrs reporting fresh footprints of approx 6 enemy moving WEST and NW for 900 yds from x-ing. 16 and 18 pls with attached Arty offr and sign moved out at 0800 hrs from 908531 to attack and clear enemy from post 915510 (encountered 7 Mar.) Enemy post found to be hurriedly vacated and a search of the area located 12 single weapon pits - 1 JUNK pit - 1 hut and 2 lean to's situated on left of main track. 18 pl moving fwd at 1240 hrs ambushed an enemy party estimated 15/30 on track killing 6. Pl then came under heavy automatic and rifle fire from enemy in post 922511 and withdrew. Own cas 3 wounded accurate arty fire was then brought down on post and 16 and 18 pls moved fwd on either side of track to investigate. At 1640 hrs post found to be hurriedly vacated and a search of the area revealed 24 weapon pits incl 4 JUNK's - 2 huts, 2 lean to's and freshly dug graves which contained a 2nd Lt and Sgt-Maj killed in previous action 7 Mar. Officer wore spectacles, jodphurs, puttees and clothing in excellent condition. Buried with the bodies were boots, gas field rations and leather attache case. Post 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 force heavily booby trapped the area and returned to perimeter 909531 at 1930 hrs. C coy ambush returned to coy from x-ing 908505 at 1720 hrs. Nothing to report. BN was instructed that when operational advance permitted, track (TOKINOTU - BATAI + 920483) - (MUMIKI - SINAGAI) will be investigated to determine suitability as L of C and medical evac via BANANA - TORO fwd troops on left flank of Pde advance. Native compound now est at 908565.

9 MAR: Patrol from 10 pl 905553 followed track SOUTH then SW to BANNA'S X-ING 908505 then W to native village 877518 only signs of enemy seen - 1 footprint at 901513, patrol returned at 1400 hrs. C coy recce patrol traversed track from 917523 to FURIAFA R then S along river to BANNA'S X-ING then EAST for approx 1000 yds returning to coy at 1540 hrs. C coy est ambush at 922509 from 1000 hrs to 1430 hrs reporting 3 sets footprints seen on track otherwise no enemy movement. Patrol found that enemy had evacuated post of 9 Mar along previously cut escape route.

10 MAR: Recce patrol from C coy 915523 traversed track from BANNA'S X-ING to 922511 and returned NORTH along main track to coy. Fresh footprints of 6 enemy were seen on track running SOUTH from 915523. Fighting patrol strength 1 offr 16 OMs from C coy was despatched and followed track SOUTH then SW for 3000 yds and heard sounds of automatic and rifle fire to the EAST. On investigating, saw party of Japs at approx 931514. Arty brought down at 1130 hrs but observed to be inaccurate. 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 908531 SOUTH along EAST bank FURIAFA R in attempt to reach track June 904486 returned to coy at 1530 hrs. Native guide knew of no tracks and lead patrol through bush and very swampy country to approx 911501. Only signs enemy were 9 sets footprints four days old near hut at 901506. C coy recce patrol 1 MCO 5 OMs ANCAU WO and 3 natives followed main track from 917523 to 922512 then broke scrub W - EAST then SOUTH crossing main track at approx 933505. Contacted enemy at 933508 killing 2. Patrol then detoured WEST then NORTH x-ing main track at 925508 thence through gardens 935515 to Kanaka hideout 930509 here by the night contacting the 2/8 Cdo Sqn patrol from WIERO.

11 MAR: B coy commenced move to relieve C coy. 10 pl departed 909523 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. Disposes B coy HQ 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 905523 at 1015 hrs. 14 pl remaining at 919521. 12 pl patrol SOUTH from 909521 and WEST to track June 915513 killed 1 enemy approaching from BANNA-X-TRK at 0945 hrs. Own cas 1 wounded. Patrol returned with casualty and was joined by remainder 12 pl, then departed to est ambush on June 915513 until 1600 hrs. Returned 1035 hrs and reported NO further enemy movement. D coy fighting patrol SR along main track from 909521 encountered enemy unknown strength armed with two LMG's 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 rifle. Patrol replied with concentrated auto and grenade discharger 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 Kanaka hideout returned to coy perimeter 909521 at 1300 hrs accompanied by 2/S Cdo sqn patrol. 3 guns of D tp 10 sty, 2 Pd Regt arrived 901564 pln. Remaining gun still enroute. Harassing fire from C tp to be brought down on enemy posn 922508 at 112300L - 120215 L - 120630L. Information gained from native source by patrol to Kanaka hideout :-topographical - river flowing from 964521 to PURIATA R at 994495 is known as PUIYO. Tributary of HONORAI R flowing in from NORTH at 973491 is known as BUNARA R. A good road runs from HINERO through SINAI crosses PUIYO R and continues on to TOKINOTU. Another road from SINAI crosses HONORAI R at 973499 and leads to TAIKAI. Placed at 942505 is HORINU 2 - NOT HORINU 1. HORINU 1 is further SOUTH with track continuing SOUTH to join HINERO - TOKINOTU road. RUMIKI is placed NORTH of HINERO - TOKINOTU road with track leading SOUTH to join road. Enemy disposes - there is a force estimated at 60 at approx 972497 feeding from gardens at approx 970493. A further two forces of unknown strength are located between HINERO - TOKINOTU road and HONORAI R in the vicinity of RUMIKI - HORINU 1 track June 22 this road. Further force located at approx 994494.

12 MAR: A coy security patrol from NARIDA to BANANA returned 1600 hrs reported no movements 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 of June 915513 reached creek approx 800 yds from June. Encountered enemy rifle fire from SOUTH bank. Patrol then crossed creek under cover of Arty fire and found enemy had vacated posn. B coy fighting patrol moved SR along main track from 919521 to track June 922511 then EAST and SOUTH through scrub to cut track at rear of enemy posn 931502. Patrol then moved back along track through Jap posn found it vacated and returned to coy perimeter 1655 hrs. One sec 15 Aust Pd Coy attached to Bn as from 0700 hrs.

13 MAR: D coy less 16 pl moved fwd from 909521 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 909521 and occupied track June 915513 at 1130 hrs. At approx 1530 hrs pl was attacked by enemy force unknown strength armed with MGC Grenades and rifles. Cas enemy unknown. Own 3 wounded. One Sec from B Coy moved fwd to reinforce 16 pl at 1600 hrs. B coy recce patrol followed track SOUTH to 922508. After breaking scrub on bearing 120 degrees for 450 yds reached 2 huts with number of foot pads radiating from it. Followed one pad to PUIYO R at 939495 and found several fresh Jap footprints evidently small parties going for water. At this point river is 30 ft wide 5 to 6 ft deep, very fast flowing, banks 100 ft high, and not fordable. Dropping ground cleared at 909522 for air drop 14 Mar.

14 MAR: BNGQ moved fwd from BOKI 909564 and opened 909521 at 0920 hrs. One sec from D coy 932508 moving fwd to creek N-ing 933506 encountered and killed two enemy at 0700 hrs. At 0900 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. Poon contained 12 weapon pits, 1 HMG pit and lean to's estimated to have been one week old. Our Arty fire had accurately on target. Remainder of coy then moved fwd across creek & formed perimeter at 935505 at 1300 hrs. While digging in 18 pl ~~sighted~~ 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 917523 through 10 pl at 915513. Sec used to reinforce 10 pl night 13/14 Mar rejoined coy and advanced continued to creek x-ing 915508. Enroute fwd pl encountered enemy ambush party of 6 at approx 915511. Enemy withdrew, cas nil. Movement observed on SOUTH bank of creek and arty ~~registered~~ registered. Patrol then sent fwd to investigate and returned 1830 hrs reporting NO signs enemy. Coy then formed perimeter for night on NORTH bank of creek. 10 pl at June 915513 reported sighting 1 enemy armed with rifle and accompanied by brown dog at 915520. Enemy escaped. A patrol located in the vicinity of this pl poun 5 piles of .256 spent cases and a ~~map~~ wrapped torn cap, resulting from action 13 Mar. BARNS X-170 ambush returned to 15 pl 935553 at 1700 hrs. Reported NO enemy seen at X-ing but 3 sets fresh enemy footprints observed moving SOUTH from garden at 930633. 9 pl departed 930578 at 0800 hrs and took up posn at 917523 at 1830 hrs. C coy less 13 pl departed 935507 at 0815 hrs. Coy 14 and 14 pl est NOW 935504 at 0800 hrs. 15 pl est 935503 at 0800 hrs. 13 pl remaining at 935553.

15 MAR: Owing to extended L of C any fwd movement of units will be restricted until native carriers est camp at PUSIATA R. Camp to be est by p.m. 15 Mar. Aggressive patrolling was continued by coys from their firm bases. A coy departed PUSIATA - WUIVO area at 0830 hrs and joined 9 pl at 917523 at 1250 hrs. 13 pl moved from 935553 at 0845 hrs and occupied MATTHEWS JUNG 978392 at 1100 hrs. One section 14 pl now located at 919 930578. 5 pl moved from 933576 and arrived BLA-CO June 933599 at 0945 hrs. A patrol with native guides left D coy 935506 moved SOUTH from approx 933506 crossed PANKUNGU creek at approx 932400 and reached WUIVO R at approx 933484. Returned to D coy 1320 hrs without making contact. Patrol from D coy moved NE to track at 939507 SE along track to WUIVO R at 941506 then SW along WEST bank to main track at approx 940504 natives found NO signs of enemy in MORINU S. Patrol returned along main track to D coy at 1805 hrs without making contact. Security patrol from 10 pl 915513 found footprints 1/2 days old of party enemy with dog at BARNS X-ING area. After reporting SOUTH bank SHIKON creek clear of enemy, D 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 dog in on high ground at 915504 armed with 1 HMG 2 LMG's rifles and grenade dischar ers. Patrol probed posn and came under heavy fire. Cas 1 killed 1 wounded. Under cover of arty and HMG fire cas were withdrawn, 13 pl relieved patrol and further arty brought down before returning to coy.

16 MAR: 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 HMG fire and Arty was brought down on enemy posn. On further investigation of posn our tps again encountered heavy volume of fire and, unable to advance, 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 viv area of 10 huts and freshly dug graves. 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 forward of B coy posn. Patrol sighted 1 enemy sentry on jung but did not fire as own patrols operating in area. Patrol from D coy with native guides moved to kanaka hideout 930608 then through bush towards SIKAWAI. Natives investigated SIKAWAI and reported 30 enemy collecting sac sac for construction of huts. Natives refused to guide patrol further to MORINU 1 and SUNIKI stating that large bodies of enemy were in these areas. Patrol returned through bush to D coy at 1700 hrs without making contact. MORINU S reported to be clear of Japs but enemy were using adjacent gardens. C coy patrols operating in area bounded by line PUSIATA - WUIVO - BARNS X-ING - BOKU reported no signs of enemy. All sightings also reported by patrol 2000 yds WEST along road from MATTHEWS JUNG thence SW to approx.

855573 then EAST to main road at approx 881567. A coy recon patrol 1 HQ & 4 ORs & 2 native guides was despatched to locate enemy tracks reported by 25 Aust Inf Bn in BARREN X-ING area at 0730 hrs. Troop requested for 17 Mar along track from fwd tps 915507 to NATAI also information on any other tracks leading SOUTH to POIYO R, crossings of river and enemy movement this area.

17 MAR: After air strike by 3 Corsairs requested 16 Mar, and arty preparation on enemy posn 915504 at 0855 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 consolidation 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 HQ 3 LMG's grenade dischargers, rifles and possibly 1 Owen gun. Cas. own 1 wounded. Enemy unknown. Pl 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 recon patrol out 16 Mar returned to coy at 1655 hrs. Followed track SOUTH and WEST to BARREN X-ING then along EAST bank PUIYU R to 922502 crossed river and broke scrub to 878503 where foot pad runs SOUTH. This was followed to 878500 thence to BARREN. Patrol returned to 878500 and followed double red sig cable to approx 882506 found 4 drums sig cable and continued on to 884512 sighting 4 Jap footprints heading SOUTH. Patrol again broke scrub to BARREN X-ING and returned to coy without making contact. At 1420 hrs L/T between HQHQ and C coy was cut. Investigating patrol found 40 yds of cable removed at approx 897857, discovered 3 sets enemy footprints leading WEST and took into custody an old kanaka who was moving along track in this vicinity and escorted him back to C coy for interrogation. Enemy posn - vacated at 915504 was ~~XXXXXX~~ sited on track in head of creek with steep 20 ft banks on three sides. All pits were covered as protection against bombing and arty fire with JWEI pit sited to cover track both fwd and rear. Bombs straddled target making very little cratering and clearing jungle 30/40 yds radius from point of impact. B lean to's in area would accommodate approx 30 men.

18 MAR: B 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 water courses and re-entrants. A track running EAST-WEST was crossed at approx 909503, had not been used recently and at this point an 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 0950 hrs 1 sec from A coy relieved 16 pl at June 915513 and 16 pl re-joined B coy at 935505 at 1030 hrs. Native patrol to HONIRU 2 returned to D coy at 1830 hrs and reported large numbers of enemy in garden area sec 9450-9550-9449-9549. AUSTIN DMLB now servicing BA daily at 0735 hrs.

19 MAR: at 0715 hrs B pl ambush patrol moved Easterly direction for 500 yds from 911500 to approx 914497. Recon patrol operating from this base reported signs of fresh clearing 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 boobying trapping cable at 909500. B coy patrol from 935505 moved SOUTH through scrub to POIYO R at 940500 then SW and WEST along north bank to 928400 thence NORTH to coy without making contact. Another patrol from B coy operating in same area returned to coy at 1640 hrs and reported no signs of enemy.

20 MAR: A coy patrol from 915523 moved through scrub and then by track to 942507. A small recon party from this point reported no enemy in HONIRU 2 but observed fresh Jap footprints a few hrs old on track. Sec ambush to BARREN X-ING remained until 1530 hrs then returned to A coy, reporting no signs enemy. B coy security patrols reported no signs enemy 300 yds fwd of coy perimeter. B coy patrol from 935505 SE to PUIYU R, crossed river at 940500 proceeded 200 yds striking native foot pads and remains of huts in clearing 50 yds square showing signs of recent occupation by 5 enemy.

Small party investigating from this point was fired on by 3 enemy and returned fire killing one. 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 PUIYO 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 NE along track to investigate sight of ambush reported by 2/8 Cav Cdo sqn at 914533 and to patrol track along PUIIATA R to 923540. No signs enemy seen and only foot prints observed were Australian. At 1600 hrs 220 native refugees escorted by 3 Police boys arrived at BnHQ from 2/8 Cav Cdo Sqn enroute to MOKIETTA.

21 MAR: A coy patrol moved EAST along the SIRIKARA R to 934519 thence NORTH WEST to OPAL R returning via BnHQ to coy at 1215 hrs no contact made. At 1400 hrs 1 sec 8 pl relieved sec of 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 footpaths running SW. Continued SW to creek at 918498 then WEST to cut main track ~~xxxxxxx~~ at 915498 returning along main track to coy at 1345 hrs. Saw no signs of recent enemy movement or def posns. C coy patrol moved SE to 2/8 Cdo Sqn old HQ site then NE to 931551 contacting traversing patrol from 2/8 Cdo Sqn. Both patrols then moved NW 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 to 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 BAHARA at 1645 hrs enroute to TOKO. Coy arrived MOKINNA BR 839480 at 1830 hrs and biv for night. At 1635 hrs 188 native refugees arrived at BnHQ from 2/8 Cdo Sqn enroute to MOKIETTA. A-B-C coys 9 Aust Inf Bn now under comd this HQ until relief of Bn effected. At 1130 hrs supplies and amm were delivered per air drop on dropping ground at 909532.

22 MAR: 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 913801. Patrol heard sounds of chopping WEST of this point which ceased on investigation, saw no signs of enemy and continued to 914477 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 MOKINNA BR 839480 and arrived TOKO 816453 at 1130 hrs. Lt-Col Matthews, CO 9 Aust Inf Bn and party arrived his HQ at 1510 hrs. Patrol from A coy 9 Aust Inf Bn with POC from 935505 moved along track to PUIYO R 940503. During arty registration on crossing, heard rifle shots from EAST bank which did not appear to be directed at our patrol. Arty fire brought down on suspected enemy posns and patrol returned to coy at 1100 hrs. Supplies were delivered per air drop on dropping ground at 909523.

23 MAR: A coy security patrol to BARNES X-ING - East to X-ing 935519 and NW to OPAL R reported no enemy seen. A coy ambush patrol spent night 22/23 Mar at kanaka hideout 950508. Acting on information supplied by natives, patrol proceeded to garden 957497 and set ambush on track leading to garden at 1100 hrs. Natives 4 Japs in this garden morning 21 Mar but patrol sighted no enemy and returned to kanaka hideout then proceeded to HORINU 2 where search revealed no signs enemy movement. 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 MOKINNA BR at 1600 hrs. Patrol from B coy 9 Aust Inf Bn moved from 915505 500 yds fwd of coy posn reporting no signs enemy movt. Patrol from A coy 9 Aust Inf Bn crossed PUIYO R at 939500 proceeded EAST to clearing 940499 sighting 5 enemy. On investigating further, patrol came under heavy fire from strong pill-box posn at 942499, enemy estimated at 20/30 armed with 2 LMG's, rifles, Grenade dischargers and possibly RMB. 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 909523.

24 MAR: Patrol from A coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 935505 moved to 935500 then SW along WEST bank PUIYO R to 937489 then WEST to PORHUNGU R 930483 thence NW 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 x-ing 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 at 1550 hrs. Coy HQ 17 and 18 pls at 919521. 16 pl relieved sec A coy at track June 915513 and sec rejoined coy at 917523. Location amendment :- B coy HQ and 10 pl 840479. 11 and 12 pls 838479. Supplies and ammo were delivered per air drop on dropping ground at 909523. Maj Twealow OC "D" coy appointed temporary commander Bn personnel TOKO area until arrival of HQ group.

25 MAR: A coy relieved by D coy 9 Aust Inf Bn and departed 917523 at 0545 hrs moving via BARKERS X-ING - DARARA arriving 873487 at 1500 hrs. Patrol from B coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 915504 through scrub to 928503 thence SW to overgrown garden at approx 919416 encountered 1 Jap who escaped. Patrol continued on, cutting track at 919485 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 SW to 930483. At this point a log x-ing and well worn footpad crosses PORHUNGU 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: Patrol from A coy 9 Aust Inf Bn 935505 to investigate area 916485 returned at 1255 hrs and reported moving along EAST bank of PUTUGO R to 920493 at which point a well worn track running SE NW crosses river. Patrol observed 38 Japs moving NW along this track, heard sounds of movement 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 SW 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 PUIYO 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 x-ing 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 Bn HQ arrived 909531 at 1600 hrs. As from 1800 hrs 9 Aust Inf Bn assumed responsibility of 61 Aust Inf Bn area. Acting on information supplied by a 9 Bn patrol (ref large force of enemy moving WEST along NIBERO - TOKINOTU road in sq 9048) A coy was instructed to actively patrol area in vicinity coy posn as from 27 Mar.

27 MAR: Bn HQ group moved from 909531 at 0800 hrs and arrived TOKO area 804463 at 1630 hrs. A coy patrol from 873487 moved EAST across GALVINS X-ING to 880490 then SE along track to 894482 returning to 885485 thence WEST through scrub to coy via GALVINS X-ING without making contact. A further patrol from A coy searched area sqs 8649-8749 without sighting enemy.

28 MAR: 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 5 ORs 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. Blood stains found at scene of action indicated that possibly all 4 were wounded. Further fighting patrol searched sqs 8855-8856-8955-8956 reporting no enemy seen. A coy patrol from GALVINS X-ING moved SE along NORTH bank PURIATA R following faint pads 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 GALVINS KING. On route ~~scrub~~ further footprints of several small parties of enemy were observed. Patrol from GALVINS KING 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° N. Patrol then established ambush for one hour without result. 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 GALVINS KING. A Coy posn 875487 was attacked by enemy in strength between 2050 hrs and 2400 hrs. Attack repulsed. Enemy cas 3 known killed own cas nil.

29 MAR. A Coy patrol moving to contact 25 Aust Inf Bn HQ came under fire from 3 enemy LMG rifles and grenades 40 yds fwd of Coy perimeter at 0800 hrs. Cas unknown own 2 killed 2 wounded. Contact patrol from 25 Bn HQ 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. Attack unsuccessful and pl withdrew to Coy perimeter reporting enemy strength est 70 armed with MMG 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 observed enemy movt and remained in posn until a.m. 30 Mar. A section from B Coy escorting carried line to DARARA was ambushed by enemy party at 840483. 10 pl followed by 11 pl moved fwd from Coy posn at MO. KINNA BRIDGE 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 moved NORTH to clear road to DARARA arriving without further contact. Coy returned to original posn MO KINNA BR at 2045 hrs bringing with them battle cas from 9 Bn. 17 pl departed B Coy 816453 arriving B Coy posn at 1215 hrs. Pl occupied B Coy posn during Coys absence and due ~~to~~ late hour of Coys return from DARARA remained at MO. KINNA BR for night. Security patrol from BnHQ 804463 moved SOUTH along bank of lagoon to B Coy 816453 reported no signs of enemy and found no tracks throughout this area. B Echelon moved from MAKATONA and joined BnHQ Group at 804463. Flamethrower pl from 15 Aust Bde arrived B Coy posn at 0930 hrs.

30 MAR. Patrol from B Coy departed first light for ANGAU COMPOUND to investigate report of enemy force in vicinity. At 0800 hrs one pl departed B Coy to investigate ANGAU COMPOUND, reported area clear of enemy and after assisting A Coy 24 Bn to establish perimeter returned to Coy at 1330 hrs. A Coy standing patrol at 875485 return at 0900 hrs reporting no signs of enemy. At 0910 hrs line party attempting to move from A Coy 25 Bn HQ made contact with 25 Bn patrol at 1215 hrs reporting EAST side of road clear of enemy. 2 standing patrols together with 25 Bn patrol moved from A Coy at 1300 hrs along WEST side of road to establish posns on L of C between A Coy and 25 Bn HQ and observe enemy movt. At 1400 hrs road reported clear and jeeps moved through to evacuate 25 Bn wounded. At 0900 hrs 17 pl patrol moving through to DARARA from MOKINNA BR encountered and wounded 1 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 MO. KINNA BR at 1710 hrs. 18 pl departed B Coy at 1720 hrs for ROBERTS KING 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 rains pl was unable to cross PURIATA R and remained night 30 - 31 Mar at 836458. Security patrol from Bn HQ along SOUTH bank of lagoon to B Coy reported no signs of enemy in area. 4 pl departed BnHQ area 806462 and arrived A Coy at 1200 hrs. Two troops ~~Beech~~ Bn 24 Arm Regt arrived B Coy posn at 1645 hrs. then departed under protection from 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 SOUTH. Fire returned grenades. Cas own nil. Enemy unknown. Later at 2100 hrs movt seen on EAST side of perimeter and one enemy was killed with rifle fire. Captured equipment incl one LMG type 96 and 5 grenades. Water party from 25 Bn B-Ech 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 despatched to engage area with mortars.

31 MAR. At 0715 hrs patrol departed B Coy 840479 contacted A Coy 873487 and returned to Coy at 0930 hrs reporting road clear of enemy. Further patrol from line party departed B Coy at 0930 hrs and ^{loid} cable to BARBARA returning to Coy at 1410 hrs without making contact. En route patrol observed 12 sets of enemy footprints leading SOUTH of road at 844494. At 1000 hrs 18 pl who had camped night 30-31 Mar at 838458 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 ~~position~~ cut beyond repair. 17 pl departed MC. KINNA BR and arrived 843481 at 1300 hrs. Later BnHQ Group moved from 806462 and opened 843481 at 1500 hrs. 17 pl now attached to BnHQ during 4 pls 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 GALVINS KING. Only signs of enemy 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 despatched as protective force for B. Echelon at 806462.

1 APR. 12 pl patrol from B Coy 853483 to BARBARA returned to Coy 1550 hrs. reported sig line to BARBARA and 1200 yds towards MARIGA intact. Line BARBARA BARNES KING followed for 1000 yds and found cut beyond repair. No enemy seen. At 1520 hrs escort party for carrier line to BARBARA moved out and returned with 12 pl together with 9 Aust Inf Bn cas.. A Coy nothing to report. 16 pl departed D Coy 816453 at 0700 hrs along same route taken by 18 pl 31 Mar in a further attempt to contact C Coy 25 Bn. A section patrol from 13 pl at MATTHEWS JUNG est ambush posn at 839585. At 0830 hrs 2 enemy were sighted moving along road and when fired on leapt into creek. Patrol followed killing 1 and wounding the other who escaped into scrub. Search *failed* to locate jap and patrol returned to dead body.. While searching same our sentry was killed by a rifle shot from wounded jap who then dashed fwd and captured sentry's Owen gun. Patrol opened fire but 2 Owen guns failed to operate and although grenades were thrown enemy escaped along creek with captured Owen Gun. 14 and 15 pls recce and protective patrol in BOKU area reported no signs of enemy movt.

2 APR. 16 pl together with C Coy 25 Bn arrived ROBERTS KING at 0830 hrs. 16 pl who had departed previous day to contact coy followed sig cable from 865482 and arrived C coy posn 895457 at 1600 hrs 1 Apr. Pl est posn on BUIE RD at 896456 while C Coy prepared to withdraw. At 1630 hrs 2 enemy approached from S E and were killed. Coy with 16 pl then moved back along sig cable until 1730 hrs and darkness prevented further movt. With the rise of the moon movt continued from 0100 to 0500 hrs WEST along kana & pad. After a short rest force moved off at first light on final stage of journey. An enemy posn located 800 yds WEST of C Coy posn contained numerous foxholes and network of new tracks and 5 enemy dead. D Coy;- Coy HQ departed 816453 arriving track jung 866482 at 0930 hrs. 17 pl departed Bn HQ and rejoined coy at 0935 hrs. 18 pl departed B. Ech and rejoined coy at 1100 hrs. 16 pl arrived BnHQ from ROBERTS KING at 1115 hrs and rejoined coy at 1400 hrs. 4 pl which had been attached to A Coy returned to BnHQ at 1030 hrs. A Coy patrol from 873488 to 877495 thence to 868495 returned to Coy at 1300 hrs reporting tracks crossed on route showed no sign of recent enemy use. B Coy patrol to BARBARA returned to coy at 1040 hrs reporting no signs of enemy. At 1645 hrs a sentry on road WEST of BnHQ perimeter was fired on and wounded by small enemy party. Sentry returned fire bgt enemy escaped. Sentry stated that japs were wearing Australian clothing. Patrol from B Coy moving EAST along SOUTH side of road to investigate found no signs of enemy.

3 APR. Patrol from A Coy was fired on by small enemy party at 868489 at 0945 hrs cas own nil enemy unknown. At 0910 hrs escort patrol with carrier line departed B Coy for BARBARA. Native carriers reported sighting one enemy at 844492 but on investigating, patrol found no signs of enemy. Continued on to BARBARA and returned to Coy at 1130 hrs without further contact. D Coy;- at 1225 hrs 2 enemy (one wearing Australian clothing) and jap cap were seen on NE edge of perimeter 866482. Enemy were engaged and one jap wounded. Patrol investigated but did not locate enemy.

Patrol from Coy SOUTH along sig line track to cocoanuts 867460 reported no signs of enemy. C Coy plus 5 pl departed BOKU - MEIWO area en route to TOKO. Location ~~is~~ now Coy HQ minus 14 pl 880578, 13 and 5 pls 878582, 15 pl MAWARAKA. Enemy arty shelled area 873485 from 1912L to 1935L firing 59 shells incl 6 duds. A Coy posn 873486 bracketed. 2 shells fell in area 862482. NIL damage. Cas 2 Armd regt personnel wounded.

4 APR. A coy patrol of one section moved from GALVINS KING along SOUTH side of road to within 300 yds of BARARA returning via EAST side of road to coy at 1330 hrs. Between 867490 and 859498 signs that small enemy parties had struck off into scrub in N E direction approx 3/4 days previously. Saw evidence of recent enemy shelling at 871488 and 870489. B Coy escort patrol to BARARA reported no sign of enemy. D Coy patrol of one section moved SOUTH along sig line track to cocoanuts 867460 and returned to coy at 1125 hrs reporting no signs of enemy. 8 Tp 2/4 Armd Regt arrived B Coy posn at 1615 hrs. Enemy arty shelled area sqs 8447-8547 from 2115L to 2240L firing 48 shells incl 10 duds. Nil damage or cas.

5 APR. Enemy arty shelled area sqs 8447-8547 from 0010L to 0020L firing 23 shells incl 6 duds and from 0117L to 0130L firing 41 shells incl 7 duds. NIL damage or cas. At first light a small enemy party threw grenades into A Coy perimeter 873487. Own Cas NIL. Enemy unknown. B Coy:- patrol from 840479 followed a track S E and N E to D Coy 866482 reporting no signs of enemy mvt. Escort patrol to BARARA reported nil sightings. D Coy patrol SOUTH along sig line track to cocoanuts 867460 reported one fresh enemy footprint at approx 865472. B-Ech now located at 803464. C coy arrived B-Ech at 1245 hrs and later were joined by 5 pl at 1435 hrs. Secret alternate sig lines laid from BnHQ to B and D Coys, line to be continued to A Coy 6 Apr. Sentry manning listening post at BnHQ fired on one suspected enemy. Patrol to investigate reported no movt seen. A pl of A coy escorting tanks fwd to 25 Bn, provided covering fire from SLATER'S HULL. Enemy arty fired 14 shells in area sq 8646 to 1900 hrs and a further 15 shells in area 863477 at 2000 hrs. NIL damage or cas.

6 APR. A Coy patrol escorting line party to GALVINS KING then S W along SOUTH bank of PURIATA R to 865485 reported no signs of enemy. B Coy patrols operating in area sqs 8447-8547 reported no signs of enemy. B Coy escort patrol to BARARA reported one set of fresh enemy footprints to 842485 otherwise no movt seen. D Coy:- patrol SOUTH from 866482 to track junc approx 765474 then NORTH along a parallel track to 864478 reported no signs of enemy. A further patrol investigating track leading EAST from junc 865474 ~~then~~ found evidence that a small enemy party had moved WEST along track to approx 868474 and then returned EAST. Patrol set ambush on track and no further movt seen. Patrol SOUTH along sig line track to observe suspected enemy biv area investigated track to 875455 and area NORTH incl sq 8746 found no sign of biv area but located numerous jap tracks in area leading towards BUIN road. Fresh jap footprints were observed on track leading WEST towards PURIATA R from 867459. At 1800 hrs A coy sighted one wounded jap outside the perimeter who escaped before action could be taken. From 2018 hrs to 2035 hrs enemy arty shelled areas GALVINS KING and 860478. Estimated 2 guns fired 62 shells plus at least 3 duds. NIL damage or cas.

7 APR. Patrols from B Coy and BnHQ operating in areas sqs 8447-8547 reported no signs of enemy. B Coy:- patrol from 866482 to 865474 thence to 862474 reported no signs of enemy. A further patrol moved from 866482 and at 866463 fwd scout observed 15/20 enemy wearing haversacks on their belts and armed with 1 LMG. Enemy party appeared to be engaged in salvaging our sig cable. Fwd scout's Owen gun failed to operate and enemy fled into scrub. After waiting in ambush for 30 mins patrol returned to coy without making further contact. At 0815 hrs 3 arty jeeps moving WEST along road were fired on by a small enemy party strength estimated 4, armed with an LMG and grenades at approx 845425. NIL damage or cas. At 1330 hrs one enemy grenade was thrown at Y.M.C.A. jeep moving WEST along road at 860477. Patrols dispatched to investigate both these incidents found no further signs of enemy.

8 APR. At 0745 hrs contact patrol moving from BnHQ to B Coy encountered and engaged party of enemy armed with rifles and grenades at 853480. A stronger patrol sent to investigate killed 2 enemy at this point and found 5 enemy bodies resulting from previous encounter. Own cas nil. Enemy killed were in good condition and incl 2ndLt, Sgt, and Superior Pte, one wearing Aust shirt. A search of area revealed a biv 50 yds SOUTH of ambush posn with accommodation for 8 men. Captured eqpt incl a haversack containing 250 rounds of .30 cal U.S. amn and 35 rds of .256 - 10 grenades - one B.A.R. magazine - 6 rifles - Aust pack and rubber bag containing atebria and bandages. Standing patrol now established at this posn from 0700 to 1900 hrs daily. B Coy routine patrols to BABAHA and B coy reported no signs of enemy. Composite patrol strength 2 offrs 24 ORs from A and B Coys moved from 866482 along track to 867460 and reported area SOUTH of this point inundated due to previous heavy rain.

From 9 Apr to 12 May (when relief of Bn was effected) Coys were engaged in working parties and extensive patrolling on L of C and in rear and right flank of fwd units. No contacts were made during this period, but on night 20/21 Apr a small enemy raiding party penetrated to McKINNA BR and succeeded in causing temporary damage to bridge with a demolition charge. The party then escaped without being seen.

2x see
Appx. 1

RESTRICTED

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by
MAJ. R. WEPNER
AIM COMD 61 AUST INF BN

Copy No. 14
Serial 10/45
Nos 63 -

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
3 May 1945.

63. PROTECTED ANIMALS, BIRDS AND PLANTS.

Except in emergency, due to operational requirements, all ranks will observe the law of the States and Territories and Commonwealth relating to the protection of animals, birds and plants.

64. DAMAGE TO TIMBER.

Members of the forces will not, except for operational or properly authorised official purposes, cut or authorise or direct the cutting of timber growing on private or public property (including forestry reserves) without first obtaining the consent of a person having power to agree to such cutting.

65. REGIMENTAL TRUST FUND.

In hand commencement of Month : £128.18. 4.

Received during Month :

Canteen Profit Distribution	£46.16.10.	
Advance Unit Canteen (Refund)	175. 0. 0.	221.16.10.

Expended during Month :

Regt Barbers	26. 0. 0.	
Band Music (W.H. Paling & Co)	14. 1. 0.	
Mantles (Alladin Industries)	29. 14. 7.	29.14. 7.

Balance on Hand : £312. 0. 7.

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 30 Apr 45.

D. M. McKELLAR LT (signed)
ARTHUR A. WATTS LT (")

66. COURTS MARTIAL.

Attention is drawn to Appx 'A' of this R/O, in which results of LCM convened by GOC 3 Aust Div is published.

W. J. ... Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION : List 'A'

---ooOoo---
APPENDIX 'A'

NATURE & DATE OF TRIAL :	DCM 24 APR 45.
ACCUSED :	QX62336 PTE WHALLEY R. 61 AUST INF BN.
CHARGE :	WOAS CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE in that he in the field on 1 APR 45 when ordered by his pl comd to proceed on patrol replied "I can't come on this patrol" or words to that effect, and said that he would not go.
FINDING.	GUILTY
SENTENCE.	SIXTY DAYS FIELD PUNISHMENT & SIXTY DAYS FORFEITURE OF ALL ORDINARY PAY.
CONFIRMATION.	The finding and sentence were duly confirmed on 22 APR 45, and promulgated to accused on 30 APR 45.

APPENDIX 'A' (CTD)

NATURE & DATE OF TRIAL : DCM 24 APR 45
 ACCUSED : RK193681 Pte J.J. KING, 61 AUST INF BN
 CHARGE : WOAS CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER & MILITARY DISCIPLINE in that he in the field on 31 MAR 45 when ordered by his Coy Comd to proceed on patrol replied, "I won't go" or words to that effect. AA SEC 40.

FINDING : GUILTY
 SENTENCE : 90 DAYS FIELD PUNISHMENT & 90 DAYS FORFEITURE OF ALL ORDINARY PAY.

CONFIRMATION : The finding and sentence were duly confirmed on 27 APR 45 and promulgated to the accused in the Field on 30 APR 45.

NATURE AND DATE OF TRIAL: DCM 24 APR 45
 ACCUSED : N200944 Pte F.G. GOLLEY, 61 AUST INF BN
 CHARGE : AA SEC 40 WOAS CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE in that he in the field on 28 Mar 45 when under orders to move to a forward area paraded to his pl comd and said "I won't be coming with you. My Nerves have had it." or words to that effect.

FINDING : GUILTY
 SENTENCE : 90 DAYS FIELD PUNISHMENT AND 90 DAYS FORFEITURE OF PAY.

CONFIRMATION : The finding and sentence were duly confirmed on 27 APR 45 and promulgated to the accused in the Field on 30 APR 45.

NATURE & DATE OF TRIAL: DCM 24 APR 45
 ACCUSED : N130680 Pte S.A. REDDIE 61 AUST INF BN
 CHARGE : AA SEC 40 WOAS CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE in that he in the field on 1 APR 45 when ordered by his pl comd to proceed on patrol, replied, "I'm not going any further, I'm not going on any patrol" or words to that effect.

FINDING : GUILTY
 SENTENCE : 90 DAYS FIELD PUNISHMENT AND 90 DAYS FORFEITURE OF PAY.

CONFIRMATION : The finding and sentence were duly confirmed on 27 APR 45 and promulgated to the accused in the field on 30 APR 45.

NATURE AND DATE OF TRIAL: DCM 24 APR 45
 ACCUSED : N38879 Pte E.J. BAGLEY, 61 AUST INF BN
 CHARGE : AA 40 WOAS CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE IN THAT HE IN THE FIELD on 1 APR 45 when ordered by his pl commander to go on patrol, replied "I can't" and when ordered again "No Sir" or words to that effect.

FINDING : GUILTY
 SENTENCE : 90 DAYS FIELD PUNISHMENT & 90 DAYS FORFEITURE OF PAY.

CONFIRMATION : The finding and sentence were duly confirmed on 27 APR 45 and promulgated to the accused in the field on 30 APR 45.

NATURE AND DATE OF TRIAL: DCM 24 APR 45.
 ACCUSED : QX28563 PTE E.J. GOYNE 61 AUST INF BN.
 CHARGE : AA SEC 9(2) WOAS DISOBEYING A LAWFUL COMMAND GIVEN BY HIS SUPERIOR OFFICER in that he in the Field on 22 APR 45 when ordered by QX35527 Lt D.S. LOWNDES, 61 AUST INF BN, his pl comd, to proceed on patrol, did not do so.

FINDING : GUILTY
 SENTENCE : 90 DAYS FD PUNISHMENT & 90 DAYS FORFEITURE OF PAY.

CONFIRMATION : The finding and sentence were duly confirmed on 27 APR 45 and promulgated to the accused in the Field on 30 APR 45.

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

Appx 2

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

7 bde

051330L

9 bn 25 bn 61 bn *For Action*

TO

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions **GR**

May

ORIGINATOR'S No.

AG249

RESTRICTED (.)

OC 19

war graves unit

desires to express his appreciation of action of bns this bde in submitting such carefully prepared overlays (.) location of graves has been made immeasurably easier

CO *Mc*

Sic

ADJ

OM

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

DRLS

Signed *[Signature]*

Capt

Signed

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

Sender

Code

Receiver

Aug 28 1943

Time Cleared

Priority

Classification

Service

File 15

DBTS

Unit

Message No.

Remarks

Office of Origin

Time

Station

Of

TO

() For information (INFO)

() For action

() For restricted use only

Priority

() For information (INFO)

Message Instructions

TO

() For action

() For restricted use only

Date

FROM

Originator

Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

Code

Serial No.

Priority

Message Instructions

Office of Origin (Numbered serial only)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

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

18 / 45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5 / 5 / 1945 61 AUST INF BN (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 120 / 3 OFFRS. 33 O.R.'s 769 + OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s 52 ATT. BY W.E.

Appx 3

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

1				2				3				4				5				6				7				8				9				10			
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.				ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.																															
Rein'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																																			
-	-	-	3	Majors																																			
2	2	-	6	Captains				AAMC	1	-	-	-																											
-	-	5	25	Lieutenants																																			
-	-	-	1	Quarter-masters																																			
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.																																			
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.																																			
2	2	5	36						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.	A	B																																	
				E.(1)	36	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.
VX5172	Maj (T/Lt-Col)	DEXTER W.R.	2/1 Aust Gen Hosp	3/4/45	Ex Hosp

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
QX62058	Lt	WHYBIRD J.C.	Old LATD	28/4/45	M/out on 24 days Rec. Leave Draft. Auth-
QX40906	Capt	HUTCHINSON T.C.	Old LATD	30/4/45	2 Aust Corps AG1793 of
SX22866	Lt	SCOTT-TOMS W.H.	SA LATD	30/4/45	25/4/45

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO 61 AUST INF BN (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. 5 / 5 / 1945.

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5 / 5 / 1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

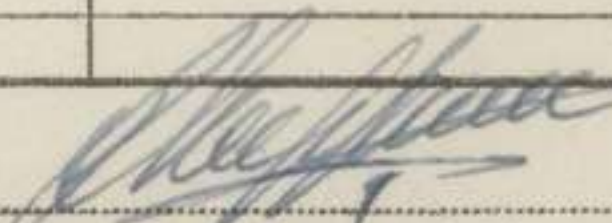
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Maj/Lt-Col)	VX5172	DEXTER	W. R.	CO	Yes		
Maj	NX101030	PHILLIPS	G. W.		No	Det Area Comd TOKO	4/4/45
"	QX36055	TWENLOW	E. McK.	2 IC	Yes		
"	QX36031	LAWSON	A. N.	OC A	Yes		
Capt	QX40906	HUTCHINSON	T. C.	OC B	No	On Leave	30/4/45
"	VX29956	CAIRNS	N.	OC C	Yes		
"	QX36029	RUDDER	W. L.	QM	"		
"	QX48862	STANLEY	L. W.	OC D	"		
"	QX36365	PATERSON	J. S.	2IC D	"		
"	QX48865	GOWLAND	R. E.	2IC B	"		
"	SX381	FORWARD	G. O.	Adjt	"		
"	QX48864	HOBBS	J. J. S.	2IC A	No	LHQ Tac School No 17 Course	9/4/45
Lt	QX36030	EMMETT	H. E.	2IC C	Yes		
"	QX51718	TOMLINSON	C. B.		"		
"	QX19174	FORD	R. L.	Hq Coy	"		
"	NX141459	CUMMINS	R. P.	H TO	"		
"	QX51719	BRINKLEY	F. R.	HQ Coy	No	2 Aust Corps REPT Sch	16/4/45
"	QX35526	HENDERSON	P. W.	A Coy	Yes		
"	QX53203	WHITTAKER	J. N.	A Coy	"		
"	QX51720	CLARKSON	A. C.	D Coy	"		
"	QX55054	WATTS	A. A.	B Coy	"		
"	QX50122	McINTYRE	D. C. C.	C Coy	"		
"	QX61121	WHITE	J. J.	Sig O	"		
"	QX60395	JAMES	W. C.	HQ Coy	"		
"	NX115828	PLUMMER	R. T. V.	C Coy	"		
"	NX116117	McKELLAR	D. H.	D Coy	"		
"	QX59984	HOOK	D. W.	A/Adjt	"		
"	QX62058	WHYBIRD	J. C.	B Coy	No	On Leave	28/4/45
"	SX21749	RUSSACK	H. W.	D Coy	Yes		
"	QX38891	JAVES	C. W.	D Coy	No	MG School of Signals	18/4/45
"	QX34104	SLOAN	O. M.		Yes		
"	VX28129	GIBS ON	J. M.	B Coy	"		
"	SX22866	SCOTT-TOMS	W. H.	HQ Coy	No	On Leave	30/4/45
"	QX36054	BALDWIN	N. E.	C Coy	Yes		
"	QX35527	LOWNDES	D. S.	A Coy	"		
"	QX59799	McDONALD	A. L.	D Coy	"		
"	QX57794	WILSON	J. D.	C Coy	"		
"	QX56380	IRVINE	W. G.	IO	"	seniority after Lt Cummins	
Capt	NX200122	CLIFTON-SMITH	G.	RMO	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
Major	QX40879	WEPPNER	R.	25 Bn	15.4.45	Adm Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn

5/5/45

Date of Despatch


 Signature of Commander

Adm Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn

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.

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.
			Surveyors, Engineering			Operating Room Assts.			G.P.O. Assistants		
			Surveyors, B.A.A.			Operator, Keyboard			Hammomen		
			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			Rangefinders	4	4
			Welders			Painters			Riveters		
			Batman	35	35	Panel Beaters			Roughriders		
			Gen Duty	3	3	Photographer, Dry Plate			Saddlers		
			Hyg Duty	4	4	Predictor Numbers			Saddletree makers		
			LMG Rifle	397	243 154	Printers			Shoemaker and Boot Repairer		
			Mortar Nos	73	70 3	Radiographers			Stevadores		
			MMG Nos	22	22 -	Signers			Stokers, Slaty, Engine	1	1
			GROUP II.			Sawyers			Storemen, Technical	3	3
			Armourers			Signallers	26	28	Tailors	2	2 1-Sjt
			Axemen			Signwriters incl 4 cpls			Textile Refitters		1-Lt Col
			Bakers			Telescope Identfn. Numbers			Tinsmiths		
			By. Comd's Asst.			Well Borers			Vulcanizers		
			Bellmakers			Wheelers			Wagon Erectors		
			Carpenters	6	5 1	Winchman			Whitesmiths		incl 3 Cpl
			Carpenters and Joiners			Wireman			TkA Nos	19	17 2
			Cooks			Woodturners			Water Duty	2	2
			Dental Mechanics			Orderlies	32	32	RSM	1	1 -
			Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)			Pioneers	32	25 7	RQMS	1	1 -
			Driver-Operator			Pro Sjt	1	1	CSM	5	3 2
			Drainers			Storeman	6	6	QMS	5	6
			Electricians			S. Bearers	21	20 1	Sjts	25	23 2
			Electricians (Engineers)			R. Police	6	7		769	607 175
			Fire Control Operators			GROUP III.			DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.		
			Gun Operator			Battery Surveyors			Chiropodist	1	1
			Hatchman			Butchers	1	1	Med Ords	2	2
			Height Taker			Clerks	12	12	Hyg Inspr	1	1
			Helio Operator			Clerks, Supply			AAOC		
			Instrument Operator			Clerks, Technical			Shoemaker	1	1
			Intelligence Duties	10	10	Coach Trimmers			Postal Sjt	1	1
			Joiners	Incl 1 sjt		Concretors			Pay Clerks	2	2
			Lineman	1 cpl		Cooks					
			Lineman, Signals	1 Lt Col		Dental Clerk Orderlies					
			Lithographers			Despatch Elders			ATTACHED BY W.E.		
			Machinists, Metal			Despatchmen, Signals	1	1	AAOC		
			Machinists, Wood			Drivers, H.T.	11	9 2	Caterer	1	1
			Masons			Driver Mechanics		8	Cooks	23	25
			Masseurs			Driver Tptn. Plant					
			Mechanics, M.T.			Engine Hands, L.C.				32	34
			Miners			Equipment Repairers	1	1			
			Moulders			Farriers					
			Nurses, Trained			Fitters' Mates					
			Observation Post Assts.			Gun Layers					
CARRIED FORWARD	1	2 -	CARRIED FORWARD	551	394 157	CARRIED FORWARD	701	544 169	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	801	641 175

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorized 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.

5/5/45
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Signature of Commander
Adm Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
			aprx 5

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) 7 bde <i>Originator</i>		Date—Time of Origin 121110 L	Office Date Stamp <i>[Signature]</i>
TO 61 Gen <i>(w) For Information (INFO.)</i>		For Action	Message Instructions GR 86

ORIGINATOR'S No.

AG 311 pertd O first aust army MS2634
 of 072115 K reads quote as Lt col DEXTER
 is NOT considered by medical authorities to
 be fit to resume the responsibilities of
 his appointment with-in a period of 3 month
 DMS is arranging through medical channels
 that DEXTER be ~~evacuated~~ evacuated to
 the mainland (VIC L of C area) with
 a recommendation for the granting of
 sick leave @ recommendation being submit
 ted for NX130833 LT COL TJ FARRELL
 (PSL) (aust inf) to be appoint
 ed comd br unquote @ for-warded
 for information

(PSL) (AUST INF)
 aust

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		
Signed	Signed		1145	F	[Signature]
			Time Cleared		

War diary
Appx. 6

INFM.1. Enemy

As per sitreps

2. Own Tps.

- (a) 7 Aust Inf Bde is responsible for def of perimeter as per trace att, with right 25 AUSTRALIAN INF BN, centre 61 AUSTRALIAN INF BN left 9 AUSTRALIAN INF BN. 23 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE is left of 7 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE.
- (b) for this op 61 AUSTRALIAN INF BN will be organized into HQ coy and 3 rifle coys.

INTENTION

3. 61 AUSTRALIAN INF BN will prevent any attempt by enemy to penetrate portion of perimeter allotted 61 AUSTRALIAN INF BN as per trace.

METHOD.4. FDL's as per trace att.

5. Tps: fwd right HQ coy less No. 1 pl
2 dets 3 pl
4 pl
5 pl

centre A coy with under comd one det Mortars
left B coy less 2 pls, plus 4 and 5 pls under comd one det mortars.

6. Rdys: As per trace att.7. Time of occupation:

- (a) coy localities will be occupied on receipt of codeword WAR
- (b) coys will carry out complete recce on receipt of this O.C. and will submit plan to this HQ within 24 hours.
- (c) this plan will allow for complete occupation of FDL's and outposts within 12 hrs of receipt of codeword.

8. Outposts:

- (a) B coy will provide outposts as shown on trace att.
- (i) outpost 1 - sec
(ii) " 2 - pl less sec
(iii) " 3 - pl less sec
(iv) " 4 - sec
- (b) Outposts will be responsible for patrolling along general line outposts as per trace.
- (c) Outposts will be occupied as per para 7 and will only be withdrawn on order this HQ.

9. Res.

- (a) C coy - posn as per trace
- (b) Role - (i) be prepared reinforce any part of bn area.
(ii) to destroy any enemy who might infiltrate through FDL's
(iii) for special fighting patrols fwd of FDL's in bn area of responsibility.

10. Arty. DF tasks possible assembly areas as per trace att.

11. MMG. Will form basis fire plan HQ coy locality.

12. Mortars.

One det under comd each A and B coys
pl less 2 dets to form part of def HQ coy locality,
one of these dets may be given Mortar task -
remainder are riflemen.

13. Trk A. Pl less guns under comd B coy for perimeter def.

14. Def Wks.

Work other than planning will NOT be carried out until
ordered by this HQ.

15. Patrols.

Outposts only as ordered.
Patrol orders will be issued from this HQ as required.

ADM.

16. Equipment.

(a) tps will carry marching order.

17. Arms.

(a) Full scale first line carried on the man.
(b) Res will be dumped in coy areas within 12 hrs of
occupation.

18. Supps.

(a) Normal

19. Med.

(a) MDS 625943
(b) RAP with BnHQ

20. B Ech Move to posn shown on trace att.

INTERCOMN.

21. HQ as per trace

BnHQ will open on receipt codeword WAR.

22. Comms.

(a) line to coys
(b) line to outposts through existing line to outpost No 22
(c) visual from outposts to visual sig centre HILL 687
sq 6494.

ACK.

Method of Issue DRLS

Time of Signature 17/7/56

R. W. ...
Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

	Copy No			O.O.	Appx A
	O.O.	Appx A			
A coy	1	1	7 Aust Inf Bde	10	10
B "	2	2	9 Aust Inf Bn	11	11
C "	3	3	25 Aust Inf Bn	12	12
HQ "	4	4	File	13	13
CO	5	5	War Diary	14-15	14-15
IO	6	6			
QM	7	7			
SO	8	8			
TO	9	9			

Appx 8

- Week Ending 26 May 45 -

Ref Map : TOROKINA 1 in to 1 ml

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
17 May 45
Copy No

GENERAL.

1. Training during period Week Ending 26 May 45 will be devoted to individual training.
2. Bn is duty bn, and will provide working parties and patrols during this period. To avoid, as far as possible, interruption in training syllabus, working parties will be drawn from coys in following sequence, each coy being used completely before drawing on the next -

A, B, C, HQ coys.

3. Patrols will be drawn from A coy.

Patrols will each consist of one Sec, and patrol comd will report to Int Offr for briefing before leaving.

TRAINING.

4. Subjects to be covered during this training period will incl -

- (a) squad drill
- (b) weapon training to TOET standard
- (c) CAE discussions
- (d) discussions on lessons from ops
- (e) organized sport

5. Hours of training will be -
0830 - 1200 and 1330 - 1600 hrs daily.

6. Specialist training will be carried out by HQ coy, with emphasis on drill and weapon training for this period.

SPORT.

7. Organized sport will be played by coys during hours as shown.

HQ coy	}	Org Sport p.m. 21 May
A "		Swimming, sports, a.m. 25 May.
B coy	}	Swimming, Sports, p.m. 22 May
C "		Org Sports, a.m. 24 Ma y.

8. Wednesday and Saturday of each week are set aside as days for Ede Sports Competitions. Details will be advised later.

TEWTS--TRG OF OFFRS AND NCOs.

9. All Offrs will be required for one hour each afternoon to receive extra training. Subjects will incl -

- (a) appreciations
- (b) orders
- (c) map reading and fd sketching.

Times will be notified later.

10. All CSMs and Pl Sjt's will be required for one hour each afternoon for instr in lessons to be taught following day, so that a uniform standard of drill and weapon training can be maintained in the bn.

TEXT BOOKS.

11. For fd training text books to be used are -
 - (a) Tropical Warfare Pam 2
 - (b) 2 Aust Corp Tac & Adm Doctrine for Jungle Warfare

TRG SYLLABUS.

12. Training syllabus covering this period will reach this HQ by 1800 hrs 19 May 45.

Capt
Adit 61 Aust Inf Bn

Serial	Date	Sub-Unit	Area	Subject	Lessons	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.	21 May	HQ Coy	Coy areas	Specialist Trg - Weapon trg drill, sports.	RIFLE	HQ & A coy Org Sport p.m.
		A	" "	Weapon Trg - drill - sports	BREN	MTP 18 SAT Vol 1
		B	" "	Weapon Trg - drill - CAB discussions	BAYONET	CAB Tropical Warfare Pam 2
2.	22 May	HQ	Coy Areas	Specialist trg - Drill	RIFLE	MTP 18 SAT Vol 1
		A	" "	Weapon trg - drill	BREN	B & C coys swimming sports - p.m.
		B	" "	Weapon trg - drill - sport	BAYONET	
C	" "	Weapon trg - discussion lessons from ops. - sport.				
3.	23 May		B D E	S P O R T S C O M P E T I T I O N		
4.	24 May	HQ	Coy Areas	Specialists trg - drill weapon trg.	GRENADE	MTP 18 SAT Vol 1
		A	" "	Weapon trg - drill - CAB discussion	BREN	CAB
		B	" "	Weapon trg - drill - sport	2" MORTAR	B and C coys sports - a.m.
C	" "	Weapon trg - drill - sport				
5.	25 May	HQ	Coy Areas	Specialist trg- drill - CAB discussion - sport	BREN OSMG	MTP 18 SAT Vol 1
		A	" "	Weapon trg- drill discussion lessons from ops - sport.		CAB
		B	" "	Weapon trg- drill - CAB discussion		HQ and A coys Swimming sports - a.m.
C	" "	Weapon trg- drill - discussion current ops.				
6.	26 May		B D E	S P O R T S C O M P E T I T I O N		

RESTRICTED

Wardlaw

Appx. 9

The information contained in this document will not 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. ¹³ 3000
Serial 11/45

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
21 MAY 45

by
MAJ R. WEPPNER
ADM COMD 61 AUST INF BN

Nos 67 - 72

67. CAPTURED ENEMY EQUIPMENT & WAR RELICS.

1. HQs, units and members may request that enemy equipment captured by them be forwarded to Staff Duties (Military History Section) LHQ, for inclusion in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

2. The collection, evacuation, storage and disposal of such equipment will be effected in accordance with the system prescribed in GRO G238/1944. Separate instructions regarding the despatch from captured equipment depots to the Military History Section will be issued by GS (SD).

3. The allotment of equipment to the Military History Section will be subject to its not being required for Intelligence, operational or training purposes. Attention is directed to GRO G473/1943. "Original items" will be allotted to the Military History Section if and when they are no longer required for other purposes. "Duplicate items" will (when operational and training requirements permit) be available for allotment in accordance with the nominator's wishes.

4. When a HQ, unit or member has requested that captured equipment be made available to the Military History Section, advice to this effect will be forwarded to OG MH Field Team attached to the HQ of the formation to which the unit or member belongs or to Staff Duties (Military History Section) LHQ. Such advice will contain full particulars of each item of equipment, its registered number (if any) the date and place of its capture, an account of its historical interest and the name of the nominator.

5. HQs, units and members may also forward to the Military History Section war relics not of enemy origin. They may be delivered to the MH Field Team at the formation HQ or may be forwarded direct to Staff Duties (Military History Section) LHQ. They will be accompanied by such of the particulars set out in para 4 as are applicable.

6. All equipment, etc, received by the Military History Section will be acknowledged. The name of the nominator or donor will be entered in the Section's accession records and will, unless otherwise requested, be shown on the title card when the article is exhibited in the Australian War Memorial.

68. ALLOTMENT AND DEPENDANTS ALLOWANCE PAYABLE OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA.

1. With the approval of the prescribed authority under War Financial (Military Forces) Regulations, a member may make an allotment to a person resident in any country outside Australia. Where the allottee resides in any enemy or enemy occupied country, the allotment may be dated back to 25th August, 1944, provided that this does not place the member's pay account in debit.

2. Where a member has made an allotment of not less than the standard rate, dependants allowance will be payable, in accordance with War Financial Regulations -

- (a) where the allotment is payable in a country forming part of the sterling area - to any person dependent on the member; or

(b) where the allottee resides in a country other than a country included in the sterling area - to the wife or children of the member and not to any other dependant.

3. If the allottee resides in a country where it is not possible to effect payment of allotment and dependants allowance, either because of the conditions set out in National Security (Exchange Control) Regulations or for any other reason, the amount of such allotment and dependants allowance will be held in trust until payment becomes practicable. A member may cancel such an allotment at any time before payment is actually made to his allottee and, in that case, the accumulated amount of the allotment will be credited to his pay account. In such circumstances, no dependants allowance will be payable.

4. In this order, the words "sterling area" have the same meaning as in National Security (Exchange Control) Regulations, namely :-

"all parts of His Majesty's dominions (except Canada and Newfoundland), and includes all territories in respect of which a mandate on behalf of the League of Nations has been accepted by His Majesty and is being exercised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or in any dominion, all British protectorates and protected States, Egypt, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and every other country or area declared by the Treasurer, by order published in the Gazette, to be included in the sterling area, but does not include any country or area so declared not to be included in the sterling area."

5. The following areas have been included in the sterling area :-

Island
Faroe Islands
Iraq.

69. CENSORSHIP - MENTION OF BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND IN CORRESPONDENCE.

Personnel are now permitted to state in letters that they are serving on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND or any one of the surrounding islands, provided that the Unit of each member concerned has either been in the area for one month or has been in action.

70. UNATTENDED VEHICLES.

1. Attention is drawn to First Aust Army ASO 14/37 and 2 Aust Corps RO A9/44.

2. Sub paras (b) and (c) of ASO 14/37 are repeated.

"(b) A driver will remain with his vehicle and not leave same unattended except in an authorised parking area where a picquet has been posted, and after compliance with the provisions of this order so far as they relate to him.

(c) A driver is responsible for the safe custody of his vehicle. If it is lost or damaged as the direct result of his neglect of duty he may be required to make good the loss or portion thereof suffered by the Commonwealth."

3. No parking areas have been provided or defined in the 2 Aust Corps or 3 Aust Div Areas.

4. Picquets provided by Australian or Allied forces have no responsibility in connection with the safeguarding of Australian vehicles.

71. SPEED LIMIT.

All vehicles proceeding along the road leading from LARUMA ROAD to ANZAC BEACH will observe a speed limit of 10 miles per hour.

72. SELF INFLICTED WOUNDS.

1. Wounds or injuries received in action are not normally the subject of investigation by an investigating officer. However special care must be taken to ensure that members suffering from self-inflicted wounds are not classified as battle casualties, and are dealt with disciplinarily as their action warrants.

8. Where a wound or injury which is suffered by a member at a time when he is in action is of such a nature that it could have been self-inflicted, it will be treated as a suspected self-inflicted wound or injury and the following action will be taken :-

- (a) The Medical Officer who first treats a patient suffering from such a wound or injury will promptly complete a DII and pass the same to the CO of the patient's unit.
- (b) In addition he will endorse AF W3118 that the particular case is a possible self-inflicted wound, and that a DII has been initiated.
- (c) If a medical officer subsequently treating a patient is of the opinion that the wound may be self-inflicted he will check whether the AF W3118 is so endorsed and if there is no endorsement will initiate the above action.
- (d) As soon as the unit comes out of action (or at such earlier time as is convenient), the CO will appoint an Investigating Officer under GRO 348/44 to investigate and report upon the wound or injury.
- (e) The CO will forward the Investigating Officer's report to his next superior authority, and comply with the relevant provisions of GRO 348/44 para 20 and 21, (see para 38);

9. Every case of a wound or injury sustained by a member at a time when he is not in action will be the subject of an investigation by an Investigating Officer under GRO 348/44, except where the injury is of a minor nature, and is unlikely to cause permanent ill-effects, and the CO considers that compensation is unlikely to be entailed (para 36 (2) of the GRO).

10. Any officer, WO or NCO who suspects that a member is suffering from a self-inflicted wound will immediately report his suspicion to his CO who will ensure that the matter is investigated.

11. A member who is charged with an offence in connection with a wound or injury suffered by him will not be dealt with summarily by his Commanding Officer, but an application will be made to the appropriate authority for the case to be tried by Court Martial.

12. When a wound or injury is self-inflicted :-

- (a) The member concerned will be charged with an offence under AA 18 (2), and on conviction by District Court Martial is liable to be imprisoned with hard labour for two years.
- (b) The member is disentitled to pension and repatriation benefits, (Australian Soldiers Repatriation Act 1920 - 1943 Section 102);
- (c) The member on being convicted by Court Martial or his CO shall, by order of his CO, forfeit all pay and allowances for the period of his absence from duty (such as his period in hospital) due to the wound or injury, (War Financial (Military Forces) Regulation 27). (see also GRO 109/45).

73. POSTAL - REGISTRATION OF MAIL MATTER.

- (a) Postal articles intended for registration must be suitably packed and sealed.
- (b) Compensation for loss of or damage to the contents may not be payable if the article has been posted in an unsealed or unsuitable cover.
- (c) Registration envelopes are on sale at FPOs.

74. ACCIDENTIAL BURNS.

1. Concern is felt at the large number of burns at present under treatment in medical units. 34% of the total cases in this island have occurred within this formation, and the majority of these will suffer some permanent disfigurement and disablement.

2. These accidents were due in every instance to careless handling of range fuel and distillate, whilst lighting fires, and were therefore preventable.

3. All ranks will be warned of the danger of careless handling of this fuel. Disciplinary action will be taken in cases of carelessness.

75. FAILURE OF AMF PERSONNEL TO WEAR IDENTITY DISCS.

1. In fatal aircraft accidents in recent months involving AMF personnel, difficulty has been experienced in identifying the bodies of the victims because of the absence of identity discs.

2. Coys will ensure that members wear identity discs at all times.

P. M. W. A. N. CAPT
ADJT 61 AUST INF BN

DISTRIBUTION

List A.

NOTICES

WARNING

Headquarters USAFNORSOLS advise that approximately 200 Grenades, fragmentation, have been stolen from Ammunition Dump No. 6. Grenades on hand in the dump have defective fuzes and should not be used under any circumstances, due to the instantaneous explosion.

All personnel will be advised of this immediately.

ORDER OF THE DAY

by

GEN. SIR THOMAS BLAMEY, C in C A.M.F.

The war in EUROPE ended this morning.

The people of the allied nations lift their voices in gladness and thanksgiving wherever they may be.

Our armies have won complete victory over GERMAN tyranny.

Our allied effort will be concentrated now on the last enemy of civilisation the JAP. He has been defeated time and time again and now our hosts are already assembling to his complete destruction.

I send greetings and congratulations first of all to those of the AIF who fought in EUROPE and the ME. They took a full share of the strain in the hardest early days and helped to lay the foundations of victories.

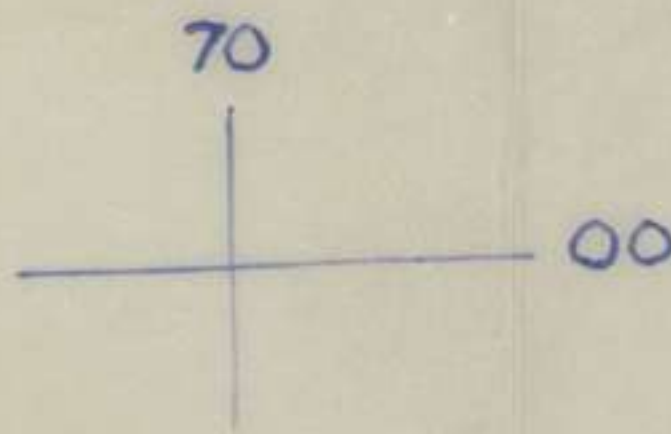
I send greetings and congratulations to all ranks of the Aust Army; again they took a full share of the early strain against the JAPS and again their efforts are bearing them on to final victory.

We tender a tribute of comradeship to those who will never return and vow ourselves anew in their name to compass the final destruction of civilisation's last enemy the JAPS

Appx. 10
" "

Overlay Showing
Patrols as set down
in 7 Aust Inf Bde O.O. 12
of 12 May 45.

ref map TOROKINA 1"



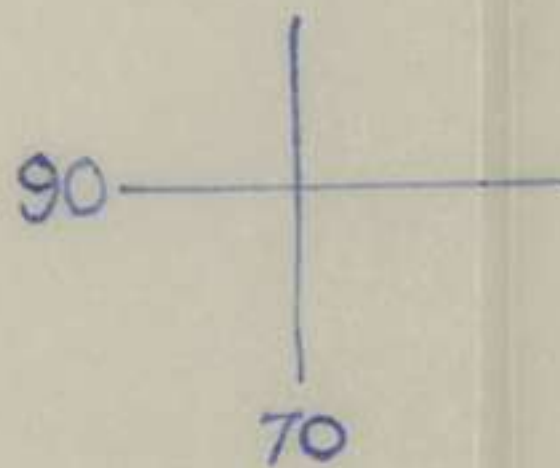
Patrol No. 2.

Sec patrol from rd junc 664954 to
track junc 653982 to river Xing
672973 and return along WEST
bank of TOROKINA R.

PATROLS will be carried out once weekly

Bns will be responsible for these
patrols in following sequence

- 9 Aust Inf BN - first week commencing 14 May
- 61 " " "
- 25 " " "



Patrol No. 1.

Sec patrol from track junc. 680936 along
EAST-WEST TRAIL to track junc 713932
thence SOUTH along CHOP CHOP trail to
COAST at 716882

INT SEC
61 Aust Inf BN
21 May '45.

22 MAY 45

Appx 11

POSTING OF OFFICERS

POSTING

PRESENT POSTING

BnHQ:

CO	NX130833	Lt-Col	T.J. FARRELL	CO	NX130833	Lt-Col	T.J. FARRELL
2 IC	QX36035	Maj	E. McK. TWENLOW	2 IC	SX		
Adj't	SX381	Capt	G.O. FORWARD	Adj't	381	Capt	G.O. FORWARD
Asst				Asst			
Adj't	QX59984	Lt	D.W. HOOK	Adj't	QX59984	Lt	D.W. HOOK
IO	QX56380	Lt	W.G. IRVINE	IO			
RMO	NX200122	Capt	G. CLIFTON-SMITH	RMO	NX200122	Capt	G. CLIFTON-SMITH

HQ Coy:

OC	QX36031	Maj	A.N. LAWSON	OC	QX36031	Maj	A.N. LAWSON
No. 1 Pl	QX61121	Lt	J.J. WHITE	1 Pl	QX61121	Lt	J.J. WHITE
2 "	QX19174	Lt	R.L. FORD	2 "			
3 "	QX60395	Lt	W.C. JAMES	3 "	QX60395	Lt	W.C. JAMES
4 "	SX22866	Lt	W.H. SCOTT-TOMS	4 "			
5 "	QX62058	Lt	J.G. WHYBIRD	5 "			
QM	QX36365	Capt	J.S. PATERSON	QM	QX36365	Capt	J.S. PATERSON
TO	NX141459	Lt	R.P. CUMMINS	TO	NX141459	Lt	R.P. CUMMINS

A Coy:

OC	QX36029	Capt	W.L. RUDDER	OC	QX36029	Capt	W.L. RUDDER
2 IC	QX48864	Capt	J.J.S. HOBBS	2 IC	QX48864	Lt	A.G. CLARKSON
7 Pl	QX35526	Lt	P.W. HENDERSON	7 Pl			
8 Pl	QX53203	Lt	J.N. WHITTAKER	8 Pl	QX53203	Lt	J.N. WHITTAKER
9 Pl	QX35527	Lt	D.S. LOWNDES MM	9 Pl	SX21749	Lt	H.W. RUSSACK

B Coy:

OC	QX40906	Capt	T.C. HUTCHINSON	OC	QX48865	Capt	R.E. GOWLAND
2 IC	QX48865	Capt	R.E. GOWLAND	2 IC	QX19174	Lt	R.L. FORD
10 Pl	VX28129	Lt	J.M. GIBSON	10 Pl	VX28129	Lt	J.M. GIBSON
11 Pl	SX21749	Lt	H.W. RUSSACK	11 "			
12 Pl	QX55054	Lt	A.A. WATTS	12 "	QX55054	Lt	A.A. WATTS

C Coy:

OC	VX29956	Capt	N. CAIRNS	OC	NX115828	Lt	R.T.V. PLUMMER
2 IC	QX36030	Lt	H.E. EMMETT	2 IC	NX116117	Lt	D.H. McKELLAR
13 Pl	NX115828	Lt	R.T.V. PLUMMER	13 Pl			
14 Pl	QX36054	Lt	N.E. BALDWIN	14 Pl	QX36054	Lt	N.E. BALDWIN
15 Pl	QX57794	Lt	J.D. WILSON MM	15 Pl	QX57794	Lt	J.D. WILSON

D Coy:

OC	QX48862	Capt	L.W. STANLEY	OC			
2 IC	NX116117	Lt	D.H. McKELLAR	2 IC			
16 Pl	QX59799	Lt	A.L. McDONALD	16 Pl			
17 Pl	QX38891	Lt	C.W. DAWES	17 Pl			
18 Pl	QX51720	Lt	A.G. CLARKSON	18 Pl			

LEAVE: QX36035 Maj E. McK. TWENLOW
 QX40906 Capt T.C. HUTCHINSON
 QX56380 Lt W.G. IRVINE
 SX22866 Lt W.H. SCOTT-TOMS
 QX62058 Lt J.G. WHYBIRD
 QX35526 Lt P.W. HENDERSON
 QX36030 Lt H.E. EMMETT

SCHOOLS: QX48862 Capt L.W. STANLEY (instr)
 QX48864 Capt J.J.S. HOBBS
 QX38891 Lt C.W. DAWES
 QX35527 Lt D.S. LOWNDES MM
 QX59799 Lt A.L. McDONALD

CI UNIT SCHOOLS:
 VX29956 Capt N. CAIRNS

SUPERNUMARY - AT (LOB) AREA

QX51719 Lt F.R. BRINKLEY
 QX51718 Lt C.B. TOMLINSON
 QX34104 Lt C.M. SLOAN

R.S.L.: VX5172 Maj (T/Lt-Col)
 W.R. DEXTER DSO
 SX26564 Lt R.F. BRAZIER

ATT FOR ADM COMD:
 QX40879 Maj R. WEPNER

[Signature]
 Adm Comd 61 Aust Inf Bn Maj

- Period 28 May - 2 Jun 45 -HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
23 MAY 45GENERAL.

1. In view of interruption to trg caused by working parties etc during period 21-26 May, trg for this period will be on same lines as for last week, with the exception that rifle coys have been allotted one day each for range practice.

TRG.

2. Subjects to be covered during this period will incl -

- (a) squad drill
- (b) weapon trg to TQET standard
- (c) range practice
- (d) CAB discussions
- (e) discussions on Ops
- (f) organised sport
- (g) night trg - period 2 hrs one night

3. Weapon trg syllabus will be same as for period 21-26 May 45.

4. Hrs of trg will be : 0830 - 1200
1330 - 1600 daily

RANGE PRACTICE.

5. Details of range practice and allotment of TOROKINA R range are att as Appx "A".

NIGHT TRG.

6. Period of 2 hrs will be used by coys for trg of personnel in mov by night in jungle on and off tracks, assisted by light of moon.

SPORTS.

7. Org sports will be played by coys during hrs as shown :

B Coy } p.m. Mon - Tue - Thu - Fri
C " }
HQ Coy } p.m. Mon - Thu - Fri. a.m. Tue
A " }

Bde Sports Competitions will be held on :-

Wed " a.m.
Sat " p.m. - details to be advised later.

8. Swimming Pool is allotted to coys as under -

HQ Coy } a.m. 29 May
A " }
B Coy } p.m. 1 Jun
C " }

TRG OF OFFRS & NCOs.

9. Extra trg of Offrs and NCOs will be continued during this period under direction of Capt N. CAIRNS. Times will be notified later.

TRG SYLLABUS.

10. Coys will submit detailed trg syllabus covering this period to reach this HQ by 1800 hrs 27 May 45.

Issued by Orderly
at 2316 hrs

Buana CAPT
ADJT 61 AUST INF BN

RANGE PRACTICES

Ref Map TOROKINA 1 - 1 M.

61 Aust Inf Bn
23 MAY 45HQ: A/B: 3 Coys.1. ALLOTMENT:Following is allotment to coys for use of the TOROKINA RIVER 200^x rifle range 905941.

C	Coy	:	28	MAY
B	"	:	29	"
A	"	:	31	"

2. PRACTICES:

(a) The practice as detailed below will be fired by all personnel.

No.	Practice	Range	Rounds	Posn
1	Grouping	200 ^x	5	Lying
2	Application	"	7	"
3	"	"	5	Sitting
4	"	"	5	Kneeling
5	Rapid	"	10	Lying
6	Application	100 ^x	5	Standing

(b) All personnel will fire the rifle from the hip at the conclusion of the practice. Targets will NOT be used. This practice is to accustom tps to fire from the hip.

3. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

Normal range safety precautions will be carried out, and sentries will be posted at both entrances to range.

4. STORES.

(a) Telephones and danger flags may be obtained on application this HQ.

(b) Ten 4⁰ targets are fixed in posn, on the windmill system.

(c) Only Black and White pasting paper will be used.

(d) A water boiling point is installed in rear of the 200^x mound.

5. REPORTS.

A detailed report of results of the practice, will reach this HQ by 1200 hrs on day following the practice.

C.O. will reach this HQ by 1700 hrs on day of practice.

6. TPT.

TO will arrange tpt for stores and midday meal as requested by coys.

7. CLEANING OF RANGE.

Coys will ensure that all targets are correctly repaired, and that the mound and butt area is clean, at the conclusion of the practice.

Purua CAPT
ADJT 61 AUST INF BN

- TRG SYLLABUS - PERIOD 28 MAY - 2 JUN 45 -

Ser.	DATE	SUB-UNIT	AREA	SUBJECT	LESSONS	REMARKS
1.	28 MAY	HQ Coy A " B " C "	Coy Area " " " " TOROKINA R Range	Drill-weapon trg-discussion ops-sports Drill-weapon trg-discussion ops-sports Drill-weapon trg-discussion ops-sports Range Practice - Sports	RIFLE BREN	MTP 18 SAT Vol I
2.	29 MAY	HQ Coy A " B " C "	Coy Area " " TOROKINA R Range Coy Area	Drill-weapon trg-CAB-Sports Drill-weapon trg-CAB-sports Range Practice - Sports Drill-weapon trg-CAB-sports	RIFLE BREN	MTP 18 SAT Vol I CAB
3.	30 MAY	HQ Coy A " B " C "	Coy Area " " " " " "	Drill-weapon trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-CAB-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports	GRENADE MORTAR 2 in	MTP 18 SAT Vol I CAB
4.	31 MAY	HQ Coy A " B " C "	Coy Area TOROKINA R Range Coy Area " "	Drill-weapon trg-news review-sports Range Practice - Sports Drill-weapon trg-news review-sports Drill-weapon trg-news review-sports	BREN BAYONET	MTP 18 SAT Vol I 'I' Summaries
5.	1 JUN	HQ Coy A " B " C "	Coy Area " " " " " "	Drill-specialist trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports	BREN OSMG	MTP 18 SAT Vol I
6.	2 JUN	HQ Coy A " B " C "	Coy Area " " " " " "	Drill-specialist trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports Drill-weapon trg-sports	BREN OSMG BAYONET	MTP 18 SAT Vol I

OFFICERS INSTRUCTION

Appx 13

HQ 61 AUST INF BN
26 MAY 45

2IC, ALL COYS

1. Herewith subjects for Officer Instr for period 28 MAY - 2 JUN 45.
2.

28 MAY	:	Tutorial Discussion	Appreciation	CAPT FORWARD
29 "		Sandtable Exercise	"	MAJ WEPPNER
30 "		Lecture	Legal	CAPT ASH
31 "		Sandtable Exercise	Operation Orders	CAPT CAIRNS
1 JUN		Lecture	Jungle Tactics for the Offence	MAJ WEPPNER
2 "		Sandtable Exercise	Appreciation	MAJ LAWSON
3. The above subjects will be of approx one hours duration and will commence at 1330 hrs. Lectures will be held in Offrs Mess. Other exercises will be conducted at Sandtable situated in rear of BnHQ.

(sgd)

G.O. Forward Capt
Adjnt 61 Aust Inf Bn

61 AUST INF BN TRG INSTR NO. 3/45

Copy No. *12*...

- Period 4 - 9 Jun 45 -

HQ 61 Aust Inf Bn
31 May 45

Appx. 14

Ref Map : TOROKINA 1 in to 1 mile

GENERAL.

1. Individual trg will be continued for this period, and allotment of OSMG and grenade range and assault course will be made to coys.

TRG.

2. Subjects to be covered during this period will incl -
 - (a) weapon trg
 - (b) range practice
 - (c) selection of fire posns and observation.
 - (d) current affairs discussions
 - (e) organized sport
3. Hrs of trg remain as at present.

RANGE PRACTICE.

4. HQ Coy and BnHQ are allotted TOROKINA R range on 4 and 5 Jun 45. Practice etc as per trg instr 2/45.
5. On 7 Jun 45 all personnel in the unit who have failed to qualify in this table will fire again, under arrangements of Maj A.N. LAWSON.

JUNGLE RANGE & GRENADE RANGE.

6.	Jungle Range established	659957	direction of fire	68 deg (M)
	OSMG Range established	660955	" " "	68 deg (M)
	Grenade Range established	658957	" " "	353 deg (M)
			(throwing only)	

Use of these ranges allotted as follows.

C coy - 7 Jun 45
B " - 8 Jun 45

7. Details of practice and Adm are att as Appx 'A'.

SPORT.

8. Periods of organized sport as for preceding week. Coys should make full use of trained PT instrs during portion of this period.

TRG OF OFFERS & NCO's.

9. Extra trg of offrns and NCO's will be continued during this period. Times will be notified later.

TRG SYLLABUS.

10. Coys will submit detailed trg syllabus covering this period to reach this HQ by 1800 hrs 2 Jun 45.

Bivara
Capt
Adjt 61 Aust Inf Bn

TRG SYLLABUS - PERIOD 4 - 9 JUN 45

Ser	Date	Sub-Unit	Area	Subject	Lessons	Remarks
1	4 Jun	HQ coy	TOROI INA R range & coy area	drill-weapon trg-range practice-sports	RIFLE	MTP 18 SAT Vol I CAB
		A	Coy Area	drill-weapon trg-CAB discussion-sports	BREN	
		B	" "	drill-weapon trg-CAB discussion-sports		
		C	" "	drill-weapon trg-CAB discussion-sports		
2	5 Jun	HQ Coy	TOROI INA R range & coy area	drill-weapon trg-range practice-sports	OSMG	MTP 18 SAT Vol I Tropical Warfare Pan 2 F & BD
		A	coy area	drill-weapon trg-patrols-sports	BREN	
		B	" "	drill-weapon trg-patrols-sports	Selection	
		C	" "	drill-weapon trg-patrols-sports	fire posns	
3	6 Jun	HQ Coy	coy area	drill-specialist trg-CAB discussion-sport	MORTAR 2 in	MTP 18 SAT Vol I Int Summaries
		A	" "	drill-weapon trg-discussion ops-sport	BAYONET	
		B	" "	drill-weapon trg-discussion ops-sport		
		C	" "	drill-weapon trg-discussion ops-sport		
4	7 Jun	HQ Coy	Coy Area	drill-weapon trg-sport	T'sOET	MTP 18 SAT Vol I
		A	" "	drill-weapon trg-sport	Weapon Trg	
		B	" "	drill-weapon trg-sport		
		C	Jungle Range	JUNGLE RANGE - sports		
5	8 Jun	HQ Coy	Coy Area	drill-weapon trg-sport	T'sOET	MTP 18 SAT Vol I
		A	" "	drill-weapon trg-sport	Weapon Trg	
		B	Jungle Range	JUNGLE RANGE - sports		
		C	Coy Area	drill-weapon trg-sports		
6	9 Jun	HQ Coy	Coy Area			
		A	" "	C O Y	C O M D S	
		B	" "			
		C	" "	D I S C R E T I O N		

GRENADE AND JUNGLE RANGESAppx A
Copy No. 12(issued as Appx 'A' to 61 Aust Inf Bn Trg Instr
No. 3/45)Ref Map : TOROKINA 1 in to 1 mile1. GENERAL.

The following ranges have been established.

	Area	Direction of fire
Jungle Ranges (2)	659957	68 deg (M)
OSMG Range	660955	68 deg (M)
Grenade Range	658957	353 deg (M)

2. JUNGLE RANGES.

- (a) Two jungle ranges are provided, each approx 60 - 70 yds long.
- (b) Due safety precautions will be observed and one firer only will use range at one time.
- (c) An offr or NCO instr will accompany each man.
- (d) Rifles and 69 Grenades only will be used on these ranges.

3. OSMG RANGE.

- (a) This is a 25 yd range equipped with disappearing targets.
- (b) A safety pit is provided for target operators when range is used for snap shooting.
- (c) Black and White patching paper only will be used on targets.

4. GRENADE RANGE.

- (a) This range is constructed only for throwing grenades. Dischargers will NOT be used.
- (b) Attention is drawn to SAT Vol I pam 13 appx III paras 1 and 2.
- (c) Danger flags will be used during practice and are available on application to this HQ.

5. DAMAGE TO RANGES.

- (a) Coys will advise this HQ of any damage to ranges, targets, mechanism etc.
- (b) Ranges will be left clear, and all targets patched out at conclusion of practice.

6. TPT.

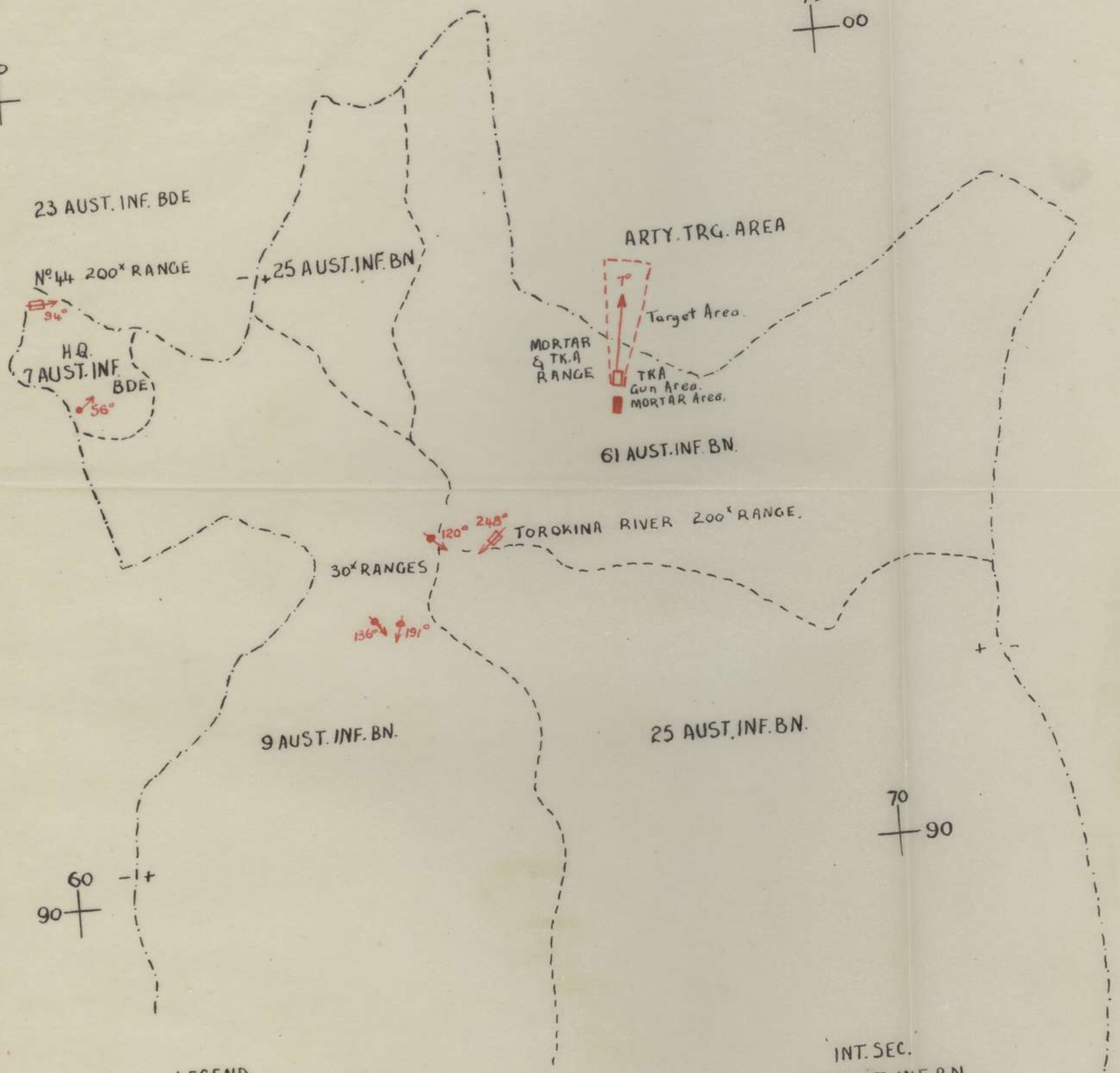
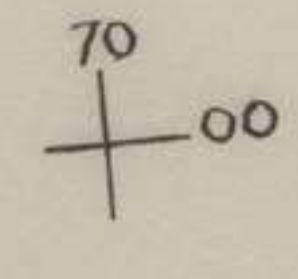
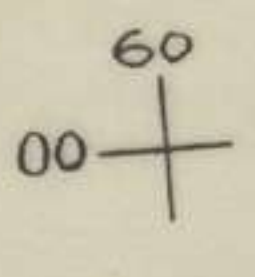
Coys liase direct with TO for tpt required for stores etc.

7. REPORT.

A general report on standard of shooting, grenade throwing etc will reach this HQ by 1200 hrs on day following practice.

Appx. 15

TRACE SHOWING TRAINING AREAS & RANGES 7 AUST. INF. BDE. Ref. Map. "TOROKINA" 1" to 1 MILE



LEGEND

- TKA Gun.
- 200x classification.
- 30x Range.

INT. SEC.
61 AUST. INF. BN.
MAY. 45.

ADJUTANTS DIARY

Appx. 16

MAY 1945

- May 1. Lt Russack fighting patrol out 1530 hrs to search COCOANUTS area for reported party enemy. In 2345 hrs via ROBERT'S X-ING - N.M.S.
C.O. to A & B Coys.
- May 2. Lt Lowndes patrol McKINNA BR EAST bank PURIATA R - N.M.S.
C.O. to D Coy a.m.
- May 3. Patrols security.
Visit to I.O. by two members 29 Bde.
Under comd 29 Bde as from 0800 hrs today, but no word or info that they know.
- May 4. B.M. 29 Bde called a.m.
Patrols security.
C.O. to "B-Ech" p.m.
- May 5. Patrols security.
C.O. to "B-Ech" p.m.
Capt McKew (now LO 7 Bde-29 Bde) came a.m. asked for mov tables to be sent to 29 Bde for change over. Duly sent.
- May 6. Patrols security.
Received word for movement D Coy. Added small adv party u/c Maj Twemlow.
- May 7. D Coy and adv party moved to MOTUPENA. D Coy will remain there for several days on working party job. Adv party to L.O.B.
- May 8. Patrol A Coy - N.M.S.
Peace (~~back~~) in EUROPE.
- May 9. A Coy moved out to TOROKINA.
Visit from Bde LO, Capt McKew and 2 i/c 42 Bn.
BnHQ patrol - N.M.S.
- May 10. C Coy to TOROKINA.
Bn relieved of working parties as from 110700L.
BnHQ and HQ Coy less Tk/A and pioneers to move 11th.

1:63,360

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE

BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND TOROKINA

REFER TO THIS MAP AS:
NO. 448 TOROKINA 1 INCH SERIES
NO. 488

app. 17



CONTROL: Triangulation by 2 Aust. P4-Svy. Coy. (A.I.F.) Aust. Svy. Corps, Origin of Geographical Coordinates: Naval Astronomical Station at TOROKINA. Lat. 06° 12' 15" S Long. 156° 02' 05.5" E

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY: 170. Photo Squadron, 138. Air Force

MISSIONS: 2204 Run 4, 2201 Run 2, 4M26A, 194C Run 2 & 3, 225C, Run 2, 4B23C, 4B19C, 2202 Run 2 & 4, 2207, 4C14A Run 1 & 2, 4B27A, 4C14A Run 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6

COMPLETION and DRAWING: Compiled from air photos by 2 Aust. P4-Svy. Coy. (A.I.F.) Aust. Svy. Corps

PROJECTION: Lambert Conformal Conic Projection

ELEVATIONS: Feet. Datum: Mean Sea Level at TOROKINA

REPRODUCTION: L.H.Q. Cartographic Coy., Aust. Svy. Corps, Mar. 61

- Motor Road & Bridge
- Foot Track
- Reported Track
- Telegraph Line
- Airfield
- Anchorage
- Astronomical Station
- Trig. Stations and altitudes
 - First Order
 - Second
 - Third
 - Fourth
- Spot Height
- Native Village
- Reported Native Village
- Building
- Mission Station



Convergences is given for West & East sheet edges and is based on True North at Longitude 156° East

C = 0° 41' 45" C = 0° 45' 30"

Grid North True North Magnetic North Grid North

Magnetic Declination from True North for centre of sheet is about 0° 47' E.

- Native Garden
- Dense Jungle Forest
- Open Forest to Scattered Timber
- Scrub
- Secondary Growth
- Plantation
- Mangroves
- Swamp
- River or Stream
- Reef
- Contours Form Lines
- Cliffs
- Sand

TO USE A GRID SUPPORTED BY THIS SHEET

1. An arrow in the margin of the sheet points to the grid square in which the spot height is located.

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100. The spot height is given in feet and metres.

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map itself and forward same to Survey Directorate, D.I.Q. of Force concerned

Reduction of
1/25,000 SERIES

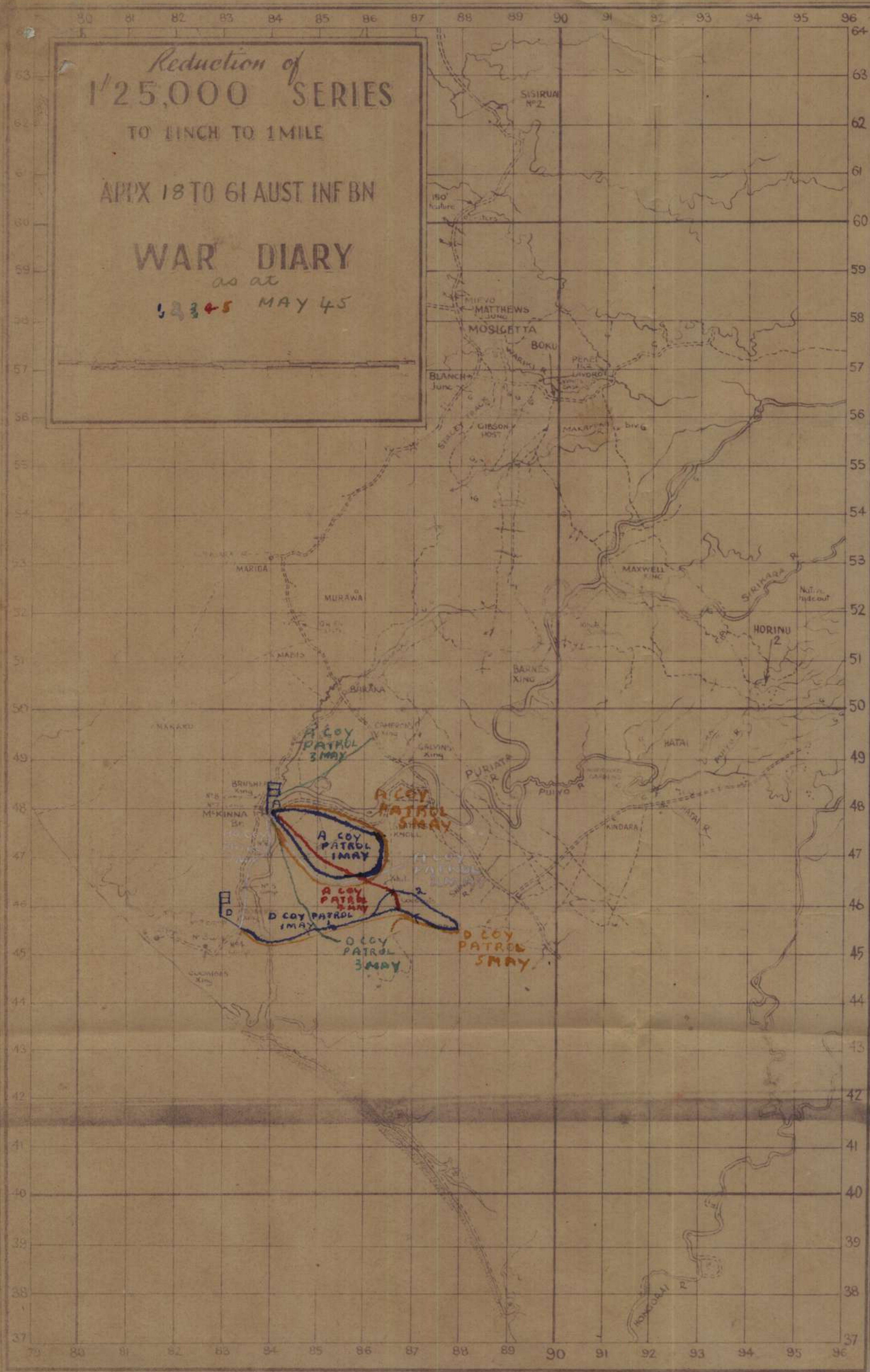
TO INCH TO 1 MILE

APPX 18 TO 61 AUST INF BN

WAR DIARY

as at

18345 MAY 45



GENERAL.

1. Tps - The long period during which the unit was engaged although comprising minor patrol clashes and not by engagements, resulted in a severe sapping of res mentally and physically. However the tps did all that was asked of them at all times, and were restored to normal after a very short period of rest from ops.

It was found that the trg of the bn for ops had been on very sound lines and was a fitting preparation for type of ops to which they were committed in this area.

Sigs - Sig pl functioned perfectly during the entire op and much of the success of the op can be ascribed to their untiring efforts in maintaining comms. Line was used as the main means of comn throughout the op.

Great difficulty was experienced in making engrs realize the importance of not interfering with sig wires. There were many cases of outrageous carelessness by bulldozer dvr and grader dvr in cutting cable to pieces with their machines, without bothering to notify the bn of the breaks, and even considering their negligence in the matter laudable.

'L' No. 2 (Aust) telephones were received during the campaign, and proved to be the most efficient type so far issued. They were subjected to very severe tests in the normal course of ops under all conditions, and were 100 per cent efficient the whole time, where type DV gave results which were far from satisfactory.

MMG - MMG's were att to coys as secs and sub-secs for the entire op and very little opportunity was found to use them in their correct role. However they were very effective sighted along tracks in coy and pl perimeters, and were particularly effective in silencing enemy JUKI.

Mortars 3 in - The nature of the ops and the type of terrain imposed a limit on the use of Mortars 3 in. The necessity for clearing gun areas at all times was the greatest limiting factor in their use, and arty was used where mortars 3 in could have possibly been more effective, due to their greater speed and accuracy in engaging targets.

Use was made of mortars to clear the track ahead of patrols when it was known that enemy were dug in close to our perimeter. This proved very successful.

Tk A Pl - At no time during the ops were the Tk A guns used, and the pl were used as riflemen in the protection of BnHQ. It is felt that an allotment of canister shot would improve usefulness of Tk A guns.

Pnrs - Pnrs did a magnificent job during the whole period of ops in establishing and maintaining L of C. During this period 15 brs and 4 culverts were constructed, the longest br being approx 65 ft and the shortest 15 ft and all class 9.

In addition miles of track were corduroyed to make tracks jeepable, all of this work entailing constant supervision and maintenance by the pnrs, for whom nothing was too hard.

The pnr pl received a special commendation from GHE 3 Aust Div for their outstanding work.

Tpt - The TO and his dvr deserve all credit for their unceasing determination to keep up with the bn and get sups through, often under the most appalling conditions. The jeeps were originally towed from a scrap heap and put into commission by the tpt sec, and the fact that they stood up so well to great

(cont)

strain to which they were subjected by conditions of terrain is a lasting tribute to the work of the TO.

Sups - The QM and his staff had tremendous problems of sup as indicated by the variety of means by which sups were kept up to bn e.g. - jeeps, small craft, tractors and sledge, aircraft and native carriers. Of these, the native carriers proved the most reliable under all conditions.

In spite of the difficulties, there was never a break in the sups to the bn - a very commendable performance.

Sp Arms - Arty sp was excellent throughout the op and was used many times in preference to mortar 3 in, because of its ready availability.

Air strikes were used on several occasions in sp and were very effective, particularly from the morale aspect.

Med - Med arrangements throughout were a credit to the RMO and Fd Amb. Gas were treated and evacuated quickly and hygiene was maintained at a high standard, as shown by the low cas rate from disease, hitherto unusual in jungle ops.

LESSONS FROM OPS

1. When the enemy is subjected to by arty or mortar fire, he usually withdraws from his posn a distance of several hundred yds down the track, and unless the arty is quickly followed up by inf, the enemy resume their former posn when arty etc fire ceases. Another means of overcoming this is, where possible, to set an ambush 400 yds or so behind the enemy posn before the arty fire is brought down, to collect the enemy as he withdraws.
2. Where the enemy is found only in small scattered parties along the track, much valuable time and energy is wasted in patrolling for infm from a firm base. When op only in small parties, the enemy naturally has great mobility, and posns contacted by one patrol and reported, are most likely non existent next day.
3. It is found far more effective to continue the adv with a coy gp, one pi well out, and hit the enemy hard wherever he is contacted.
3. It was found that, when on patrol, the most satisfactory course was to carry out a series of loop movs from the track and search back, rather than patrol on, or along the sides of the track.

Whenever the enemy was contacted, these tactics proved excellent in surprise, and the enemy was invariably flustered when threatened from the rear, particularly as he nearly always sited his weapons for frontal and flank defence only.

4. The practice of equipping patrols with L/T comn was found most effective. Infm was passed back quickly and so assisted the progress of ops.
5. When air photos were available, they were of great assistance in ops, mainly in the briefing of patrols. It is recommended that they be made readily available on a wide scale, covering area of ops and projected ops.
6. Many minor tactical lessons were learnt from the op, and provide valuable material for trg in preparation for further ops.
7. MMG.

(a) At times, in perimeter def, MMG were sited to cover special Killing grounds, particularly flat areas, into which enemy would be allowed to enter.

(b) Method.

- (i) Select suitable area in perimeter and pull in that part of perimeter to form a slight V.
- (ii) Site MMG at apex of V, with freedom to swing in traverse on arc of V.
- (c) By this means MMG is in depth and well protected from flank assault by arms of V. In addition tracks can be covered by fixed lines. Diagrammatic layout of coy perimeter with one MMG is att as Appx 'A'.
- (d) A simple and effective method of swinging MMG from one task to another is detailed hereunder.
 - (i) arrange moveable pegs on RIGHT and LEFT limits of arc. Pegs must be high enough to bear against barrel, thus allowing guns freedom to use swinging traverse.
 - (ii) to hold moveable pegs, a piece of hollow bamboo empty Tk A shell or other suitable material is set in ground in required posn, low enough to allow gun barrel to swing freely over the top.
 - (iii) a loosely fitting peg can be dropped in to this casing or removed as required according to task.

(cont)

For fixed lines pegs are placed close enough to prevent any swing of gun.

(iv) Only those pegs preventing the gun from swinging to new task need be moveable.

REPORT ON WEAPONS AND AMN

WEAPONS.

1. All weapons on normal issue to inf bn were found to be thoroughly effective and reliable.
2. Tk A guns and PITA were NOT used by this bn during this period of ops. It is considered that an allotment of canister shot would greatly improve the usefulness of this weapon in def.
3. It is recommended that scale of issue of OSMG be increased to allow further allotment to BnHQ, Sig Pl and Pnr Pl.
4. Mortar 2 in was not used, due to the fact that the EY rifle was found quite as effective, and more mobile.

AMN.

5. It is recommended that 303 in amn be packed in lighter loads to make portage easier. Breaking up of amn into reasonable loads led to unnecessary deterioration.
6. 9 m.m. amn should be packed in sturdier containers, to stand the rough handling unavoidable in ops. The present container is easily dented and broken, allowing water in, which causes the amn to deteriorate.
7. The boxes of Stripless belt amn for MNG packed in 1939 were found more effective than the 1943 pack, which was easily damaged, allowing rounds to become loose in belts. When 1943 type only was available, it was necessary to carry the ordinary strip belt in addition.
8. Constant checking of mortar 3 in amn was necessary as many Primary charges were found to be US through damp etc.

It is suggested that Primary Secondary charges be issued separate from bombs, in lots of twenty, packed in waterproof containers to obviate this and prevent wastage.

REPORT ON EQPT

1. Eqpt generally is good, and suited admirably to the present ops. The following suggestions are recommended for consideration.

(a) Shovels GS are preferred to shovels entrenching. It is recommended that shovels entrenching be deleted from WET and one shovel GS per two men be issued in lieu.

(b) Shelter halves are too short. They should be lengthened by 18 ins to 2 ft to become really effective.

(c) Bags ration waterproof were found very useful, and the scale of issue should be increased to one per man.

(d) Trousers JG were available only in very large or very small fittings. A full stock of all sizes should be maintained well forward due to rapid wear and tear in jungle ops.

It is also suggested that a uniform green dye be used. A large number of trousers issued were silver grey, rather than green, and silver grey shows up easily in jungle, to the detriment of camouflage.

(e) The latest issue of web eqpt is poor quality, and wears quickly in ops. Only the best quality of any type of eqpt is of any real value, and saves enormous wastage.

TOTAL CAS FROM 18 JAN - 7 MAY 45

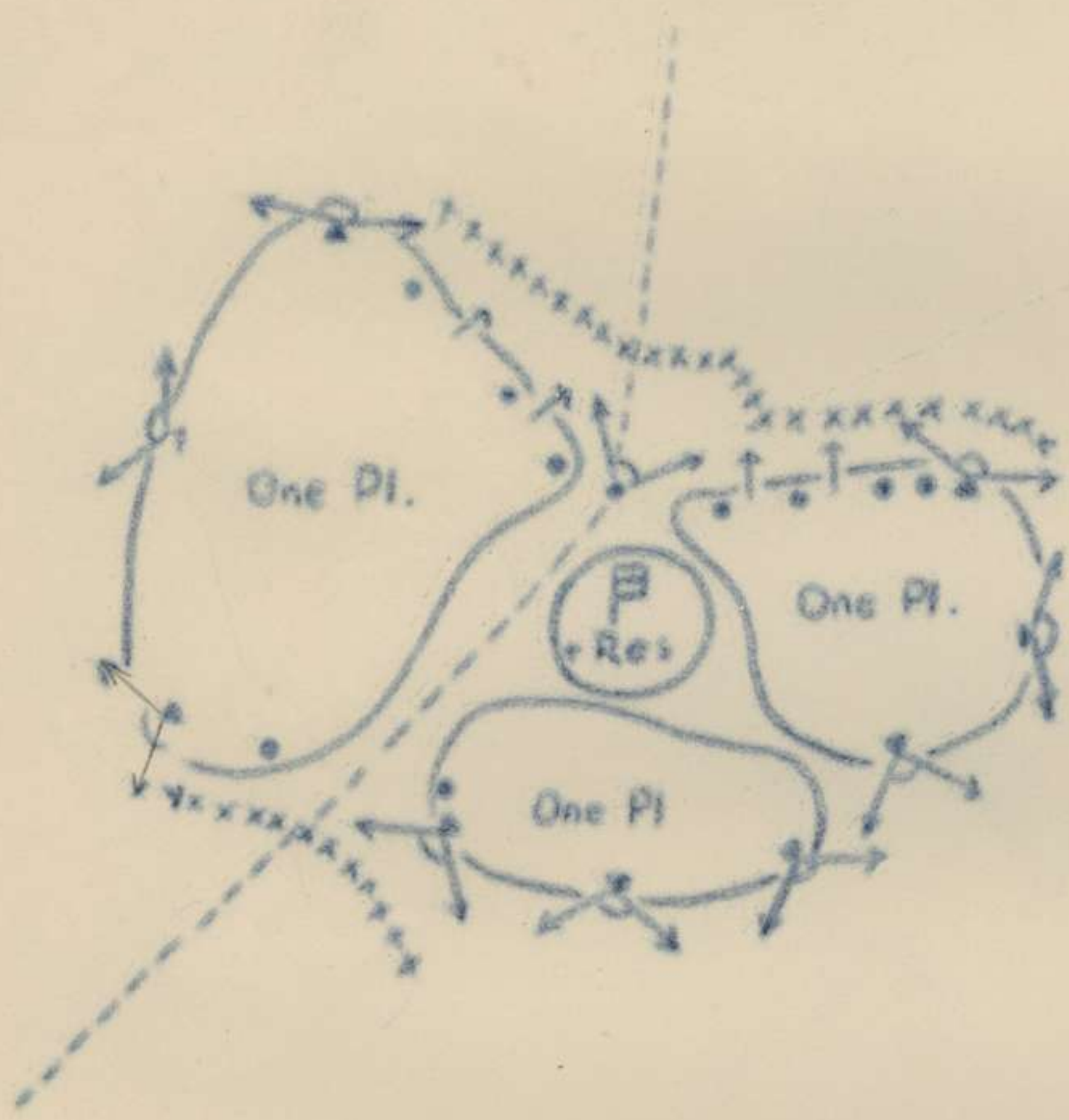
<u>OWN.</u>			<u>ENEMY</u>		
Killed	-	12	Killed	-	145
Wounded	-	34	Found dead	-	36
		<hr/>	Wounded	-	13
		46			<hr/>
					194

ENEMY EQPT CAPTURED 18 JAN 45 - 7 MAY 45

75 m.m. Type 41 Regt Gun	-	1
HMG (JUKI)	-	1
LMG	-	5
LMG - (Aust)	-	1
Rifles (incl US and Aust).	-	48
Pistols	-	5
Wireless Sets (US)	-	3
Swords	-	23

Large quantities of documents, eqpt, shells and amn.

DIAGRAMATIC LAYOUT of COY PERIMETER USING M.M.G. with KILLING GROUND



- LEGEND —**
- x x x x BOOBY TRAPS
 - ↗ ↘ O.S.M.G.
 - ↗ ↘ BREN showing Arc.
 - ↗ ↘ M.M.G. showing Arc
 - Fixed Line.
 - - - - - Track.
 - GRENADE PITS.