

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding

Officer

H. H. Hammer

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	23 Oct	C	<p>Lieut LEWIN of D Coy was hit in the knee while assaulting the enemy minefield and Lieut KENNEALLY was killed after reaching the objective by a shell. Lieut KENNEALLY had been an outstanding offr in action leading his pl wisely and with great gallantry.</p>	
EGYPT	24 Oct		<p>No counter attacks materialised at first light or during the day but the bn was subjected to very hy MG, mortar and arty fire. At first light an ITALIAN offr wearing white underpants came in and asked whether the coy would take PWs. On obtaining the consent of the coy comd he went back with 2 escorts and bought in 4 more PWs.</p> <p>Most of the arty fire was directed from Trig 29 - a ridge approx 2000 yds North of our FDLs. This ridge completely overlooks the Bn area and the area to the South. Today has been a very unsettled day. The enemy has been trying to locate our posns and reorganise his own forces. There has been considerable tk movement to the West and North but this attention was mainly drawn to our armour which was disposed South of the bn. Some tks did attempt to draw our fire by sending a decoy fwd. No fire was returned however until one 6 pdr gun was knocked out. One Mk IV tk was set on fire, and the remainder withdrew. As the crew of the tk attempted to get away they were engaged by our MMGs and all hit. Some difficulty was experienced in locating posns on the map owing to lack of known land marks but more particularly because movement above ground was almost impossible. After last light 2 flares were sent up at Bn HQ and from these flash spotters will give us an accurate map reference of Bn HQ. Late in the afternoon the CO received infm that the Bn would probably be required to attack Trig 29 the following night. A hot meal was provided and this was much appreciated. Work continued most of the night to improve the defences. Coy patrols were sent out but no encounters were made</p>	
EGYPT	25 Oct		<p><u>ATTACK ON TRIG 29 (sq 868300) 25/26 Oct</u></p> <p>Much movement of tks and vehs West and North of our posns could be heard during the night 24/25 Oct but our patrol made no contact. And again at first light no dawn counter attack developed this morning.</p> <p>The CO has been advised of a probable attack on Trig 29 on night 25/26 Oct. He ordered Coy Comds to a conference at Bn HQ by first light on 25 Oct as movement over the ground by day was most difficult and explained the task although details from Bde were not yet available. A warning order to all coys was sent out "Prepare for attack night 25/26 Oct. Adm normal". The "Admin Normal" really spoke volumes. It meant the preparation for battle in detail - man loads, carrier packs, arrangements for mines, wire, amm, food, water, over head cover, sand bags, tools, a rrangements for withdrawing A Tk guns, MMGs, Mortars, lifting the mines on our Northern flank, and the holding of the present posn in while preparing to do battle in another attack. It said much for the battle drill and discipline of the unit and supporting arms that these arrangements prior to the attack worked smoothly and without a hitch.</p>	

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer: *W.H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	25 Oct		<p>fire. The enemy then brought a heavy arty concentration down on that area and a further 6 bn vehs and one Div Sig veh carrying stores and amm were set on fire. These vehs contained stores for D and B Coys. Under heavy shell fire the remainder of the vehs moved fwd to their coys and fresh stores were quickly brought up to replace those lost. The carriers ran a special ferry service to replace the lost stores doing splendid work right up to first light. Reorganisation was made difficult by virtue of the fact that enemy MG and mortar fire was almost incessant. A Coy had struck rock when digging that by first light the depth reached in most of that coy was only two feet. However by first light all the tps were below ground with some head cover erected. 2400 Hawkins mines had been laid but the field was not quite completed. Bn HQ was established just East of the track and 400 yds South of Trig 29. A Coy had fought hard maintaining a relentless pressure against a strong and determined enemy. Lieut C R TAGGART and four others were killed when assaulting a series of enemy posts which was preventing the coy from obtaining its final objective. Pte Percy GRATWICK 7 pl with Cpl B LINDSEY assaulted the posts. GRATWICK charged a mortar post and destroyed it with grenades he then went onto two successive posts using his bayonet with deadly effect. He was killed at the last enemy post but his gallant action and that of his comrades enabled the coy to get on to its objective. The orderly room Cpl - Cpl "Ripper" KING and Sig Dick RAMSDALE MM were seen feverishly bringing up amm reserves from the carrier packs to the fwd pls of A Coy. Their grim determination to do all they could to assist in the fight was inspiring. The team work, co-operation and offensive eagerness of the whole bn in this attack was most marked and the enemy strong as he was in this position did not stand a chance against such determination and the will to win.</p>	
EGYPT	226 Oct		<p>At first light the enemy turned all his fury on the posn - particularly Trig 29. Till 0900 hrs the whole area was subjected to an intense arty concentration. Conditions were very difficult as no great depth had been reached in digging and all ranks were extremely tired. The situation was again unsettled and enemy tp movement was constantly reported. In the afternoon 300 inf moved into posns 1500 yds North of Trig 29 but these were engaged and dispersed by our arty. The value of Trig 29 as an OP is more than ever realised by us now as it has a range of vision of 4000 to 5000 yds in all directions. The enemy too realises this and it is receiving considerable attention from the enemy arty. The bn at this stage had call on 3 fd and 1 med Regt of arty if necessary. After last light another hot meal was brought up to the tps. It was greatly appreciated. Patrols were sent out during the night mainly to cover the improving of the defences and finishing the laying of the minefield. Spasmodic fire continued during the night but it did not hinder the defensive works. Bn casualties since the attack commenced</p> <p>KIA 1 Offr 15 ORs WIA 1 Offr 26 ORs</p> <p>MISSING 1 offr (believed KIA)</p>	

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer: *A.H. Hammer*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	25 Oct		<p>Zero is to be 2400 hrs. The Comds conference was somewhat interrupted by shell fire and MG fire but the enemy pits provided sufficient cover to continue the issue of orders. At last light a strong enemy patrol was seen between A and C Coy and fired upon. Several were killed and 3 PWs were taken, two of whom were offrs. One, who was badly wounded was CO of 125 Inf Regt (German) and the other the CO of 11 Bn 125 Inf Regt. these offrs were both out on a recce as the first bn had just occupied the area which the bn was to attack. Both offrs carried traces made that day on the same scale as the map we were using showing the enemy disposns and minefields in that area. This and other infm obtained from interrogating the PW proved extremely valuable in the attack - particularly was this so in reference to the minefields as it confirmed the fact that no mines were laid on the track to Trig 29 to be taken by C Coy on carriers. Shortly afterwards a deserter in full dress complete with pack etc from 115 Inf Regt walked into B Coy lines. All head cover and sandbags had to be taken from the area. Further Hawkins mines were however made available. The same arrangements for A Ech vehs as for the first attack will apply. By 2200 hrs the relief of the Bn by 2/17 Bn had been completed and the Bn moved fwd onto the start line. At zero our arty barrage opened up and the enemy replied with light arty and mortar fire on the area. D and A Coys moved fwd and gained the first objective but not until some hy fighting had been done. Particularly was this so in the case of D Coy who encountered hy opposition. D Coy fought well killing many enemy and capturing 38 German prisoners. They held the posn until the 2/24 Bn passed through. The fight took its toll of D Coy offrs, Lieut T H BOWMAN was badly hit and died in a few minutes, Lieut W A BYRNE was hit in the leg and Lieut B SHEPARD, Bn MSG offr att to D Coy was badly hit and died next day in hospital. The OG Coy Capt P ROBBINS being the only remaining offr.</p> <p>The second phase - the attack of C Coy mounted on carriers - proved completely successful. It was preceded by an intensive arty concentration on Trig 29 and the coy charged the trig pt inflicting hy casualties on the enemy who still seem dazed after the arty fire. The carriers went in four abreast at 15 mph charging fwd right on to the TRIG. The men leaped out - leading pl to the left, second pl to the right and the third pl swept right over the TRIG. The ene my was greatly surprised. Our men killed with great determination. Capt D BRYANT MC was magnificent in this attack coolly directing operations of his coy in the face of the enemy. Capt O H ISAKSSON and his carriers did a fine job and the determination of the crews was a great factor in the success of the operation. A Coy following in the wake and to the West of C Coy encountered a great dea l of opposition to the West of the trig pt and only after some very bitter fighting with hy casualties on both sides were they able to reorganise and dig in. C Coy also in exploiting fwd to the North of Trig 29 met with some opposi-tion. This was mainly in the nature of isolated posts which not knowing the situation continued to fire all night. One tk wa s encountered. This had been dug in and used as an OP but when charged by Cpl ALBRECHT (C Coy) the crew who were Italian were killed and the M 13 tk was captured intact. One hundred PWs from 125 Inf Regt were captured and nearly as many killed. Early during the attack when A Ech vehs were marshal-ling at the previous Bn HQ, a shell fell a mongst the vehs and set one of the vehs loaded with mines on</p>	

Month and Year: OCTOBER 42

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or UNIT: 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer.....

J.H. Hammer

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	25 Oct		<p>The Q arrangements by Capt J D POTTER, TO Lieut D N WALLIS, and HQ Coy Maj F A G TUCKER were great factors in the preliminary preparations for this next attack. XXXX Every member of the unit knew his task.</p> <p>The enemy is obviously still uncertain of our intentions and disposes and is hastily attempting to reorganise his defence. There are 3 arty FOOs operating in the bn area today and the constant movement of enemy inf to the North and tks to the West and NW has afforded some splendid targets. Our 3 inch mortars and MMGs were also able to engage targets affectively. The bn area was again subjected to hy shell, MG, and Mortar fire a nd severa l casualties were sustained. Stretcher bearers did a xxxx magnificent xxxx and gallant job. On most occasions they were the only people above the surface of the ground which was continuously swept with enemy fire. During the afternoon the enemy attempted to counter attack with 200 to 300 tps from the North onto D Coy posns but they were dispersed by our arty and Mortar fire. The mortars considered they were obtaining excellent observation of fire when they saw enemy bodies being flung into the air. Most effective shooting.</p> <p>CO attends conference at Bde to discuss the plan for the attack tonight. The plan is that under timed arty concentrations 2/48 Bn will move North from its present posn and capture spur 25 to Trig 29 (sq 868300) a nd reorganise facing North and West and a s far South as the 300 grid line. The bn will act as a box to protect the attack of the 2/24 Bn and D Coy will cover the start line of the 2/24 Bn who will move through the right of the bn and attack in NE direction towards THOMPSON'S POST reorganising facing West. On return to the unit after the Bde conference the O Gp was already assembled and orders were then issued. Coy Comds had be en called in before firs t light and given the general plan and all possible arrangements made up to the s tage of receiving Bde orders. During the conference Bn HQ was heavily shelled but no damage done. Arrangements were also being ma de for the Bn posns to be taken over by the 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. A relief and attack was the role of the 2/48 Aust Inf Bn. ^{to be taken over} The Bn will be as follows:</p> <p>The start line will be established 1600 yds from the objective and parallel to it and astride a track which runs past the objective. The start line will be fixed from the pt surveyed from the by the flashspotters. The attack will be launched in 2 phases, for phase 1 A Coy left, D Coy right will advance for 900 yds and halt. Here then will be a pause of 5 minutes in the arty programe. D Coy will remain in this posn and cover the forming up of the 2/24 Bn. C Coy mounted on carriers and portees with 4 bn A Tk guns and 1 tp 6 pdrs for immediate protection will advance astide the track to within 300 yds of the objective, debus and assault Trig 29. Th A Tk guns will be manned immediately on arrival against a possible tk counter attack in the moonlight. A Coy will then move fwd and exploit to the West and NW of the objective. After the limit of exploitation has been reached C Coy will reorganise facing North and NW linking up with the 2/24 Bn on the right, A Coy to face West and NW, B Coy to move fwd and reorganise facing West between A Coy and the right Coy of 2/17 Bn. The engrs under Lieut D MURRAY will move just behind the fwd coys this time and along the track to give a quick mine clearance for the carriers.</p>	