

Original.

SECRET.

WAR DIARY.  
WAR DIARY.

N.Z. ORDNANCE CORPS, 3-DIV.  
(D.A.D.O.S. Office and NZOC units)  
(Div Ord HQ - 3-DIV.)

FEBRUARY, 1943  
FEBRUARY, 1943

Volume XIII  
(Second Year)

( 7 Sheets)

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(compiled by 3 Div Ord. H.Q.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
MOINDAH	1	1300	Div Ord H.Q. staff commenced military training in afternoons, divided between Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, section of staff on each day.	
Bourail	1	-	Capt Knight, (B.O.D.) to Noumea re purchase of American clothing, inspection of <del>am</del> ammn. dump at old D.P./M.T. Section still shifting stores to new location at Gendarmerie, Bourail.	
Moindah	1	-	S.O.M.E. (ARMT.) received reply from C.O.M.E. Trentham re the lubrication of Vickers predictors. Owing to trouble with oil thinning in tropics, it is recommended that this Force experiment with an oil of greater consistency by adding and thoroughly mixing with the instrument oil, a proportion of M.80 or M.120 or even heavier grades of "M" oils. Advised 28 H.A.A W/Shop accordingly.	
Necal.	1	-	Routine work for most L.A.Ds and workshops. <del>64</del> 64 L.A.D. moving from flooded area, Nepoui Valley. 65 L.A.D. on workshop construction etc. D.O.W. engaged in work on workshop areas, maintenance etc. L.A.A. Workshops Sec. (att. 29 LAA Regt) commenced erection of a Workshop with grass thatched roof. 2/Lt J.S. Johnston joined 28 Hy AA Workshop Section from D.O.W.	
Bourail MOINDAH	2.	-	Commencement of issue of blankets under laundring plan through B.O.D. to Brigades. Request to C.O.O., Trentham, for information as to their intention regarding extra mortars held by certain battalions - rangefinders etc, required. (from DADOS) D.O.W. completing Mess Hall etc. 64 L.A.D. levelling new site with bulldozer. Other L.A.Ds normal routine, also AA and Coast workshops.	(Dos 9/7/11)
Moindah	3	-	DADOS to Bourail ; O i/c Admin, Base advises N.Z. approval of purchase of 6236 khaki shorts from U.S. Navy. Stationery taken over and handled by DADOS Office for Div. HQ units in area.	
"	3	-	GOC personally asked SOME (Armt) for report on the possibility of reconditioning the 25-pr guns and equipment ex U.S. Army, the work to be done locally by Div. Ord W/Shops.	
"	3	-	B.O.D. reported very heavy rain, causing parts of camp to temporarily flood. Construction work delay D.O.W. Camp inspected by G.O.C. 28 H.A.A. Workshop Sec. small arms training all day, under 37 L.A.D. report area flooded (Taom River); 65 LAD metalling area (Nemeara). Routine work elsewhere.	
Bourail <del>Moindah</del>	4	-	Erection of shelters under way at B.O.D. to cover stores. D.O.W. partly occupied with salvage work due to flooding on Moindah - Nepoui road, with work handicapped by <del>the</del> shortage of recovery and breakdown vehicles, particularly in wet season. 67 L.A.D. report three Signals vehicles on deadline owing to shortage of parts.	
Moindah	4	-	Other units normal routine.	

*W. J. S.*



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NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR DIARY

N.Z. Ordnance Corps, 3-DIV, 2 N.Z.E.F.I.P.

WAR.  
(Form N.Z.-375.)  
(In pads of 100.)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Compiled by 3 Div Ord H.Q.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
Necal.	5	-	<p>Cable to N.Z. as to whether .303 Winchester SAA Mk.VIIz is suitable for operations or for training only. Base H.Q. Noumea advise forwarding 2000 bedcots for new personnel. Request to O. i/c A. on behalf of B.O.D. for extra men for stores, ammn. work etc. D.A.A.G. advised that establishment for armourers now amended to permit one staff/sergt armorer (replacing one sergeant) armourer, at D.O.W. B.O.D. report textiles mildewed and metal goods rusted through inadequacy of cover. (construction of shelters proceeding.) S.O.M.E. (M.T.) visited Heavy Coast W/Shops. In L.A.Ds and Workshops generally men employed on maintenance and construction duties.</p>	
	6.	-	<p>Normal routine work in most workshop units. First severe casualty in 28 H.A.A. Workshops Pte Reid, auto-electrician, sustained lacerated wrist while working on distributor. S.O.M.E. (MT) confers with O.C. 37 L.A.D and Ord. Mechanical Engineer, 14 Bde. Routine work in L.A.Ds. 65 L.A.D. commenced M.V. maintenance in 15 Bde area.</p>	--
	7.	-	<p>Sunday - most units only essential work; picnic leave etc. in some instances.</p>	
	8.	-	<p>Instruction to B.O.D. from DADOS to allow for storage of unit kit and equipment in any plans for covered storage space, particularly in event of 3-Div. moving forward from NECAL. Arrival of 20 L.A.D. personnel from N.Z., plus personnel of rear parties for other Ordnance units. Opening of Officers' clothing store at B.O.D. In D.O.W. considerable number of promotions to rank of Corporal and above. O.C. 37 L.A.D. noted that use of Tumala River ford in his area is causing salt water damage through corrosion of parts of vehicles using the ford. This applied particularly to vehicles using the ford and he recommended that it be put out of bounds to M.T. Routine maintenance and (in many cases) camp construction work in units on the MT and Arms side.</p>	
	9	-	<p>O.C., 33 Hy Coast Workshops report Gun personnel still short of establishment. O.C., 28 Hy AA Workshops reported that shortage of Torpoyl and Potash Soft soap is holding up work on Guns. O.C., 20 L.A.D. (newly arrived) reports that first week was spent in making vehicle park, setting up camp. Work in this unit carried out in spite of spare parts shortages. 20 L.A.D. short in personnel esp. fitters, makes long hours inevitable. Routine work, maintenance and construction for various units.</p>	<p><i>Widley</i> Lt.-Col., D.A.D.O.S.</p>



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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
Necal.	10	-	<p>From Div Ord HQ, schedule of appendices sent out to unit QMs via formations. <u>D.A.D.O.S.</u> and driver to 14 Bde area, visiting various units. In connection with arms and equipment return for 3-Div units sent to Army H.Q. the following comment appears: "From now on the practice to be followed in this force will be that units when under strength in personnel will NOT hold rifles or pistols surplus to <del>establishment</del> their requirements at the time. Surplus rifles etc will be vouchered back to the B.O.D. and issued to reinforcements from there." (Ref DOS 9/5/1537). <u>SOME (ARMT)</u> advised D.A.A.G. of proposed allocation to units of new armourers from N.Z. (11) In 28 H.A.A. Workshops men given normal whole days training in small arms and general infantry work. Routine work in all other units.</p>	
	11	-	<p>Advice from Army H.Q. in response to inquiry, states that supply of spare parts for Tanks etc. are automatic. <u>DOW</u> advised by <u>SOME (MT)</u> that two recovery sections are to be attached to their respective brigades immediately. <u>28th H.A.A. W/Shops</u> send two men to 204 Bty Ile Nou to adjust instruments, etc. <u>D.A.D.O.S.</u> on northern visit inspected <u>37 L.A.D.</u> <u>64 L.A.D.</u> (with 8 Inf Bde) moved to near <u>BOULOUPARI</u> en route to <u>OUAMENI</u>. Routine work in units. Party from <u>D.O.W.</u> erecting trig. stations for checking range-finders.</p>	
	12		<p>Number of promotions published for Base Ordnance personnel. <u>S/Sgt. Rollo</u> promoted W.O.-1 w.e.f. 13 Jany. (<u>DADOS</u> Office) and <u>T/S/Sgt Bristow</u> (<u>DADOS</u> staff) is promoted W.O.-1 with 8 Bde H.Q. w.e.f. 17 Jan 43. AA &amp; QMG authorised issue to troops of one pair additional of khaki shorts. (letter to O/ i/c/ A.) Instructed <u>B.O.D.</u> to indent for a reserve of 50 .38-in pistols as a reserve, against casualties. <u>64 L.A.D.</u> moved into <u>OUAMENI</u> area with shelters etc. left by U.S. engineers. O.C. <u>64 L.A.D.</u> notes fewer emergency calls, but work in new area much the same in type to that at <u>NEPOUI</u>. <u>B.O.D.</u> report camp construction continuing and opening up of stores. <u>O.C., 37 L.A.D.</u> reports work nearly back to normal. Normal routine work in most units.</p>	
	13.	-	<p><u>D.A.D.O.S.</u> suggests that L.A.Ds should be equipped with 2 TSM Carbines also a Bren L.M.G. for possible defensive role in action. (memo. to G.S.O.-1). Request sent to N.Z. (through Base) for large stocks of Coleman lamp parts. N.Z. advise that S.A.A. .303-in Winchester Mk. VIIz is suitable for operation and training if passed first grade. (reply to 3-Div cable). O.C., <u>33 Hy Coast W/Shops</u> reported adversely on mechanical condition of guns at 150 Bty where he had gone to observe a shoot. Several parts of the guns had not arrived and were constructed by the workshops, without adequate facilities.</p>	

*und. copy etc*  
Lt.-Col.,  
D.A.D.O.S.



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR DIARY

N.Z. Ordnance Corps, 3-Div, 2 NZEFIP.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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WAR.

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
NECAL.	13	-	O.C. <u>37 L.A.D.</u> reported that with O.M.E. 14 Bde he had inspected the Carriers of the 30 Bn and found them in "very good" condition. Normal work in most areas in morning; sports in some cases in the afternoon.	
	14	-	Sunday - Units at church parade in some instances; only urgent work on areas.	
	15	-	Two Higgins landing boats taken on charge by 8 & 14 Bdes. Units instructed to indent on DADOS for camouflage paint for tents. Returns required from units of shirts that have been mutilated by having sleeves shortened, and also census of cans 2-gallon, and drums 4-gallon, held by units. Twelve carpenters from D.O.W. engaged at B.O.D. in erecting shelving, bins, etc for M.T. section. <u>65 L.A.D.</u> started to erect grease ramp (with aid of 23 Fd Coy personnel). Routine work all units.	
	16	-	Issue authorised of Mosquito head-nets (not as a precedent) for some units in bad areas. Working party of 1 officer and 24 men asked for to accelerate ammunition work at NEPOUI (B.O.D. Amm. Sec.) All Ordnance units instructed to indent for two sets of bib overalls for mechanics, etc. (18th B.O.D. report still finding much material damaged through lack of adequate storage. Staff working under difficulties as a consequence of <del>the</del> storage facilities. <del>the</del> equipment W.O.-1 J.E. Piercy of D.O.W. taking a course of instruction in Bofors 40mm guns at 28 Hy W/Shops, as from this date, for Artificers in W/Shops. Routine work in most units. Deadline mounting in some units through shortage of spares. (e.g. <u>37 LAD</u> )	
	17	0930 1000	Request from DADOS for sample of camouflage skin dressing (face and hands etc) made to Army H.Q. No. 1 and No. 2 Recovery section (1 offr and 31 ranks in each case) sent out from D.O.W. to 8 and 14 Bdes. <u>SOME (Armt)</u> visited Plaine Des Gaiacs area (re Lt. AA W/Shops) Also visited U.S. Navy torpedo refilling section and found their air compressor quite suitable for recharging our air-bottles. Wrote to AA & QMG requesting formal authority be obtained for this service to be used by 3-Div. <u>28 HAA W/shops</u> personnel engaged in range practice, (.303, TSMG and Lewis). Routine duties in most units in addition to above.	
	18		At B.O.D. A.E. & S. storeroom completed at Base Ordnance Depot. In Div Ord. W/Shops following officers promoted: Capt. Signal to be Temp/Major, Lieut D.W. Lawson to be T/Captain, 2/Lts T.H. Beauchamp and P.G. Patton to be Lieuts. In <u>33 Hy Coast W/Shops</u> , experiments carried out to convert A.E.C. brakes for 155mm gun.	

D.A.D.O.S. Lt.



INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

MAR DIVISION

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR DIARY

N.Z. Ordnance Corps, 3-Div, 2 NZEFIP

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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February 1943, Sheet 5.

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
NECAL.	18	-	In <u>B.O.D.</u> promotion of 4 N.C.Os to be Warrant Officers second class. Normal workshop etc. routine in most units,.	
	19	-	Normal routine most units; construction work continuing still at <u>B.O.D.</u>	
	20	-	Working party from 15 Bde for erection of shelters at <u>B.O.D.</u> appointed for an extra 2½ to 3 weeks as there still remains much work to be done. <u>B.O.D.</u> personnel engaged in sports meeting (Saturday) <u>D.O.W.</u> report Armament and instrument huts occupied. Work proceeding on Bofors 40mm. equipment Reconditioning of 25-pr guns drawn from U.S. army. Personnel of 28 Hy A.A. W/Shops instructed in use of gas equipment, also warned against dangers of fire in camp area. 67 L.A.D. constructed hot water boiler for 3 Div Sigs (formation attached to) Routine work in morning for most units; some sports, etc. in afternoon.	
	21	-	Advice from Deputy-Judge-Advocate-General (DJAG) that O.Cs of L.A.Ds and Lt, Heavy and Coast Workshops should possess the powers of a Coy Comdr., but that for disciplinary purposes the C.O. should be declared to be the C.O. of the nearest infantry battalion or artillery regt. Normal Sunday routine for majority of units. <u>D.O.W.</u> reports reorganising of vehicles parked for repair, to facilitate servicing. Machinery of <u>D.O.W.</u> is at full pressure to keep up with machine shop work arising from M.T. repairs.	
	22	-	Two Privates from <u>D.O.W.</u> selected by <u>SOME</u> (Army) for training as armourers, locally. Noted that Wireless Section at <u>D.O.W.</u> was not being used because units were not aware of its work and existence. Suggested that typewriter mechanic at Base would be better placed in <u>D.O.W.</u> where there are more facilities for his work. <u>D.A.D.O.S.</u> at Base Ordnance Depot. Camp construction and stores erection continuing. At <u>D.O.W.</u> panelbeaters fully engaged on repairs to smash work. Application made for E.D. pay for unit. 28 Hy AA W/Shops inspected by <u>DADOS</u> . Two members of this unit left for <u>D.O.W.</u> for course of instruction to instrument artificers at <u>D.O.W.</u> 37 L.A.D. report work still rolling in, held up by lack of spares. Four O/Rs of 67 L.A.D. started course of intensive training with 3 Div Sigs. Normal workshop and area routine for units generally.	

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Summary of Events and Information

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

MVB DIVIA

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR DIARY

.....N.Z. Ordnance Corps, 3-Div 2 NZEFIP.

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
NECAL.	23	-	Army H.Q. advise that 20 telescopes, observation being despatched for use of battalions. Officer i/c Admin, Base advises that 8000 American bedcots are available at Noumea for 3-Div. O.C., B.O.D. advises that they are still awaiting the loan of a bulldozer to assist in work of clearing the hill and complete roading. In D.O.W. only camp maintenance and routine shop work, as in 28 H.A.A. W/Shops, <del>xxxx</del> , and other units, incl. L.A.Ds.	
	24	-	O.C., B.O.D, advises that no waterproof capes available for issue. Recent shipment of 500 had been taken up with fulfilling unit orders to complete Divisional units' issues. Capt. Romaine of M.T. Branch of Army H.Q. visited B.O.D., with S.O.M.E.(MT) and conferred with C.O.O., and O.C., M.T. section, B.O.D. O.C., B.O.D. advises that tentage so far received by the B.O.D. from N.Z. is: I.P. tents, 1278, I.P.P., 135, Marquees G.S. 4; tarpaulins, 486, plus a few small items. These figures do not take account of those brought by units. S.O.M.E.(Armt) also visited B.O.D. Capt. Romaine also visited Hy Coast Workshops. Personnel of 28 Hy AA W/Shops engaged in military training, all day, range practice, etc. Two sergeants posted to 65 L.A.D. from 64 L.A.D., both units being short of personnel.	
	25	-	E.D. pay granted for clerks in 3-Div Ord. H.Q. w.e.f. date of commencement of duties in Necal. In view of American forces provision of same, Officer i/c Admin is asked to inquire if N.Z. forces here require them also. Captain Romaine visited D.O.W.. W.O.-1 J.E. Piercy returned to D.O.W. <del>xxxx</del> from course of instruction conducted by him at 28 H.A.A. W/Shops.	
	26	-	D.O.W. report that machinery waggon fully occupied in machinery work. Routine maintenance work in all workshop sections and L.A.Ds. 37 L.A.D. very busy on welding.	
	27	-	At B.O.D. Capt Romaine of Army HQ agreed to take up matter of adequate storage room with Army H.Q.. He stressed the need for adequate storage. Col Dove (O.i/c/A.) was present at conference. General maintenance and routine work in units. Mostly free in afternoon (Saturday).	
	28	1400	S/Sgt. G.M. Williams to 15 Bde as Ordnance W.O.-1. on Bde H.Q. (from Div. Ord. Hq.) Armourers report condition of small arms fairly good (report to SOME-Armt). Sunday routine most units. Some inter-unit sports.	

*W. Williams*  
Lt.-Col.,  
D.A.D.O.S.



February 1943,

Sheet 7.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR DIARY

--- N.Z. Ordnance Cirps, 3-Div OrdH.Q., NZEFIP

WAR. (Form N.Z.-375.) (In pads of 100.)

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NECAL.	28.	-	<p>General comments for month:</p> <p>O.C., <del>28</del> Heavy Coast Workshops, stated that morale of men has been good, although hours long and work tedious, and little spare time available. Weekends were filled with maintenance. Considers would require above establishment to carry out work required by vehicles in area...</p> <p>O.C., 29 L.A.A. Workshops section reports that his month's work has been mainly the repair of motor vehicles, guns and gun equipment. Unit is short of personnel, making it impracticable to carry out routine inspections. General condition of the roads <del>has</del> has greatly increased the work to be done on motor vehicles beyond the scope of the 5 mechanics. He reports that unit is seriously short of gun artificers, with no man suitable for training.</p> <p>O.C., 20 L.A.D. sums up operations by stating that general condition of roads makes light vehicles unserviceable.. With heavy rain, vehicles in daily use should be greased daily, not on mileage basis.</p> <p>O.C., 64 L.A.D. notes that his unit is five short of establishment, and seriously handicapped by absence of stores truck still in N.Z. also lack of breakdown truck. Supply of parts has been a difficulty, also of gas for welding, the latter being especially important when parts have to be repaired owing to scarcity of replacements.. Suggests portable electric welding plants would ease the position.</p> <p>Shortage of parts and personnel are two common complaints from technical units. Building has gone on through the month in a number of units, particularly in <u>Base Ordnance Depot</u>, where provision of shelters for stores has been of particular importance.</p>	

*W. S. ...*  
Lt.-Col.,  
D.A.D.O.S.