

ORIGINAL

SECRET

(Consolidated)

W A R D I A R Y
W A R D I A R Y

3 DIV ORDNANCE CORPS NZEF IP
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for the month of

SEPTEMBER 1943.
→ SEPTEMBER 1943.

VOLUME XX
VOLUME XX

15 Sheets and Appendix.

Consolidated

WAR DIARY

3 (NZ) DIV. N.Z.E.F. I.P.P.

ORDNANCE CORPS

including Base and Divisional Units.

for the month of SEPTEMBER 1943.

(a) Consolidated notes for:

Div Ordnance HQ (incl. DADOS Office, Guadalcanal
" " " Vella Lavella (advanced office)
S.O.M.E. (Armt) Guadalcanal.
S.O.M.E. (M.T.) Moindah, Necal. (with 1 sgt att. to
Div Ord HQ in G'canal).

Div Ordnance Workshops: Advanced Detachment- Guadalcanal.
No. 1 Rec Sec. with 8 Bde, Guadalcanal.
No. 2 Rec Sec. with 14 Bde, Guadalcanal & Vella Lavella.
Rear Detachment, - Moindah, Necal.

N.Z. Ordnance Workshops Detachment, Noumea (section of D.O.W.) - Noumea. N. C.
(ex 33 Hy Coast Workshops).

28 Hy A.A. Workshops Tontouta, Necal: Joined to D.O.W., Necal during Sept.

29 Lt. A.A. Workshops (att. 29 Lt AA Regt) Guadalcanal.

Tank Workshops and Fd Pk Detachment: (att Tank Sqn). Lunga River area, G'canal.

20 L.A.D. (att 17 Fd Regt NZA) G'canal and Vella Lavella.

37 L.A.D. (" 14 Bde) G'canal and Vella Lavella.

42 L.A.D. (originally att'd 38 Fd Regt NZA) att'd Arty T.D.s : (Ouenghi & Nemeara) ^{N.C.}

64 L.A.D. (att 8 Bde) G'canal.

65 L.A.D. (formerly att'd 15 Bde) now att Base units, Bourail, N.C.

67 L.A.D. (formerly att Div Signals) with Rear Det D.O.W., Moindah. ^{N.C.}

Base Ordnance Depot. (rear sec).

Bourail

Advanced " Depot.

Guadalcanal.

(b)

Appendix I... (Some (Armt))

W. J. ...
1462
DADOS

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 ... 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP.
or
Compiled by DADOS Office,
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. GUADALCANAL & VELLA LA VELLA.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
At Sea	1 Sept	0600	DADOS Office : Staff, aboard Transports Fuller and Hunter Liggett, left Vila, New Hebrides	
G'CANAL	"	-	SOME (Armt) Office : Same as for DADOS Office. also Advanced Section D.O.W. (on Hunter Liggett) and A.O.II	
MOINDAH	"	-	No.2 Rec Sec (DOW, att 14 Bde): Rifle inspection ; erecting mess room and cookhouse ; settling into new camp area following arrival.	
Tontouta	"	-	Rear DOW : Sick average for August is: Hospital 4.5, E.D. 1.1, L.D., 1.6, M.D. 1.75 . Lieut P.G. PATTON promoted to Capt to fill vacancy in estab. w.e.f. 9/8/43. at M.T. maintenance &c.	
At Sea	"	-	28 Hy AA W/Shops (in liquidation): 50 % personnel given leave and tpt to NOUMEA for the day.	
Noumea	"	-	29 Lt AA W/S.: At sea aboard Hunter Liggett ; left Vila, New Hebrides, for Guadalcanal.	
G'canal	"	-	NZO W/S Det : Maintenance of vehicles ; handed over Peep to V.R.D. on orders of SOME MT.	
"	"	-	20 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles ; preparing air raid shelters.	
Quenghi R.	"	-	37 LAD: Erecting shelters and cleaning up workshops area; MT repair & checking new vehs	
Nemeara	"	-	42 LAD: Cleaning up camp site ; repairs to two 36 Bn vehs. Strength 1 Officer & 20 O/Rs.	
Quameni	"	-	65 L.A.D.: Vehicle maintenance ; swimming practice for men.	
Moindah	"	-	64 L.A.D.: Preparations for move fwd with 8 Bae ; vehicle maintenance & checking .	
At Sea	"	-	67 LAD : Three men detached for mechanics' duties with DOW ; remaining personnel used at vehicle pool ; vehicles being brought in from the various camp sites.	
Bourail	"	-	Advanced Ord Depot (AOD) : left Vila, New Hebrides aboard Hunter Liggett. for G'Canal .	
			Base Ord Depot (Rear Sec): Routine duties ; further section of AOD left for B.R.D. awaiting departure (incl. Captain REID & Lt BUCKLEY). Lts Lonergan & McCarthy already fwd. (on Hunter Liggett.)	
At Sea	2	-	DADOS and SOME (ARMT) and staffs; Adv D OW and Adv O.D. staffs; & 29 LAA W/Shops at sea .	
Gcanal	"	-	No.2 Rec Sec : Rifle inspection ; camp construction. Stream near camp sprayed with oil.	
Moindah	"	-	Rear DOW : Most of the light vehicles on the deadline are out of action through spring failures. Spring assemblies have been asked for as there are insufficient men to forge, harden and temper the springs. No. 1 Rec Sec. - movement commenced today for fwd area	
Tontouta	"	-	28 Hy AA W/S.: Remaining 50% of personnel given leave and transport to Noumea for the day.	
Noumea	"	-	NZO W/S Det.: Maintenance ; visit by SOME (MT). Five of personnel blood-grouped.	
G'canal	"	-	20 and 37 LADS : Routine maintenance and checking of vehs.; constructing airraid shelters.	
Quenghi R	"	-	42 LAD: 38 Fd Rgt moved out (previously att'd). awaiting instns from SOME MT re new location.	
Quameni	"	-	64 LAD: Unit due to move.	
Bourail	"	-	B.O.D. (REAR): Routine duties , weather fine and temperatures very hot. Second section of Adv Ord Depot (at BRD) returning daily for duties at BOD.	

Widley
Lt. Col.,
D.A.D.O.S.

WAR DIARY --- 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP
or
compiled by DADOS office.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
G' Canal	3	Sept	1000 hrs. DADOS Office & SOME (Armt) Office complete staffs arrived Kukum Beach, G' Canal. and with Adv DOW and Adv Ordnance Depot personnel went to various camp sites (also 29 LAA W/Shops) DOW detachment of 5 offrs and 85 O/Rs. some on unloading duties.	
"	"	-	No. 2 Rec Sec DOW : Camp constn duties & MT maintce ; secured timber from RNZAF mill.	
Moindah	"	-	Rear DOW: Noted that excessive spring failures during month operations on this island have been due to a number of factors: (1) the use of light commercial vehicles ; (2) extremely difficult road conditions; (3) separation of units, leading to very high mileages.	
Noumea	"	-	NZO W/S Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; 1800 hrs, inoculation parade for personnel.	
G' Canal	"	-	20 LAD : MT work ; preparing air raid shelters ; route march & rifle drill.	
"	"	-	37 LAD : Erecting cookhouse and mess hut ; construction of fox holes.	
Ouameni	"	0500	64 LAD: Left camp site for ship at Noumea ; 0830, boarded Transport PA 19.	
Bourail	"	-	B.O.D. : Routine duties ; cricket team played team from 10 MT Coy at Moindah.	
G' Canal	"	1000	A.O.D. : All personnel on loading and hold parties as unit lands; difficult job getting equipment to camp site through lack of transport.	
G' Canal	4	"	DADOS & SOME (Armt) : Offices set up in two I.B.P. tents in Div area; also unit tents.	
"	"	-	Adv DOW : Men establishing camp & transporting equipment to site ; rations short ; camp area needs considerable excavating before it is satisfactory as a workshop site. Assisted by No 2 Rec Sec	
Moindah	"	-	Rear DOW : Full parade & rifle inspection ; tool check & inspection of tool kits.	
G' Canal	"	-	29 LAA W/Shops: Commenced work on erecting remaining tents & digging foxholes.	
"	"	-	20 LAD : maintenance ; rifle drill and inspection of kits.	
Noumea	"	1430	64 LAD : left Noumea on Transport PA 19. "abandon ship" drill.	
Noumea Neméara	--	-	65 LAD : Interior economy, lines and workshop ; vehicle salvage.	
Moindah	"	-	67 LAD : Recovery job near Base ; several others on succeeding days.	
G' Canal	"	-	Adv O. D.: Personnel clearing bush and erecting tents on new site at Fwd Maintenance Centre.	
G' Canal	5	(Sun.)	SOME (Armt): Received word that US Forces are holding 4 25-pdrs and some stores & amn, which would probably be handed over on application; no trailers available.	
"	"	-	Adv DOW: OC at base conference at FMC Hqrs; men warned about old Jap booby traps &c.	
Noumea	"	-	NZ O W/S Det: Personnel unloading dunnage from ship for new workshop ; weather fine.	
G' Canal	"	-	Adv O. D. : Clearing and burning rubbish from camp site ; men on short rations; water & tpt short.	
G' Canal	6	-	DADOS to Island Comd and Service Comd re supplies ; Div Ord HQ allotted one Jeep. 2 trailers obtained for A.O.D. from US Forces. Adv DOW also short of transport.	
"	"	-	No. 2 Rec Sec : NCO and 2 O/Rs draining pools and oiling stream against malarial mosquitoes which are apparently rare. (Due precautions being taken by all, incl. atabrin.) M.T. maintenance.	

Lt. Col.
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INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

MVB DIVKA

WAR DIARY

3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEF IP.
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Volume Xx. September 1943 Sheet 3.

- Moindah 6 Sept Rear DOW : This unit to be responsible for unloading, servicing & delivery to VRD of transport ex T.78. 2/Lt Simmonds m/i. ex NZ today for duty with SOME MT on vehicles for return to NZ. 24 men despatched to ~~Nepoui~~ Nepoui as working party for ship. Unloading commenced at 1200 hrs under very wet & muddy conditions.
- Tontouta " - 28 Hy AA W/S.: Small arms training, jungle training & shooting practice.
- Noumea " - NZ O W/S Det : Engineers commenced building new workshop ; maintenance ; weather showery.
- G' Canal " - 20 LAD: Maintenance on vehs; started systematic check of vehs; rifle drill & march.
- " " - 37 LAD: MT work in full swing ; still plenty to do on new vehicles - checking.
- Ouenghi " - 42 LAD : Six of personnel to take vehs from Rec Sec pool to DOW: repairs to Engineers' truck.
- New Hebs " - 64 LAD : (with 8 Bde team) arrived at Vila, Efate, New Hebrides ; beach landings practised.
- Necal " - 65 and 67 LADS : Routine maintenance, recovery jobs etc.
- Bourail " - B.O.D.: Unloading parties and checkers organised and standing by for T.78 at Nepoui.
- G' Canal " - Adv O.D.: Personnel digging fox holes ; weather very hot with no wind; jeeps and trailers only tpt available.
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- G' Canal. 7 - SOME (Armt): Drew AA & QMG's attention to large number of packing cases damaged in shipping; due largely to faulty construction, ~~handles~~ and rough handling. Standard method of case constn. suggested (details given). Also intended to design a 2-piece Porter Bar, which may be bolted to outside outside of predictor cases and be available at all times. During beach landings, carrying these cases was very difficult, as the porter bars were not loaded with the cases which are normally a 6-man lift.
- " " - Adv DOW : Camp building proceeding ; lack of transport a serious problem.; repairs from 14 Bde now being accepted. MT Sec of AOD advised of urgent requirements under Lease-Lend.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: Unloading operations postponed (Nepoui dock), owing to heavy rain & bad road conditions.
- G' Canal " - 37 LAD : OC at Brigadiers conference re fwd move; all unit comds present advised to take every opportunity of getting their MT in first class condition (mechanically) before move, as roads in fwd area (Vella Lavella) are believed to be very bad.
- Ouenghi " - 42 LAD: Repairs to 8 Bde rear party vehicle.
- Vila " - 64 LAD: Complete landing exercise with all personnel.
- Bourail " - B.O.D.: Weather very wet and roads very muddy but no delays experienced; steady stream of trucks arriving from Nepoui all through night from 2115 hrs on 6th.
- G' Canal " -- Adv O.D.: Foxholes being ~~hazy~~ dug. Requisitions placed on US Forces for jungle clothing ^{primarily} to equip 14 Bde personnel for fwd area, (4500 suits). Transport obtained through 16 MT Coy by DADOS.
-
- G' Canal 8 - DADOS Office: DADOS endeavouring to obtain certain supplies from US Forces who do not appear to have much surplus, and have not expected NZ demands in addition to their own. Small party of storeman (3) and 2 ammn section personnel attached to 14 Bde (later withdrawn), to assist Ordnance WO-1. Report on conditions and clothing position sent in personal letter to Chief Ordnance Officer, Trentham.
- b " " - Adv DOW: Setting up machine shop and benches in w/shop area; poor quality picks and shovels not standing up to constant use in foxhole construction.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: Unloading of vehicles ex T.78 contd. Convoys totalling 27 vehs taken to Vehicle Reception Dep
- Tontouta " - 28 Hy AA W/S : Payday, tent i.e., and cleaning up of camp surroundings.
- Noumea " - NZ O W/S: Det.: Maintenance of vehs; work on new camp and workshop.

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WAR DIARY

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- G' Canal 8 Sept 37 LAD : All out effort on MT ; marked difference in men's attitude; working better than ever before.
- Ouenghi " - 42 LAD : LAD duties and general cleaning up and overhauling of unit's equipment.
- Vila NH " - 64 LAD : Landing exercise carried out in dark.
- Moindah " - 67 LAD : Five drivers assisting in bringing vehicles from Nepoui ; recovery duties.
- Bourail " -- B.O.D. : Weather fine but overcast ; trucks still arriving from Nepoui with stores.
- G' Canal " - Adv O.D. : Building of cookhouse & erection of office & store tents. Transport still a difficulty.
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- G' Canal 9 - DADOS Office: 8600 suits of US herringbone twill suits (green) and hats to be procured from US Forces (to equip 14 Bde and Div Tps Gp with initial 1 suit per man).to be made up to 2 later with NZ type suits being manufactured at rate of 2000 weekly.
- SOME (Armt): Visited Torpedo Refilling Section, US Forces and enquired re the charging of air bottles for workshops etc. Quite in order as long as adaptor provided. Arranged to obtain from RNZAF station silica jell crystals and cells, used with aero engines in packing and then discarded. These are useful in our workshops for keeping moisture from certain instruments & equipment.
- " " - Adv DOW : Influx of armament and MT repairs.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: Advice from AA & QMG, Base, to take certain parts from 40 MM guns at ATD and fwd to the F.M.C. (fwd area); further convoys of newly arrived vehicles from Nepoui.
- Noumea " - NZ O W/S Det: Maintenance on vehs; work on new camp & w/shop ; personnel shifted to new site.
- G' Canal " - 37 LAD: maintenance etc ; 20 LAD : maintenance, systematic check of vehicles.
- Ouenghi " - 42 LAD: tow job to DOW by wrecker ; repairs to 4 of Brigade's rear party vehicles.
- Vila NH " - 64 LAD Complete Brigade (8th) landing with vehicles & equipment; LAD breakdown truck was first vehicle ashore and the LAD's task was to unload all vehicles and assist in reloading them at end of exercise. Everything worked smoothly and quickly in spite of rough sea. This is the first exercise where this LAD has been involved where full advantage has been taken of their special equipment & technical knowledge. Previous comds of manoeuvres had usually put LAD too far back for them to function.
- G' Canal " - Adv O.D. : Erection of obsolete US tents to serve as mess room; tables being built. Ammn Sec living at Dump.
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- G' Canal 10 - DADOS Office: Increase of unauthorised appeals and "scrounging" from US Forces and units has made it necessary to have an order issued forbidding such practices. Such practices annoy the US officials and cause deterioration in relations, and hinder normal transactions with US Command. 1000 rounds of US 25-pr ammn (plus further 3200 a few days later) obtained from US Forces, not required by them. To be used for practice purposes by 3 Div Arty units.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: Unloading of T. 78 vehicles completed ; MT maintenance and repairs ;
- Tontouta " - 28 Hy AA W/Shops: Route march across country and field exercises.
- G' Canal " - 37 LAD : Received movement order for fwd area and started to pack; spare parts coming to hand.
- Vila, NH " - 64 LAD: After manoeuvres and setting up camp ashore, reloaded equipment & men on transport.
- Nemeara " - 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance ; preparing new camp site (Base). Same programme 11th.
- Bourail % - Weather finer; routine duties in sections; still unloading T. 78.
- G' Canal " - Adv O. D.: General camp construction ; issuing jungle clothing to 14 Bde units (in bulk)
- Practice air raid alarm in evening.

3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEF IP.
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- G' Canal. 11 Sept. 0900** **DADOS Office:** Lt.-Col. MYERS at GOC's conference re proposed fwd move of 14 Bde &c.
 Condition red for air raid, in evening. (affecting all units on island, about 2100 hrs). No hostile planes
Moindah " **Rear DOW:** Parade and small arms inspection; workshop I.E. Other base workshops - normal routine.
G' Canal " **20 LAD:** Maintenance and systematic check of vehicles being continued.
 " " **37 LAD:** Some personnel on packing for move; others on MT repair.
Ouenghi " **42 LAD:** Convoy through to DOW from No.1 Recovery Section pool.
Nemeara " **65 LAD:** MV maintenance & salvage; preparing new camp site (Bourail).
Bourail " **B.O.D.:** Transport 78 still being carried out; weather wet.
G' Canal " **Adv. O.D.:** General camp construction and building of shelves for cookhouse, tables for offices and
 bootmakers' benches. Demolition of various old US Forces installations.
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- G' Canal 12** **DADOS Office:** Special allocation of green herringbone twill overalls (US "coveralls") for Ordnance
 workshops and LADs. Probably no repeat orders can be filled. 2300 hrs - air raid warning (uneventful).
Moindah " **SOME (Armt):** Forwarded copies of Modifications under R.E.M.E. Regulations to Ordnance units concerned.
G' Canal " **Rear DOW:** Party despatched to Nepoui to unload MT from T. 77.
Noumea " **Adv DOW:** Sunday, but "work as usual." No. 2 Rec Sec DOW: received movement order; packing & maintenance
G' Canal " **NZO W/S Det:** Work on new camp; weather fine; took vehs from BSD to wharf.
Vila NH " **37 LAD:** Still on packing and MT repair.
Moindah " **64 LAD:** Left Vila, New Hebrides in early morning for Guadalcanal. (8 Bde group).
Bourail " **67 LAD:** Two recovery jobs involving GMC 6 x 4 trucks, with faulty oil pipe line and burnt out clutch.
G' Canal " **B.O.D.:** Weather fine in morning but wet in afternoon; Transport 78 was completely unloaded of Ordnance
 stores for BOD at approx midnight and last truck arrived at 0430 hrs 12th. Loading of stores for Fd
 Maintenance Centre (Adv Ordnance Depot) still being carried out as transport becomes available.
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- G' Canal** " **Adv Ord Depot.:** Working party at Lunga Beach despatching to Depot 900 tarpaulins and clothing cases
 coming off "John T. McMillan". Same boat unloading ammn at Kukum West beach. Depot stocks unloaded
 by midnight, but ammn coming off all night.
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- G' Canal 13** **SOME (Armt):** at 2255 hrs first air raid of approx 90 minutes duration; no damage in area at any time.
G' Canal " **Adv DOW:** MT repairs continuing; acetone gas and oxygen obtained from US sources; lack of breakdown
 truck causes delays and are dependent on Rec Sec or LADs.
Moindah " **Rear DOW:** Forty Chev 4 x 4, 15-cwts and 40 gun-trailers unloaded from T.77 so far; MT maintenance &
 repairs; Wet weather is making MT servicing increasingly difficult.
Tontouta " **28 Hy AA W/Shops:** OC. (2/Lt GAP Skinner) reported to DOW re the attachment of remaining members
 of the unit to DOW.
G' Canal " **20 LAD:** Maintenance on vehicles etc; packing of stores for move.
Bourail " **B.O.D.:** Electric lighting plant set up and commenced operation at 1700 hrs. Weather wet; routine work
G' Canal: " **Adv O.D.:** Sorting and counting of stores from "John T. McMillan". Camp now well advanced; ammn still
 being unloaded; ship pulled out at 1630 hrs owing to air raid scare. Lone raider over dropped
 bombs in nearby US camp. Slight damage in that area.

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

- G' Canal. 14 Sept SOME (Armt): During landing exercises at Vila, New Hebrides, a tree was dropped on a Bofors predictor damaging it beyond local repair. Signalled NECAL for one Predictor No. 3, Mk.I to be sent by air. Also asked for 2 or preferably 3 sets of Fire control insts for Bofors to be obtained from NZ and held as spares. 37 LAD brought in L.M.G. of foreign make, closely resembling Bren. Is almost identical in design, locking action being same, though parts not interchangeable with Bren. Only real difference is that there is no gas regulator. Calibre appears to be 8 mm. No ammn found with gub, which is thought to have been captured from the Chinese and used by Japanese in action here.
- G' Canal " - Adv DOW: Considerable instrument and MT repairs being carried out; spares not yet to hand. 14 Bde repairs receiving priority in view of likely early move. No. 1 Rec. Sec arrived today with 8 Bde.
- " " - No.2 Rec Sec (14 Bde): MT maintenance; packing of equipment; issue of jungle suits.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: Visit to Lt.-Col. Gleeson and Capt Romain from Army HQ. Various matters discussed incl. shortage of tradesmen for the work of repairing vehicles in NECAL, also discussed need for more frequent supplies of oxygen and acetone cylinders. Pointed out that number of tradesmen does not permit a start to be made on vehicles left behind by units now fwd.
- G' Canal " - 37 LAD: Preparations for move continuing; An I.P.P. (large) tent burst into flames and put out with some difficulty.
- " " 1030 64 LAD: Reached G' canal and landed at Lunga Beach; unit worked to 1600 hrs unloading landing craft. Found camping site and erected shelters and tents.
- Nemeara " - 65 LAD: MV maintenance; preparing new camp site at Base.
- G' Canal " - Adv O.D.: Ammn being unloaded as from 0630 hrs; further clothing received from US forces; at 1200 hrs fire broke out in tent where clothing was stored. Personnel promptly got fire under control but tent was destroyed (GS type). Approx 330 prs trousers and 60 caps damaged.
-
- Moindah 15 - Rear DOW: MT vehicles ex T.77 delivered to VRD. Oxygen and acetylene gas coming to hand, enabling panelbeating work to be continued.
- Tontouta " + 28 Hy AA W/S: Packing and cleaning up preparatory to attachment to DOW (Rear), at MOINDAH.
- G' Canal " - 20 LAD & 37 LAD, also No.2 Rec Sec.: Packing completed for move with 14 Bde.
- Nemeara " - 65 LAD: MV maintenance; Forward party moved to Base (Bourail); preparing new camp site.
- Moindah " - 67 LAD: Unit working at vehicle pool; two recovery tasks.
- Bourail " - B.O.D.: Routine duties in depot; stores being sent to Noumea for A.O.D. as transport is available.
- G' Canal. " - Adv O.D.: Began day early with raid at 0500 hrs, and closed at 2330 with a raid in the distance. Stores being unloaded from "John T. McMillan" at Kukum dock. No damage in area from raids.
-
- G' canal 16 - DADOS Office: S/M Rollo and Pte Roberts to VELLA LAVELLA by landing craft (LST). Jungle suits issued to units; NZ type to 8 Bde; US type to 14 Bde and Div units. Not to be used prior to action.
- " " - Adv DOW: Malaria precautions being strictly observed. Very few mosquitoes noticeable in area. Canteen stores becoming more plentiful and men settling down very well.
- " " 1100 No.2 Rec Sec: personnel proceeded to beach for embarkation for fwd area (Vella Lavella); practised loading and unloading in afternoon; 1800 hrs put to sea.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: routine repairs & maintenance; part of prefabricated wooden building being prepared as an engine overhaul shdp.
- Noumea " - NZ O W/S Det: Maintenance; work on new camp site continuing; machinery truck and 1 O/R arrived from 28 Hy AA W/Shops.

withy
Lt. Col
D.A.D.O.S.



G. Canal 16 Sept

WAR DIARY

3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP. Compiled by DADOS Office.

- G' Canal 16 Sept 1200. 20 LAD: unit embarked (with 17 Fd Regt) for VELLA LAVELLA, and left at night.
- " " - 37 LAD: More spare parts came to hand; unit standing by for embarkation for North. Odd jobs on MT.
- Bourail " - 65 LAD: Location changed as from 1200 hrs today to Bourail Base area. Work on new area; MV casualties
- Moindah " - 67 LAD: Unit working at vehicle pool; 3 vehicles carting metal.
- Bourail " - B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather fine and hot; Rear party of A.O.D. left for fwd area previous night.
- G' canal " - Adv O.D.: Court of Enquiry re fire damage to tent and US clothing; much of clothing fit for repair therefore loss minimised to great extent. Ammn still being unloaded at dock. Ship moved out at night to avoid possible air raids. Incipient outbreak of fire in old shelter near Ammn Dump. No damage.

- G' canal 17 - SOME (MT) Office: Units will return to Div HQ by 30 Sept a return of all MT at present held in fwd area or still to come fwd from NECAL, and showing vehicle nos, type and make.
- " " - DADOS Office: Noted that 94 projectors infantry anti-tank ("P.I.A.T.") and 6000 bombs for same will be despatched to FMC (AOD) as soon as possible for 3 Div.
- " " - Adv DOW: 14 Bde repairs still receiving priority. Rations very short, greater percentage of fruit wd be beneficial to troops. (None of local origin).
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: Installation of drive for linotype machine at AEWS, Bourail. Supplies of phosphor bronze to hand from BOD MT Sec.
- Tontouta " - 28 Hy AA W/S: Packing up and cleaning up preparatory to leaving camp and moving to Moindah (DOW).
- " " - LADS in NECAL: normal duties mostly; 20 ~~LAD~~ LAD at sea.
- G' canal " - Adv Ord Depot: Unloading of ammn from ship by day; stores arriving at Depot ex "Robert Lucas".

- Vella Lav. 18 - DADOS Office: Advance party of 2 arrived; strong air attack by enemy bombers and fighter planes; setting up camp at Advanced Div HQ.
- G' canal " - Main DADOS Office: Recommendations drawn up for Ordnance personnel and workshops; Lt A w/Shops to be divided; and 1 DOW Offr and 19 O/Rs of DOW to be attached both to 8 and 14 Bde Rec Secs. Noted that if DOW work gets behind under this alteration to staffing it will be very difficult to catch up. Signal sent to NZ for bigger and better seakits (amended to 13,000 ordinary kitbags)
- " " - Adv DOW: Lt.-Col. GLEESON and Capt Romain of MT branch Army HQ visited unit, & discussed MT & equipment problems. At 0200 hrs bombs fell close, concussion being felt throughout area.
- Vella Lav. " 0730 No. 2 Rec Sec.: Disembarkation and marched to unit area; unit trucks helping unload transports & hauling unit equipment to areas. Air raid at 1130 hrs. Shelters and tents erected. Also 20 LAD.
- G' Canal " - 37 LAD: Embarkation deferred and unit standing by, for move.
- Bourail " - 65 LAD: MV maintenance and casualties; work on new camp area.
- " " - B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections; weather fine.
- G' canal " - Adv O.D.: Stores still arriving off "Robert Lucas" and ammn starting to arrive from same boat.

- G' canal 19 - Adv DOW: 1 Officer and 19 O/Rs attached to 14 Bde (No.2 Rec Sec) to assist in all duties. Marched out to North at 1000 hrs. ^{Warnings/} during night;
- Vella Lav " - No. 2 Rec Sec: Erecting cookhouse; completing shelters for air raids. Five raids during night; picquet of 2 men on beach at night; MT maintenance.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: (Sunday) Church parade; normal leave and I.E.
- Tontouta " - 28 Hy AA W/S: Cleaning up camp site preparatory to move to DOW (Rear) on 20th.

Witnessed
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.. 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP
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- Noumea 19 Sept NZ O.W/S. Det: Very heavy rain burst at rear of workshop necessitating considerable work to save washout of newly metalled yard.
- Vella Lav. " - 20 LAD: started work on foxholes and camp area after arrival.
- Bourail " - 65 LAD: M.V. casualties ; continuing work on new area.
- G'Canal " - Adv O.D.: 0300 hrs air raid ; slight damage at fighter strip some distance away. Personnel on sorting stores in Depot area, and placing them under tarpaulins.
- Bourail " - B.O.D.: (Sunday) church parade in morning; no further duties in Depot.
-
- Vella 20 - DADOS Office: Two personnel carrying out routine office work under AA & QMG.
- G'canal " - DADOS Office(Main): Signal sent to NZ from HQ NZEFIP at 3Div request for 13,000 ordinary kitbags in lieu seakits which are unsatisfactory, in quality and size.
- " " - SOME (Armt): requested BOD to expedite from NZ inspectional equipment for Arty previously ordered.
- Vella " - Adv DOW : broken sleep due to air raids starting to show effects on men.
- Moindah " - No2 Rec Sec DOW: Clearing of workshop area, erecting mess tent & orderly room. 12 air raids during night ; digging well for fresh water.
- " - Rear DOW: unloading of MT ex T.77 completed; 126 vehicles of all types unloaded, serviced and driven to VRD. Routine repairs and maintenance; Two officers (2/Lt G.A.P Skinner and 2/Lt J.S. Johnston) and 14 O/Rs marched in ex 28 Hy AA Workshops, to be taken on DOW strength in line with Admin Order No. 31, para 263.
- Tontouta " - 28Hy AA W/Shops; Section moved to Divisional Ordnance Workshops as stated above.
- Vella " - 20 LAD: Set up workshop ; at night shrapnel fell in area from ack-ack guns. No harm done.
- Vella " - 64 LAD: Transport vehicle maintenance work has been held up somewhat as AOD are not yet able to deliver parts.
- Bourail " - 65 LAD: MV maintenance ; building new camp. (same programme for next ten days).
- G'canal " - Adv O.D.: Air raid at 0315 hrs ; several planes dropping bombs; stores still arriving and personnel also attempting to fill indents under difficulties.
- Bourail " - (Rear) B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections; weather fine and hot ; unit vegetable garden started.
-
- G'canal 21 - DADOS Office: Request to Div HQ to have soldiers' second blanket returned to AOD, who are to retain 500 as a reserve against possible malarial trouble requirements. Others will be returned to NECAL and washed by BOD.(see Div Order 282). Units also instructed to care for bedcots.
- " " - SOME (Armt): air raid in environs of Div area at approx 0345 hrs. Two Jap bombers picked up by searchlights and shot down by US fighter within approx 1 minute . Tracer visible from camp. One bomber exploded in mid air and other crashed, with bombs. Noted that jap planes are carrying a machine gun similar to the Vickers - internal parts being interchangeable with Vickers. Ammn is rimmed 7.7 mm and can be fired in our weapons. Similarly Japs can fire .303 " in their aircraft guns.
- " " - Adv DOW: Detachment on beach working 2 12 hour shifts receiving vehicles. Insufficient personnel available to reduce working hours. Vehicles being checked etc. This should be the duty of a Field Park and takes technicians off important work.
- Vella " - No 2 Rec Sec: Maintenance; clearing workshop and camp area ; completed well for fresh water. Four air raids during night.
- Moindah " - Rear DOW: Personnel from 28 Hy AA W/Shops settling in ; tools etc. being checked and surplus will be returned to BOD MT Section.

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Noumea 21 Sept NZ O. W/S. Det.: Maintenance of vehicles ; work on shop and yard ; weather fine.

Vella " - 20 LAD: Rifle inspection, and work started on M.T.

Ouenghi " - 42 LAD: Normal L.A.D. duties - recovery jobs and maintenance.

Moindah " - 57 LAD: Working with DOW, also recovery job, jeep with faulty clutch 14 miles south.

G'canal " - Adv O.D.: Captain Reid and rear party (incl. 2/Lt Buckley) arrived by US.S. Alhena which starts unloading at 1900 hrs. Robert Lucas still unloading ammn and some stores. Working during night.

G'canal 22 - Adv DOW: 14 Bde vehicles and equipment on hand now completed and returned to rear party; air raids continuing at night. Unloading vehicles from Alhena nearly completed; machine shop detached to ASC to supply lights for sorting rations.

Moindah " - Rear DOW: Six 6 x 4 GMCs being prepared by DOW and ASC MT units for shipping to 3 DIV, also 12 MCs.

Vella " - 20 LAD: Rifle inspection and work on MT. S/Sgt Brooks sent fwd with 12th (25-pr) Battery.

G'canal " - 37 LAD: Embarked at 1600 hrs ; unit utilised as loading party; very hot ; good quarters and meals.

Ouenghi " - 42 LAD: L.A.D. duties ; instructed by SOME (MT) to move to Bourail (Nemeara) area on 27 Sept (Monday).

Moindah " - 57 LAD: Recovery job, GMC 6 x 4 broken fuel line, 3 miles south.

G'canal " - Adv OD.: Personnel sorting stores all day ; unit 4 x 4 truck arrived after long delay.

Bourail " - B.O.D.: Repair equipment for faulty ammn (arty) sent to Nepoui dump. Routine duties.

G'canal 23 - Adv DOW: 1 Offr and 19 O/Rs moved fwd with 14 Bde taking with them one third of available expendable stores. battery charging plant, compressor and lubricating plant arrive from NECAL. Parts are now available for majority of vehicles being used in this area. Health of men good.

Vella " - No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; clearing workshop & camp area etc; three raids in early morning.

Moindah " - Rear DOW: Work on 6 x 4's for fwd areas; checking and accounting for equipment from 28 Hy AA W/S.

Noumea " - NZ. O. W/S. Det.: Maintenance of vehicles ; work on shop & yard; building ramp and smiths' shop.

G'canal " - 37 LAD: Still loading LST ; exceptionally good conditions for food and quarters.

Ouenghi " - 42 LAD: Preparations for advanced party to move to new area (with Arty Trg Depot at Nemeara).

Moindah " - 57 LAD: Two wreckers used to recover GMC 6 x 4 over bank and in creek 1 1/2 miles North and one GMC over bank 8 miles south.

G'canal " - Adv O.D.: 2/Lt Buckley and 5 members of ammn sec. left for Vella. Instn from DADOS to get out stores for fwd area; personnel worked all night in heavy rain and completed order in record time.

Vella Lav. 24 - Advanced DADOS Office: Temp. office set up ; very heavy rainfall and roads very bad; general conditions in jungle very difficult.

G'canal " - DADOS Office: Water carts : these have not been very satisfactory, and have involved the use of a chassis and carry only 120 gallons. DADOS commends for consideration the apparently greater efficiency and economy which results from the use of water points and trailers. US forces employ a trailer of 300 gallon capacity and which can be towed by almost any vehicle, and when at rest it does not immobilise a vehicle. This suggestion is based on the premise that water chlorination points, unless the purification plant already incorporated in the NZ water carts cd be set up on a tank trailer.

" " - Adv DOW: Areas for machine shops and workshop benches being excavated; lack of grader equipment makes this an arduous and slow job. Instrument and MT repairs making heavy demands on all personnel. Consideration being given re further alloc'n of personnel to fwd area in event of Div Group moving fwd

Moindah " - Rear DOW: Six GMCs and 12 MCs despatched to Noumea for shipment completely checked & serviced.

Vella " - 20 LAD: Rifle inspection and MT work; One O/R sent fwd with 35 Bty (artificer)

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G'canal	24 Sept	-37 LAD:	Landing craft left for Vella at 0100 hrs ; seas smooth.
Ouenghi	"	42 LAD:	Advanced party of 7 men moved out to new camp site; remainder started clearing up area.
G'canal	"	Adv O.D.:	Each stores section sorting own stores and filling flood of indents.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.:	Weather fine ; routine duties in all sections ; film in town square at night.

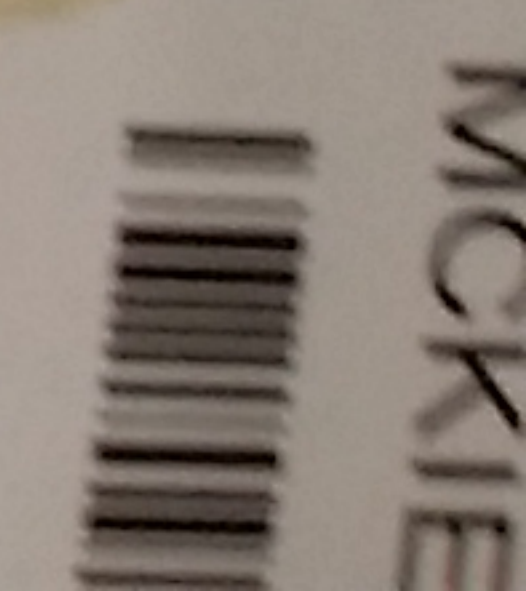
Vella	25	-	DADOS Office (fwd): Compiled ammn returns for US forces on island.
G'canal	"	-	DADOS Office: Preliminary recommendation for promotion one stage each, of Lts Lonergan and McCarthy and 2/Lt. Buckley, all of A.O.D. Noted by BOD that some units have left behind in the Base Kit store, NECAL, a considerable amount of W.E. table equipment that should have been returned to B.O.D., if surplus, or taken fwd. Noted that a number of units left behind essential Q. records.
"	"	-	SOME (ARMT): visited US Ordnance; looked round workshops ; inspected Japanese rifle, apparently
"	"	-	"MEIJI 38" (1905) - standard infantry rifle. (see Appendix I.)
"	"	-	Adv DOW: Armament and MT personnel fully occupied on repair work; parts for Peeps & Ford 4 x 4 now coming fwd in considerable quantities.
Vella	"	-	No.2 Rec Sec.: Truck and wrecker went out to assist with unloading of transports ; 1 Offr and 19 O/RS from Armt sect, DOW, arrived. MT mtce ; bombing and strafing 1100 hrs ; afternoon free for I.E.
"	"	-	20 LAD: Rifle inspection and maintenance on MT; nights have been quiet with no bombs dropped.
"	"	0800	37 LAD: Arrived Vella; unloaded in record time of five hours; men worked splendidly ; nearby L.S.F. craft bombed with 18 (some NZ) killed and others wounded. Commended camp construction.
Moindah	"	-	67 LAD: Recovery job 6 miles north GMC with radiator fault.
G'canal	"	-	Adv O.D.: xxxxxx Sorting of stores continued throughout day to make space available for further shipment expected.
Bourail	"	-	B.O.D.: With the exception of a skeleton staff in sections ; duties ceased at 1800 hrs. Swimming sports

Vella	26	-	DADOS Office (fwd): S/M. and Pte. to 14 Bde Hq and store dumps for check of stores landed from barges on 25th. Contacted Ordnance WO-1 with 14 Bde (S/M. Walkley).
G'canal	"	-	ADV. D.O.W.: M.T. repairs being carried out on urgent priorities; voluntary church parade. Majority of men had first free day since arrival; vehicles received from ship at Lunga Point.
Moindah	"	-	Rear DOW: Urgent MT repairs, i.e., and leave.
Vella	"	-	No.2 Rec Sec: collecting equipment brought fwd by armament sec. DOW; Armt Sec personnel "settling in".
Noumea	"	-	NZ O W/S Det: Work on shop and yard in morning ; weather fine.
G'canal	"	-	Tank W/S & Fd Pk Det.: arrived G'canal on T.80 at 0800 hrs, to join 3-Div. Arrived at location Lunga River at 1130 hrs ; ship party remained on board to unload vehicles & equipment. Owing to upset in shipping arrangements no rations or tentage was available for night. OC contacted Col Arne of the 9th Marines, who made available quarters and rations for the unit; rations returned next day. Noted that 9th marines and 3 Div units showed great helpfulness. (Diary prior to this date was included with that for Special Army Tank Squadron Group..to which Tank W/S is attached).
Vella	"	-	37 LAD: Camp constn. heavy raids expected and shelters are first priority ; strict blackout at night.
Ouenghi	"	-	42 LAD: Cleaning up old camp site and carting equipment to new site.
Bourail	"	-	65 LAD: Only M.V. casualties (and Sunday routine).
G'canal	"	-	Adv O.D.: Work as usual at Depot, and T.80 discharging stores throughout night.
Bourail	"	-	B.O.D.: Trip organised to Houialou for day ; cricket team played Officers Training School at Moindah.

Appx I

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Vella Lav. 27 Sept. DADOS Office (fwd): Moved from temp. camp site to "Gills Plantation," new site alongside

G'canal " - ~~14 Bde HQ.~~ Big improvement on last site.

" " - DADOS Office: Div Admin Instns, para 284, points out that Adv. Ordnance Depot brought fwd all incomplete indents from B.O.D. and will fulfil them here.

Meindah " " - SOME (Armt): Requested rear DOW to inspect damaged Bofors barrel held by BOD and fwd details.

Vella " " - Adv DOW: W.T. and armoured O.P.P. vehicles received direct from NZ, these being checked for immediate despatch to fwd area. All vehicles in this or fwd areas should be fitted with chains.

Moindah " " - No.2 Rec Sec.: Instructed by 14 Bde HQ to move to Bde area 6 m North of present position; packing.

G'Canal " " - Rear DOW: Construction of men's mess hall from materials ex 37 Fd Pk site commenced. This will enable the hall previously used both for mess & entertainments to be used in future for entertainments only. Repairs and servicing of base unit vehicles. ~~Unit~~ Personnel with a minimum of 12 months service in Fiji to report to No.2 Con. Depot for blood test. Full dental inspection of unit.

Vella " " - Tank W/Shops: Unit split up into 2 working parties, one for ~~site~~ unloading and one for clearing site. Tentage and unit WE Table equipment arrived. Adequate shelter erected for personnel.

Ouenghi " " - 37 LAD: All personnel warned against having full magazines in weapons, owing to man getting shot by picket. 35 and 37 Bns of Bde contacting Jap forces in North. Very busy on bulldozers of Engrs.

G'canal " " - 42 LAD: Pulled out of old camp site at Ouenghi River and proceeded to set up camp in Bourail area at Nemeara, with Arty Training Depot.

Bourail " " - 64 LAD: Heavy tropical rain makes clay roads very treacherous and gives breakdown crew much recovery work.

G'canal " " - 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance, and building new camp (programme for rest of month).

Bourail " " - Adv O.D.: T.80 still discharging and depot area becoming blocked with stores; MT and AE & S. (Arms, Engineering and Signal stores) sections building bures to house technical equipment. working parties on duty throughout night.

Bourail " " - B.O.D.: Weather fine; routine duties in all sections.

Vella 28 - DADOS Office (fwd): Contacted Lt. BUCKLEY (Amn officer AOD) and other Ordnance personnel. Fatigues. i.e., assisted D & E Platoon in clearing new area for Div HQ camp.

G'canal " - DADOS Office: Further 3200 rounds of 25-pr amn to be obtained for Arty units and used largely for trg.

" " - SOME (Armt): Forwarded C.O.M.E., Trentham, a short history of NZOC Workshops of L.A.Ds of 3 Div, with notes covering equipment and publications needed, and specialist personnel.

" " - Adv DOW: Limited number of technicians of fwd unit being kept very busy; all unit transport being taxed by shipping demands. Weather very hot. Shelters which could be quickly erected would prove beneficial for working under. OC considered W.E. Table provides insufficient of these.

Vella " - No.2 Rec Sec: Shifted to new camp site; erected tents & dug shelters; Bde provided some transport for the move.

Moindah " - Rear DOW: OC of NZ Ordnance Workshops Detachment/^{Noumea/} (branch unit of DOW, old 33 Hy W/Shops) visited DOW and discussed unit problems with SOME (MT) and OC DOW Rear Detachment.

Noumea " - NZ O.W/S Det: 1 Sgt and 1 L/Cpl m.i. from DOW. Maintenance of vehicles etc.

G'canal " - Tank W/S.: Unit split into working parties; By nightfall area fairly well laid out. Parties again on unloading and receiving equipment from wharf. Picquet being posted at 1820 hrs each night.

Vella " - 37 LAD: Noted that Jap barge captured by 37 Bn men; all LAD personnel on MT work; very bad road conditions, and nearly all vehicles have been through salt water and are consequently in very bad order.

Nemeara " - 42 LAD: Straightening up new camp and sorting of equipment.

G'canal " - Adv. O.D.: T.80 still discharging and OC, AOD to ship to ascertain amount of cargo still to be unloaded. Parties working all night.

W. S. ...
Lt.-Col.,
DADOS

WAR DIARY.

3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEF.
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- anal 29 Sept DADOS Office: Lt.-Col MYERS and batman left by L.S.T. (landing craft) for Vella Lavella. Sizeable orders for stores of clothing, mess/gear etc, coming back from fwd area. Instn to AOD to signal, if need be, or obtain otherwise by earliest possible means, items for which the demands in fwd areas will be appreciably higher than they were in NECAL; and upon which rate existing demands on NZ may have been based. Stores for fwd area to be packed in 1-man lifts where possible from AOD. Request received from Island Command (US) in G'Canal for details of the 3 Div level of supplies in main Ordnance items. Letter asks if there will be a 60 day level on hand prior to Nov. 1. Noted in answer that we have NO reserves of clothing, NOT even enough to make one ~~full~~ full issue of jungle clothing. Signals equipment, MT spares and General equipment are held in fair supply. Further supplies position depends very largely on shipping opportunities from N.Z., for which shipping opportunities we are dependent on the US forces. Ammn will be approx up to the laid down scale. With ref to stores in general, indents are placed on NZ to ensure that 30 days maintenance supplies on existing W.E. Table scales of issue are kept at BOD, Necal, ~~er-fw~~ and 90 days supplies are kept in or fwd of Guadalcanal. Under Div HQ instns, one third of the 90 days held in or fwd of Guadalcanal, will be held in future at Vella. Noted in reference to ammn that the GOC desired Col DOVE (Offr i/c Admin HQ NZEFIP) to advise Army HQ that replenishments shd come fwd from NZ, as demanded by 3-DIV.
- anal " - Adv DOW: Noted by OC that areas occupied by Div cover extremely difficult terrain for M.T. operation. With the limited number of vehicles allowed in fwd area, a reserve is necessary to provide for immediate replacement of vehicles badly damaged.
- la " - No.2 Rec Sec ; Two air raids during the night; commenced erection of workshp, clearing area.
- ndah "" - Rear DOW: Return submitted to SOME (MT) showing additional tradesmen that this rear detachment would require in order to fulfil its two roles of (1) servicing base transport in operation in NECAL and (2) completely checking all vehicles left in NECAL by Div units in fwd area. Full inspection of area, technical equipment &c, by Offr i/c Admin, HQ NZEFIP (Col Dove).
- anal " - Tank W/Shops: Unit unloaded and received equipment from ship. Clearing area; arms inspection held.
- nghi-Nemeara- 42 LAD: Erecting workshop and sorting equipment to recommence work.
- anal " - Adv C.D.: Stores personnel sorting equipment & unloading trucks from T.80 which finished discharging in later afternoon. Six more of personnel left for fwd area to join Lt Buckley and party, on Vella.
- urail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; personnel from BOD visited patients in 4 NZ General Hospital.

anal 30 ~~Sept~~ DADOS Office: Tractor parts for D.4 tractors and others to be taken over by # 37 Fd Pk Coy, NZE at suggestion of DADOS. In fwd area, DADOS staff set up Advanced office. ~~xxxx~~

" " - Adv DOW: Noted that all types of repair work for units proceeding to fwd areas are receiving priority. The month has been fully occupied on preparing MT, weapons and instruments for units proceeding on active role. The machine shops brought fwd have given excellent service. The unit is now faced with a further breaking up of personnel which will affect its efficiency to some degree, due to the limited number of personnel of specific technical qualifications on the strength of the fwd detachment. Heavy repairs of all types are expected, due to the conditions in these tropical areas. The spare parts position has improved considerably for MT spares, but is still inadequate for armament and instrument requirements. These spares have been on indent for approx. 6 months, with very little result to date. The necessity for urgent action in this matter cannot be too greatly stressed. Health of troops is excellent - only a few cases of slight sun-stroke and fatigue to date.

Summary of month's work - see Appendix IV. Summary.

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Lt.-Col.,

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- Vella Lav 30 Sept (contd). No.2 Rec Sec.: Erecting workshops for MT and Armament Sections. Shifting cookhouse; clearing area; M.T. maintenance. Strength 1 Offr and 31 O/rs with Rec Sec and 1 Offr and 19 O/RS attached from DOW.
- Moindah: " - Rear DOW: Work proceeding on men's mess hall; new roads to prefabricated building housing engine maintenance shop constructed; area metalled for a unit vehicle park. See Resume of months work.&c.
- Noumea " - NZ O. W/S Det: Continuance of work on maintenance of m. vehicles, and building of shop. Weather fine.
- G'canal " - Tank W/Shops: OC of unit contacted DADOS and SOME (Armt) and ASC. Unit still engaged in clearing area. Workshops commenced work on Tank modification 1 vehicle inspection carried out. Lecture by OC at night to all personnel on hygiene and unit control and organisation.
- Vella " - 20 LAD: Rifle inspection and work on MT. S/Sgt Brooks returned from fwd area with gun (25-pr) for removal of jammed shell.
- " " - 37 LAD: Compressor with Sgt and one Pte. despatched North to assist with captured Japanese barge. Very busy on M.T.
- Nemeara " - 42 LAD: Straightening up of camp site; building workshop benches.
- G'canal " - 64 LAD: Motor vehicle maintenance work is increasing and parts are more easily available now.
- Bourail " - 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance and continuing work of establishing new camp.
- Moindah " - 67 LAD: The month concludes with the unit actively employed in the checking vehicle pool where vehicles have been lined up in their various types and makes, and the checking of these units for petrol, oil, water, greasing, condition of batteries, and location of any faults. Vehicles being generally checked for protection against weather conditions.
- G'canal " - Adv O.D.: Sorting of stores in progress. Bures, which consist of frameworks covered by tarpaulins, built to house MT equipment, are now completed. A.E. & S. section building well advanced.
- Bourail % - B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections; weather fine and hot.

SUMMARY FOR MONTH - as supplied by units

DADOS Office. General comment. With the posting of one WO and 1 private to a forward office, this office as with other Ordnance units has been divided between rear and forward areas. The month has seen a great deal of organisation for the best employment of the limited personnel and equipment in this forward area (Guadalcanal to Vella Lavella) and the necessity of maintaining adequate base staffs. For the two field regts of 25-pr artillery, only one L.A.D. of that type was brought fwd, and it went fwd still further with its particular regt, leaving the other regt without an L.A.D. (which would normally, have ~~had~~ been the 42 LAD left in NECAL). With the Division, and in particular the 14 Bde going into action, the question of providing clothing adequate for troops in hot jungly areas has been paramount in importance, and every effort has been made to delay in receiving supplies. There is no record of any supplies having been lost between NZ and Guadalcanal by enemy action. Any such loss would of course have been serious in view of the often non-existent and otherwise narrow margin of available supplies over local needs. Whereas in New Caledonia it was possible frequently to obtain considerable quantities of supplies from the US forces, the further North the Division moved the greater has been the difficulty of obtaining supplies on lease-lend. The major item of 8600 suits of US jungle suits, needed for 14 Bde and Div Group troops, was obtained only with difficulty, and it was early found that in some lines US forces were themselves short supplied, and in no instance had they budgeted on a scale to allow of largely assisting this Force in the Solomons area.

W. J. ...
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D.A.D.O.S.

28th Sept 1943. Volume XX. Sheet 12.

M V B D I V X

WAR DIARY.

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SUMMARY for MONTH (contd).

Advanced D.O.W.: Summary of work completed to month ending Sept 30.-

- Rifles No.1 .303-in; 46 repair jobs.
- Bayonets 7 general repairs etc ; 180 sharpened.
- Pistols .3" Smith & Wesson 11 general repair etc jobs.
- Thompson S.M.G. .45" - 20 general repair etc jobs.
- Bren LMG .303" - 2, general. Bren tripod, 1 straighten and overhaul.
- Instruments, incl Clinometers, binoculars, compasses, watches, sights, directors, predictors, rangefinders, telephone sets, wireless sets switchboards etc, etc, cleaned, overhauled repaired etc. 118 jobs, including the repair of 27 watches, and 18 cleaning and collimating of binoculars, and 6 wireless sets overhauled &c.
- Artillery jobs; etc 38, including overhauls 3.7 howitzer; conversion of Japanese telescope stand to take G.I. equipment, straightening of Bofors carriage and platform, bearing for typewriter, and numerous jobs on sights and working parts of artillery pieces.
- Armoury: complete inspection by Div Armourer of all small arms of 238 Fd Regt, NZA and Div HQ personnel.

M.T. side: Ford Quad 4 x 4: 82 jobs of various types.

- Ford Fd Arty Tractor : transmission and spring jobs 8;
 - Ford 4 x 4: breakdown waggon (1) Ford 4 x 4 dump truck (2) Tractor caterpillar (1) Indian M/Cycles (9)
 - Morris commercial van (4 jobs). Bren carrier (2). Dodge Reece car (7) ; Bedford F.A. Tractor (4) ; Chev 4 x 4 30 cwt (14); Chev 4 x 4 water cart (1) ; Chev 15-cwt (7); GMC 6 x 6 (2) ; Peeps 98 jobs.
- These figures represent separate jobs and not necessarily the number of vehicles handled. ~~MT~~ Total MT jobs 242.

Miscellaneous jobs - repair, weld and sharpen picks and shovels 98 ; repairs to ~~MT~~ Fd Cookers burners and Coleman lamps 13; and miscellaneous jobs for units (not MT) 26.

NO. 1 Rec. Sec., D.O.W.: (with 8 Bde) This unit and attachments should be submitting a separate diary for October onward; previously reports have been sent to and incl. with DOW reports as being a section of that unit. Present type of activity will necessitate a separate diary.

No.2 Rec Sec.: This unit operating with 14 Bde, and with 1 Officer and 19 O/Rs attached from DOW, provides a separate diary for the first time.

Rear Detachment of D.O.W.: OC notes: The unloading and servicing of MT from NZ ex T.77 and T.78 occupied approx. 30 personnel for about 14 days, (a considerable drain on the available personnel and equipment). Approx 200 vehicles of all types were handled. Extremely bad weather and bad road conditions hampered operations on T.77. Repairs to Base Transport at present in operation in Neval has kept the unit fully occupied, and it has not been possible to commence work on the pooled vehicles left behind, by Div units now serving in fwd area. This has been pointed out to Lt.-Col Gleeson from Army HQ, NZ, and also to OICA. The health generally of the unit personnel is good. A new mess hall is under construction.

28 Hy AA W/Shops: This unit ceased operations as a separate unit and came under control of DOW in Moindah area.

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

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SUMMARY for MONTH (contd):

29th Lt AA Workshops: (This unit's diary notes for month were very limited).
Comments by OC : General: Armaments - Practically the whole month has been devoted to the repair of oil motors and predictors. Ten oil motors have been overhauled.
M.T. - During the month minor repair work has been carried out. Lack of equipment has meant that a large amount of the work has been referred to DOW, which could otherwise have been done by the unit.
CAMP: All non-technical personnel have been engaged in general camp construction, etc.

NZ Ordnance Workshops Detachment (NOUMEA): With the disbandment of the 33 Hy Regt, the unit took over the MT repair and maintenance work of Div units in and passing through the area, without the Armament work of the 33 Hy Coast workshops. OC notes: "This has been a particularly heavy month for all ranks owing to the unit's change of location. Current vehicle maintenance work was carried out during the change-over. All personnel worked ~~long~~ hard and enthusiastically throughout, notwithstanding long hours and uncongenial conditions. Cooperation from Engineers has been of considerable value in the preparation of a very convenient workshop, which is a great improvement on the unit's old building. The acquisition of machinery waggon from the 28th Hy A.A. Workshop has already been of considerable assistance. Shortage of trained mechanics has been main trouble. "A very noticeable point has been the ignorance of a great many drivers regarding the correct method of removing and fitting tyres on 6 x 4's. The drivers are in the habit of hammering wheels to remove tyres, thereby bending wheel centres. Weather fair, morale very high, and health good."

Tank Workshops and Fd Park Detachment: (2 Offrs and 40 O/Rs, with 6 reinfts in Necal additional). This unit arrived towards the end of the month, comparatively well equipped from an Ordnance point of view. The other recent Ordnance unit to join the Force (42 LAD) came far better equipped than LADs which had been longer in the Force and longer out of N.Z. This unit, coming straight from NZ winter to the tropics provided a solid test of men's ability to adjust themselves quickly to local conditions. This they appear to have done, and quickly made themselves at home. In this connection, the Ordnance units of the Division have long been noted for their ability to produce "home comforts" and amenities for cookhouse, messroom, and camp area, which, without reducing their ability to carry out the duties required of them, have maintained morale and esprit de corps at a consistently high level. In addition, men with technical skills, such as watchmakers in particular, have found their spare time fully occupied with repair work etc for their colleagues and men of other units. In islands of the Pacific such assistance has been greatly appreciated by the troops, as civilian facilities of this type were non-existent. Whatever may be the difficulties of Ordnance in the realm of supply, and these are, mainly, appreciated by units, the record of the technical services of Ordnance is very high with Divisional units.

Various L.A.Ds : Much of the work of these units has been routine and calls for no special comment.
Advanced Ordnance Depot: As with other Ordnance units there has been a splitting of forces, with personnel in Guadalcanal and also Vella Lavella in the fwd area, and in addition an Ammn section functioning in G'canal at a distance from the main depot. The month has been busy and the space provided could well have been larger for the stores that have to be handled. In the way of buildings etc a great deal has been done in the period under review to enable stores to be kept under cover, and preserved from deterioration.

Base Ordnance Depot: The notes for the month indicate a slackening off from the heavy pressure evident while the Division was being prepared for embarkation fwd. Previously the Depot personnel were working at a heavy tempo, both day and night, with little relaxation.

[Signature]
Lt.-Col.,
D.A.D.O.S.

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Appendix. I

Japanese Infantry Rifle "Meiji 38" (1905) 6.5 mm (.256")

At first glance, general appearance is much the same as long Lee Enfield.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Calibre	6.5 mm = (.256")
Length	4ft 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins (without bayonet)
Magazine	5 round, fixed vertical box.
Bolt Action	Mausser type, fitted with removable dust cover.
Sights	Barleycorn foresight. Knock down leaf open V rearsight- graduated 400 - 2400- (said to be metres.)

AMMUNITION:

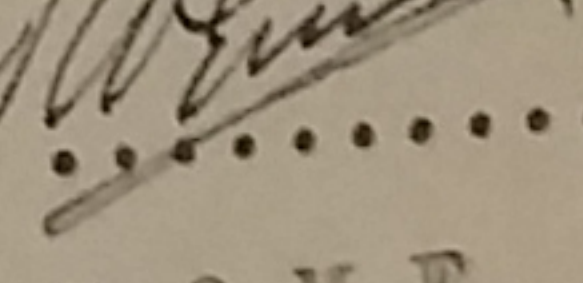
Semi-rimless type pointed bullet. Overall length of round same as .303 but case is approx. ~~1~~ 1/4" shorter. Bullet itself is same length as .303, with flat base. Construction of bullet is same as ours but without light internal tips. Lead is flake and appears to be nitro-cellulose.

FEATURES:

Steel cleaning rod carried in each rifle in hole bored along fore-end. No external screws on either middle band or nose cap- both being neat fits and held in position by spring clips.

Bolt resembles that of the Rifle No. 3 Mk. I but has an attachment at rear which serves as a safety catch and also gives quick stripping. When bolt is in rifle, attachment which is loaded by main spring, is depressed and given $\frac{1}{4}$ turn clockwise, to provide safety device. Will operate only when cocked. Cam on attachment acts on lug on bolt, locking action -while a stud on attachment operates in slot in striker preventing it from moving forward when trigger is pressed.

For stripping bolt, attachment is depressed and given $\frac{1}{4}$ turn, when striker, spring and attachment are released.


.....Major.
S.O.M.E. (ARMTS).