

WAR DIARY.  
WAR DIARY.

for N.Z.O.C. Units  
for N.Z.O.C. Units

3rd DIVISION, NZEFIP  
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for the month of

OCTOBER 1943

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VOLUME XXI.

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19 Sheets.

*plus appendices.*



Consolidated

WAR DIARY

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

ORDNANCE - CORPS .

incl. both Base & Divisional Units.

for the month of: *oct?*

SEPTEMBER 1943.

(a) Consolidated notes for:

- Div Ordnance HQ (incl. DADOS Office - Vella Lavella (Main)
  - " " - Guadalcanal
  - S.O.M.E. (Armt) - Guadalcanal.
  - S.O.M.E. (MT) - Moindah, Necal (with 1 sgt attached to Div Ordnance HQ in G'canal.).
- ✓ Div Ordnance Workshops: Advanced Detachment, Guadalcanal
  - " " " No.1 Rec. Sec. (att 8 Bde): G'canal & later Treasury ~~in~~ Gp.
  - " " " No.2 Rec. Sec. (att 14 Bde): Vella Lavella.
  - " " " Rear Detachment, Moindah, Necal.
- NZ Ordnance Workshops Det., Noumea (branch of Rear D.O.W., Necal).  
*(from 33 Hq Coast Wkshps)*
- ✓ 29 Lt AA Workshops: (with 8 Bde Gp & 29 LAA Regt) - G'canal & Treasury Gp.
- ✓ Tank Workshops & Fd Pk Det. (att. Tank Sqn) : Lunga River area, G'Canal.
- ✓ 20 L.A.D. (att 17 Fd Rgt NZA) : Vella Lavella.
- ✓ 37 L.A.D. (att. 14 Bde) : Vella Lavella.
- ✓ 42 L.A.D.: (att. Arty Trg Depot) Nemeara, Necal.
- ✓ 64 L.A.D.: (att. 8 Bde.) : G'canal and Treasury Gp.
- ✓ 65 L.A.D.: (att. Base units,) : Bourail,, Necal.
- ✓ 67 L.A.D.: (formerly att. Div Signals) with Rear Det. D.O.W., Moindah ~~NECAL~~.
- ✓ Base Ordnance Depot (rear Det): Bourail, Necal.
- Advanced Ordnance Depot : Forward Maintenance Centre, Guadalcanal.
- Forward Ordnance Depot : Vella Lavella (notes incorp. with AOD).

(b)

Appendix...

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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.)

			Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks References Appendices
Place.	Date.	Hour.		
Vella	1	Oct.	DADOS (Lt.-Col Myers) accompanied by batman arrived at Vella Lavella. Very heavy air raid during which one large landing vessel (LST) lost by enemy action. Approx 42 killed and 41 wounded of NZ and US personnel. Losses occurred in AA equipment as a result and these are an Ordnance concern for replacement.	
G'canal	"	"	Adv Ord W/S: Routine repair work; sites being prepared for erection of shelters for Armament and Armourers' workshops.	
"	"	"	No. 1 Rec Sec DOW: Vehicle repairs.	
Vella	"	"	No. 2 Rec Sec DOW: One air raid during the night; flares, and flashes of heavy bombardment were seen North-East along the shore during the night. Shifted Orderly Room; air raid 1000 hrs. Seen one plane shot down in flames. Well being dug for fresh water showers. Mail from NZ.	
Moindah NC	"	"	Rear DOW.: MT repairs & maintenance; Repairs commenced to all ambulance vehicles at Vehicle Reception Depot, with a view to having them mechanically sound for any emergency, Maintenance of camp area; building of transport park and mess hall.	
Noumea	"	"	NZ O.W/S Det.: Maintenance of vehicles and equipment; weather fine.	
Lunga R,	"	"	Tank W/S & Fd Pk Det.: Unit working hours laid down- reveille 0530 hrs; 0600 to 0700, 0730 hrs to 1100 hrs and 1400 hrs to 1630 hrs. Personnel continued to clear area and W/Shops carried out modifications for infantry communication on rear of all tanks. The D.8 tractor arrived for extensive repairs owing to faulty workmanship in NZ, before vehicle was taken over by Sqn.	
Vella	"	"	20 LAD: Rifle inspection; work carried out on M.T. all day. Two air raids; bombs dropped near unit in one; shrapnel in area from A.A. guns.	
"	"	"	37 LAD: Very busy checking MT, more essential than before owing to vehicles operating in salt water and very deep mud.	
Nemeara NC	"	"	42 LAD: Building benches & fitting up of new workshop; SOME (MT) visited unit and checked over tools and equipment etc.	
G'canal	"	"	64 LAD: Checked gun tractors for 38th Fd Regt, and other transport maintenance work.	
Bourail	"	"	65 LAD: MV maintenance; building camp	
Moindah	"	"	67 LAD: Month starts with the unit actively employed in the vehicle pool. The work includes lubrication, checking batteries, tyres, petrol, oil, water and starting. Besides the pool work, the unit is servicing through traffic and maintaining Officers' School and other local vehs.	
G'canal	"	"	Adv. Ord Depot: Stores personnel still building bures and packing stores for Vella Lavella; anti-gas clothing being stacked on dunnage. Units collecting their own equipment mixed with Depot stock.	
Bourail	"	"	Base Ordnance Depot: Weather fine; routine duties; film in Bourail square in evening.	

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

Lt.-Col., DADOS



Volume XXI . October 1943, Sheet 2.

WAR DIARY ; 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP,  
compiled by DADOS Office 3-Div.

Vella 2 Oct DADOS Office (fwd): DADOS, accompanied by Lt AW Buckley of Fwd Ordnance Depot, endeavoured locate such Ordnance stores as have been already landed.

G'canal " Adv O.W.: Experiments being carried out to use Sago Palm nuts (ivory nuts) for making eye cups for binoculars. Vehicles requiring reduction of steering radius receiving early attention.

" " No.1 Rec Sec DOW: Interior economy ; recreational afternoon.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: GOC's order No.3, Northern Landing Force, read to personnel regarding Bartering with natives, swimming in sea, speed of MT, condition red signals, x ; Afternoon free.

Moindah NC " Rear DOW: Vehicle maintenance and repairs to 1100 hrs ; camp i.e. and recreational training.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles & equipment ; interior economy ; weather fine.

Lunga " Tank W/S.: Tank modifications proceeded with ; also repairs to tractor ; further clearing of area and more workshop shelters erected ; unit feeling need of one more jeep seriously for duty.

Vella " 20 LAD: Rifle inspection ; work started on MT.

" " 37 LAD: MT checks and maintenance ; Sgt Taylor and Pte Prouting returned with Japanese barge captured by an inf Bn ; took 3 Jap prisoners out of water on way down ; unit mobile compressor had to be used to start motor.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Cleaning up camp area and finishing off new workshop.

Bourail " 65 LAD: Rifle inspection ; i.e., M.V. casualties.

Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery unit to Nepoui wharf to recover ambulance with faulty steering.

G'canal " Adv Ord Depot: General stores bure completed and all sections packing stores for North.

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Vella 3 DADOS Office (fwd): DADOS in conf. with GOC. Maintenance rates in fwd area will be very heavy owing to dampness and general conditions in jungle which must be personally experienced to be appreciated. Letter to AOD setting out conditions and details of Ordnance stores for fwd area.

G'canal " A.O.W.: Voluntary church parade ; i.e. and cleaning up camp site.

Vella " No.2 RecSec: MT maintenance ; air raids during night ; section of personnel shifting tents and completing shelters. MT maintenance very difficult owing to lack of spares and equipment.

Moindah NC " Rear DOW: Church parade and normal leave ; i.e. ; Urgent MT repairs. 2/Lt J D Quayle admitted to No.2 Conv Hospital.

Noumea " NZOW Det: improvements to living quarters.

Lunga " Tank W/S.: Vehicles inspected and maintenance carried out ; free day after church parade.

Vella " 37 LAD: Men feel pretty tired owing to number of raids over last few nights ; camp being moved owing to new road ; very busy on MT checks.

G'canal " 64 LAD: Oc in conference with Staff Capt 8 Bde. MT and equipment to be taken fwd in any fwd move was detailed. Transport was further cut down to one Jeep and one breakdown truck, which will make the LAD a very cumbersome unit and anything but mobile. Equipment and spare parts, which already have suffered considerably through being taken from stores truck and being shipped here in boxes, will be further damaged.

" " Other LADs and workshops: Sunday routine and urgent work.

G'canal " A.O.D.: Depot working as usual fulfilling indents.

Bourail " BOD.: Trucks to Houailou and beach ; weather fine. Sunday routine.

Widney

Lt.-Col., DADOS



Vella 4 Oct DADOS Office: DADOS away with Lt. BUCKLEY arranging for site for Ordnance stores and ammn dumps, The only locations available are in jungle vegetation and on waterlogged ground and partly on thin coral beach strip, reasonably camouflaged by coconut palms. Conditions of keeping stores and ammn will be most difficult. Lt. GABLE, OME, reported to DADOS re damage to 25-pdr barrel. Letter sent to 17 Fd Rgt condemning the use by 12th Bty of pick handles as extractors. Signalled HQ, NZEFIP re question of increased supplies and arranging trip by Major KNIGHT (COO, BOD) to FMC. 6th Oct suggested as suitable date, DADOS to return to meet him. Major KNIGHT to bring fwd all information on hand with regard to stores and indents from NZ. Boots coming fwd direct from N.Z. DADOS also to arrange Div ~~M~~ Ordnance HQ personnel disposition between NECAL, G'canal & Vella.

G'canal " A.O.W.: Bulldozer being used to level workshop. Arrangements made for 1 Offr and 19 O/Rs to be attached to No. 1 Rec Sec to augment repair facilities.

Vella " No. 2 Rec Sec.: M.T. Maintenance; erected fresh water showers. Recovery work.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Routine repair work and MT maintenance; vehicle park completed.

G'canal " 29 LAA W/S.: Whole unit, divided into various sections, carried out manoeuvres through jungle to a predetermined position distant approx. 5 miles. Night spent in open.

Lunga " Tank W/S: Workshops continuing tank modifications and tractor repairs nearly completed. Health of men good.

Vella " 37 LAD: Started to move mess hut, cookhouse and personnel tents; rest of men on MT checks.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Started work on Arty Training Depot's vehicles.

Bourail " 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance; building camp.

G'canal " Adv O.D.: All personnel issued with beer ration - first for some considerable time.

Bourail " Base Ord Depot: Routine duties in all sections; weather fine and hot but overcast.

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Vella 5 Oct DADOS Office (fwd): 1 Offr and 40 O/Rs obtained from 14 Bde to assist Lt Buckley of F.O.D.

G'canal " SOME (Armt): No. 2 Rec Sec advise that machinery waggon complete with arc welder, battery charger, etc is essential to enable them to cope with work coming to hand in their area (14 Bde) Also pointed out that the majority of defects are in the transmission - i.e., clutch, gear box, transfer case, rear and front differentials and particularly Ford 4 x 4 front axles (Zephyr Universals). Close proximity to the sea and extreme damp is giving electrical trouble in generator and starter motors - in some cases they are completely burnt out.

" " A.O.W.: Machinery waggon for fwd area delivered to Kukum beach at 0800 hrs. Returned to unit 0300 hrs on 6th owing to there being no room on the LST.

" " No. 1 Rec Sec: OC reports the 8 Bde Gp Carrier Platoon mortar carriers are in poor condition, An attempt is being made to bring these vehicles up to scratch, but certain parts not available.

Vella " No. 2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance still very acute as Adv Ord Depot (.? Fwd Ord Depot) brought fwd only small quantity of spare parts. Considerable difficulty with batteries owing to their not having a charging plant to bring fwd. Roads are in very bad condition, and electrical faults are numerous owing to close proximity to sea, and the mud roads. Constn of camp and workshop benches completed. Progress made with equipping of engine reconditioning shop. Engine and gearbox stands completed. Routine maintenance to MT.

Moindah " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles etc, weather overcast.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles etc, weather overcast.

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



G'canal 5 Oct 29 LAA W/S.: Parties returned to camp after manoeuvres. All ranks enjoyed the outing and good times were made in spite of personnel being only rarely given opportunity of field work.

Lunga " rank W/S: Continuing tank modifications; inspection of all arms; sundry repairs etc.

Vella " Lecture by OC unit on hygiene. Unit compressor installed.

" 20 LA D: Rifle inspection (daily); work on M.T.; NCO returned to fwd area with repaired 25-pr.

" 37 LAD: Camp again settled; heavy rain; salvage truck in moderate demand; but in most cases wheel drive vehicles are capable of coping with conditions.

G'canal " A.O.D.: Stores still filling indents for North and stacking same in separate sections ready for loading when necessary. Groups sorting stores and anti-gas clothing.

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Vella 5 DADOS Office: 2 Offrs and 40 men again lent by 14 Bde to F.O.D. to assist. DADOS flew back to Guadalcanal (1) to interview COO, BOD (who had flown up from NECAL) re Ordnance stores and maintenance items for fwd areas (2) to rearrange Ordnance personnel between and stores between G'canal & Vella (As logistic plan then was to carry 60 days supplies in G'canal and 30 days in Vella, in both cases for all Div units) (3) to arrange to divide Ordnance HQ personnel between G'canal & Vella.

G'canal 6 AOW: One armorer to Kukua beach for embarkation to fwd area; routine maintenance work on MT.

Vella " No.1 Rec Sec: OC discussed with AOD a list of MT spare parts for use in fwd area.

" No.2 Rec Sec: Bulldozers in very bad state of repair, and repairs difficult owing to lack of equipment. Secured 2 tarpaulins for workshop; boots ankle issued to personnel. boots are wearing out very quickly and there is no facility for repairs. Clothing changes being issued also.

Moindah " Camp constn.; air raids at 0900 and 0600 hrs.

Houma " Rear DOW: Preparation of equipment for fwd area. 2/Lt Sherson G.C. marched out to 42 LAD as OC,

Lunga " E/Lt A. Lancaster to report to DOW after handing over unit. Weather hampering ~~the~~ routine mtce.

" NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles; visit by Offr i/c Admin (Brig DOVE). Weather wet.

" Tank W/S.: Hours of work changed to conform with medical regs.. Tank Sqn to supply all fatigues until tanks modifications completed. An extra working period is being carried out at night until modifications (incl ammn rack for cannister ammn) are completed. Pay parade & foot inspection held. Picquets posted each night at 1830 hrs.

Vella " 37 LAD: Usual MT checks and maintenance; greases practically unprocurable, all front wheel drive universals checked had to be repacked with grease owing to presence of salt water in them.

Hemera " 42 LAD: 2<sup>nd</sup>/Lt G.C. Sherson arrived from DIW to take over as OC. One Arm Artificer arrived ex DOW.

Bourail " 65 LAD: M.T. maintenance; unit still building new camp (to 9th).

G'canal " A.O.D.: Major Knight and Lt.-Col Myers arrived by plane, from Necal and Vella respectively. Working party assisting with sorting and stacking of stores, and another erecting barbed wire round depot.

Bourail " B.O.D.: routine duties; heavy rain all day; Major Knight left for Tontouta 'drome at 0600 hrs, en route G'canal by air; Unit dance held in Bourail YMCA in evening a great success.

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



G'canal	7 Oct	<u>DADOS Office (Rear)</u> : Lt.-Col Myers arranged for further two office personnel to go fwd, leaving SOME (Armt) staff, one SOME (MT) Sgt, and 4 DADOS staff, at Rear Div HQ.
Vella		Arranged to despatch to Vella (1) stores as mentioned in notes for 6 Dec; (2) an additional 0.04 (Lt. Lonergan) and 21 O/Rs from the Adv Ord Depot.FMC. (also 2 DADOS clerks above).
G'canal	"	<u>SOME(Armt)</u> : Conference with Lt.-Col PARSONS (from Army HQ) at A.O.D. re engineer equipment and repair of madmaking machinery.
"	"	<u>A.O.W.</u> : General repairs continuing on both Armament and M.T.; parts for guns and small arms still very limited.
Vella	"	<u>No.2 Rec Sec</u> : Camp constn. a d MT maintenance; this unit is short of mechanics' tool kits.
Moindah NC	"	<u>Rear DOW</u> : Repairs to ambulances; routine servicing of MT. Main road south is much improved .. this should lessen breakages and wear on MT operating in this area.
Lunga	"	<u>Tank W/S.</u> : Stocktaking of all stores, and re-sorting and grouping of tanks stores. Men worked to 2200 hrs. Tank modifications still being done.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Checking of stores prior to hand over of unit to new OC. Working on A.T.D. vehicles.
G'canal	"	<u>A.O.D.</u> : Col Myers, Major Knight, Major Evers(SOME ARMT) Captain Reid, OC, AOD, and group officers held conference in morning.
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G'canal	8	<u>DADOS Office</u> : Lt.-Col Myers still on tour of duty here. Stores to be taken fwd by 8 Bde on move arranged; ammn to be taken fwd by 4 MT Coy, NZASC; Stores to include 1000 prs boots, 1000 suits jungle clothing, 1000 jungle boots and certain other items in like proportion. Two ammn section personnel and two storemen from AOD to be attached and assist the Ordnance WO-1 with 8 Bde. DOW will attach 1 Offr and 19 O.Rs to No.1 Rec Sec when required, for service with 8 Bde. In addition certain personnel from 29 LAA W/shops are also to be attached to 8 Bde.
"	"	<u>A.O.W.</u> : Number of watches GS being received by Arm Sec with broken balance staffs, due in some cases to careless handling. The expected arrival of a watchmakers lathe from AOD should enable repairs of this type to be carried out.
Moindah	"	<u>Rear DOW</u> : Two Officers and 14 O/Rs joined with Poya Gendarmes in a search for a reported party of Japanese alleged to have been seen North of Poya. Search was unavailing.
Noumea	"	Small supply of spring steel received, not including any supplies for Ford & Chevrolet 15-cwt springs - breakages are highest with these models.
Lunga	"	<u>NZOW Det.</u> : Maintenance to vehicles etc; weather wet; building electrician's shop.
"	"	<u>Tank W/S.</u> : Modified ammn racks in tanks proved a success; arranged for oil tests of "Vals" tanks; required oil not available on island, & endeavouring to find suitable substitute. Clearing of area still required and proceeded with as time allows.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Working on ATD vehicles; checking stocks; unit in future to have meals with Depot mess.
G'canal	"	64 LAD: Working on all vehicles, which are to go forward, to get them in as good order as possible.
"	"	Other LADs and workshops - routine duties.
G'canal	"	<u>A.O.D.</u> : Usual routine in Depot.
Bourail	"	<u>B.O.D.</u> : Weather fine; routine duties.

*W. Myers*

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



9 Oct DADOS Office(rear): Lt.-Col. MYERS concluded discussions with C.O.O., B.O.D.  
 G'canal " A.O.W.: M.T. maintenance and repairs to small arms.  
 " " No.1 Rec Sec DOW: Interior economy; recreational afternoon.  
 " " No.2 Rec Sec: Three air raids during the night; MT mtce; shingled around cookhouse. Phone install.  
 Vella " Rear DCW: Normal work until 1100 hrs; I.E. and Recreational training.  
 Moindah " Tank W/S.: Tank modifications carried out; Recovery Section called out to haul Z tank out  
 Lunga " of gully. The Scammell winch proved a success for the job which took 2 hours to complete.  
 Vella " 37 LAD: M.T. checks and maintenance.  
 G'canal " 64 LAD: OC met Major Pringle and Capt Reid at A.O.D. to arrange for paint supplies to  
 paint all Brigade web equipment as per Brigadier's orders. Four colours to be used, two sprayed  
 and the others brushed on. Other LADs - normal routine.  
 Bourail " 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance; finished building camp; M.V. casualties.  
 G'canal " A.O.D.: Received warning in morning to expect daylight raid which did not eventuate. Personnel  
 issued with "New Zealand" shoulder flashes.

10 DADOS Office (rear): In addition to 1 Officer and 11 O/Rs sent to F.O.D. at Vella, there are  
 now being added 1 further Officer and 21 O/Rs. In letter to Offr i.e Admin, Base, DADOS suggested  
 that 2/Lt W.A. PASCOE should come fwd to G'canal. (This was done later). Letter to Div HQ  
 and Rear Div HQ setting out clothing position, (camouflaged suits in particular). Stated that  
 there appears to be NO immediate prospect of a reserve of clothing being built up here, but if  
 NZ can maintain expected 8000 to 9000 suits per month to here, this reserve is unnecessary.  
 Up to date 3 Div had received 8600 suits camouflage from US Forces and 8600 suits camouflage  
 from N.Z., and issues had been made, or were being made of all but 2500 held in stock at A.O.D.  
 " " A.O.W.: Voluntary church parade; I.E. and urgent repairs.  
 " " No.1 Rec Sec. The unit worked all day (Sunday) on vehicles.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance; OC attended conference at 14 Bde HQ.  
 Moindah " Rear DCW: Church parade and normal leave; Completion and crating of Bedford engine for fwd area.  
 Lunga " Tank W/S: I.E. in tents, and general clean-up of area. Personnel granted free day from 1000 to  
 1700 hrs. Church parade at 1800 hrs.  
 Vella " 37 LAD: Bombs dropped on coral approx 100 yds from camp area.  
 G'canal " 64 LAD: Commenced painting web gear of Bde units. First a spray of olive drab, then yellow and  
 copper dabbed on, with a finishing spray of light green lightly sprayed. Effect is quite good  
 but entails a lot of work. Estimated over 4000 sets of web to be done. 4 men from LAD employed  
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery unit 11 miles south to vehicle overturned which was returned to DOW.  
 G'canal " A.O.D.: Depot working as usual; men selected to go to Vella given afternoon off duty to get ready.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Sunday programme - trucks to beach and hospital in afternoon.

*W. Myers*

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



G'canal 11 Oct DADOS Office: Copy received of letter to Hq NZEFIP from Q&M.G., Army HQ, re automatic maintenance. Instructions have been issued therefore to have the Chief Ordnance Officer, MOD, put the following system into operation:

(a) 4 months automatic mtce to be forwarded to B.O.D., NECAL. This 4 months supply to be subdivided into three months and one month, to enable BOD to send one month to fwd area without repacking. (b) where quantity on automatic maintenance schedule is limited to one item, this will be included in the "one month's pack" for fwd area. (c) Demands for replacements to maintain 4 months maintenance to be submitted by B.O.D. It will be necessary for A.O.D. to advise B.O.D. as issues are made. (d) 3rd Div will be supplied with copies of all Automatic Maintenance schedules for purposes of ordering.

GOC. visited G'canal and advised DADOS that change in US plans no longer called for our carrying and maintaining at Vella Lavella 30 days maintenance supply of Ordnance stores, but as stores were packed for fwd area, and embarkation of personnel arranged for from AOD, the stores & personnel - reduced by 4 O/Rs, wd nevertheless proceed to Vella, on the understanding that as stores were issued they would not be replaced in full from the AOD, and Ordnance store personnel in Vella wd progressively be returned to AOD if this proved practicable. The original plan to carry 6 or 7 units of fire in VELLA LAVELLA was similarly amended, and further shipments of amm from G'canal to Vella were to cease.

G'canal " SOME (Armt): Conference with DADOS and OC, AOW, re allocation of personnel to accompany No.1 Rec Sec.

" " A.O.W.: Machinery waggon for 14 Bde Ordnance workshops detachment taken fwd. by L/Cpl Smith.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec. MT maintenance; air raid warning in night but no planes over. Graveling cookhouse and workshop.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Repairs to Base transport; repairs & reconditioning of ambulances being proceeded with.

Lunga " Tank W/S.: Tank modifications done; Both lathes operating full time; inspection of tank breakdown showed play in bearings. Tank in workshops for full inspection and repair. Oil test for tanks successful. Recovery Sec. called out at 1800 hrs to recover Tank from bottom of gully 5 miles past Matanikau Bridge. This job was most difficult and took 3 hours. 2 men marched out to 7th Fd Ambulance.

Vella " 37 LAD: OC attended Bde conference; Island reported to be secure. MT park of Bde vehicles to be established, considered a good move as vehicles can be got at for maintenance.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Working on Arty Training Depots vehicles.

G'canal " 64 LAD: Three tool kits and some extra hand tools such as angle-cutting pliers, long nose pliers, issued to unit. The tool kits contain three socket sets which are the first sockets this unit has possessed. Sizes are limited as the sets are only seven piece.

Bourail " 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance; area in full working order (this is a new camp).

G'canal " A.O.D.: Early alarm at 0210 hrs and another at 0400 hrs, but no bombs dropped. Reports of ships being hit locally. (One afire down coast.)

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



G'canal. 12 Oct DADOS Office (Rear): Lt.-Col MYERS still here on duty visit from Vella. Arranged for LAA Workshops unit to be divided. Seven O/Rs to be attached to Ordnance sections with 14 Bde, and 1 Offr and 27 O/Rs to go with 8 Bde and to operate in conjunction with DOW detachment. This arrangement is due to the division between the Bdes of the LAA Btys, and the fact that the 42 LAD (scheduled originally for the 38 Fd Regt) is not in fwd area. Two DADOS personnel left for North by LST.

" " SOME(Armt): advised MOD, Trentham, that the metal work of some stores arriving from NZ is heavily spotted with rust, due to water entering packages at some time prior to unpacking. Under the circumstances, it is recommended that metal parts susceptible to rusting, be given a coat of mineral jelly prior to packing for despatch to this area.

" " A.O.W.: All branches of workshop fully employed. M.T. parts coming to hand promptly.

" " No.1 Rec Sec DOW: Vehicle repairs.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: Air raid warning during the night, but no planes over. Graveling workshops.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Mobile Dental waggon being prepared for shipment fwd area. Routine repairs and mtce. Greasing ramp completed and in use; Work continued until 2100 hrs on ambulances urgently required. These vehicles were in bad state of repair and repairs to bodies & canopies were required.

Noumea " NZOW Det.: Mtce of vehicles etc; installed battery charger from machine shop truck in shop.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Recovery Sec called out to job at 0800 hrs, using tractor (D.8) and Scammell truck. It is evident that wireless sets require a great deal more attention in this area. Informed that GOC had approved of W/Shops reinfits joining unit from NECAL. This will greatly assist the unit which has large number of repairs on hand, plus modifications..

Vella " 20 LAD: Rifle inspection and MT work as usual. NCO returned from fwd area after taking fwd 25-pr.

" " 37 LAD: Started to construct workshop now that unit is remaining in area.

Guadalcanal " A.O.D.: Alarm just after midnight - no bombs dropped; at 0700 hrs Major Knight (COO, BOD) left to return to NECAL by plane. Personnel began loading trucks at 0700 hrs for Vella Lavella. Heavy rain at 1100 hrs caused the roadways to become very sticky and made the loading of trucks difficult. General Barrowclough, GOC 3-DIV, inspected the Depot and expressed satisfaction with work being done. Finished loading at 2000 hrs, Lt. Lonergan and 17 O/Rs left at 1500 hrs for Vella Lavella.

Bourail " B.O.D.: routine duties; Major Knight returned by plane from Guadalcanal.

G'canal 13 -----  
DADOS Office (Rear): Lt.-Col. MYERS returned by air at 1000 hrs to Vella Lavella. Message sent to NZ that more tents are required by fwd area. 20 tents I.P.P. and 300 I.P.P. to be despatched to G'Canal at earliest possible opportunity. Many tents in the fwd area are leaking badly. Monthly replacements of 20 I.P.P. and 200 I.Ps to be sent fwd automatically. Advice signalled to NZ that Camouflage Nets are not urgently required here, and that the shipping space occupied by them wd be better taken up by clothing, boots etc (This was done).

" " S.O.M.E.(Armt): Conference at F.M.C re forecast of requirements of Spares from US Forces.

Moindah " A.O.W.: Repairs and maintenance.

" " Rear DOW: Spray painting of ambulances. 19 ambulances will be ready for service by week-end. Routine repairs and maintenance of Base transport. Weather extremely hot.

*W. Myers*  
Lt.-Col., DADOS.



Noumea 13 Oct NZOW Det.: Maintenance of vehicles ; swim parade in afternoon. Weather fine.  
Lunga " Tanks W/S.: rank modifications still being proceeded with . This work is depending a considerable amount of welding gas and electrodes. Unit work curtailed through 2 men being admitted to hospital and through men being E.D. The great amount of work carried out since unit's arrival has apparently caused excessive fatigue, and it is felt advisable to slow down work temporarily in interests of men's health. A senior NCOs conference was held at 1830 hrs to discuss such matters.

Vella " 37 LAD: Men given first free day, for I.E. etc.  
G'canal " 64 LAD: Heavy rain set in in real tropical style, making clay roads very difficult and causing numerous vehicle accidents. Roads are deteriorating rapidly and repair equipment seems scarce.

Bourail " 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance and swimming practice.  
G'canal " A.O.D.: Unloading of U.S.S. "Pinkney" in progress all day. Equipment for AOD consisted of 900 packages ~~etc~~ and cases of anti-gas equipment and general clothing.  
Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections ; weather fine and very hot.

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Vella 14 DADOS Office (fwd): Ordnance personnel and DADOS clerks arrived by LST at Vella, with stores, records and office equipment . Promotions of Ordnance officers and OMEs take effect as follows:-  
To be Lieut (Rule 7a) - 2/Lt J.R. Buckley OC of 64 LAD, wef 16 Oct; 2/Lt M.G.W Tarr OC 67 LAD ~~to~~ wef 23 Oct ; 2/Lt A. Holebrook and 2/Lt R. Manson both DOW, w.e.f. 23 Oct. Lieut H.N. McCarthy A.O.D. to be Captain wef 14 Oct 43.

G'canal " A.O.W.: Work proceeding on 8 Bde MT and Arms. Road chains being fitted and made up to allow for all vehicles going fwd to have a complete set on driving wheels.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; Machinery waggon arrived from A.O.W., G'canal.  
Moindah " Rear DOW: 2/Lt J.D. Quayle m/i from No.2 Conv Hospital. Screening of film "Desert Victory" in mess hall for personnel of this area ; Road conditions to Bourail, approx 22 miles , are now much improved. This should lessen spring breakages on vehicles operating on this route. Engine reconditioning shop now in operation, but the acute shortage of skilled tradesmen means that it cannot be operated to its full capacity.

Lunga " Tank W/S.: Building of mess hut completed. Disassembly of Tank engine proceeded with and general repair work done. OC warned to have D.8 tractor ready to hand over to another unit.

Vella " 20 LAD: Rifle inspection and work on MT as usual. One artificer returned from forward unit.  
Nemeara " 37 LAD: MT checks and maintenance ; constructing well for high pressure washing.  
G'canal " 42 LAD: Working on A.T.D.'s vehicles ; completed hand-over of unit from 2/Lt A. Lancaster to 2/Lt G.C. Sherson.

Bourail " A.O.D.: Units of 8 Bde have been issued with shoulder flashes, jungle knives, face dye tablets etc according to scale of issue laid down by 3 Div HQ. Alarm (negative) at 2000 hrs.  
Vella " B.O.D.: Weather fine ; routine duties.

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Vella 15 DADOS Office (fwd): Office set up in larger tent; DADOS Office has from time to time been called upon to supply to US Command, Forward area, details of ammn held and expended by US Forces on Vella Lavella.

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



G'canal 15 Oct A.O.W.: Prickly heat showing increase in unit. Stocks of "NECO" ~~soap~~ soap wd greatly assist in curtailing this trouble. All sections busy with repairs. Short supply of Phosphor Bronze, all sizes flat and mild steel and round iron causing delay in effecting repairs.

" " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle repairs.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; setting up machinery waggon.

Moindah " Rear DOW: OC interviewed approx 20 men in Base units. Three were selected , one Fitter M.V. and two Fitters and Turners, to be posted to the unit. Routine MT repairs.

Lunga " Tanks W/S.: Tractor repairs completed and unit is using it, before the ~~machine~~ machine is handed over, to clear its area. Endeavouring to modify 2-pdr H.E. ammn which will not fit the 2-pdr gun in the tanks. Arms inspection held and issue of US overalls and trousers made. Caps are deemed necessary for mechanics but AOD were not prepared to release them.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Working on ATD vehicles ; wrecker sent to Noumea for a 15-cwt vehicle.

G'canal " A.O.D.: Early alarm - still no bombs. Depot still working at full pressure. The division of the AOD into 2 sections has made the efficient functioning of the G'canal depot difficult. Shortage of staff more evident than ever since the departure of the Vella Lavella section (F.O.D.). A great job is, ~~was~~ nevertheless, being done by the overworked personnel. Fencing of depot completed.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections.

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G'canal 16 DADOS Office (rear): Notified that E.D. pay is to be continued for tradesmen and cooks previously receiving it, and who were taken over by DOW from 28 Hy AA W/Shops, & 33 Hy Coast W/Shops.

" " SOME (Armt): Arrangements made with US Forces for them to hold available in the future sufficient TSMG, watch and binocular components to enable us to draw on them if necessary.

" " A.O.W.: Bulldozer preparing workshops site. Priority being given to 8 Bde MT repairs.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT mtce ; men given afternoon off for washing.

Moindah " Rear DOW: 2/Lt. A. Lancaster m/i ex 42 LAD. Normal work to 1100 hrs ; Recreational training & I.E.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Mtce of vehicles ; interior economy ; weather fine.

G'canal " 29 LAA W/Shops: For the next week, in conjunction with carrying out repair work as much as possible, preparations were made for move to fwd area.

Lunga " Tank W/S : Tank repairs and modifications ; ~~work~~ Improvements made to cookhouse.

Vella " 20 and 37 LADs.: Routine work, MT checks and maintenance.

Bourail " 42/45 LAD: Rifle inspection ; Interior economy ; M.V. casualties.

G'canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties in Depot ; half of personnel had afternoon off ( and remainder on Sunday) which was first break men had had since several weeks before leaving NECAL.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties until 1200 hrs . The whole camp turned out on camp mtce, clearing of grass etc within camp area, to reduce mosquitoes within camp.

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Vella 17 DADOS Office (fwd): Request to Div HQ to issue instructions regarding greater care of tentage. DADOS, on behalf of "Island Command," requested to arrange for an "Island Motor Pool" with vehicles handed over by evacuated US troops (35 C.T.) Report received from S/M. Harvey of A D Ammn Section regarding continued pillage of NZ ammn at Guadalcanal.

*Wishmeyer*  
 Lt.-Col.,  
 DADOS.



G'canal 17 Oct SOME (Armt): Signal sent to NZ for supply of Small Arms components.  
" " A.O.W.: Voluntary church parade; IE during morning; afternoon free.  
" " No.1 and No.2 Rec. Secs. - programme as for A.O.W. above. Rear DOW: as for Adv. Ordnance W/Shops.  
Lunga " Tank W/S.: Church parade. One party at beach for morning; in afternoon half of unit personnel, with Tanks Sqn, visited an American Tank Bn, also an American Ordnance unit similar to Tank workshop. The afternoon was very instructive for the tradesmen of the unit.  
Vella " 20 LAD: Work carried out on MT until 1200 hrs; afternoon off for washing etc.  
" " 37 LAD: Received notice to move camp half mile further South. Men feel disappointed after putting so much work into present site. Preparation of new site commenced.  
G'canal " 64 LAD: Painting of Bde's web equipment being done from 0600 hrs to 1800 hrs in 2 shifts.  
" " A.O.D.: Remaining half of personnel off duty during the afternoon.  
Bourail " B.O.D.: Church parade. Leave party left for Noumea in afternoon. Weather fine.

G'canal 18 DADOS Office (Rear): Copy received of letter from GOC to HQ NZEFIP, re mechanical personnel - NZOC Workshops units. This admits the problem that would arise when 6 x 4's would start to come into workshops for major repairs, having had heavy use in the first period of our stay in NECAL. Noted that the number of men obtainable from NZ is limited and GOC is "not prepared to ask for more, as my present instructions from NZ make it clear that no more men can be supplied". GOC directed (1) 4 x 2 (commercial type) vehicles are of no use in Necal or forward. Those worth returning to NZ should be sent back, if necessary un-repaired. Unserviceable and unrepairable vehicles should be wrecked and good parts sent back to NZ, and NZ should be asked as to disposal of the wrecks. (2) Every effort should be made to put into repair all 4-wheel drive or 6-wheel drive vehicles in Necal. GOC considers personnel left in Necal (incl portion DOW, several LADs and 3 ASC workshops platoons) should be able to get vehicles of this category into working order before the Division returns to Necal. (3) Efforts should be made to overhaul and repair our 6 x 4 trucks - as far as personnel permits. (4) If DADOS thinks we have too large a proportion of DOW forward with us, GOC ~~states~~ states that DADOS "will then arrange for the return of suitable personnel from fwd areas to New Caledonia". (5) GOC states in conclusion "It must be understood that however much I might wish it I cannot ask for additional personnel from New Zealand, and SOME (MT) must produce the best results he can ~~from~~ with the material available." (1) "A survey of the vehicles of the Force discloses that each vehicle will require a considerable amount of work and spare parts. The general condition of the vehicles is very poor, clearly indicating that first-line maintenance has been neglected. Shortages in equipment are such that it is obvious that regular Unit inspections have not been carried out." (2) "A review of the technical strength (of the technical personnel remaining in Necal) clearly shows that they are in no way capable of dealing with the amount of work to be done." (3) The major portion of the work is 4th Echelon repairs, and...this Force has never been equipped for this class of work. Of the vehicles remaining in Necal, at least 700 will require a complete reinstatement, consequent to the severe conditions under which they have been operating. A schedule compiled by SOME (MT) shows personnel of DOW and NZASC workshops in Necal as totalling 42 each, or 84 in all (excl. 7 LAD personnel). SOME (MT) requested "that urgent consideration be given to the deficiencies of personnel as set out." DOW has 100 personnel in Necal plus 57 ASC personnel.

*deficiencies*

*Wishy  
Lal  
DADOS*







WAR DIARY.

Compiled by DADOS Office 3 Div HQ.

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 Noumea 20 Oct NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; Visit by SOME (MT) ; Swim parade in afternoon. OC, 2/Lt  
 Black to Court of Enquiry at Dumbea re burned vehicle. While there inspected vehicles and  
 issued licences. Weather fine.  
 Lunga " rank W/S: general workshops repairs ; inspection of arms.  
 Vella " 37 LAD: Moved in to new area ; raining very heavily.  
 Bourail " 65 LAD: MV maintenance ; swimming practice.  
 G'canal " A.O.D.: Packing of 8 Bde stores completed ; 8 bde units indents receiving priority.  
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 G'canal 21 DADOS Office: (Rear) Noted various items from Brigadier DOVE's report on NZ visit. Supplies  
 of Canvas light still held in NZ ; "any amount" of socks held in NZ. The 15,050 prs of boots  
 ordered have been despatched. Bedcots - BOD advise NO canvases available in Necal, but these will  
 be forwarded when available. DADOS still visiting G'canal.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec DOW: MT maintenance ; new arrivals digging shelters ; very heavy rain in afternoon.  
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Two compressor trucks ex Works Constn Coy being completely ~~rechecked~~ checked and  
 repainted for delivery to fwd area. (Forward area work is given priority in every case.) Engine  
 repair shop in operation. The dirt and shingle floor in this building makes it unsuitable for  
 precision work, owing to dust. Clean stone to be laid down.  
 Lunga " Tank W/S: General repairs ; Hobart Welder developed knock. Inspection showed bearings in bad order.  
 Have arranged replacement from U.S.A.  
 Vella " 20 LAD: Rifle and kit inspection. Work on MT. 37 LAD: Camp construction (new area).  
 G'canal " A.O.D.: heavy rain during day has turned depot into a quagmire. Roadways practically impassable  
 without chains. This might have serious effect in rainy season, as it is essential that access  
 to and from the Depot be maintained at all times.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; truck in evening to 4th General Hospital to visit patients.  
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 G'canal 22 DADOS Office (Rear): Report from 8 Bde that the 8 Bde MG Coy had found certain .303-in ammn  
 unsuitable for reasons set out. In general, that containing nitro-cellulose was unsuitable  
 owing to excessive smoke obscuring view when the ammn is used by MGs. That containing cordite  
 was free from this defect. .303-in Mk. VII, types M.J., M.H. and M.Q. containing cordite  
 and CAC Mk.VII, 1943, containing cordite, were suitable for Vickers Guns. But W.R.A. Mk.VII  
 containing nitro-cellulose and CAC, Mk.VII, 1942, containing nitro-cellulose, were unsuitable.  
 Arrangements had been made with the AOD ammn sec to change this ammn that had proved unsuitable.  
 It was noted by the Bde Comd, 8 Bde, that the results of these tests had raised a big point in  
 respect to future refills as the W.R.A. and C.A.C. '42 are unsatisfactory for the Vickers Gun.  
 (No comment in respect of their use for ordinary rifle use). 8 Bde advised HQ 3 DIV re above.  
 Vella " DADOS Office (fwd): DADOS returned to Vella Lavella by ~~plans~~ plans.  
 G'canal " Instances of vehicles being washed in sea water reported to Div HQ.  
 SOME (Armt): Signal sent to NECAL for Small Arms components.  
 Advised Trentham that in a large number of instances, 2-pdr rounds just received (for Tanks)  
 could not be fired - through faulty assembly, the 40 mm HE shells were not fully home in  
 the cartridge cases, and breech would not close. In some instances there was a gap of 1/8" between

( OVER )

Lt.-Col.,  
 DADOS.

*W. H. H. H.*



G'canal 22 Col SMS(Amt): (contd.) .. driving band and case. Rounds on hand are being modified by :-  
 (1) pressing shell home in case with garage press. (2) Reducing diameter of driving band in  
 lathe. This work was done by Tank Workshops who could ill spare the time.  
 \* \* A.O.D. MT maintenance and repairs continuing.  
 Talla \* W.S. Sec Sec: MT maintenance ; 10 outside personnel commenced messing with unit.  
 Koinah \* Rear W/S: Repairs to Base transport ; work on ambulances and disinfecter trucks. The latter  
 were inspected and approved by the DMS. 2/Lt J.S. Black (G.L. specialist) on NZ roll.  
 \* \* Other workshops and detachments - normal routine.  
 Lunga \* Tank W/S: Ten men excused duty suffering from Diarrhoea and stomach trouble. General repairs  
 carried out to tanks and vehicles. Group concert in evening.  
 Talla \* 20 and 37 LADs: General repairs and , with 37 LAD, camp construction etc.  
 \* \* Other LADs - general routine maintenance.  
 G'canal \* A.O.D.: Many indents coming in from 8 Bde and stores very busy filling same.

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G'canal 23 BADOS Office (contd.) (fwd): Letter to COO, Base Ordnance Depot to ensure that the clothing scale  
 for the Division is fully understood and adequate demands are made on NZ for replacements. At  
 present time troops have one jungle suit (either US green twill) or NZ camouflage material), two  
 khaki drill shirts, and 3 pairs of KD long trousers. Units are therefore by no means uniformly  
 dressed, and we must endeavour to hasten the day when the troops will be dressed uniformly. GOC  
 desires that as soon as possible all ranks in the fwd area should have two uniform style jungle  
 suits. Priority task at present is to replace unserviceable clothing and keep men well  
 clad. US green twill suits became unserviceable very rapidly in the jungle. It is necessary  
 that when the Div returns to Neocal there will also be supplies of KD shorts. BADOS considers  
 that once the men have 2 jungle suits, it will be necessary to have a regular supply of 6 to 7  
 thousand suits per month. Initial issue will be about 25,000 suits for the Div. Troops will  
 also have a ~~new~~ suit of khaki drill as well. COO, BOD is instructed to arrange to have  
 shipped to Neocal sufficient clothing to take care of our demands when the Division returns there.  
 Adverse report received from S/M Harvey i.e. Amn Sec AOD re portion of 2 million rounds of  
 TSMC amm shipped by US Forces Neocal, to G'canal for 3-Div.  
 Koinah \* Rear W/S: Internal economy ; completion of urgent work. Swimming pool thoroughly cleaned ready  
 for hot season. Second disinfecter received and mounted on truck chassis.  
 Lunga \* Tank W/S: General workshop repairs ; another 5 men reported sick. Seannell truck out carting  
 tractors from barges to rd maintenance centre.  
 \* \* Various LADs : Normal routine; some having afternoon off for i.e. and recreational training.  
 G'canal \* A.O.D.: USS Branier Matthews discharging a small quantity of stores for A.O.D.  
 Bourail \* B.O.D.: Work ceased at 1800 hrs; cricket in afternoon and pictures in evening.

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



Vella 24 Oct DADOS Office (fwd): Letter to SOME (Armt) re supply of air bottles for 20 LAD in "pressuring up" 25-pr guns. Owing to humidity of the Vella Lavella climate, the use of hand pump is impracticable. Excessive moisture in the recuperator system of ~~hand-pump-is-impracticable~~ two guns substantiates this contention.. Suggested that instead of waiting for air bottles to be received from NZ, the empties could be forwarded by air to G'canal, and after charging returned the same way to Vella.

G'canal " No.1 Rec Sec DOW: Vehicle repairs continuing. Equipment and tools checked in readiness for fwd move | to Treasury Group) with 8 Bde.

Vella " Rear DOW: Two compressor trucks and two disinfecter trucks despatched to Noumea for fwd area. Moindah " 29 LAAW/S: Still engaged in repair work and preparations for fwd move. G'canal " Tank W/S.: Church parade; another party of men v isited American Ordnance unit. Men's sickness Lunga " clearing up; arrangements made with a neighbouring US camp for personnel to attend cinema. G'canal " 64 LAD: Cpl and one Pte left to join 8 Bde HQ to go fwd with first echelon. G'canal " Other LADS: Essential work only; men given free day in most instances. G'canal " A.O.D.: Exceptionally heavy demands for stores have been received during the past 10 days. Every endeavour has been made to meet these demands, which are particularly for 8 Bde.

G'canal 25 A.O.W.: Continuing on routine MT and other repairs and servicing. Vella " No.2 Rec. Sec: Issue of additional tool kits; routine maintenance (as for No.1 Rec Sec). Moindah " Rear DOW: The volume of general engineering and fitting work is particularly heavy, esp on road machinery and surfacing machines.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles; weather fine. G'canal " 29 LAA W/S.: Completed packing of equipment for 1st echelon with 8 Bde. Lunga " Tanks W/S: Unit erected new tents in morning. Endeavouring to locate some metal as area is very muddy. W/shops repairs in afternoon. H.E. ammn (see SOME (Armt) comments) still being modified.

Vella " 20 LAD: Rifle inspection; work on M.T. Complete overhaul of 2 guns belonging to 37th Bty started. Use of hand pumps found impracticable owing to the humidity of the atmosphere.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: General maintenance; 2 of personnel accompanied A.T.D. on manoeuvres. Wrecker to Noumea. G'canal " 64 LAD: Painting of web equipment completed. Much time lost owing to shortage of paint. G'canal " Other LADS: Normal routine. G'canal " A.O.D.: Indents completed and stores packed to go North with 8 Bde. One GMC truck and one Ford Quad arrived to replace transport sent North to Forward Ordnance depot. Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather fine.

Vella 26 DADOS Office(fwd): Summary of issues of clothing and expendable stores compiled by this office shows that issues were low for clothing in September, firstly because units were on the move, and the A.O.D. was not in full operation for the vouchering of stores until late in the month. It is expected that the figures for October will be higher as leeway is made up. DADOS accompanied by Ordnance WO-1 of 14 Bde visited 37th Bn in fwd area, Vella. Bn well satisfied with stores and service from Ordnance.

Moindah " Rear DOW: All branches of workshop fully occupied. Spring steel for 15-cwt Fords and Chevrolets is in short supply.

*Wishy*  
Lt.-Col., DADOS.



Lunga 26 Oct Tank W/S: General workshops repairs ; HE 2-pr ammn received for modification; metal and sand obtained for roading the area.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Work on A.T.D's vehicles ; spraying of web equipment.  
 G'canal " 64 LAD: All unit equipment being made ready for fwd move ; Compressor unit is mounted on wrecker.  
 " " A.O.D.: Depot considerably quieter in view of departure of 8 Bde units; weather fine and hot.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; weather fine and very hot.

Vella 27 DADOS Office (fwd): First Ordnance casualties occurred today in 8 Bde initial operations, being Sgt W.J. Pearson, armourer attached to 29 Bn - killed while unloading a barge at Treasury Gp; and two personnel of 29 LAA Workshops, Ptes. Pethig and McKay, wounded by mortar shrapnel in same area. Noted that the GOC has decided that all troops in fwd area give preference to the wearing of khaki drill uniforms, and ~~and to~~ conserve the jungle clothing at present on issue, Then when men are ultimately equipped with two jungle suits in good order, men will wear these as far as possible and conserve their one remaining khaki suit as far as possible. When the supplies ordered come to hand it should be possible to maintain the scale at 2 jungle and one khaki suit. The COO, BOD, was instructed to make due provision for clothing of the troops, and have stocks against any return move of the Div. to Necal.

G'canal " Recommendation to Div HQ that a small number of personnel be made available to Fwd Ordnance Depot for repairing the boots of units with no bootmaker.  
 Moindah " A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs. No.1 and No.2 Rec Sec (G'canal & Vella) - Routine duties.  
 Noumea " Rear DOW: Further ambulances nearing completion for units in Necal. Four ready for delivery.  
 Treasury Gp " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; sports in afternoon ; weather hot.

Lunga " 29 LAA Workshops: Advance party landed forward area at Zero plus 1 hr and suffered 2 casualties (wounded) from enemy mortar fire within one hour of landing. Remaining four personnel made recce of adjoining island (Stirling?) to locate site to set up workshops. ~~Patrols were sent~~  
 Vella " Tank W/S: General workshops repairs ; alterations to workshops shelters and machinery shop.  
 Nemeara " 20 and 37 LADS : Routine Mt checks and maintenance.  
 G'canal " 42 LAD: Work on A.T.D's vehicles and spraying of web.  
 Bourail " 64 LAD: Transport to go fwd with 2nd echelon has been further reduced to wrecker truck only.  
 G'canal " 65 LAD: Jeep will now go fwd with 3rd echelon of 8 Bde Group.  
 Bourail " A.O.D.: M.V. maintenance and swimming practice.  
 " This will greatly improve the conditions that previously existed in wet weather.  
 " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; Major Knight travelled to Nepoui and returned in the evening. ~~Patrols were sent~~

Vella 28 DADOS Office: (fwd): Lt.-Col Myers visited 35 Bn in its fwd area - all Ordnance matters satisfactory.  
 G'canal " SOME (Armt): Attended US Forces demonstration of new US equipment specially designed to cover shortcomings in present equipment discovered by combat experience. Items demonstrated included new grenades, incl. smoke ones, a new M3 submachine gun, lighter, simpler and much cheaper than the TSMG, and firing .45-in ammn. 60mm rocket launcher ("Bazooka") was demonstrated, and a new bomb launcher with a plastic, expendable tube. Improvements and attachments for mortars were also shown.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec.: MT maintenance ; gravelling workshop area.  
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Routine maintenance of base transport.

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



Treasury Gp 28 Oct 29 LAA W/S.: Transferred equipment from area where it had been landed previous day. Rear party struck tents and moved to 214 Bty area.

Lunga 28 Tank W/S.: Another tank received for gearbox repairs ; workshop repairs proceeded with ; OC rearranged quartering and messing arrangements ; OC attended conference with OC, Tank Sqn.

G'canal " 64 LAD: All equipment now ready for fwd move. One O/R to remain as rear party with Chev 4 x 4 truck; Another O/R to come fwd with Jeep in 3rd echelon of 8 Bde Gp.

" " A.O.D.: Indents still coming in steadily and stores personnel busy filling them. OC attended demonstration of new American weapons.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather overcast and cool ; routine duties in all sections.

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G'canal 29 A.O.W.: 8 Bde detachment marched out for embarkation for Treasury Gp. MT parts, stores and equipment taken fwd by this detachment.

" " No.1 Rec Sec. Detachment of 1 Offr and 19 O/Rs referred to above attached to unit from A.O.W.; (Remained camped at Fd Maintenance Centre till move North).

Moindah " Rear DOW: Camp maintenance ; metalling of messhall floor. All workshop sections busy.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; weather fine ; hot shower system finished.

Treasury " 29 LAA W/S.: Unit establishing itself in areas just occupied by 8 Bde Gp. troops.

Lunga " Tank W/S.: General repairs ; men attended American R.A.P. as present medical arrangements are not satisfactory.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Working on ATD's vehicles and spraying of web.

G'canal " 64 LAD: Cleaning up camp area, and moved all equipment to LST 460 on Kukum Beach.

Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery job 15 miles North, ~~with~~ vehicle with damaged radiator returned to DOW.

G'canal " A.O. D.: Usual routine work in Depot; stores being packed for North.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; weather fine but cool ; film in town square in evening.

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Vella 30 DADOS Office: Considerable delay has occurred in checking NZ ammn stocks on Vella, and obtaining details of units' expenditure for month ending 15 Oct, but figures shd be available in 2 to 3 days.

G'canal " Div HQ issued an instruction re clothing of troops as suggested in DADOS notes for 27th Oct.

" " A.O.W.: General maintenance and repairs.

" " No.1 Rec Sec: 20 O/Rs left camp to assist with loading of LSTs of 2nd echelon 8 bde equipment for the fwd area.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Work until 1100 hrs ; I.E. and recreational training.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance and I.E. in morning; OC DOW arrived at 1500 hrs from DOW ; weather fine.

Treasury " 29 LAA W/S.: Advance party commenced work and continued without interruption. One 40 mm gun which had been damaged severely, and two jeeps were received, and the gun was immediately stripped of essential parts and these were used to repair other guns damaged by enemy action or in landing operations. Later when equipment arrived with 2 ech, a store was set up and equipment put under cover.

Lunga " Tank W/S.: General repairs carried out in workshops.

Vella " 20 LAD.: Work on MT ; overhaul of guns completed

*Wishyerd*  
 Lt.-Col.,  
 DADOS.



G'canal	30 Oct	64 LAD: S/Lt Buckley appointed OC troops for L.C.I. (landing craft inf.) 332. Equipment to go fwd on L.C.I. arranged on beach. Troops embarked at 1300 hrs and equipment loaded ready for embarkation by 1500 hrs. Sailed at 1930 hrs. for Treasury Gp.
Bourail	"	65 LAD: Interior economy ; M.V. casualties.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Recovery unit 25 miles North to assist American 6 x 4 with oil pump fault.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Routine duties; stores despatched for North in afternoon.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Depot inspected by Governor - General of New Caledonia with his staff. Cricket in p.m.
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Vella	31	DADOS Office (fwd): The U.S Ammn taken over as "Island Command" on 19 Oct was handed over today on instructions of US Fwd area Comd, to Branch 34th Base Depot, 1st Marine Amphibious Corps.
Treasury	"	DOW Units - Normal Sunday routine.
Lunga	"	29 LAA W/S.: Rear party cleaned up old camp site, Guadalcanal, and finalised arrangements for forward move.
Vella	"	Tanks W/S.: Church parade 0900 hrs ; party taken to beach for swim in morning, Unit granted free day.
"	"	20 LAD: Sunday - day off ; unit received inoculations.
Nemeara	"	37 LAD: 143 vehicles handled for the month ; quite fair average considering interruptions.
At Sea	"	42 LAD: Church parade. One O/R returned from week's leave at Noumea.
Bourail	"	64 LAD: At sea. Convoy composed of 4 LCIs, 2 LSTs one small cargo vessel and four destroyers. Each LST carried a barrage balloon as possible protection against dive bombers. Sea slightly rough and numbers of men seasick.
Moindah	"	65 LAD.: Sunday routine ; M.V. casualties only.
G'canal	"	67 LAD: The month ended with personnel actively engaged at the vehicle pool. A total of 60 tyres have been repaired during the month, and 148 batteries removed for charging. Besides the vehicle pool maintenance, the unit has completed 22 jobs in the workshop, plus recoveries.
Bourail	"	A.O.D.: Work as usual in Depot. Stores personnel filling indents. B.O.D.: Church parade in morning; unit cricket match in afternoon.

General Summaries for month (as supplied by units concerned):

G'canal - A.O.W.: A considerable number of jobs was handled during the month, MT spares being in good supply enabling quick return of vehicles to units. Health of personnel excellent, and little sickness appeared. Recreation: This important matter is unfortunately not being catered for enough in this area to check boredom. To date no recreation areas seem to have been considered. Mess rooms where the men can enjoy reasonable facilities for reading, writing and general relaxation are necessary from a morale point of view. Greater consideration being shown in distribution of timber for this purpose to all units. Appendix (I) attached shows summary of repairs carried out by this unit during the month.

Moindah (Necal) Rear DOW: Approx 300 jobs passes through the w/shop during the month. These ranged from complete overhauls on MT to repairs to road machinery. All branches of the w/shop have been fully employed. Several vehicles were prepared and sent to Movement Control for shipment to fwd area, incl. compressor trucks and disinfectant waggons. Four men were marched in to unit for employment as tradesmen. Two of these were turners and fitters so that this dept is now efficient. Camp facilities were improved. Health standard is satisfactory.

Appx I.

*W. J. ...*  
Lt.-Col, DADOS.



~~XXXXXXXX~~ Monthly Summaries: (contd).

NE Ordnance Workshop Detachment:

This has been a busy month with all personnel working at full capacity. The workshop and yard are becoming in very good shape and men are working cheerfully and well. The standard of maintenance in this area is improving considerably with the added facilities. The addition of one mechanic and one carpenter from the DOW has been a considerable asset. There has been a heavy run on tyres and most vehicles are now well shod.

Sixty-six drivers licenses have been issued during the month. An efficient hot shower system has been installed; personnel are becoming very keen on sports, particularly basketball. A practice pitch for cricket, a basketball ground and a tennis court have been laid out in the area. Health good mostly; weather good and morale high.

G'canal and Treasury:

29 LAA W/Shops: Repairs on the armament & side were very heavy and work was carried out right up to the date of departure of the first echelon. MT repair work was carried out as far as possible, but lack of spare parts curtailed this somewhat. (Note - this does not check with DOW's (ADV) statement re spares). All vehicles on issue to the unit were repainted early in the month. Swimming facilities in G'canal were excellent, and daily opportunity was taken of this fact. Despite a lack of fresh fruit and vegetables the health of the personnel remains good.

*indur*

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



# APPENDICES

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ADVANCED ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS  
Guadalcanal

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SUMMARY OF REPAIRS TO U.S. PROPERTY OF ...

Vehicles received into W'Shop during month (by type)	Repairs completed & repair vehicles returned to Units	Awaiting completion for return to Units	Placed on 'Dead' list or unreported
Ford Quad 30 cwt - 107	106	1	Nil
Ford Quad 30 cwt (Dump) - 8	8	1	"
Ford Cars - 3	2	-	"
G.M.C. 4x4 - 4	4	-	"
Bedford P.A.T. - 16	16	-	"
Chev 4x4 30 cwt - 21	21	2	"
Chev 4x4 15 cwt - 18	18	-	"
Jeeps - 92	90	-	"
Dodge 3rd Car - 4	4	-	"
Armoured GPs - 2	2	12	"
Iran Carriers - 4	4	-	1 (awaiting parts)
Indian M/3s - 17	5	-	Nil
Tractor 27 - 1	-	-	Nil

Details of repairs to above vehicles as follows:

Type of Vehicle	Nature of Repairs	No. of jobs	
Ford Quad 30 cwt	Weld and fit steering blocks	46	
	Fit new steering boxes	1	
	Overhaul steering box & adjust	3	
	Fit new front axles	3	
	Repairs to fuel pump, clean fuel lines and adjust carburettor	8	
	Repair springs, broken main leaf	1	
	Generators overhauled and repaired	11	
	Repairs to voltage regulator	3	
	Radiator repairs	2	
	New dip switch fitted	1	
	Repairs to bodywork	27	
	Transfer case adjustments	5	
	Brakes overhauled and adjusted	9	
	Renew oil seals and retainers	3	
	Electrical repairs :		
	starter	9	
	distributor	2	
	lighting	4	
	Engine overhaul and tune	2	
	General maintenance and miscellaneous work	9	
	Ford Quad (Dump)	Weld and fit steering blocks	4
		Adjust transfer case	1
		Repair petrol pump, clean fuel lines	1
		Fit new rear brake hose	1
	Ford Car	Overhaul engine and tune	1
Repair bodywork and guards		3	
Bedford P.A.T.	Weld and fit steering blocks	11	
	Overhaul brakes, fit new hose & adjust	1	
	Fit new silencer	1	
	Decarbonize motor & tune	1	
	Make and fit spare wheel bracket	1	
	Make and fit brackets for spare petrol tins	1	
Chev Quad 15 cwt	Set up front springs	2	
	Straighten chassis	1	
	Repair guards and bodywork	8	
	Repair and straighten bumper	1	
	Check and adjust generator	3	
	Fit new voltage regulator	1	



Type of Vehicle

Nature of repairs

Type of Vehicle	Nature of repairs	No. of	
Chev Quad 15 cwt (Cont'd)	Overhaul engine & tune	3	
	Adjust carburettor & clean fuel lines	1	
	Fit new radiator	1	
	Fit new armature to starter motor	1	
	Brakes checked and adjusted	1	
	Fit new brake hose	1	
	Check lighting system	1	
	Make & fit brackets to carry wheel chains	1	
	Make & fit brackets for towing	1	
	Repair flattened cab	1	
	Chev 4x4 30 cwt	Straighten & repair chassis	2
		Bodywork repairs	8
		Fit sides to tray, make seats & brackets for same	2
Straighten drive shaft		1	
Overhaul & adjust transfer case		1	
Repair winch & rope		1	
Fit new bearings to transfer case		1	
Fit new axle studs		2	
Grind valves & tune motor		1	
Fit new steering box & shaft		1	
Repair broken front spring		5	
Check & adjust brakes		1	
Reline brakes		2	
Check carburettor & repair jets		2	
Check generator, voltage regulator & adjust		3	
Steering overhauled & adjusted		1	
Fit brackets to carry water cans		3	
G.M.C. 6x4	Overhaul engine & tune	2	
	Grind valves & decarbonize	1	
	Fit new transfer case studs	2	
	Adjust steering	2	
	Adjust brakes	2	
	Fit new brake hose	1	
	Renew wiring to headlamps	1	
	Repair petrol tank & filter	1	
Dodge Cmd. Car	Check steering & adjust brakes	1	
	Fit inspection light connection	1	
	Paint hood	1	
Mortar Carriers	Straighten rear body plate	1	
	Cut & fit plates for gun mounting	2	
	Fit brackets for spare bogey wheels	1	
Armoured OPs	Hone out clutch cylinder	1	
	Examine push rods & cam shaft & adjust	1	
	Check & adjust slipping gears	1	
	Tighten steering	1	
	Adjust acceleration	1	
Peeps	Grind valves & fit new guides	3	
	Fit new universal joint	1	
	Electrical repairs:		
	starter	6	
	lighting	5	
	generator	6	
	Tune motor & general check	15	
	Steering adjusted	5	
	Brakes checked & adjusted	11	
	Reline handbrake	2	
	Set up springs	11	
	Fit new shock absorbers	2	
	Fit extra leaves to rear springs	2	
	Repair broken springs	4	
	Straighten chassis	1	



APPENDIX B.

Armament Section

Work completed during October 43

<u>Article</u>	<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Repairs</u>	<u>Unservicable</u>	<u>Parts used</u>
Rifles No.1. .303	100	General	14 (7 T/US) (7 Bent Barrels)	10 Stocks F/R 3 H/Guards R 6 Bolts Lock 6 Springs B.1 6 Screws B.1 6 Catches B.1 3 H/Guards R 10 Springs Ext 1 Slides B/S 4 Pins Strik 3 Springs Se 2 Triggers 4 Bolts Bree 1 Sear 1 Spring Plg 1 Screw " 2 Stocks But 2 Cocking Pi 3 Heads Bree 1 Pr.Grips S 1 Screws S 1 Catches S 1 Cases Maga 1 Spring Pti
)))				
Bren L.M.G. .303	2	General	Nil	3 Springs Ma
✓ Barrels	2	Adjustments	Nil	
Magazines	3	"	Nil	
_____				
✓ Pistols S & W .38	6	General	Nil	1 Pawls Cyli
_____				
✓ Thompson S.M.G.	15	General	6 (2 Split Bolt) (3 Bulged Barrels) (1 Worn Body)	1 Barrel 1 Spring & 1 1 Trip Level 2 Springs M 1 Sear
Magazine	1	Adjust	Nil	
_____				
Vickers M.M.G.	1	Adjust	Nil	



APPENDIX B (Contd)

Sheet

Article	Quan.	Repairs	Unserviceable	Parts
Instrument Section				
Watches G.S.	14	Clean, overhaul & Adjust	18 (Broken Balance Staff)	
Watches Stop	Nil		2 " " "	
Binoculars Pris.	10	Clean, removal of fungus, adjust & collimate, new eyecups	Nil	
Compasses Liquid Prismatic	11	Luminosity, refill, broken hinges, general overhaul, & adjust.	1 (Broken hinge)	
Compasses Pris.	13	Luminosity, Broken hinges, general overhaul & adjust	Nil	
Compasses Mirror Magnetic	Nil		7 (Lack of luminous) Paint	
Compasses Pocket Magnetic	Nil		1 " "	
Clinometer Sights	9	Fitting new bubbles, checking excessive backlash, adjust	Nil	5 "L" Bubb
Directors No.7	5	Damaged worm spindles, clean & adjust	Nil	
Sights Dial No.7A.1	1	Clean & adjust	Nil	
Rangefinder No.121	1	Broken dioptic scale	Nil	
Typewriters	5	Repairs to frame clean, overhaul & adjust	Nil	
Wireless Sets	2	Burnt out transmitter, rewinding, overhaul	Nil	
F.M.C. Wireless Station		Replace buffer condensers in amplifier. Replace buffer condensers in transmitter Repairs to Send/Receiver switch in transmitter. Adjustment to receiver Adjustment to amplifier.		



APPENDIX B (Contd)

Sheet

Article		Repairs
✓ Predictors Kerison	2	Clean, check, overhaul & rebalsam prisms telescope
Predictor Bubbles.		New bubble
Spirit glass U		
Oil Motor	1	Check
Arms Range	1	Straighten & Check
Stands Instrument.		Supply new leg
No.13 Mk.111.		
Spectacles	3	Braize
Camera	1	Emersed in salt water. Clean & Oil.
Lenses Eye in cell	1	Rebalsam
Rules Slide	1	Fit new cursor.
Surgical Forceps	1	Braize
Sight Cover	1	Patch
Duplicator part	1	Manufacture new part
Lenses Steriscope		
	1	Turned out to fit binoculars prismatic.
Projectors 16 mm.	2	Adjust & replace valves.
✓ Mortars 2"	4	Repairs to trigger mechanism & replacement of bubbles.
Air Bottles	3	Refill
Bayonets	474	Sharpen
	60	Blued
	9	Repaired
Mortar 2"		
Firing pins	3	Maunfacture
Mortar plug	1	"
Mortar screws metric	4	"



Article	Quan	Repairs
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25 Pdr. Gun Repairs

Bush control chamber	2	New bush replaced & fitted.
Jacks lifting	2	Repairs to thread.
Cross level H/Wheels	4	Tighten
	1	Repair back lash
Leaf Spring	1	Repair
Cable layers	2	Manufacture clips
B.S.F. Bolts	3	Manufacture
S.A.E. Screw $\frac{3}{8}$ "	1	"
Whit Screws $2\frac{1}{2}$ "x3/16	16	"
Nuts $3/16$ "	16	"
Tube Spanner Plug H	1	"
Cheesehead Screws	6	"
Levelling Screws	2	"
Q.F. 25 Pdr Gun L/10096	1	Manufacture Bush(control) $\frac{1}{2}$ " longer than stands

3.8" Howitzer Repairs

Recuperator R3261	1	Manufacture new plug and air valve.
Snifter Valve	1	Manufacture
Trail leg locking pin spring	1	Repairs
Retaining Chain	1	Welding to leg of gun
Ord. 3.7" Howitzer	1	Removal of play in bearing surfaces

6 Pdr Anti Tank Gun Repairs

Recuperator release	2	Manufacture
Spanners		
Screws champing	8	Alteration
Telescope		
Telescope locking	46	Manufacture
Studs		
Air Adapter	1	Welding shield & fitting sight box
Elevating gear	1	Removal of back lash
Pinion shaft		

6 Pdr Anti Tank Gun	1	Fitting new recuperator packings
		Testing recuperator ram. Replaced buffer system

Bofors 40 mm Repairs

Manufacture	6	Jack pad collars with studs
Front axle housing bracket pin	1	Machined
Predictor Studs	6	Manufacture
Predictor levelling screw head	1	Built up & turned true