

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

3 DIV ORDNANCE CORPS
3 DIV ORDNANCE CORPS

2 NZEF IP

for the month of

D E C E M B E R 1943.

D E C E M B E R 1943

Volume XXIII.

Volume XXIII.

15 Sheets

and Appendices. (I + II)

INDEX OF

Consolidated War Diary for December 1943

- (a) 3 NZ DIV Ordnance Corps, 2 NZEFIP (incl. Base & Divisional Units)
comprising the following units:-

Div Ordnance HQ being : DADOS Office (Rear Sec) Guadalcanal BSIP.
DADOS Office (Main) Vella Lavella BSIP.
S.O.M.E. (DIV) Guadalcanal
S.O.M.E. (Base) Moindah, Necal.

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

NZ Ordnance Workshops Detachment: (Noumea): (Section of DOW) - Noumea, Necal.
Treasury Group.

29 Lt A.A. Workshops: (att 29 L.A.A. Regt)

Tank Workshops & Fd Park Detachment: att. Special Army Tank Sqn Gp -
Lunga River area, Guadalcanal.

20 L.A.D. (att 17 Fd Regt NZA) - Vella Lavella
37 L.A.D.: (att. 14 Bde Gp) - Vella Lavella
42 L.A.S. (att Arty Trg Depot) - Meneara Necal.
54 L.A.D. (att 8 Bde Gp.) - Treasury Group. (Mono Id). BSIP
65 L.A.D. (att Base Units) - Bourail N.C.
67 L.A.D. (formerly att 3 Div. Sigs): with Rear Det. DOW, Moindah Necal.

Base Ordnance Depot (Rear Sec) - Bourail, Necal.
Advanced Ordnance Depot - Guadalcanal.
(plud forward Section of A.O.D. at Vella Lavella).

Appendices. (I-II - AOW + SOME (DIV).)

(b)

*Wishley
The
DADOS*

Vol. ANNUAL the m L.A.S. ORDINANCE

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

3 Div Ordnance Corps, HEMFLIP.
Compiled by DADOS Office 3 Div HQ.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
Vella	1	Dec	<p><u>DADOS Office:</u> DADOS (Lt. Col MYERS) returned from GUADALCANAL. Conference with GOC re further transfers and promotions NZOC. Major G.C. Simms (SOME - MT) and Major J.W. EVERS (SOME - Armt) and Capt A.E. TILLEY (OME 8 Bde) to be transferred to NE rail. Appointments approved: Major E.J.R. Signal from OC DOW to SOME (DIV); Capt D.W. LAWSON from 2 i/c DOW to be Major (SOME - Base); Capt. E.G. Sandelin OME 14 Bde to be 2/i/c DOW; Lt. R.W. Calder 37 LAD to be Capt., and appointed OME 14 Bde.; Lt. R. St J. Keenan OC 20 LAD to be Captain and OME 8 Bde; WO-2 G.P.A. Burt (20 LAD) to be 2/Lt and apptd OC 20 LAD; 2/Lt G.A.P. Skinner (DOW) to be OC 37 LAD. WO-1 Preser I.D. (AOW) to be 2/Lt and replace 2/Lt Skinner at DOW, HECAL. LAD to be provided for Div Engrs: 65 LAD - originally intended for Engrs, but attached in HECAL to 15 Bde and then with Base. Lt J.R. Buckley OC 64 LAD to be OC 65 LAD, and 2/Lt J.D. Keeling OC 65 LAD to be transferred to 64 LAD. <u>SOME (DIV):</u> Major Evers relinquished position as SOME (Armt) and Major SIGNAL took over as SOME (DIV). <u>A.O.W.:</u> Workshop Sec fully occupied with MT repairs. Camp alterations. <u>No. 1 Rec Sec:</u> Vehicle and Armament repairs. Two conditions Red during night. <u>No. 2 Rec Sec:</u> M.T. maintenance; <u>Rear DOW:</u> Commencement of ship loading at Kepou Docks. 150 men engaged - 75 each from DOW and ASC workshops. Skeleton staff retained in workshops for any urgent work. <u>NECH Det.:</u> Maintenance of vehicles; OC and driver to DOW; weather fine. <u>20 LAA W/S.:</u> This unit's notes principally summarized at end of month. <u>Tanks W/S:</u> Received timber and cement for messroom, cookhouse and ration store. Commenced construction; General workshops repairs. 20 LAD: Work started on M.T. 37 LAD: Normal LAD duties. 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles and equipment of Arty Training Depot. 64 LAD: LAD personnel under Sgt LANGRISH in Bde "education service" at Palangi cemetery. 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance on Base vehicles etc. Swinging practice. 57 LAD: Unit actively engaged in the maintenance vehicle pool, incl. work of lubrication, small repairs & starting of vehicles, also maintenance of Signals School, Officers School and through vehicles. A.C.D.: Blankets loaded out for HECAL for cleaning. 9 truck loads of stores for 14 Bde loaded out. H.C.D.: C.O.O. (Major Knight) still in H. 1X Capt. Kennedy acting as OC. Men's new messroom now in use.</p>	
G'canal	1	"		
"	"	"		
Treasury	"	"		
Vella	"	"		
Moindah	"	"		
Noumea	"	"		
Treasury	"	"		
Lunga R.	"	"		
Vella	"	"		
"	"	"		
Nemera	"	"		
Treasury	"	"		
Bourail	"	"		
Moindah	"	"		
G'canal.	"	"		
Bourail	"	"		

Lt.-Col.
R.A.D.S.S.

КАЛЕНДАРЬ ПОДРОБНО

1941

Sheet 2. (Vol 23, Nos 23).

WAR DIARY, 3 DIV Ordnance Corps, Warley.

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G'connal	2 Dec	A.C.H.: Armament Sec. engaged on checking and adjusting predictors received from AOD. MT repair and maintenance.
Heinrich NG	*	Rear HQ: Loading of commercial vehicles continues; 3 teams of 50 men working 8 hour shifts. complete with transport & unloading waggons.
Houma	*	HQ: Maintenance of vehicles; weather fine; OC returned from HQ.
Lunge R.	*	Tank W/S: Improvement to camp amenities; general workshop repairs, incl top suspension rollers of tank tracks. The rapid wearing of these bushes (brass) of these assemblies which was not experienced in NE has been causing trouble. All bearings were replaced with fresh grease, as trouble was due to poor lubrication. Results not yet observed. Bronze indents for iron S.I. to turn bearings for replacements.
Treasury	*	20, 37, 42 65 67 LADs: Normal LAD routine.
G'connal	*	Q. LAD: Normal routine in difficult tropical conditions.
Seareil	*	A.C.H.: Sections engaged in sorting stores recently arrived. Indents for both sides being in fairly heavily and these are being fulfilled as quickly as possible.
		R.O.D.: Weather fine; routine duties; five trucks of stores arrived from Houma ex AK 70.
Vella	3	ADMS Office: Decided to revert to practice of Ordnance Depots instead of Engineers carrying tractor spares.
Seareil	*	Noted that 61812 Major R.H. Grierson (NE Ordnance) is attached for special duties to HQ HQHQ and remains on Xiv List (Major Grierson had been on a tour of duty from S.I.).
G'connal	*	A.C.H.: 15 Chev ambulances arrive from HQHQ and brought into workshop for checking. To be held by ADW until required. Arm Sec checking predictors; MT maintenance and repair.
Treasury	*	No. 1 Reg Sec: Vehicle and Armament repairs; one condition red during night.
Vella	*	No. 2 Reg Sec: MT maintenance; 1 noc & 15 Q/Rs and 5 trucks supplied from HQ pool for installing worktops.
Heinrich	*	Rear HQ: Completion of loading of ship at Vepesi 275 4 x 2 vehicles were loaded in 40 hours. 20 had already been loaded at Houma, making total for this ship at 295. For future reference it should be noted that this was done by loading all top deck space also (Liberty ship). Culture in evening by Bishop Gerard on his Middle East experiences.
Lunge R	*	Tank W/S: Borrowed bulldozer from NE Regs on steep grade of road to camp levelled ground for Field Park. Various repairs incl. base junctions, work being necessitated by water and moisture surrounding slip rings.
Treasury	*	Q. LAD: Received urgent call to 25 M Coy's D6 tractor at HQ Point. Five mile drive in Chev 4 x 4 truck took four hours! Returned to camp with 3 valve push rods for repair. Received notification of transfer of OC MT as OC 65 LAD and to report at Purple I. at 1000 hrs 4th for embarkation.
Heinrich NG	*	67 LAD: Start made on GMC 6 x 4 line, with the removal of all supplies and general clean out of truck.
G'connal	*	Other LADs: Normal routine.
Seareil	*	A.C.H.: Routine duties.
		R.O.D.: Routine duties.

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R.H.G.

G'canal	4	Dec	<u>A.O.W.</u> : Work proceeding on fly-proof cook-house. Area adjacent to cookh use covered with coral chips. Tents shifted from under trees to new sites on terraces prepared by bulldozer. Concrete floor laid for shower house.
Treasury	"	"	<u>No.1 Rec Sec</u> : Interior economy and recreational afternoon. No alarm during night.
Vella	"	"	<u>No.2 Rec Sec</u> : MT maintenance.
Moindah NC	"	"	<u>Rear DOW</u> : Parade and small arms inspections. I.E. in workshops area and camp lines to 1100 hrs.
Noumea	"	"	<u>NZOW Det</u> : I.E. Maintenance of vehicles ; weather fine.
Treasury	"	"	<u>29 LAA Workshops</u> . Of an average strength for the month of 1 Ofpr and 22 O/RS, an average of 14 are attending the R.A.P. daily for skin diseases. Shortage of personnel is holding up work. Seven men are attached to No.2 Rec Sec at Vella, and several (incl. men wounded) have been in hospital.
Lunga R.	"	"	<u>Tanks W/S</u> : Interior economy of workshops in morning, incl all tools and equipment. I.E. camp in p.m.
Vella	"	"	<u>20 LAD</u> : Work on MT. One armt. artificer (Pte) marched in from NECAL
"	"	"	<u>37 LAD</u> : Normal duties ; cleaned up round unit lines ; rifle inspection.
Noumea	"	"	<u>42 LAD</u> : Maintenance of vehicles .
Treasury	"	"	<u>64 LAD</u> : Previous OC marched out to G'canal and Necal. Men are building greasing ramp and spreading coral to improve camp and working area. Not doing a great deal in repairs but expect improvement as camp gets settled. Weather fine.
Bourail	"	"	<u>65 LAD</u> : M.V. maintenance and M.V. casualties.
G'canal	"	"	<u>A.O.D.</u> : Half personnel have day off duty - first full day since arriving on island. (Remainder on 5th).
Bourail	"	"	<u>B.O.D.</u> : Routine duties ; weather wet but warm. Duties ceased at 1200 hrs.
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G'canal	5		<u>SOME (DIV)</u> : Rear office of DADOS and SOME (Div) advised that it will be necessary to prepare to move fwd to Vella to make one office unit. (Later cancelled owing to changed Div. plans.).
"	"	"	<u>A.O.W.</u> : Voluntary church parade ; Capt A.E. TILLEY and Lt J.R. BUCKLEY m/1/ from fwd area en route NECAL.
Treasury	"	"	Afternoon free for men to carry out IE and washing.
Vella	"	"	<u>No.1 Rec Sec</u> : Recreational day.
Moindah	"	"	<u>No.2 Rec Sec</u> : A good proportion of personnel have septic sores which seem very prevalent here, also colds and influenza.
Noumea	"	"	<u>Rear DOW</u> : Compulsory church parade (Bishop Gerard) Normal leave and sports.
Treasury	"	"	<u>42 LAD</u> : Church parade ; one man m/o to weeks leave at Noumea.
"	"	"	<u>64 LAD</u> : Church parade ; cleared up round camp ; heavy/rain roads very muddy, camp area fairly good and will improve with spreading of coral. <u>Other LADS</u> - normal Sunday routine (essential work only).
"	"	"	<u>A.O.D.</u> (G'canal) and <u>BOD</u> (Bourail) - quiet day.

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

G'canal, 6 Dec A.O.W.: Construction of cookhouse completed and work started on men's mess, ^{re}stalling of camp area. Work proceeding on overhaul of Predictors (AA). MT maintenance and repairs; ^{representative} attends meeting at Rd Maintenance Centre to form Sports Committee.

Treasury " No. 1 Reg Sec: Vehicle and Armament repairs; advised by Dde HQ that a move would be necessary from unit's present area. Recce of Sterling Id was made for another camp site but nothing suitable.

Vella " Head Reg Sec: MT maintenance; issue of cigarette matches except etc to men.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Routine repairs and maintenance; fitting and turning work particularly heavy.

Lunga R. " Tank W/S: Inspection of all arms at 0730 hrs. Completed levelling of workshop area. Framework of ration store erected. Made three large tarpaulins for Tank Sqn. Repairs to tank batteries carried out - quite a lot of this work lately. Erected marquee for field park stores.

Vella " 20 LAD: Lt (promoted Captain) Keenan, OC marched out to 3 Bde as OME. Work on MT.

" " 27 LAD: Usual work; raining most of the day.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Heavy rain held up work; water affecting brakes on vehicles, mainly jeeps. Jeep brake linings boarce. Sand and mud causing some trouble with ~~some~~ vehicles.

G'canal " 33 A.O.D.: 10 infantry personnel who have been attached for duty for one month returned to Transit Camp.

G'canal 7 A.O.W.: heavy rain all day; Capt A.E. Tilley m/o to NEC-L for NE. Capt E.G. Sandelin (2/3/0 DOW) m/i. from 14 Bde and evacuated to 2 NZ CCS. Camp constn. Overhauling predictors.

Treasury " No. 1 Reg Sec: Vehicle and armt repairs; recce made on MCHO Island for new camp site. A suitable position was located approx 1/2 mile east of Palamai Point. The ground, despite rains, was reasonably firm and should suit admirably.

Vella " No. 2 Reg Sec: MT maintenance; very wet day.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Repairs to all types vehicles.

Noumea " NZOW Sct.: Maintenance of vehicles; weather fine; 1 O/r m/o to 4 Gen Hospital.

Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: Resommenced modification of 2 pdr HE armn (taking skin off driving bands). Very wet.

Vella " 37 LAD: 1 O/r marched out for evacuation to 2 NZ CCS. (Gusdalcanal).

Treasury " 64 LAD: Rain continues; roads worse; camp getting very muddy and tents very damp. Coral is a definite improvement if the mud is cleared away first. Welding gas very slow in coming to hand, and very necessary.

Bourail " 65 LAD: MV maintenance; sports practice. Other LADS - normal routine.

G'canal " A.O.D.: Ten personnel attached from Inf. reinf'ts, Transit Camp for duty. Indents, mostly to replace those lost by forward units in action, are being fulfilled.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather wet.

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

WITH Lt J.R. Baskin).

Guadalcanal 3 Dec SOME (DIV): Major SIGNAL (SOME-Div) to Vella by air, on tour of duty and Major EVERS left for NSCAL by air on return to N.E.

Vella " DADOS Office: Requested that further stocks of shell amm to be forwarded in steel boxes, but if steel boxes unavailable, shells packed in wooden boxes to be oiled before leaving N.E. Taking over as for Island Command, and checking F.M.A.C. amm (US).

G'canal " A.O.W.: Continuous rain for 30 hours.

Treasury " No. 1 Rec Sec.: Vehicle and armt repairs; 12 men sent to new Unit area to prepare site.

Meindah " Rear DOW: Eleven technical personnel w/1 from N.E. These men are mainly good type tradesmen and will be most suitable.

Noumea " NGOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles; swim parade in afternoon. Weather fine.

Lunga R. " Tank W/B: Rain continues; workshops area very muddy; metalling work urgently needed. Both lathes in workshop working to full capacity. OC unit (Capt Kirkham) evacuated from hospital Necel to N.E., 1 O/R to hospital (24 Fd Amb). Finished constn of tables and seats for mess room.

Vella " 20 LAD: Rifle inspection; work on M.T.

" " 37 LAD: Normal duties; raining.

Nemera " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles etc for Arty Training Depot, and area vehicles.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Extremely wet day; I.P. tents do not seem altogether suitable for this climate. Tents in good order but leak (it has been suggested that present type dressing may aggravate this). Only important jobs done owing to weather; roads in terrible condition.

" " A.O.D. (G'canal) and BOP (Bourail): Routine duties in all sections.

Vella 9 DADOS Office: Major Signal (SOME-DIV) and Lt BUCKLEY who have arrived in Vella conferred, with CRE, together with DADOS in afternoon re formation of suitable type LAD in both men & equipment, having regard to heavy equipment repair work - bulldozers etc - of new Engineering Heavy Equipment Coy.

G'canal " A.O.W.: MT maintenance and camp constn. USO show at FMO.

Treasury " No. 1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armt repairs. 14 men sent to new campsite with rations and tents, to camp. Use of bulldozer obtained and assisted greatly.

Vella " No. 2 Rec Sec: Major Signal visited unit.

Meindah " Rear DOW: Heavy rain; road to North blocked by flood waters. With 6 prefabricated building and workshop bare type roof this unit's work is not seriously handicapped.

Lunga R. " Tank W/B: Work on ration store and scuffling of area with personnel and trucks from FMO. Tank 22652 received into workshops for clutch repair. Clutch is definitely a weak spot in Valentine tanks, and renewal of linings is frequent. Due partly to bad driving and abuse of the clutch, but also that the rivets for the linings are too short, necessitating deep countersinking of the linings, with result that any strain or jerk causes the linings to break away around the countersinking. The heavy work on tanks in jungle conditions accentuates this wear. Indenting on H2 for longer rivets for linings.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Weather still hindering work. Grease ramp is a big asset as it keeps men out of mud on many types of jobs. Food is good. Water is playing up with a certain amount of elec. equipment on trucks, due to ~~rain~~ fording flooded streams.

" " A.O.D. and BOP: and unspecified LADs: routine duties.

W. J. Baskin
 Lt.-Col.,
P.A.R.O.

Vella 10 Dec DADOS Office: DADOS, SOME (Div) and OC 65 LAD conferred with GOC at 2400 hrs re formation of LAD for Div Engrs. (new 65 LAD).

G' canal " A.O.W.: Air raid alert at 1200 hrs. No hostile aircraft seen. Carting shingle etc for camp area.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs; work continued on new area.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: D4 and D7 bulldozers in very bad order due to lack of first & second line maintenance.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Routine repairs & maintenance; alterations to signal van tops being proceeded with.

Lunga R. " Tank W/S: Camp constn and carting of coral for roading etc. Completed overhaul of Chev dump truck, also completed modification of HE amm.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Rain eased off. Drained camp and dried gear. Many breakdown jobs due to mud and sand. Work increasing although more could be handled. Men in good spirits in spite of wet weather and wet gear.

Moindah " 67 LAD: Wrecker sent to Poya to assist through traffic ~~through~~ past flooded area.

G' canal " Other LADs.: Normal duties.

Bourail " A.O.D.: Coral spread on new messroom floor, and constn of new cookhouse begun. Sections sorting stores discharged recently.

" B.O.D.: Weather wet; routine duties. Arranged with 29 ASE Coy to provide 5 trucks with drivers to facilitate handling of stores from Noumea.

Vella 11 DADOS Office: Letter to HQ 3 NZ DIV re the formation of (new) 65 LAD to be attached to Div Engrs. Three bulldozer specialists at present with engineers to be transferred to Ordnance and posted to 65 LAD. Lt J R Buckley and OC AOD to go into the question of supply of spares and tools and their method of procurement. Lt Buckley to obtain through SOME (Div) as many suitable personnel for new 65 LAD as can be spared from Ordnance personnel fwd of Necal. Lt. Buckley then to proceed to Necal to choose remaining personnel and go further into question of tools and spares. Signalling HQ NZEFIP to have heavy duty electric welding unit on 4 x 4 truck forwarded to Adv Ordnance Workshops G' canal first opportunity. Also the following vehicles for the 65 LAD: 1 Diamond T Breakdown truck complete with fittings; 1 30-cwt 4 x 4 winch truck with compressor; one peep 1/4 ton. Lt. Buckley authorised to choose personnel, tools etc. to come fwd for 65 LAD.

G' canal " A.O.W.: Instrument mechanics engaged on checking predictors. MT maintenance. Camp area cleaned up in afternoon. Leave for personnel to attend boxing at Am. Red Cross centre.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle & armt repairs; interior economy and recreational afternoon.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Work in morning; leave and games in afternoon.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Interior economy, maintenance of vehicles; weather continuing fine.

Lunga R " Tank W/S: I.E. of workshops and camp area and inspection of all tools and equipment. These keeping in good condition. Work continued on urgent tank repairs.

Vella " 37 LAD: Usual work and rifle inspection. All rifles in good order.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles; submission of normal returns.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Fine weather, ideal for work. Very busy on repairs and maintenance. Roads and camp dried out very quickly. Spare parts reasonably plentiful with only one or two exceptions.

G' canal. " Other LADs - normal routine.

Bourail " A.O.D.: Team from Depot played cricket against Tanks in afternoon. US Transport discharging cargo for AOD.

" B.O.D.: Weather wet; routine duties Unloading of trucks from Noumea in evening.

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

G'canal 12 Dec - A.O.W. : Voluntary church parade.
 Treasury " No. 1 Rec Sec: Remainder of unit went to new camp site and assisted with clearing area.
 Lunga R. " Tank W/S: Church parade ; some personnel went on trip up island. First appointment to
 commission of S/Sgt J.E. Amore of unit to 2/Lieut and 2 1/c/capt. KIRKHAM (Grade 4) placed
 on NZ roll.
 - " Other Workshops and LADs: Normal Sunday programme. Church parades and time off.
 G'canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties ; quiet in Depot.
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather wet ; routine duties.

Vella 13 DADOS Office: Letter to DAAG re transfer of Officers - 2/Lt C.P. BURT OC 20 LAD to be OC 42 LAD
 NEGAL, and 2/Lt SHERSON OC 42 LAD to be OC 20 LAD, VELLA. Div. instns received that Rear Div would
 close and merge with Main Div HQ at VELLA.
 G'canal " SOME (DIV): Major Signal (SOME -DIV) and Lt. J.R. BUCKLEY (65 LAD) returned to G'canal by air.
 " " A.O.W.: 5 Predictors completed for return to AOD. Unit transport carting coral for camp area.
 Treasury " No. 1 Rec Sec: Unit equipment packed in readiness for move to new area.
 Vella " No. 2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance.
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Routine repairs and maintenance ; heavy rain has caused flooding in some parts of
 workshops area.
 Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. Weather wet.
 Lunga " Tank W/S: Reading work with assistance of trucks from PMC and all available men, metalling roadway.
 - " 20, 37 and 42 LADs, also 67 LAD: Routine work.
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Work increasing as weather improves. Men in good health except for skin irritations and
 septic sores. Cleared away from camp area trees damaged by gunfire.
 Bourail " 65 LAD: M.V. maintenance ; metalling workshop area (also on 14th).
 G'canal " A.O.D.: Indents still coming in from fwd area and stores are being packed as soon as possible.
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather wet. Unloading of MT and general stores from Noumea continues. Routine duties
 in all sections. Major Knight (COO, BOD) arrived at Noumea from N.Z. after tour of duty.

Vella 14 DADOS Office: DADOS in conference with GOC re tentage, in afternoon. Letter sent to BOD re
 considerably increasing rate of reserve of tentage shipments from NZ. HQ, NZEFIP, by signal message
 Q/721 was informed that tentage deteriorating rapidly, and automatic shipments proposed earlier wd
 now be insufficient to meet requirements. Anticipate 50% tentage in use will be unserviceable
 within 2 to 3 months. To conserve material and save shipping space, new flys only will largely meet
 position. Army HQ to be signalled accordingly, and to be asked for earliest shipment to PMC of
 1200 I.P. flys only, 100 I.P.P. flys only, with reasonable quantity spare poles and pegs, also 300
 IPs complete and 50 I.P.P.s complete. Further demands on NZ must be expected early in New Year. Army
 HQ requested to signal details of arrangements made.

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

D.A.D.O.S.

Vella 23 Dec DADOS Office: DADOS conferred with GSO-1 re surplus holdings of amm in NECAL.
 G'canal " A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs.
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: 3 personnel out with unit boat carrying Lt AA Officers to put up flares for
 Moindah " Bofors AA gun firing test. MT maintenance.
 Lunga R. " Rear DOW: Repairs to commercial type vehicles executed to enable them to be driven to
 Vella " Noumea for shipment to N.Z.
 Treasury " Tanks W/S: Repairs to vehicles etc; unit jeep overhauled.
 Moindah " 37 LAD: Normal work; weather very hot.
 G'canal " 64 LAD: Very busy day; many brake jobs, also carburetter jobs. Except for skin irritations,
 Bourail " general health of men is good. Food good and plentiful.
 " 67 LAD: Recovery unit 12 miles South recover Chev 4 x 4 with blocked petrol lines.
 " Other LADs and workshops units: Normal maintenance jobs.
 " A.O.D.: Newly arrived stores being sorted by sections, and stores being packed for North.
 " Shortage of storage space a problem with large shipments from N.Z.
 " B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather fine.

Vella 24 DADOS Office: DADOS with GSO-1 conferred with GOC re amm - whether further quantities should be
 G'canal " signalled for. GOC agreed only to 50,000 .38" pistol amm being ordered.
 Treasury " A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs.
 Vella " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs.
 Moindah " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance; issue of Xmas comforts.
 Noumea " Rear DOW: completion of urgent work before holiday period.
 Lunga R. " NZOW Det.: Maintenance of vehicles; weather fine.
 Nemeara " Tanks W/S: Working on Chev dump truck and jeep; Four No. 19 wireless sets received for repair.
 Treasury " 42 LAD: Normal LAD routine with Arty Trg Depot and other vehicles; completion of hand-over
 Bourail " stocktaking from 2/Lt Sherson to 2/Lt Burt.
 G'canal " 64 LAD: Fine and hot; area cleared up quickly; Special rations etc arrived for Xmas. Finished
 Bourail " work early and cleared up area for Christmas.
 G'canal " 65 LAD: MT maintenance; complete check of unit equipment.
 Bourail " A.O.D.: Routine duties; sections continue to pack stores for North.
 " B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather fine; unit entertainment in evening.

Necal 25 Christmas Day. In all units only absolutely essential work was done. Special arrangements
 and made by the Nat Pat Bard and unit committees enabled a generous supply of comforts and
 Solomons seasonable celebrations. In some Ordnance units the Officers and NCOs waited on the men
 and did the fatigues for the day. From all reports a very good time was had by all.

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

G' canal 14 Dec A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs ; broadcasting unit making a recording of the work proceeding on men's mess and ablution area.
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: The unit, with the assistance of one landing barge, moved to the new position on Vella Island (Treasury Gp). Map ref. 194.15 - 74.1.
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; Received Xmas issue of comforts, beer etc.
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Instructions received to sent to FMC one heavy welder. This will be a Hobart type from Rear DOW and will be mounted on a Chev 4 x 4 ~~Kharsix~~ vehicle.
 Lunga Riv." Tanks W/S: Metalling etc of roadway ; finished ration store constn.; commenced welding grousers to tank tracks on tank 22802. This is an experiment as all previous grousers have been bolted to the tank tracks, but it is found that bolts work loose and are lost.
 Vella " 20 and 37 LADs: Normal workshop and LAD routine.
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Very busy day ; all types of repairs ; spare parts coming to hand fairly well. Brake linings now available. General condition of camp is good. Cooking will improve when new stove arrives. Small 2-burner type are of very little use under Army conditions.
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Convoy of 22 4 x 2 vehicles left for Noumea. Two men and wrecker as LAD to the convoy.
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties ; sorting of stores and packing of indents in full swing.
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; weather wet and temperatures rather high. Major Knight arrived from Noumea.

G' canal 15 A.O.W.: Bofors Gun received from AOD for repair. This gun had been badly damaged in transit from NZ. Armourers engaged on repairing & overhaul of Small Arms received from fwd areas. Instrument mechanics repairing and overhauling predictors. Camp constn. continuing. Hygiene Officer gave a favourable report on layout and condition of camp. 1 O/R evacuated to CCS being unfit.
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Camp construction on new site. 1 O/R evacuated to hospital.
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; 1 O/R evacuated to hospital.
 Moindah " Rear DOW: The balance of commercial type 4 x 2 vehicles are being evacuated to Noumea by DOW & other personnel, to be shipped to NZ as shipping is available. Routine repairs in workshop.
 Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: A new road is being constructed through the camp area and it has been found necessary to establish the workshop in another site. This is being done.
 Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: Two water pumps on tanks repaired. Also repairs to base junction. Foot inspection. Camp constn. returns made.
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles ; 25 dollars collected for War Widows (NEEF IP) Xmas gift. Various troubles are increasing - climate seems to promote this trouble. Two men to hospital.
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Greasing and general maintenance as well as repairs increasing. Two men to hospital. troubles are increasing - climate seems to promote this trouble. Two men to hospital.
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Started to prepare second convoy of 4 x 2 vehicles for shipment.
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Concrete being laid for shower site ; packing stores for fwd areas.
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; unloading of trucks from Noumea continues. Weather wet.

Lt.-Col.,
 R.A.R.C.S.

G' canal 16 Dec SOME (DIV): Requested OME 8 Bde to check position re damaged predictors. Components from these tested urgently for repair and servicing of 14 predictors now being checked at AOW.

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

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Camp constn. Two O/Rs admitted to hospital.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; completed workshop and QM store.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Further convoy of commercial vehicles taken to Noumea. All branches of the workshops fully occupied. Machinery waggons being used to full capacity by the employment of two shifts.

Noumea " Engine reconditioning plant shop in full operation to full extent of tradesmen available.

Treasury " NZOW Det: Mt maintenance ; visit by Offr i/c Admin. Weather fine.

" " 29 LAA W/S: Removal to new camp site and preparation under way. The new area is much better than the old in that it is comparatively level and a portion had been cleared for use as a P.O.L. depot.

Lunga R. " The cleared area is sufficiently large to enable us to erect cookhouse, parts store, workshop, instrument shop, ration store etc and still leave sufficient space for vehicles under and awaiting repair.

Vella " Tanks W/S: Completed metalling & grading roadway to camp; In workshops both lathes working full time, and then turned on the lathe, later reassembled and fitted by the fitters. Four of these to be done.

Nemeara " 20 and 37 LADs: Normal duties ; still very hot.

Treasury " 42 LAD: Working on vehicles ; 1 O/R of unit on manoeuvres with Arty Trg Depot.

" " 64 LAD: Jeeps continue to give more trouble than any other vehicles. Difficulty in getting springs for them. Good working conditions with weather fine. Two men in hospital, one with septic sores.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; weather fine and hot ; unloading trucks from Noumea.

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G' canal 17 A.O.W.: Workshop section fully occupied with MT repairs.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Camp construction.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Routine repairs and maintenance to all types of vehicles.

Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: Minor workshops repairs keeping all hands busy. Completed welding grousers on tank tracks of Tank 22802. 15 grousers are attached to each track and require 200 ft 8G GP electrodes for welding. To do this work on all Sqn tanks wd require 4000 ft of electrodes. Procured large trailer load of air strip matting from Salvage dump, to lay around workshops for tanks traffic.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Another man m/o. to hospital with skin trouble on feet and ankles. Busy day in repair section - mostly jeeps and a few F.30 Fords. Weather threatening.

" " Other LADs and workshops : Normal routine.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Areas being prepared for stores expected to arrive from NZ ex AK 70 (US "Crater") and AK 96 (US "steropy") which will be discharging locally soon.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; Amm repair party under Capt Smith left for Noumea at 0830 hrs to commence repair of ammm at Noumea dump. Weather fine and hot.

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

D.A.D.O.S.

G' canal 18 Dec A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs ; construction of men's mess.
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Camp constn. Interior economy ; 1 O/r admitted to hospital.
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance.
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Hobart heavy duty welder despatched to Noumea for shipment to G' canal.
 Lunga R " Tank W/S: I.E. of workshops in morning, cleaning and greasing tool kits. In afternoon
 camp area tidied. Facilities about the camp being constructed as time permits.
 Vella " 37 LAD: Usual duties in morning, rifle inspection and clean-up of unit lines.
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Heavy rain ; work held up, as workshop area is cutting up and getting very muddy
 Coral breaking up in the mud causes a lot of brake trouble etc. More coverage desirable for
 workshop area.
 Bourail " 65 LAD: MT work on Base vehicles etc. Rifle inspection. Other LADs - normal Saturday routine.
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections ; ~~mess~~ Parties working shifts to cope with trucks
 arriving from early morning and through the day and night.

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 Vella 19 DADOS Office: GS instruction received re handling of signal messages at G' canal and Vella.
 G' canal " A.O.W.: Voluntary church parade ; I.E.; camp area cleaned up.
 Lunga R " Tanks W/S: Church parade ; during afternoon recreational period party visited Mount Austin.
 Vella " 20 LAD: Day off for men. 2/Lt CP BURT m/o to 42 LAD (exchanging with 2/Lt Sheron of 42 LAD).
 " " 37 LAD: Men attended dedication of Island Cemetery by Bishop Gerard of 2 NZ DIV.
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Work has quietened off. Have to move back to original camp across the harbour so are
 not doing many improvements to present camp. Weather clearer, but still showers.
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Most of personnel on unloading stores with only skeleton staff on duty in stores. Party of
 Infantry personnel recalled to Transit Camp.
 Bourail " Routine duties. Other units: In general men given time off for personal duties, recreation etc.

Vella 20 DADOS Office: DADOS conferred with GOC re 8 Bde tentage.
 G' canal " A.O.W.: 2/Lt I.D. Fraser m/o to DOW, NECAL. GME (Instruments) inspected damaged dial sights
 at AOD. These had been damaged during transit from NI owing to insufficient packing.
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs ; camp construction.
 Moindah " Rear DOW: 1 reinft tradesman received from Base Reception Depot. This unit is being slowly
 strengthened by addition of tradesmen from Base units.
 Noumea " NEOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; visit by Major Lawson (SOE (Base) and Major Grierson of
 NERFIP HQ (MT adviser) re reorganisation etc. weather continuing fine.
 Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: General workshop repairs ; commenced moving heavy Field Park stores to new site.
 Nemera " 42 LAD: 2/Lt Burt from 20 LAD m/o to take over from 2/Lt Sheron, as OC. Other LADs - normal work.
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Ships almost finished unloading. Another ten men arrived from Transit camp as casual help.
 Bourail " Routine duties. A.O.D.: Routine duties continuing.

Lt.-Col.,
 R.A.S.C.

Vella 21 Dec DADOS OFFICE: Demonstration arranged by HQ Bde for purpose of determining whether .303-in
 mm nitro cellulose filled gave off more smoke than Cordite filled amm. GOC attended, also
 DADOS. Firing tests conducted with Vickers LMG, Bren LMG and Rifles, Incl. Jap rifle. WRA Mk. 7a
 nitro cellulose filled amm does give off rather more smoke than GAC's Mk. 7a nitro cellulose
 amm. Not much difference ~~between~~ between latter and GAC Mk. 7a cordite filled amm.

G'canal " A.C.W.: MT maintenance and repairs.
 Treasury " No. 1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs. Major COSTELLOE and batman left to return to A.C.W.
 Vella " No. 2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance; commenced working until 1600 hrs in p.m.
 Moindah " Rear HQ: Repairs to signal wireless vans and to Base Transport. Spring failures have shown
 a marked decrease now that the vehicles are operating under better road conditions.
 Lunga R. " Tank W/B: Completed moving field park stores to new site. Received Xmas comforts. Repairs etc
 to tanks.
 Vella " 37 LAD: Normal routine. One O/R marched out to hospital.
 Nemera " 42 LAD: Checking over stores prior to hand-over of unit (occupied until 24th). Routine maintenance.
 Treasury " 61 LAD: Shortage of oxygen and jeep springs. 1 O/R returned from hospital.
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Convoy of 20 vehicles left for Nouma, with 2 men and wrecker as L.A.D.
 " " 80, 65 LADs: Normal duties.
 G'canal " A.C.D.: OO Capt Reid, admitted to 24th MI mb hospital. Capt McCarthy assumes temp. comd of unit.
 Bourail " D/M Harvey of Assn Sec returned to unit from hospital.
B.C.D.: Routine duties; weather fine.

G'canal 22 OCME (DIV): Arrangements made with ACD for a compressor plant to be despatched to each Recovery
 Section, together with an initial supply of camouflage dressing paint, for the re-camouflaging
 of serviceable tents.
 " " A.C.W.: MT maintenance and repairs.
 Treasury " No. 1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs; great difficulty is being experienced by the
 instrument section in repairing optical instruments. With only a tent for shelter, in wet
 weather it is practically impossible to do any repairs owing to the extreme humidity. Some
 type of air-conditioned truck or trailer wd assist greatly.
 Nouma " NSOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles; weather fine; swim parade in afternoon.
 Treasury " 82 LAA W/B: Move to new site completed; some delay owing to weather conditions. Some stores
 slightly damaged by water.
 Lunga " Tank W/B: Camp improvements; laying strip metal in workshop area. General repairs.
 Treasury " 61 LAD: Increase of work with fine weather. Parcels and mail arrived. Other LADs etc.: normal work.
 G'canal " A.C.D.: One man sent to hospital en route to Neceal. Routine duties in stores.
 Bourail " B.C.D.: Weather fine and very hot; routine duties in all sections.

W. J. ...
 Lt.-Col.,
P.A.P.C.S.

NZ Ordnance Corps, 3 DIV, REPAIR

Vella 26 Dec DADOS Office: Letter to Brig. DOVE (O 1/c/A) re replacement of vehicles. Notes received from Major Knight on his trip to N.Z. on tour of duty.

G'canal " A.O.W. Urgent repairs and maintenance only.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec, 64 LAD, 29 LAA W/S: Sunday and Boxing Day - men attended aquatic sports.

- " Other units: Sunday programme.- rest and recreation.

~~NAN~~Vella 27 DADOS Office: Copies of a confidential Australian Army report on tropical conditions in New Guinea and their effect on various Army stores have been received and distributed among Ordnance Depots, and Brigades for guidance. In general similar conditions and results have been experienced in this area, and the same solutions may suit both areas.

G'canal " A.O.W.: Normal workshop routine.

- " No.1 and No.2 Rec Secs.: Vehicle and armament repairs.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Free day in accordance with NZEFIP instructions; normal leave. Other Base units likewise.

Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: Installed No. 19 radio set in tank sqn. jeep. Repairs to other sets proceeding. Packed and prepared all vehicles in readiness for manoeuvres which were later cancelled.

Vella " 20 LAD: Urgent work carried out on MT.

" " 37 LAD: NZ swimming carnival and entertainments at Roadhouse.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Resumed work today; not very busy; weather remains fine.

G'canal " A.O.D.: A small quantity of stores being unloaded from US "Garrison" ex NECAL.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Showery weather; temperatures high; no duties.

Vella 28 DADOS Office: DADOS conferred with GOC re 2/Lt SIMMONDS (ex NZ and in NECAL) joining NZOC as an O.M.E. (later accepted).

G'canal " A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and Armaments repairs.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: Party of men left at 0900 hrs for trip round Vella Lavella in boat, returning 30th.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Routine maintenance and repairs; a further 3 jeeps have been drawn from VRD for complete reconditioning. 2/Lt SKINNER G.A.P. marched out to B.R.D. to take over 37 LAD.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. Sgt Armourer m/o. to NZ on compassionate leave. Weather fine.

Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: Manoeuvres cancelled by Malaria Control. All vehicles were prepared in readiness to move and personnel received benefit of this training.

Vella " 20 and 37 LAD: Only urgent duties.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: 2/Lt Sherson m/o to BRD prior to taking over 20 LAD. Notified that 3 men to be tfd to 65 LAD.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Work increasing; greasing section very busy. Jeep springs and brakes still troublesome.

Bourail " 65 LAD: Unit officially handed over to Lt. J.R. Buckley, to be organised as an Engr LAD. (Tractors etc).

G'canal " A.O.D.: ~~A small quantity of stores being~~ Newly arrived stores being sorted and indents fulfilled.

Bourail " B.O.D.: OC and 15 O/Rs recorded messages for NZ. Major Knight also gave a talk on "Ordnance".

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

Vella 29 Dec DADOS Office: Tentative arrangements made (with GOC's concurrence) for Capt REID to be appointed as "Assistant to DADOS", but left in abeyance owing to Capt REID being in hospital. Asked R. BOD to give details of instances of faulty and unsuitable packing by NZ for this area.

G' canal " SOME (DIV): Report received from 29 LAA W/Shops that unit is under strength and request made for matter to be investigated. Matter deferred. Arranged for 2/Lt DANBY and 3 O/Rs of AOW to proceed to fwd areas on a tour of inspection of instruments, etc.

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

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and Armament repairs. 1 O/R to hospital.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Instructed by DAAG Base to march out 5 O/Rs to reinforce 65 LAD (att. Engr unit).

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; weather fine.

Lunga R " Tanks W/S: General workshop repairs.

Vella " 20 LAD: Urgent work on M.T. Weather very hot.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles ; 1 O/R marched in as Arm. Artificer. This man is a Small Arms Artificer and has had no experience on Field Guns (which this LAD requires).

Treasury " 64 LAD: Very busy day again, greasing and repairs ; Caterpillar tractors giving trouble, two coming in today. Another man to hospital with skin trouble. (This is very prevalent in this Group).

" " Other LADS : MV casualties and maintenance.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties ; 10 trucks from MT pool loading with stores for shipment to 8 Bde.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Five trucks of stores loaded and despatched for NZ at 1200 hrs. Routine duties. Weather fine.

Vella 30 DADOS Office: Letter to Major Knight explaining the reason for appointing a "Deputy DADOS".

G' canal " A.O.W.: Report on R.E.M.E. Notes was submitted to SOME (DIV) - See Appendix I. Appendix I.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs ; a small stock of MT parts received from AOD.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Work executed to improve camp sanitary facilities. - new drainage etc.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles and I.E., ; weather fine.

Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: General workshops repairs ; Repairs completed to ~~new~~ wireless ~~set~~ sets.

Vella " 37 LAD: Eight personnel went up the coast in a captured Jap barge. No duties in unit.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Busy again ; a lot of maintenance work ; - greasing checking, and the tuning of carburettors. Two jeeps on dead-line awaiting springs, which No.1 Rec Sec cannot supply.

Bourail " 65 LAD: MV maintenance ; commenced packing unit equipment for move north.

G' canal. " A.O.D.: Inspection of area by Hygiene Officer. Indents from 8 Bde coming in steadily and being actioned by all sections of the Depot.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties.

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

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

G' canal 31 Dec A.O.W.: 11 Predictors returned to AOD. Three still held in workshops for further repairs. One elevating telescope was found to be beyond repair and had to be replaced. When checking these predictors, it was found that in six cases the open sight was missing from the predictor. New ones have been made to put the instruments in serviceable condition. This matter is being referred to the O.O., A.O.D., as apparently the sights were omitted when the sets were packed for shipment in NZ.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Workshop maintenance routine.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Weather very wet; only necessary work done. Shortage of welding gas has caused a number of jobs to be declined. One man returned from hospital. Some tents are leaking badly in spite of increased pitch on flies.

Bourail " 65 LAD: Packing unit equipment for fwd move. Other LADs & Workshops - normal routine mostly.

Moindah " 67 LAD: Month concludes with the unit fully engaged in the repair and maintenance of vehicles at V.R.D. In the course of the month, 120 canopies were removed for storage; 30 tyres repaired and 80 batteries removed for charging, and at the workshop 18 jobs completed.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Packing of stores for 8 Bde. Volume of work has increased considerably over the past fortnight.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Rifle parade at 0745 hrs. Kit inspection at 1315 hrs. Routine duties. Two trucks of unit personnel visited Bourail Club for New Year's celebrations in evening.

Unit Summaries for month (where supplied):

Moindah - Rear DOW: Ship loading at Nepoui was completed speedily and efficiently, 276 vehicles being loaded in 40 hrs. Reinforcements of technical personnel are gradually bringing unit up to the strength required for its role. Relief from certain current repairs has been experienced since the withdrawal of commercial 4 x 2 vehicles. The improved road conditions have greatly reduced the amount of spring work. All ranks enjoyed and benefited by the 3 day Xmas break & celebrations.

Houma - NEOW Det.: Another busy month with personnel working to capacity. Loss of armorer Sgt reduces unit strength to 12 men. Supplies of AF parts have been slow and poorer than usual. All ranks had a good Xmas, and considering the pressure of work and shortage of men, morale is high. Health and weather good.

Treasury Sp. 29 LAA W/Shops: Fire control instruments are giving an increasing amount of trouble, and all notes taken down during the month have shown that they will not be in a serviceable condition soon, without extensive replacement of component parts. Guns to date have been very satisfactory, and have required little or no attention by this unit. Inspection of guns has revealed that rust, in spite of the efforts of gunners, has made an appearance on many of the internal parts of guns and mountings.

Transport: Quite a number of vehicles are now due for top overhaul and brake re-line, and with the gradual stabilising of camps, these vehicles should be able to be released to workshops to have the necessary repairs carried out. As roads improve and washing facilities ~~improve~~ become available, more attention will be ~~available~~ able to be paid to lubrication, which at the moment is very poor.

G' canal SOME (DIV): See Appendix II re Fire Control Insts etc.

W. J. ...
Lt.-Col.,
R.A.S.

Appendix II.

Appendices.

I - Advanced Ordnance Workshops - re Instruments etc.

II - S.O.M.E. (DIV) re Instruments etc.

(From Adv Ordnance Workshops, Guadalcanal).

The following report on R.E.M.E. Notes was submitted to S.O.M.E. (DIV):

1. Condensation or Sweating: This form of trouble is very bad in all optical instruments; once a glass has been affected its length of life in the field is very much restricted and in some cases a matter of weeks. Some form of dessication, fitted in such a manner as will enable semi-skilled labour to remove and dry out, is necessary. As a suggestion, it is possible for a dessicator to be fitted on the cover plates of all standard Army binoculars, and in the case of telescopes, fitted on the tubes, externally, by a clip, in preference to screws. Silica Jell crystals would be sufficient.

Another cause of optical trouble in binoculars is the fact that a very large number of binoculars in the Div were very badly affected by fungus, which once having started redevelops very rapidly under the present humid conditions.

The point which I would like to make is, any optical instrument which has been affected badly should be withdrawn and returned for polishing. This would help in the matter, combined with the fitting of dessicators.

2. Sealing or Waterproofing: A copy of the Pamphlet (DME Branch) 25/Man/3195, would help us to compare our methods and give some valuable help in this type of work.

3. Wireless Sets: Breakdown in transformers and condensers due to green spot, possibly caused by damp conditions in jungle.

4. Predictors: Most damage has been caused during beach landings as the type of box is not suitable for rolling over and over. A cylindrical steel box suitably fitted inside to protect the predictor would meet the need. Moisture in the predictors can be overcome by a suitable system of dessication.

5. Generators: These have been a source of trouble as the mountings on the electric motor smash up. These have been replaced with iron mountings which should prove satisfactory.

6. Oil Motors - Bofors 40 mm Gun: Heavy rusting of the rotor of the electric motor has been experienced. Excess oil in chain case works up on chain to the electric windings. Buffer hydraulic oil was used in lieu of Torpoyl oil. This was found to be most unsatisfactory, causing rusting and blacking of parts. It is recommended that any motor so found should be cleaned out immediately.

7. Magslip Elements - 2" & 3": Diaphragms in these are rusting and are being replaced. There is only one case of a winding having sold out, - cause unknown. This winding was not burnt out.

8. Watches Stop and GS: Main faults are as follows:
(a) Main springs breaking
(b) Balance staffs "
(c) General faults.

9. Rangefinders, Nos 2, 12 & 13: Fungus growths on lenses and prisms.

10. Sights, Dial, No. 7, 7A, 7C: Fungus growths on lenses, graduated scales on the 7C instrument have been
General repairs. It is desired to point out that the graduated scales on the 7C instrument have been
found to be in error up to 20 min.

W. J. G. 2/1/50

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L.P.
MAY 1950

Appendix I (contd.) (A.O.W.)

11. Directors, No.7, 7A and 6:
- (a) Fungus growth on lenses and prisms.
 - (b) Wear on worm spindles. No spares available.
 - (c) Agates in compass needles. No spares available.
 - (d) General repairs.
12. Compasses, Prism and Liquid.:
Repairs of a general nature carried out.
13. Telescopes, Stereoscopic:
These have only recently come to hand and no report can be offered.
14. Stands, Instrument - (All types) : General repairs.
15. Clinometers. Field and Sight: Replacement of bubbles and general overhauls.
16. Periscopes: Fungus on lenses and prisms.
17. The question of spares is still difficult and where possible parts are made. No alteration to standard patterns are carried out, No. L of C are available or ACIs. They would be greatly appreciated to enable changes to be noted and also any proposed changes. This would enable us to be prepared to receive and repair any new or old pattern instruments.
18. Repair of optical instruments is being made very difficult by not having available a suitable shop in which to work.
A small truck suitably fitted would give greater service. ^{any paper indicators could then be fitted.} The American Instrument Secs have a very suitable type of truck working here, details of which could be obtained if required.

W. J. ...
.....Lt.-Col.,
MAJOS.

(1) GENERAL REPORT
(2) REPORT ON WORKSHOP UNITS
(3) REPORT ON WORKSHOP UNITS
(4) REPORT ON WORKSHOP UNITS

APPENDIX II

J.O.M. 6-1-44

Conditions for repair of Fire Control Instruments are particularly bad. Deterioration is heavy, owing to climatic conditions, and a mobile air-conditioned workshop is essential in these areas to combat humidity and weather.

Replacement stores in Advanced Ordnance Depot are affected through humidity; recent shipment of Predictors received in poor condition, necessitating extensive repairs mostly due to condensation.

Very heavy repairs to Brake systems on M.T. vehicles are being found necessary due to conditions of operation. Spring replacements in Jeeps, particularly, are considerable.

It is essential to supply Ord. Repair detachments with a complete range of quickly moving parts to cover first month's operation, owing to unavoidable time lag through shipping. This position is alleviated once air communication is established.

W.E. TABLES for all Workshop Units are inadequate so far as shelters are concerned.

Electric welding units in all machine shops forward are too light. D.O.W. should have not less than three Heavy Duty Welders, trailer type, one being made available to any Bde..Workshops Group operating independently.

W. J. ...
BA