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3 NZ DIV ORDNANCE CORPS

N.Z.E.F.I.P.

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for the month of

JANUARY     1944  
JANUARY     1944

Volume     XXIV

17 Sheets

plus Appendices. (4).

INDEX OF

(a)

Consolidated War Diary for JANUARY 1944.

3 DIV ORDNANCE CORPS, 2 NZEFIP (incl. Base and Divisional Units)  
comprising the following units:-

Div Ordnance HQ being : DADOS Office (Rear Sec) GUADALCANAL. B.S.I.P.  
DADOS Office (Main) VELLA LAVELLA "  
(Joined at Guadalcanal from 11 Jan 44.)  
S.O.M.E. (DIV) GUADALCANAL  
S.O.M.E. (Base) New Caledonia

Div Ordnance Workshops: Advanced Detachment, G'canal.  
No.1 Rec Sec with 8 Bde - Treasury Gp, BSIP.  
No.2 Rec Sec with 14 Bde - Vella Lavella.  
Rear Detachment DOW - Moindah, New Caledonia  
Base Detachment, DOW - Bourail, New Caledonia  
(formed during month).

NZ Ordnance Workshops Detachment, Noumea (Section of DOW) - Noumea, N.C.

29 Lt AA Workshops (att 29 LAA Regt) : - Treasury Gp (with No.1 R/Sec).

Tank Workshops and Fd Park Detachment: - att 3 NZ DIV Tank Sqn,  
Lunga River Area, G'canal.

20 L.A.D. (att 17 Fd Regt). - Vella Lavella.  
37 L.A.D. (att 14 Bde Gp.). - Vella Lavella.  
42 L.A.D. (att Arty Trg Depot) - Nemeara.  
64 L.A.D. (att 8 Bde Gp.) - Treasury Gp.  
65 L.A.D. (att 3 DIV ENGRS) - Bourail & G'canal  
67 L.A.D. (ex att. 3 Div Sigs) : With Rear Det. DOW - Moindah N.C.

Base Ordnance Depot (Rear Sec) - Bourail, Necal.

Advanced Ordnance Depot: - Guadalcanal

(plus Fwd section of A.O.D. at Vella Lavella)

WAR  
DIARY

used  
1762  
0720

Volume 24, January 1944. Sheet 1.

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.  
(Form N.Z.-375.)  
(In parts of 100.)

**WAR DIARY - 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**  
Compiled by DADOS Office, HQ 3 NZ DIV.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
Vella	1 Jan		<p><u>DADOS Office</u> : DADOS attended G.O.C.'s conference. Intimation received that three "Early Warning Sets" for L.A.A. Batteries, are coming forward, and the personnel to service them will include one NZ Ordnance Officer - "Radio Maintenance Officer (Lieut Clark AOC)" and one Sgt (radio mechanic) and these two will be posted to "29 LAA Workshop (Supernumerary)". Stated by HQ DIV ARTY that the expected maximum performance of these sets, mounted on 30 cwt 4 x 4 trucks, is a pick-up at 50 miles with height accuracy of 300 ft. I.F.F. sets are included. (These sets and personnel, first detachment, duly arrived, in February).</p> <p><u>A.O.W.</u> : Personnel granted general leave for the day.</p> <p><u>No. 1 Rec Sec</u> : Recreational day.</p> <p><u>No. 2 Rec Sec</u> : Recreational day ; NCOs did fatigues and served meals.</p> <p><u>Rear DOW</u> : Observed as a holiday as instructed. Most members of unit attended race meeting at Sports Ground, and various entertainments in the evening.</p> <p><u>NZOW det</u> : Free day for men ; weather hot.</p> <p><u>29 LAA W/S</u> : Camp has settled down ; mostly routine work being done now.</p> <p><u>Tanks W/S</u> : Day free.</p> <p><u>20 and 37 LAD's</u> : Day free, no duties.</p> <p><u>42 LAD</u> : Maintenance on vehicles ; check of camp and personal equipment.</p> <p><u>64 LAD</u> : Day off for all ranks.</p> <p><u>65 LAD</u> : Day free.</p> <p><u>67 LAD</u> : New Years Day free ; month starts with the unit fully employed in the Vehicle Reception Depot, Moindah. The work includes lubrication, charging and checking batteries, engine tune-ups, minor repairs and adjustments, starting and moving of vehicles, also maintenance to School of Signals, Officers School, and through traffic.</p> <p><u>A.O.D.</u> : Depot working in morning but afternoon free. Depot area very muddy and roads bad.</p> <p><u>B.O.D.</u> : Free Day ; personnel attended a Race Meeting at Moindah sports ground. Weather fine.</p>	
Guadalcanal	"	-		
Vella	"			
Treasury	"			
Moindah	"			
Noumea	"			
Treasury	"			
Lunga R.	"			
Vella	"			
Nemeara	"			
Treasury	"			
Bourail	"			
Moindah	"			
G' canal	"			
Bourail	"			

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Finance Corps, NZEFIP

Guadalcanal 2 Jan (Sun) A.O.W.: Church parade.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: Party of 1 Offr and 14 O/Rs went on trip to GIZO by boat.  
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Church parade; i.e., and normal leave.  
 Lunga R " Tanks W/S: Church parade ; 2 men to hospital.  
 Vella " 20 and 37 LAD: No duties. Other LADS - Sunday, free day.  
 G'eanal " A.O.D.: All sections loading out stores for 8 Bde. A great deal of stores which are ready to go fwd had to be held on account of lack of space on LST  
 Bourail. " B.O.D.: Weather fine ; Trucks to beach and to hospital in afternoon.

Vella 3 DADOS Office: Return called for of respirators becoming unserviceable. Advised AOD that they must hold 90 days supply for the Division of all Ordnance stores, taking into account the accelerated deterioration and rate of replacement of some items, as far as they can be forecast. Correspondence from Major Knight re the appointment of an assistant to DADOS.  
 G' canal " A.O.W.: MT repairs and maintenance. Construction commenced of electrician's, welding & panelbeaters' shop.  
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs ; 1 nco to hospital.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance.  
 Noumea " NZOW Det: Installed water heater in YMCA; weather continuing hot.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: Commenced overhaul of engine of Leyland Machinery truck; general workshop repairs.  
 Vella " 20 LAD: Packing up for move to new area.  
 Vella " 37 LAD: Normal workshop routine.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles ; called out to assist GMC on main road North.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: MT repairs and maintenance.  
 Bourail " 65 LAD: M/V. maintenance ; constructing boxes for gear moving fwd.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties ; Depot much busier and continually packing stores for fwd area. A great deal of stores are being sent to Vella by air.

Vella 4 DADOS Office: Report from AOD ref method of packing and preserving stores shipped from NZ Ordnance Depots - see Appx. I for summarised report. Issue of Jungle suits and pup tents to units on Vella.  
 G' canal " SOME (DIV): Received copy of Australian Army publication on conditions for service material in the tropics. Noted that similar difficulties occur in this theatre as in the New Guinea area with which this report deals, in particular.  
 " " AOW: Lt DANBY and 3 O/Rs of instrument section marched out on tour of duty to 8 and 14 Bde areas. MT maintenance and repairs.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; Lt DANBY and 3 O/Rs arrived by air. Dozer tractors D4 and D7 are in bad state of repair. Practically impossible to repair them as there are very few parts available.

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

Appx I.

WAR  
 DIARY

Moindah 4 Jan Rear DOW: Work to full capacity in various sections of workshops ; personnel have greatly benefited by 3 days break.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles.

Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: Routine duties ; several personnel still with No.2 Rec Sec det at Vella. There are regular alerts, and there have been two raids, but no casualties in the section.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Repairs to 60 ton press commenced.

Vella " 20 LAD: Four O/Rs sent to new camp area.

" " 37 LAD: Normal workshop routine ; started painting vehicles, limited amount of paint available.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles ; sports afternoon.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Most of day spent in preparing to move camp ; only urgent MT repairs done.

Bourail " 65 LAD: 14 O/Rs moved to BTD awaiting embarkation ; (later moved back to unit).

G' canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties.

Bourail " BOD: Routine duties ; weather warm but overcast.

G' canal 5 A.O.W.: Construction of panel-beaters shop ; 2/Lt Skinner G.A.P. m/o to 37 LAD as OC.

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

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; camp lighting supplied from machinery waggoh. Check of tool kits.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Workshops maintenance ; storm warning received at 2000 hrs.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Lecture on malarial control ; general maintenance & repairs, incl miscellaneous welding and turning jobs.

Vella " 20 LAD: Equipment sent to new area.

" " 37 LAD: 2/Lt G.A.P. SKINNER m/i as OC of unit from DOW.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Completed packing ; party of men at work cleaning new site.

Bourail " 65 LAD: Preparing for fwd move ; personnel at BTD moved back to unit to assist with packing.

G' canal " AOD: New cookhouse under construction ; Routine duties.

Bourail " BOD: Weather fine ; routine duties.

G' canal 6 AOW: Major D.T. Costelloe m.o to HQ DOW (by air). Arrival of Stands, Instrument, and testing equipment from AOD should facilitate the carrying out of repairs by Armament Sec.

" No.1 & No.2 Rec Secs: Routine maintenance and repair jobs ; also Rear DOW, and NZOW Det (Noumea)

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Lecture by Bishop Gerard, senior chaplain 3 Div, on his experiences in the M.E. and in Italy. Culvert laid in workshops area entrance ; repairs to Leyland mach. truck completed.

Vella " 20 LAD: Finished movement to new area.

" " 37 LAD: Stock take by new OC ; ~~120/Rzm/oxtozhospital~~ normal workshop routine.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Moved over to new area ; erected tents etc.

Bourail " 65 LAD: Packing for move ; Det. of DOW doing MT work. in area.

Moindah " 67 LAD: Twenty 4 x 2 vehicles left for Noumea ; wrecker and 2 men as LAD to convoy.

G' canal " A.O.D.: New tank installed for ablution stand ; Bishop Gerard addressed personnel after work.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather fine and hot ; Routine duties in all sections.

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

SECRET

Vella 7 Jan DADOS Office: In view of NZ's continued difficulty in supplying welding gas, it is recommended to BOD that we henceforth depend solely on US services of supply for this item, and return the few NZ cylinders concerned to NZ.

G'canal " AOW: Mobile equipment of 144 Bty checked and overhauled. Repairs where necessary.

Moindah " No.1 & No.2 Rec Secs: MT and armament repairs.

Lunga " DOW: Major D.T. Costelloe m/i from fwd area ; Major Lawson marched out to duties as SOME (BASE). Tanks W/S: Two tanks received in workshops for welding repairs; one received for governor setting. General workshops repairs.

Vella " 20 LAD: Cleaned up old camp site and started building workshop in new area.

" " 37 LAD: 1 O/R marched out to hospital ; stock take continuing.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Heavy rain ; little camp constn. because of mud.

Bourail " 65 LAD: Men constructing cases and packing gear. DOW detachment doing MT repairs.

G'canal " A.O.D.: 2/Lieut PASCOE admitted to 24 Fd Amb. hospital with jaundice; This leaves Captain McCarthy as the only Depot Officer at a time when work is at a peak.

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

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Vella 8 DADOS Office: New ambulances being issued at rate of 4 per Fd Amb (12 in all) two to the CCS, and 4 to be held in reserve at DOW. Those for 22 and 7 Fd Amb to be held until ADMS advises. Old pattern ambulances to be returned and vouchered to ~~DADOS~~ <sup>402</sup> at FMC for shipment to NECAL by earliest ship.

G'canal " AOW: Constn of panelbeaters shop. I.E., and camp area cleaned up in morning and leave for sports in afternoon.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle & armament repairs ; 2/Lt DANBY & 3 O/Rs arrived on a tour of duty to inspect instruments and guns.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; 1 NCO evacuated to hospital.

Moindah " DOW: Parade and small arms inspection at 0800 hrs; Work until 1100 hrs ; I.E., & leave in P.M.

Noumea " NZOW DET: I.E.; MT maintenance etc ; visit by O.I.C.A. Weather still hot.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Tanks repairs ; Inspection of workshops and tool kits; I.E. of camp area in afternoon.

Vella " 20 LAD: Setting up new area(over next three days).

" " 37 LAD: MT maintenance ; inspection of rifles.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles ; tool check; inspection of area; maintenance of equipment.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Weather cleared enough to start work; have started to build another ramp. Carting of coral.

G'canal " A.O.D.: Volume of work makes it necessary to stop day off each week for personnel. Small break of half a day arranged at week-end.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections until 1200 hrs ; weather fine.

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

SECRET

9 (Sunday) A.O.W., No.1 & No.2 Rec Secs, DOW and NZOW Det (Noumea): Normal Sunday programme —free day.  
 Also 29 LAA W/shops; tank Workshops; 67 LAD and BOD.

Vella " 20 LAD : Preparation of new camp area.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Bulldozer clearing and levelling workshop area. Other construction work.  
 Bourail " 65 LAD: Packing in preparation for move.  
 G' canal. " A.O.D.: Captain REID returned from 24 Fd Amb hospital and resumed duty as OC unit. Packing stores for Vella as quickly as possible.

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G' canal 10 A.O.W. : Checking and servicing 18 ambulances for issue to units. Armourers repairing Small arms received from AOD.  
 Moindah " D.O.W.: Supplies of vehicle spares coming to hand slowly. 13 men marched in from 65 LAD remnant for duty with Base Detachment. This detachment, at Bourail, under comd of DOW, is to service all vehicles at Base.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: Tank repairs and adjustments.  
 Vella " 37 LAD: Workshop routine, with general clean-up of camp site.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles; 4 men on weapon training.  
 Bourail " 65 LAD: 14 O/Rs moved to BTD awaiting embarkation; left rear party of 1 Offr and 3 O/Rs,  
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery unit 23 miles south to recover Chev 20 cwt with wheel collapsed.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Loading stores for Vella; Depot is in a very muddy condition.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections.

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Vella 11 DADOS Office : Returned to join rear section and SOME (DIV) at A.O.D., G' canal. Lt.-Col Myers, 3 clerks, and batman; WO and driver returned few days later.  
 G' canal " A.O.W.: Panelbeaters shop and store completed. This should give adequate protection against the wet conditions at present being experienced. Routine maintenance and repairs.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance; one man to hospital, and one back from hospital.  
 Moindah " DOW: Workshops maintenance; small arms practice on local range to embrace rifle, Bren Gun and TSMG.  
 Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles; weather fine.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: General repairs and adjustments on unit jeep, and small welding and turning jobs.  
 Vella " Timber obtained for erection of RAP.  
 " 20 LAD 2/Lt SHERSON marched in from 42 LAD as OC. General maintenance.  
 " 37 LAD: Workshop routine; made up burners for cook-house.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance; 4 men on weapon training.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Weather still holding up work on new camp.  
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery unit 17 miles to South to fix Chev 4 x 4 15 cwt. General maintenance at VRD.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Packing of stores from all sections for fwd area.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections.  
 Bourail " Base Det DOW: Taken over from 65 LAD. Work on camp & roads.

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

G' canal 12 Jan DADOS Office: Noted in letter from HQ 3 NZ DIV Signals that efficiency of Wireless Sets No.21 is being seriously affected by wet jungle conditions, and new tropic-proofed ones are required and being made in NZ. Noted by OME 8 Bde in a report that jeep springs, fitted with an extra leaf, are standing up to heavy road work better. Some weakness, or fault in shock absorbers makes this necessary.

" " A.O.W.: 18 ambulances being checked over before being issued.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs; Armament Section are doing inspection of Bofors and overhauling oil motors. Instrument section very busy on binocular overhauls.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Continuation of rifle practice and general workshops repairs.

Lunga R. " Tanks W/S: Assembled and completed job on 60 ton press. General workshops repairs.

Vella " 20 LAD: Work started on check of all Arty (25-pr) vehicles and guns.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Vehicle maintenance; weapon training.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Camp construction (new site) - store, workshop, etc. Dried out equipment.

Bourail " 65 LAD: Forward party leave for Noumea for embarkation; rear party packing. OC (Lt J.R. BUCKLEY) medically boarded, Grade II, and placed on NZ Roll, as from this date.

" " Other Workshops and LADs - normal routine.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Stores being procured from US sources to meet requirements for fwd area. Of late a great deal of stores are being despatched North by SCAT service to fulfil urgent demands.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in stores; Weapon training exercises commenced at Range at BRD.

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G' canal 13 DADOS Office: Arranged for 1 Sgt and 2 Ptes of AOD Amm Sec to be made available for temporary attachment to 4 MT COY, NZASC, to look after ammn at Treasury. Letter to HQ 3 NZ DIV re the proposed rearrangement of Officers in AOD and Ordnance HQ. Capt H.McK. REID (OC AOD) to be att. to Div Ord HQ as an assistant to DADOS. Capt. H.N.McCARTHY to be OC AOD. F.O.D. at VELLA to be closed and stocks and personnel returned to G'CANAL. AOD will then have Capt. McCARTHY, Lieuts LONERGAN and BUCKLEY, and 2/Lt PASCOE, plus one new officer to be appointed to maintain the level of five O.Os. forward of NECAL. Request to HQ NZEFIP for services of Capt A. SMITH, Inspecting Ordnance Officer, to inspect, etc. ammn at TREASURY in 8 Bde area, following upon adverse report by WO-1 HARVEY, Ammn Examiner.

" " SOME (DIV) Reasonable supply of SA and Arty components now held by Ordnance Depots. Allocation made to Ordnance Workshops to be held as stocks for use in servicing, and this will avoid delays. It has been possible to supply only the more common components. Workshops have been requested to indent regularly to maintain reserves.

G' canal. " A.O.W.: Routine maintenance and repairs. Heavy continuous rain.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and Armament repairs. Two men have returned to unit from hospital. Small amount of air activity during the night.

Moindah " Rear DOW: O.C. attended Unit Comds conference with O.I.C.A. at Base. Completion of rifle practice.

Noumea " NZOW DET: OC to units inspecting vehicles; maintenance in workshop.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: All arms inspected. Tank adjustments, repairs etc.

Bourail " Base Det DOW: Constn. work. Repairs started on vehicles. 3 tool kits lent by DOW. Lt.-Col., D.A.D.O.S.



Vella	13 Jan	20 LAD:	Work on MT repairs.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD:	Maintenance of vehicles ; 4 men on weapon training.
Treasury	"	64 LAD:	Camp construction ; fox holes etc.
Noumea	"	65 LAD:	Forward party embark on transport. Rear party packing stores.
-	"	A.O.D. & B.O.D.	- Routine duties.
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G' canal	14	SOME (DIV):	Requested Recovery Sections to expedite work of tent spraying. <del>No. 1 Rec Sec.</del> advise that no suitable paint is available. Tents have deteriorated to a great extent and only waterproof dressings would improve their serviceability.
"	"	A.O.W.:	Routine maintenance and repairs. Ambulances being exchanged.
-	"	No. 1 & No. 2 Rec Secs.	- MT maintenance etc.
Noumea	"	NEOW DET:	Maintenance of vehicles. Weather fine.
Lunga	"	Tanks W/S:	Considerable number of jobs being performed by both gas and electric welders.
Vella	"	20 LAD:	Work on MT repairs and MT check-over.
"	"	37 LAD:	Normal workshop duties.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD:	maintenance of vehicles ; carried out inspection of GMC vehicles.
G' canal	"	A.O.D.:	Owing to continued wet weather since beginning of month the stores and camp area are in a very bad state.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.:	Routine duties in all sections ; Weapon training continued.
Bourail	"	Base Det DOW:	Remetalling roads ; minor repairs to vehicles. Draining. Greasing vehicles.
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G' canal	15	DADOS Office:	Arranged to have 500-watt chargers taken from Wireless vans at Base and forwarded to this area to meet indents. All No. 38 Wireless sets to be returned to Ordnance.
"	"	A.O.W.:	MT maintenance and repairs.
Moindah	"	Rear DOW:	Rifle parade and small arms inspection 0800 hrs. Stocktaking of unit equipment under way to show position of unit accounting for new OC. Orderly room staff busy squaring up personnel records and War Establishment, which is insufficient. Excess tradesmen required are carried as "surplus to WE."
Noumea	"	NEOW Det:	I.E. and maintenance of vehicles ; weather fine.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S:	Normal routine continuing.
Lunga R.	"	Tanks W/S:	I.E. of workshops, incl. cleaning and oiling of all tools and equipment. Routine mtee.
Vella	"	20 LAD:	Work on MT repairs and gun check-over. All ranks went through gas chamber.
"	"	37 LAD:	Workshop routine ; having trouble procuring Ford 15 cwt 4 x 4 front axles, otherwise spare part position satisfactory.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD:	Maintenance of vehicles ; tool check ; clean up workshop.
Bourail	"	65 LAD:	Rear party packing ; for fwd move ; other personnel on ship for G' canal.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.:	Routine duties until 1200 hrs ; Weapon training completed. Personnel visited swimming carnival.
Bourail	"	Base Det DOW:	Camp I.E. ; maintenance to unit vehicles. Afternoon free.

*W.D. Lloyd*  
 Lt.-Col.,  
 D.A.D.C.S.

G' canal 16 Jan SOME (DIV): No.2 Recovery Section DOW inform that Rifles of Australian manufacture have developed a very stiff bolt action, considerable force being necessary to open the bolt and extract empty cases when the rifle is hot. See Appx II for reply, also general notes by this office concerning spares, etc.

" " A.O.W.: Sunday ; church parade ; heavy rain during day.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: Party went to GIZO Island by boat. Salvaged lighting plant. Jeep involved in collision towed in.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Church parade and normal leave ; GOC addresses NCOs on future role of Division.

" " Other LADs and Workshops ; Sunday programme - leave and recreation.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Sunday programme; ~~hatch~~ trucks to beach in afternoon.

Appendix II

G' canal 17 DADOS Office: Receipt of initial planning notes re forthcoming SQUAREPEG (Nissan Island) operation, which will involve a considerable amount of special activity and preparation by Ordnance units, and participation by Ordnance Workshops and ammn section.

Moindah " SOME (Base): reports, inter alia:  
 "Major Costelloe has taken over the D.O.W. and I am now able to give my full time to SOME (Base) duties. The 65th LAD has gone fwd with all the equipment that could be got for it in NECAL.  
 "The position regarding the commercial 4 x 2 vehicles is now a lot better. We shipped from here 296 vehicles and 227 motorcycles; and a further 96 vehicles, 1 tractor and 2 motorcycles have just been shipped, so apart from a few still to be withdrawn from Units and a few specialist vehicles that will remain here, we are practically clear of the 4 x 2 types. This will help matters considerably in the Workshop, as the older type commercials absorbed many man-hours for a very small result. The remainder of the Tank personnel are handing their vehicles to the Vehicle Reception Depot. The GOC has just visited us, and with Brig Dove we had a full discussion on transport in NECAL, which removed quite a lot of worries from my mind. Firstly, the GOC realised our difficulties here with limited skilled personnel, and secondly seemed satisfied with the efforts we are making.....  
 In a month or two we hope to be showing definite results on the Div transport in NECAL. The spare parts position has improved tremendously, possibly due to the disbanding of active units in New Zealand."

G' canal " A.O.W.: Ten Bren carriers arrive from 8 NZ Bde Group for general overhaul.

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

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: Vehicle maintenance ; one O/R evacuated to hospital.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Workshops maintenance routine ; OC interviewed DAG 2 Ech on personnel matters.

Bourail " Base Det DOW: Cartage of road metal. Greasing service in full swing - one day to each unit.  
Motor-cycle shop kept very busy.

Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: 1 O/R m/o to hospital with septic sores, for the 3rd time. This is the 2nd man lost from unit strength owing to these sores, and approx 40% of strength is still reporting at RAP for treatment each day.

*Wid. Myers*  
 Lt.-Col.,  
 D.A.D.C.S.

Lunga	17 Jan	Tanks W/S: Constructed experimental Tank grouser for Tank Sqn. General tank repairs etc.
Vella	"	20 LAD: Work on MT and repainting vehicles. Gun repairs and painting.
"	"	37 LAD: Workshop routine ; more paint to hand for vehicles.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: MT maintenance and repairs. Two men m/o to hospital with skin troubles.
G' canal	"	65 LAD: Forward party disembark at Guadalcanal and proceed to Transit camp.
"	"	A.O.D.: All sections loading out stores for fwd area (Vella).
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties ; dental inspection of all ranks.
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G' canal	18	A.O.W.: Mechanics commence overhaul of Bren carriers. Workshop fully extended to keep up with repair work. The nature of some repairs indicates that some units are not paying enough attention to daily maintenance tasks and a report to this effect has been submitted to SOME (DIV) (later noted in Div Orders..) This applies to oiling and greasing, attention to and topping up of batteries, and cleaning of their terminals. Tyres are being run at less than standard pressure, with resultant damage. Under the conditions of MT operating here, daily maintenance is of the utmost importance.
Vella	"	No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; air raid warning during night . One O/R to hospital. (2nd in 2 days)
Bourail	"	Base Det DOW: Construction of stores and new workshop areas. Repairs done. DOW assisting with major repairs and in supply etc of tools. (See entry for 19th for report of storm damage).
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Severe storm with damage to tents etc. Personnel evacuated to Transit Camp in morning but returned at 1630 hrs. No other serious damage.
Lunga	"	Tanks W/S: New piston rings fitted to Ford Machinery truck & valves ground. Welding and plating of bodies of 2 Sqn. jeeps. General workshop repairs.
Vella	"	20 LAD: Work on MT and painting vehicles ; gun repairs & painting.
"	"	37 LAD: Conference at 14 Bde HQ. Warning of intended move and vehicles to be taken. Workshop routine.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: MT maintenance and repairs ; very busy.
G' canal	"	65 LAD: Main party of 65 LAD at Transit Camp, FMC; preparing equipment etc. Rear party in NECAL.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Recovery unit 15 miles south to assist vehicles through flooded area - 20 towed through.
G' canal	"	A.O.D.: Sections packing for Treasury and Vella.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: At approx 0300 hrs a wind of gale force passed through the Bourail area rising in velocity until 0630 hrs, and causing considerable damage to stores, buildings and tent lines. Niaouli roofed shelters suffered most. Tarpaulin shelters torn and disarranged and in some instances demolished. Several of the wooden bulk stores were damaged in various degrees of seriousness. Stores of Tentage and clothing were damaged by water, but were mostly dried out successfully. All tents in the camp area were blown down and quite a large number rendered unserviceable. Further cyclone did not eventuate. During the day the river rose in the camp area but receded again.
Moindah	"	Rear Sec DOW: Operations hampered by very bad weather. Heavy winds in early morning. No damage.

*Lt. Col.*

Lt.-Col.,

D.A.D.O.S.

G' canal 19 Jan A.O.W.: Repairs to Bren Carriers. Large number of Rifles .303 received from Salvage Sec, AOD.  
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs ; The Armament Section commenced the overhauls of oil motors and guns of the 208 (LAA) Bty. Appendix III.  
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Four O/Rs left for Noumea, driving vehicles for SOME (Base), for shipment.  
 Bourail " Base Det DOW: Damage by yesterday morning's blow was: Seven out of nine tents blown down; Workshop roof collapsed ; mess hall roof damaged; orderly room and stores tent flattened. River flooded the area, water 2 ft deep in m/c shop. Camp completely isolated. Metal scoured from roads and much building material lost. Storm came without warning, Today (19th) river still in flood; bridge out of camp impassable ; weather clearing.  
 Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; weather fine ; visit by GOC and OICA. 1 O/R m/in ex DOW on loan.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: Repairs to one tank ; camp construction, roading etc. R.A.P. completed.  
 Vella " 20 LAD: Continuing work on guns and vehicles - painting and repairs.  
 " " 37 LAD: Noted that wire rope on Chev 4 x 4 winches all needs replacing. Enquiries made for supply.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Heavy wind ; tents dropped ; no damage. Clean up of area. Maintenance in afternoon.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: MT repairs ; jeeps still giving trouble, brakes & springs. Spares wanted urgently.  
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery job 8 miles North - Signals jeep overturned in river.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Stores area being surveyed for the building of more permanent structures to house all Sections. (This work was held up for some weeks later). 2/Lt. A.W. Buckley (F.O.D.) to be Lieut.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Salvage work commenced on both camp and work areas. Weather fine but overcast with occasional gusts and showers. Tents for personnel being erected, and shelters being re-covered with tarpaulins, and made safe.

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G' canal. 20 DADOS Office: Additional office accommodation provided - site being prepared and area coralled. for additional staff arrived from Vella.  
 " " A.O.W.: General maintenance and repairs . 1 Sgt returned from hospital.  
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs ; 1 O/R evacuated to 2 NZ CCS (G' canal.)  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: M.T. maintenance ; camouflage clothing issue ; O.M.E. Arty (2/Lt CONLOW) arrived from Treasury on tour of duty.  
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Normal workshop operations. Base Det., Bourail, take over machinery lorry .  
 Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: Fairly heavy air raid during the night. Bombs dropped nearby.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: Repairs and adjustments. Fitted new armature to drill motor of Leyland machinery truck; made two Tank water pump spindles for stock, and cleaning rod for Tank gun barrel.  
 Vella " 20 LAD: Still on vehicle and ~~gun~~ gun repairs and painting.  
 " " 37 LAD: Units advised of times to bring in vehicles for checking prior to move fwd.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: 2/Lt. J.D. KEELING marched in as O.C. Repairs and greasing plant very busy.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Owing to wet weather trucks have been borrowed locally and coral has been carried for camp area. Routine duties.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Clearing up camp ; salvaging stores and repairing shelters continued. Weather fine and hot with the area drying out rapidly.

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

**G' canal** 21 Jan DADOS Office: In view of proposed fwd move, instructions issued by HQ 3 NZ DIV at DADOS suggestion, for all units in fwd area to carry 10% reserves of clothing, boots, field dressings and such items; 20% reserve of socks, and one months supply of expendables.  
 " " A.O.W.: General maintenance and repairs. 1 O/R evacuated to hospital. Favourable report received from Hygiene Officer re the condition of the camp.  
**Treasury** " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs ; A few MT items are not coming fwd rapidly enough but the unit is coping with most of the work.  
**Moindah** " Rear DOW: Work commenced on preparation of 6 Chev 4 x 4 30 cwts for fwd area.  
**Bourail** " Base Det DOW: Weather much improved, river subsided and area clear of water. Reconstruction work under way. Brig. DOVE visited area, and arranged for us to have 6 men for a week to help clear the debris and repair buildings. Canadian Chev. machine shop truck arrived today with equipment and tool kits.  
**Noumea** " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; weather fine.  
**Lunga** " Tanks W/S: Turned up 18 periscope adjusters and quantity of track pins.  
**Treasury** " 64 LAD: Repair and maintenance work ; Jeep universal joints giving trouble, also Ford F30.  
**G' canal** " A.O.D.: Routine duties.  
**Bourail** " B.O.D.: Final stage of camp re-erection completed. Rain in afternoon and evening. Routine duties.

**G' canal** 22 DADOS Office: Advice received from HQ 3 NZ DIV, in respect of an enquiry from 8 Bde on behalf of No.1 Rec Sec, that stores trucks cannot be provided for Rec Secs. SOME(DIV) and DADOS both agree that these trucks wd be extremely useful, but are not essential and stores can be improvised. Moreover, the GOC does not approve of "one-purpose" vehicles.  
Signal equipment : noted from signal AQ/67 that No.21 radio sets are deteriorating under tropical conditions. Present sets to be replaced with tropic-proofed ones, sent fwd by air.  
Automatic maintenance : AOD and BOD advised that automatic maintenance stores will be held by the depots in reversed proportions , i.e. BOD will retain only 1 months supply and AOD will receive the 3 months park. This will bring proportions held into line with logistic arrangements made with US Forces.  
 " " A.O.W.: Stocktaking of tools and equipment. Tool kit inspection. 2/Lt DANBY promoted Lieut (Rule 7a).  
**Treasury** " No.1 Rec Sec: Tool check . Recreational afternoon.  
**Vella** " No.2 Rec Sec: M.T. mtce ; party went for week-end trip round the South end of island by launch.  
**Moindah** " Rear DOW: Parade and small arms inspection. New technical personnel from NZ interviewed by OC at Base.  
**Bourail** " Base Det Dow: Clearing area after flood and storm. Tools & equipment checked and some issued to expedite repairs.  
**Lunga** " Tanks W/S: Carted shingle for workshops area. Maintenance of tools and equipment and I.E. of workshops and camp area.  
**Vella** " 20 LAD: Still painting and repairing guns and vehicles.  
 " " 37 LAD: Workshops routine ; Two alerts . Party left at 1200 hrs on launch trip.  
**Nemeara** " 42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles ; clean up of area; inspection of equipment.  
**Treasury** " 64 LAD: Camp improvements ; 2/Lt Keeling promoted to Lieut (Rule 7a).  
**G' canal** " A.O.D.: Sections busy packing stores for both Brigades.

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

D.A.D.O.S.

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" Base Det DOW: ...  
 " Rear DOW: ...  
 " No. 1 Rec Sec: ...  
 " V.O.M.: ...  
 " A.O.W.: ...  
 " Base Det DOW: ...  
 " 64 LAD: ...  
 " Other units: ...

23 Jan DADOS Office & SOME (DIV): Lt.-Col MYERS and Major SIGNAL left by air at 0800 hrs for visit to 8 Bde units on Treasury Gp. During the day they visited 8 Bde units.  
 " A.O.W.: Church parade ; practice shoot held at 144 Bty's range.  
 " Rear DOW: Normal leave after church parade. OC to Noumea on duty.  
 " Base Det DOW: Strengthening tents and rebuilding. Party to Beach in afternoon.  
 " 64 LAD: Church parade ; day off all ranks. S/M. WOOLLEY arrived on transfer from 65 LAD.  
 " Other units : Normal Sunday programme.

24 DADOS Office: Lt.-Col, MYERS and Major SIGNAL Visiting 8 Bde units. Concerned at continued lack of adequate care in the storage of Treasury reserves of ammm held by 4 MT Coy ASC. 75 tarpaulins sent originally for its coverage ( and which DADOS on his visit to Treasury in November requested should be so used) were still being used for alternative purposes..He was assured that the matter would be righted immediately, and DADOS agreed to send Capt SMITH (I.O.O.) and 6 ammm personnel from NECAL to Treasury by first available transport, for repair of ammm. Owing to the 8 Bde HQ having delegated to the Ordnance WO with Bde many duties in connection with the handling of unit stores, the forwarding of indents had been greatly delayed. Arranged that Ordnance WO's work wd henceforth be as laid down in Ordnance Manual (War). DADOS & SOME visited No.1 Rec Sec.  
 " A.O.W.: General repairs and maintenance ; workshop fully extended to cope with repairs.  
 " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs. Parts and repair problems discussed with DADOS & SOME.  
 " No.2 Rec Sec: 20 personnel carried out small arms training on range in afternoon. M.T. mtce.  
 " Rear DOW: Normal workshops routine ; One Sgt and 1 Pte sent to Base Detachment, on loan.  
 " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; Visit by SOME (Base ) and OC, DOW.  
 " Tanks W/S: Checked over wiring system of tank. Armature turning. General service to units dump truck.  
 " 20 LAD.: Work again started on MT and repainting of vehicles; gun repairs and painting; work continued for remainder of week.  
 " 37 LAD: Workshop duties ; two jeeps checked over for handing back to US Forces.  
 " 42 LAD: General maintenance ; started systematic check on all A.T.D's vehicles. Painting of all vehicles commenced.  
 " 64 LAD: WO-2 Butler marched out on transfer to 65 LAD. Repair and maintenance work very busy.  
 " A.O.D.: Surveyors from 37 Fd Park still surveying area. Major Knight arrived by air from NECAL.  
 " 2/Lieut Pascoe returned from hospital after attack of jaundice.  
 " B.O.D.: Major Knight left for Guadalcanal at 0200 hrs. Routine duties in all sections. Weather fine.

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

2 DIA DOCUMENTS COLLECTED HEREIN  
 25 JAN 1943

G' canal 25 Jan DADOS Office & SOME (DIV): Lt.-Col, MYERS and Major SIGNAL returned from Treasury at 1500 hrs. Noted, that on DADOS' return from Vella (Jan 11) he was disturbed to find, after the AOD having been 5 months on Guadalcanal, so little had been done to assist the A.O.D. in constructing adequate storage facilities and efficient roading. Application to HQ 3 NZ DIV has now resulted in assistance by Engineers in the building of stores and improving of roading. (Preliminaries in progress).  
 " " A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs ; Armourers repairing Small Arms.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; 20 further personnel carried out small arms training.  
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Thirty personnel marched in ex disembarkation from NZ. All Grade I.  
 Bourail " Base Det DOW: New Orderly room arrived - one 4-man hut. Repairs to main workshop started. Men from BRD repairing mess hall and kitchen roof. Repairs suspended on vehicles while workshop is under repair. Jeep under roof now extricated. Slight damage only.  
 Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles ; SOME (Base ) and OC DOW returned to Moindah. Weather fine.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Repairs and maintenance ; carting coral and improving area. Tents leaked badly in heavy rain. Two damaged slightly in recent air raid.  
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery unit 4 miles North. Three men marched in from Tank Sqn ~~for~~ (Rear Sec) for duty on Tank Sqn vehicles in V.R.D. pool.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Capt. SMITH (I.O.O. - Ammn specialist) and 6 repair personnel arrived on tour of duty. Camp constn work. Capt H. McK. REID admitted to 2 NZ CCS with malaria.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties ; S/M. William and 9 men left for Nepoui in connection with unloading of ship there. Three men m/i from NZ (1 Armourer, 1 clerk and 1 instrument repairer)..

G' canal 26 DADOS Office: Large stocks of mosquito gloves are held by AOD, and as these are not being used to any extent for their original purpose, they are being issued to working parties unloading stores. From AOD Ammn Section, 1 Officer and 6 O/Rs to go to SQUAREPEG (Green Island) and be attached to 16 MT Coy. Confirmed arrangement that packages for 8 Bde units ( and later 14 Bde units) are to be addressed direct to the unit and sent via the MT coy concerned. Only small and valuable packages are to be sent (packed in a larger package) to the Ordnance WO for distribution.  
 " " A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs.  
 Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; small arms training. Camp lighting provided by salvaged generator.  
 Moindah " Rear DOW: Posting of reinft. personnel - 20 to Base Det DOW, 2 to 67 LAD, 1 to 42 LAD, one to Noumea Det. and 6 to DOW Moindah.  
 Bourail " Base Det DOW: Reconstruction continuing. M/C shop very busy checking m/cycles of Provost Corps, after heavy floods. Repairs to mess hall & kitchen completed. Machine truck in operation. Greasing work right throughout the week. Additional 20 personnel arrived from NZ.  
 Noumea " NZOW Det: MT maintenance ; swim parade in afternoon. One man to hospital, one from hospital.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: A modification has been undertaken on all base junctions of tanks. These have been giving trouble. Sports club formed in unit. Decided to erect recreation hut.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Checking of vehicles of ATD, painting and general maintenance.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Timber arrived for new mess room, Repair work going on steadily.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Routine duties.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections ; weather fine.

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

G' canal 27 Jan DADOS Office: BOD advise that owing to the recent storm there, respirators anti-gas will have to be obtained from NZ, as local stocks have been damaged by water. Damage to 8 Bde respirators by water appears to have resulted from respirators having been cased for delivery to troops following landing ops. Recommended that respirators be carried on the man, or that cases containing them be made waterproof. Preparations for Fwd Ordnance Depot, Vella, to be closed down. Indents will be passed on to AOD for fulfilment.

" " A.O.W.FMT maintenance and repairs.

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

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance. One O/R to hospital.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Work to ~~at~~ full capacity in all sections. Brig. Twigg, (DDMS, Med HQ, NZEFIP) inspected camp area and expressed his satisfaction as to cleanliness. 2/Lts SIMMONDS and LANCASTER to be Lieuts.

Bourail " Base Det:DOW: Work on roads commenced. Drainage system improved & extended. Quantities of web equip~~y~~ sprayed for BTD.

Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: Pte Pethig (fitter MV) arrived from Guadalcanal, having recovered from wounds sustained on first day of Treasury landing ( and away from unit 3 months.).

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Welding and turning work for tanks. Sundry jobs around workshop. Carting metal.

Treasury " 64 LAD: New mess room started. Repair work as usual, mostly jeeps and Ford F.30's.

Moindah " 67 LAD: Routine checking and maintenance. 2 reinfts marched in as mechanics MT, from NZ.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Sections actioning indents for 8 Bde. Capt Smith and ammn repair party left for Treasury.

Boirail " B.O.D.: Weather overcast but hot. Routine duties.

G' canal 28 DADOS Office: NZ had asked for a report re fungus troubles with boots. AOD report that there have been no instances of anything more than a bloom on boots in store. Noted that replacements will soon be required for almost all trucks in fwd area in respect of their canvas canopies. AOD advised to indent on that basis. In view of 8 Bde indents delayed in arrival here, and in view of SQUAREPEG Op, AOD have been instructed to work longer hours for a short period.

" " SOME (DIV): Report received from Lt. DANBY (AOW inst. sec) re condition of instruments as noted on his inspectional tour. Conditions are very difficult to cope with, esp. owing to lack of proper equipment for use by personnel of instrument section in servicing. Dessicating (drying out) equipment is essential for correct servicing, and a suitable van, either British or US type would overcome most of the troubles at present arising. This matter is being taken up with Lt.-Col ANDREWS (COME, MOD, Trentham) Generally speaking instruments are in need of servicing, and a schedule has been submitted calling-in, in rotation, those requiring attention.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs. Fair stock of replacement parts arrived.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance; one further O/R to hospital.

Moindah " Rear DOW: OC conferred with DAG 2 Ech re personnel problems. OC inspects Base Det. Normal routine.

Bourail " Base Det DOW: Repair work increasing. Reconstruction nearing completion. Electric welding truck and new mobile greasing trailer arrived in afternoon. Battery charger now operating.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Checking vehicles ATD; painting and general maintenance; cleaning up & tool check.

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

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Treasury 28 Jan 64 LAD: Repair work as usual. Messroom nearing completion. Work area now in very good order although very little shelter.

G' canal " 65 LAD: Personnel of main party at Transit camp still. Rear party due to embark from Necal.

" " A.O.D.: Large number of indnts coming in from 8th Bde, some being up to two months old, and all stores are urgently required. Necessary to work longer hours to fulfil these indents.

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

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G' canal 29 DADOS Office: Lt.-Col MYERS in conference with the GOC re organisation etc. S/M. HARVEY, ammm examiner to be promoted 2/Lt, consequent upon Captain REID's seconding to DADOS Office from AOD. Two NCOs, purchasing stores from US Forces in Noumea and G' canal promoted to WO-1 rank - S/Sgt K. ELDER and Sgt. G. RAMSAY. Organisation of SQUAREPEG Workshops published - see appendix. Appx IV.

" " SOME (DIV): Requested the Ordnance workshops taking part in next op (SQUAREPEG) to supply urgently details re weight and capacity of equipment to go fwd.

" " A.O.W.: Normal work in morning. Camp I.E. leave in afternoon.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Work on MT etc in morning ; afternoon free.

Vella " No.2 Rec Sec: MT maintenance ; party left on launch trip round South end of island.

Moindah " Rear DOW: Check of tool kits during morning. I.E. and normal leave ; Three Chev 4 x 4's completed and forwarded to Forward Area.

Bourail " Base Det DOW: Store completed and new shop for tinsmiths commenced. Leyland Machine Truck arrived. Keen turners and fitters worked on it all day. Camp I.E.

Noumea " NZOW Det: I.E. and MT maintenance ; 1 O/R marched in ex DOW. Weather fine.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Work on ring gear of tank. I.E. of workshops and camp area.

Vella " 20 LAD: Repainting and repairs to vehicles ; repainting and repairs to guns.

" " 37 LAD: Workshop duties ; rifle inspection.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles in morning.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Completed mess room and cleaned up camp and work area.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Work by all personnel commenced at 0700 hrs (instead of 0800) to continue until all 8 Bde indents are brought up to date. Engineers levelling new stores site with bulldozer. 21 tons of stores shipped to 8 Bde. (This Bde's requirements are important because it may be called on in emergency to support 14 Bde and Div tps and must be fully equipped).

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections. First trucks of stores arrived from NEPOUI.

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

G' canal	30 Jan	<u>A.O.W.:</u> Church parade and urgent repair work.
Vella	"	<u>No.2 Rec Sec:</u> Party returned from launch trip round South end of island. Urgent work.
Moindah	"	<u>Rear DOW:</u> Church parade; I.E. and normal leave.
Bourail	"	<u>Base Det DOW:</u> Recreation and beach party in afternoon. Compressor and spray outfit went to BTB to spray web equipment, about 300 sets, completed at 1800 hrs.
Nemeara	"	<u>42 LAD:</u> Church parade. At 2300 hrs assisted BTB vehicle in trouble at Houialou.
Bourail	"	<u>B.O.D.:</u> Trucks continue to arrive from Nepoui. Advised that there will be a cessation of work on the ship, and this will hold up deliveries 36 hours. Trucks to beach in afternoon.
G' canal	"	<u>A.O.D.:</u> All sections actioning indents and packing stores for 8 Bde.
-	"	<u>Other Units:</u> Normal Sunday routine, - church parades and normal leave where possible.

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G' canal	31	<u>DADOS Office:</u> 3 NZ DIV Admin Order No. 44 of today's date advises units to return to Ordnance Depots those items of war equipment which have been found by practical experience to be either:- (a) Surplus to War Equipment or camp equipment scales. (b) Not suitable for use in jungle operations and conditions. Stores so returned become part of general Ordnance stocks and will not be earmarked for the unit which returned them. If a unit comd later requires these returned items, he can indent and will be supplied if available.
"	"	Admin Order No.46 of today's date (3 NZ DIV) calls for better attention (specified) to MT particularly to batteries, oil and grease and tyre pressures. (See A.O.W. report for 18th Jan). <u>SOME (DIV):</u> Noted that a high rate of damage has been reported from Bns in 8 Bde re Bren magazines, particularly 36 Bn. It is hoped to be able to repair a good proportion of these.
"	"	<u>A.O.W.:</u> 13 personnel of 65 LAD m/i from Transit Camp to assist with MT repairs while awaiting embarkation to unit. Work proceeding on overhaul of Bren Carriers. Routine MT repairs & mtce.
Treasury	"	<u>No.1 Rec Sec:</u> Vehicle and armament repairs. More stocks of parts arrived.
Vella	"	<u>No.2 Rec Sec:</u> MT maintenance ; 1 O/R discharged from hospital.
Moindah	"	<u>Rear DOW:</u> Inspection of camp by Lt.-Col. ANDREWS, C.O.M.E. NZ (Trentham), late DADOS and SOME in M.E. 9 2 NZ DIV). Many instances have recently come to light with Chev 15 cwt 4 x 4's of weakness in front axle flange, LH, resulting in the breaking away of the welding. The vehicles we have repaired with this trouble have had gussets welded to the flange for additional strength. Report furnished to SOME (Base).
Bourail	"	<u>Base Det DOW:</u> More tool kits arrived ex BOD and issued to technical personnel. New jobs allocated to personnel. Area for blacksmith and paint shop cleared. New elec. generating plant from Leyland installed outside truck. Welding truck in operation. Mobile greasing trailer installed.
Noumea	"	<u>NZOW Det:</u> Maintenance of vehicles ; weather fine.
Treasury	"	<u>29 LAA W/S:</u> An epidemic of influenza seems to be imminent. Two O/Rs evacuated to hospital. OC (Lieut HAYMAN) to be evacuated tomorrow. Others in the unit show signs of the same complaint.
Lunga	"	<u>Tanks W/S:</u> Set of tank injectors serviced. Completed assembly of power traverse. Continued work on tank, replaced gear box. General workshops repairs and welding & turning jobs.

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

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Vella	31 Jan	20 LAD: Work on vehicles and repairs to guns. Also repainting.
"	"	37 LAD: Normal workshop duties ; heavy rain.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Wrecker arrived back at 0230 hrs from Houailou and went out again to recover an Arty Trg. Depot vehicle burned at Plaine des Galacs.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: Repair and maintenance work on MT as usual. Spare parts coming to hand but slowly.
G' canal	"	65 LAD: Working at AOW ( G' canal) on MT repairs. Rear party embarks from Noumea for fwd area.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Six Chev 4 x 4's left for Noumea to be shipped to FMC. 67 LAD personnel as drivers.
G' canal	"	The month concludes with the unit fully engaged in the maintenance of vehicle pool transport, School of Signals vehicles, and through traffic. A.O.D.: All sections have worked very consistently on 8 Bde indents and a great many of these have already been packed, for shipment as soon as space is available. The store space of the Depot has been greatly reduced owing to the area being levelled for the new store buildings. An area is also being made ready for the stacking of stores which are expected from NZ shortly.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections . Weather fine and hot.

General notes for month for units stated:

G' canal Advanced Ordnance Workshops (AOW): The volume of work handled during the month has been very heavy in all branches. Repairs were carried out to combat vehicles for 144 Indep. Bty. Five Bren carriers ( 8 Bde) are now completed. In some cases a complete "strip down" was necessary to replace faulty parts. MT spares are in good supply enabling quick return of vehicles to units. Health of personnel again proved excellent during month. Capt. SANDELIN, who was posted as 2 i/c of DOW and i/c at G' canal, has been regraded and will be held in NECAL for observation for 3 months.

Moindah Rear Det DOW: 325 jobs have been handled during the month. The accounting staff has been fully occupied preparing accounting reports for the taking over of the unit by the new OC. Reposting of personnel against Establishment has made further promotions possible and enabled E.D. pay to be granted in a number of cases. Health of troops is good, there being little of the ear trouble experienced a good deal elsewhere.

Noumea NZ Ordnance Workshops Det: A busy month with 2 men evacuated to hospital. Loan of one mechanic from DOW and addition of another as a reinforcement has helped considerably. Morale is good, health fair, and weather, except for the storm on 18th, good. Unit is not now able to get its MT parts direct through the BOD sub-section at Noumea, and this causes a little delay.

Treasury 29 LAA W/S: Several men still attached to No.2 Rec Sec at Vella. Work on MT for the month has been consistent and confined solely to routine jobs. Work on armaments for the month has been mainly on oil motors.

*Lt. Col.*

D.A.D.O.S.

APPENDICES (4).

Summary of Main Points of Advanced Ordnance Depot's memo AOD/29/2/455 of 4 Jan 44 to DADOS.

"METHOD OF PACKING AND PRESERVING STORES SHIPPED FROM NZ ORDNANCE DEPOTS"- information requested by DADOS to provide GOC ~~for~~ with material for a letter to Army HQ on this question.

A.E. & S Stores (Arms Engineering and Signals) : Consignments of batteries - in particular Cells Dry X Mk.II - were consigned in flimsy cases, many of which were badly damaged on arrival. One case ex AK/70 contained 100% unserviceable cells. This was due to dampness caused by their being insufficiently waxed.

Artillery parts, tools, and small arms usually arrive in cases with all the parts jumbled together. - particularly noticeable in the ~~case~~ receipt of stores ex AK/70. As in the case of Portable Cooker parts, much time was wasted in sorting out the various components, and metal stores were found to be rusted, entailing considerable cleaning.

Chief complaints in regard to these stores are: (a) Insufficient greasing or oiling of Arty and S.A. parts, and tools. (b) Small items, liable to damage in transit, such as Bubbles, Spirit Glass, etc, were lying loose among the other stores in the cases. Small, easily damaged, stores should be packed securely in a smaller box, which in turn should be placed in the larger case, along with the larger items for despatch. (c) the wasting of much time in sorting out Arty and SA parts, through consignor's omission in not tying a label bearing the name and/or part number of the item to one of each of the different parts. It will be appreciated that technical stores have a range of literally thousands of parts...This applies to technical spares of all types.

In general, it is recommended that wherever possible, standard export, or similar heavily constructed cases, be used for the packing of not only of clothing stores, but also of general and technical stores. In short, the packing and despatch of stores should be such that they will travel reasonably well despite the inevitable rough usage en route.

C. Group: Generally speaking, there is little cause for complaint about the packing and condition on arrival of clothing, boots, etc. These stores are almost invariably packed in standard 7 or 11-ft export cases - strong reinforced cases, made of good timber. The cases are always lined with heavy tarred paper which is a protection against dampness. Perhaps the worst example of poorly packed stores was the anti-gas clothing received from Trentham. This was sent forward in the original cardboard cartons which were damaged so badly in shipment that very few of the hundreds of packages arrived in condition fit for reshipment without repacking. Unprotected cartons are useless for packing stores for this area.

A. Group Stores: The standard of packing seems to have improved, but many cases and crates are still too lightly made for the rough treatment they receive in transit. There is also the question of packing "attractive" stores in cartons, say, inside crates. These are easily discerned in transit and pillaged. Also where a case contains a large number of small parts, these should be packed separately in groups within the larger case. All metal stores liable to rust or deterioration through dampness should be oiled or greased before packing, and tarred paper should be used with textile materials - that is however usually done.

*Wid. Luyers*

SECRET

X II  
STIFF BOLT ACTION OF AUSTRALIAN RIFLES.

Advised No. 2 Recovery Section that this has already been noted, particularly in case of later rifles (those with lug on nose-cap not tapped for assembly of piling swivel) No completely satisfactory explanation has been provided to date, but it is thought that the fault is mainly due to lack of finish of both the parts of bolt liable to friction, and also the bolt bearing surfaces of the body. This lack of finish is probably due to speeded up production, and possibly in part to poorer quality of steel ( a number of bolts of such rifles having shattered.)

It has also been noted that in the case of one particular rifle of such type, that the bolt is particularly stiff on an extremely hot day without any firing and yet without any adjustment, in cooler temperatures the bolt works freely. This tends to ~~suggest~~ support previous remarks, suggesting uneven expansion which may be caused by inequalities in steel used.

Any of these, either singly or in conjunction, would result in a stiff bolt action, and it is extremely doubtful, under the circumstances, whether any remedial action can be taken.

Suggested that a number of such rifles be given a thorough testing under varying conditions, and results carefully noted. In this way, some data may be obtained,

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On arrival. automatic maintenance packs will assist all sections in quicker return of repairable War-like Stores.

Heavy demands are being made on Brake Linings. This is attributed to penetration of water and coral powder into brake drums. Units are removing Brake Drums twice weekly, cleaning thoroughly in an endeavour to curtail rapid wear of linings.

Lack of effective shock absorbers are causing considerable spring failures, particularly in "Jeeps".

Report by O.M.E. DIV. ARTY HQ shows Ordnance Equipment is being well maintained. No exceptional ~~wear~~ wear <sup>or deterioration</sup> is apparent.

LT. DANBY, O.M.E. Instrument Section, DOW, carried out full inspection of FCI equipment held by both 8 and 14 Brigade. Deterioration due to tropical conditions was apparent in 80% of optical instruments inspected. Overhaul is now being carried out and directives have been issued to Units which will assist in curtailing rapid deterioration.

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Major  
S.O.M.E. DIV. *Wid. Myers*

COPY.

Appendix III.

WAR DIARY. NEOC, NEEFIP, Jan 44.

Appendix III

Advanced Ordnance Workshops, Fd Maintenance Centre. to BOMBE (DIV) 20 Jan 44.  
Report on the Condition of Rifles .303.

The following report, submitted by the Senior Armourer, S/Sgt GAMMIN R.J. is forwarded for your information: -

"RUST:

Most rifles received from the fwd area are in a very bad state, the internal parts being covered in a thick coating of rust, which in a short time eats in to the metal work of the body, barrel and springs. This has the effect of crystallising the metal, which in turn causes some of the parts to break. The rust is caused through sea water, spray and sand, which works into all parts, also collecting in the fore-end under the barrel. As the majority of rifles have not been preserved for years, there is no protection against ~~the~~ salt water. The only cure for this is that all rifles should be stripped and preserved with petroleum jelly, or, if this is not procurable, ordinary grease.

BINDING:

The majority of rifles, especially the new Australian ones, are binding badly as the result of heat and the direct rays of the sun. This is a serious matter as the accuracy of the rifle is effected. It is also possible for the fore-end to warp to such an extent as to bend the barrel.

MASON BEE:

The same trouble is being experienced here as in NECAL, and some rifles have had to be rendered UB (unserviceable) because of damaged bores caused through Mason Bee nests.

(Sgt) R.J. GAMMIN, S/Sgt."

R. MANSON, Lt for Capt,  
CO ACIF.

*with copy*

Copy of Div order:

Appendix IV.

18/BA  
(HQ 3 NZ DIV)  
29 Jan 44.

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION - SQUAREPEG WORKSHOPS.

1. For the purpose of the opening phases of the SQUAREPEG operation an Ordnance organisation will be constituted and known as SQUAREPEG Workshops.
2. The Squarepeg Workshops will be constituted as follows:-
  - OC Lieut A HOLEBROOK.
  1. Platoon 1 Officer and 40 men from No.2 Recovery Section.
  2. Platoon 1 Sgt and 13 men from 29 LAA Workshops.
  3. Platoon 1 Officer and 10 men from 3 NZ DIV Tank Workshops.
  4. Platoon 1 Officer and 17 men from 20 LAD.
  5. Platoon 1 Officer and 19 men from 65 LAD.
3. The personnel to be selected will be as directed by SOME (Div) who will also direct what equipment each platoon is to bring from its parent unit.
4. Each Platoon Commander will be responsible for the equipment brought by his platoon from its parent unit.
5. Remaining personnel of No.2 Recovery Section and 3 NZ DIV Tank Workshops with the balance of their unit equipment will be stationed at GUADALCANAL.
6. Remaining personnel of 29 LAA Workshops will be stationed at TREASURY and will be available to assist in repair work for 38 NZ Fd Regt.
7. 37 LAD will return to FMC at GUADALCANAL as shipping is available.
8. The personnel of the SQUAREPEG Workshops shall for administrative and disciplinary purposes come under the command of Lieut HOLEBROOK who will have the powers of a Company Commander in respect thereof.
9. This is only a temporary organisation and shall not be the subject of any special establishment or alteration of W.E. Tables. Neither the A.G. Branch of the Force or of the Division nor Base Records will be required to take any action in regard to this temporary organisation.

(Sgd.) P.L. BENNETT, Lt.-Col.,  
A.A. & Q.M.G.

*Lieut. Bennett*