

INDEX OF:

(a) Consolidated War Diary for ~~FEAR~~ MARCH 1944.

3 DIV ORDNANCE CORPS, 2 NZEFIP, Base and Div Units.-  
Comprising the following units:-

DIV ORDNANCE HQ being : DADOS Office - GUADALCANAL, B.S.I.P.  
SOME (DIV) " "  
SOME (BASE) Moindah, New Caledonia.

DIV ORDNANCE WORKSHOPS : Advanced Ordnance Workshops - GUADALCANAL  
No.1 Rec Sec with 8 Bde - TREASURY Gp, B.S.I.P.  
\*\*No.2 Rec Sec with 14 Bde - Nissan Id (New Guinea mandated Ty.)  
Rear Detachment DOW - Moindah, N.C.  
Base Detachment DOW - Bourail N.C.  
Noumea Det DOW (NZOW) - Noumea

29 Lt AA Workshops (att 29 LAA Regt) - Treasury Gp. (Det. w. Sqpeg W/S)  
Tank Workshops & Fd Pk Detachment (att Tank Sqn). - Lunga R. area (G' canal).

\* 20 LAD (att 17 Fd Regt) (normally) - Nissan  
37 LAD (att. 14 Bde Gp.) (normally) - Vella Lavella & Guadalcanal.  
42 LAD: (att. Arty Trg Dep) - Nemeara N.C.  
64 LAD (att 8 Bde Gp) - Treasury  
\*\* 65 LAD (normally att Div Engrs) - Nissan  
67 LAD (att. Rear Det. DOW) - Moindah.

Base Ordnance Depot

Advanced Ordnance Depot (Adv Section of BOD) - Bourail N.C.  
(incl. Fwd Section of AOD at Vella Lavella) - Guadalcanal.

\*\* Squarepeg W/Shops which includes:  
No.2 Rec Sec DOW  
29 LAA W/S detachment only  
Tank W/S detachment only  
20 LAD in full  
65 LAD. in full.

acting with 14 Bde and Div Tps at Nissan.

(b) Appendices. (3)

For this month War Diary notes for 20 and 65 LADs are incl in Squarepeg W/Shops.



Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

**WAR DIARY - 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP.**  
**or**  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**  
 COMPILED BY DADOS OFFICE.

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information.

Place.	Date.	Hour.		Remarks and References to Appendices.
G' canal	1	March	<p><u>DADOS Office</u>: Major Signal (SOME - DIV) left by LST for Nissan at 2000 hrs on duty, together with Capt. REID (assistant to DADOS).</p> <p><u>A.O.W.</u>: Routine repair work on MT, arms and instruments.</p> <p><u>No.1 Rec Sec</u>: Improvements to camp area.</p> <p><u>Squarepeg W/S</u>: Shifted tents, cookhouse &amp; equipment to workshops area. 3 O/Rs arrived from Vella. Equipment shut out at Vella on 4th echelon. S/M Carter remained there with equipment.</p> <p><u>Rear DOW</u>: OC departs for Noumea. Various workshop sections employed to full capacity.</p> <p><u>Base Det DOW</u>: Weather clearing; routine repairs. Workshops very busy. Remetalling of area.</p> <p><u>NZOW Det</u>: Maintenance of vehicles.</p> <p><u>29 LAA W/S</u>: OC and 10 O/Rs ready to move from Stirling to Mono Id to work with No.1 Rec Sec.</p> <p><u>Lieut R.H. Clark</u>, att. 29 LAA W/S, to be Lieut under Rule 7(a). (w.e.f. 29 Jan.)</p> <p><u>Tank W/S &amp; Fd Pk Det</u>: Reconstruction of workshops continued. General workshops duties.</p> <p><u>37 LAD</u>: Cleaning up round tent lines. Waiting for LST to return to G' canal.</p> <p><u>42 LAD</u>: Maintenance of vehicles. Recovered Signals vehicle.</p> <p><u>64 LAD</u>: MT repairs and maintenance.</p> <p><u>67 LAD</u>: Unit fully engaged in the repair and maintenance of School of Signals, Officers' School vehicles and through traffic, also maintenance of vehicles in the V.R.D. where constant attention is being given to vehicles, by way of starting and moving vehicles, and checking <del>car</del> batteries., lubrication, and light repair jobs.</p> <p><u>A.O.D.</u>: Trucks still arriving from ship "Jack London", but very irregularly.</p> <p><u>B.O.D.</u>: Routine duties in all sections. Weather fine.</p> <p><u>20 and 65 LADs</u> - included in Squarepeg workshops, with No.2 Rec Sec.</p>	
Treasury	"	"		
Nissan	"	"		
Moindah	"	"		
Bourail	"	"		
Noumea	"	"		
Treasury	"	"		
Lunga R.	"	"		
Vella	"	"		
Nemeara	"	"		
Treasury	"	"		
Moindah	"	"		
G' canal	"	"		
Bourail	"	"		
G' canal	2		<p><u>A.O.W.</u>: Armourers fully engaged on repairing and inspecting returned arms from 8 NZ BDE. These arms are in a bad state of repair owing to exposure to the weather, poor crating and packing.</p> <p><u>M.T. maintenance</u>.</p> <p><u>No.1 Rec Sec</u>: Improvements to camp area. Routine MT work.</p> <p><u>Squarepeg W/S</u>: Erecting workshops, MT store, cookhouse store, Q.M. and digging latrines.</p> <p><u>20 LAD</u> instructed to remain in present location until serviceable roads have been completed. Securing equipment which arrived by L.S.T. previous day.</p> <p><u>Rear DOW</u>: Work done on unit Theatre. OC inspects Noumea Detachment w/Shop. Work continuing on Ford 4 x 4's and FAT tractors from V.R.D.</p> <p><u>Base Det</u>: Routine repairs. M/C. shop busy on major overhauls. Metalling continuing.</p> <p><u>NZOW Det</u>: Maintenance of vehicles.</p> <p><u>29 LAA W/S</u>: New camp site on Mono unprepared due to bulldozer breaking down. Waiting until site is ready before moving over.</p>	
Treasury	"	"		
Nissan	"	"		
Moindah	"	"		
Bourail	"	"		
Noumea	"	"		
Treasury	"	"		

*Schultz* Major,  
 D.A.D.O.S.



Summary of Events and Information  
 (Date received not required)  
 INTELIGENCE SUMMARY  
 of  
 MAK DIVAKA - 3 DIV Ordnance Corps NZEF  
 20, March 1944.

Lunga R.	2 Mar (contd).	Tank W/S: Repaired base junction and master switch of tank and tank starter motor.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles; inspected ambulance after accident due to slippery roads.
G' canal	"	A.O.D.: Stores from new dump being sorted by all sections. Routine duties.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Weather fine; routine duties.
G' canal	3	A.O.W.: Six 4 x 4 Chev winch trucks arrive from NECAL. General MT work and armament repairs.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Improvements to camp area. Most of the workshop area has been coralled and the working conditions are excellent. Output of work should rise considerably, as a result.
Nissan	"	S/Reg W/S: Erecting mess room, workshop, QM and MT store and latrines. Commenced MT repairs.
Moindah	"	Rear DOW: General routine and camp maintenance.
Bourail	"	Base Det.: Increase in repairs. Chev and Ford 4 x 4 15 and 30 cwt springs breaking frequently, and springs in short supply. 73 vehicles repaired for week, increase of 17 over previous week.
Lunga	"	Tank W/S: Checked lubricating system of tank. Routine work.
Vella	"	37 LAD: No MT work; all personnel working as loading party on LSTs.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles; painting and greasing.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: MT repairs and maintenance.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Recovery unit 5 miles south to recover US Army Command car with ignition trouble.
G' canal	"	A.O.D.: Working parties from Transit camp assisting with sorting of stores. Muddy condition of the area has greatly curtailed this work.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Weather wet; routine duties in all sections. Rifle inspection at 0800 hrs.
G' canal	4	DADOS Office: Memo from GOC to Formation HQs in connection with responsibility for care of ammn the course of island operations. This letter appears in War Diary of HQ 3 NZ DIV. Briefly it states that in Guadalcanal we have a forward amn reserve which is entirely the responsibility of the Ordnance Services. At Treasury, and Green Islands and in any other islands we may occupy there will be necessarily be held amn considerably in excess of what was hitherto known as 1st, 2nd and 3rd line stocks. We have not sufficient Ordnance resources to enable us to establish ammn dumps in these forward areas under the sole care of Ordnance personnel. For convenience sake it has been laid down that ammn in the forward dumps shall be an ASC responsibility. That responsibility is limited, however to the selection of dump sites, the preparation and dunnaging of them, the proper stacking of the amn, the covering of it with tarpaulins and the proper guarding of it. Assistance may be obtained by way of working parties.. The responsibility of the Ordnance services, includes, examining amn at sufficiently frequent intervals, to give advice as to its storage and to repair and clean it. Working parties may be obtained if necessary and should be more or less permanent to avoid training of fresh personnel. Ordnance also have the responsibility of checking stocks and issuing supplies when demanded. The Ordnance Officer is in attendance for this purpose at each dump and he should keep all necessary records. He is also responsible for supplying such ammn returns as may be called for in respect of amn in, or issued from his dump. The Ordnance Officer and his Ordnance personnel should also be

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G'canal 4 Mar (contd). DADOS Office (contd.) - Summary of GOC's letter re amm care and responsibility:

...available to examine and if necessary repair ammunition held in unit dumps. They should also be available to advise unit commanders on technical questions of storage, It should be understood, the letter concludes, that this policy if not of general application, but applies only in respect of amm dumps which tactical considerations require to be established in advance of the Ordnance Ammunition Depots.

DADOS replied to the GOC's letter stating that Ordnance has only one Amm Officer, 2/Lt Harvey, who is at present stationed at Green Island, where he is available to carry out the provisions of the GOC's letter. The Guadalcanal dump is under the supervision of the AOD Ordnance Officers, but the absence of Lt. HARVEY in the North does not affect its running. At TREASURY, however, Amm reserves are comparatively small, and are under the care of the 4 MT Coy ASC, who have attached to them one Ordnance Amm section Sgt and 4 O/Rs of the same section. An Officer, Lt. Buckley, could if necessary be made available for Treasury for supervision, but the work is not sufficient to keep him occupied, and it was suggested that the 8 Bde Ordnance WO could carry out the work.

G'canal "  
Treasury "  
Nissan "  
  
Moindah "  
Bourail "  
Noumea "  
Lunga "  
Vella "  
Nemeara "  
Treasury "  
G'canal "  
Bourail "

A.O.W.: Routine MT and armament repairs, followed by I.E.  
No.1 Rec Sec: Camp improvements ; recreational afternoon.  
Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs ; wrecker and welder went to 26 Fd Coy to repair tractors. Camp construction. Roads in very bad condition and in some cases impassable except for heavy trucks. For example, courier had not been round for 2 days to collect despatches.  
Rear DOW: OC (Major Costelloe) returns from Noumea. I.E. and normal leave.  
Base Det DOW: Plant and equipment checked and overhauled. Camp I.E.. Road metalling etc.  
NZOW Det: I.E. and maintenance of vehicles.  
Tank W/S: I.E. of workshops and camp area.  
37 LAD: No duties as men had worked until midnight. Very little MT work coming to hand.  
42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and greasing ; tool check and general clean up of area.  
64 LAD: Improving living quarters and general condition of area.  
A.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections.  
B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections until 1200 hrs. Weather fine.

Nissan 5  
Moindah "  
G'canal "

Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs ; Welding plant and mechanics working on 26 Fd Coy equipment. Setting up camp. Difficulty experienced in getting coral from US Const Bn (Seabee) coral pits.  
Rear DOW: 8 ambulances received from fwd area for check and inspection.  
A.O.D.: Sections engaged in fulfilling indents from Treasury ( 8 Bde ) No. indents from Squarepeg (Nissan) yet to hand.  
Other units not listed ; normal Sunday programme - church parades etc.

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G' canal 6 Mar. DADOS Office: Adverse report received from Senior Armourer (S/Sgt GAMMIN) at A.O.W. regarding condition of small arms received from 8 Bde and 8 Bde Group units, incl. 214 Bty. Cases were broken, some pistols .38 pillaged, and many of the weapons either rusty or otherwise damaged. This report was referred to Staff Captain, 8 Bde for investigation. Bde Armourer later stated that all arms sent fwd had been carefully packed and treated with oil and grease. (i.e. back to A.O.D.)

" " Dental inspection of personnel of Div Ord HQ, and AOD, with treatment during week.

Treasury " A.O.W.: MT maintenance ; dental inspection all ranks.

Nissan " No.1 Rec Sec: Units started work on MT repairs. Improvements to camp area.

Moindah " Squarepeg W/S: Lines of communication very erratic owing to condition of roads. Big demand for Jeep and Ford 4 x 4 springs. Major Signal and Captain Reid arrived 1500 hrs. Unit secured equipment from beaches.

Bourail " Rear DOW: Inspection of camp following outbreak of dengue fever. General clean-up and removal of likely breeding places, (tins, etc.) for mosquitoes.

Lunga " Base Det DOW: Area dry and hard. Rush of repair work. All sections busy.

Vella " Tank W/S: Cut landing strips for Tank Sqn with acetylene torch. All arms inspected.

Nemeara " 37 LAD: Loading trucks with unit gear.

Moindah " 42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles ; painting and greasing. ( continued for rest of week.).

Treasury " 67 LAD: Routine duties in Vehicle Reception Depot.

G' canal " 64 LAD: M.T. Repairs and maintenance (same programme for rest of week).

Bourail " A.O.D.: Working parties assisting with sorting of stores ex "Jack London", and some cases still arriving.

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G' canal 7

" " DADOS Office: Letter to HQ 3 NZ DIV asking whether it will be advisable to proceed to taper off stocks of clothing and orders from NZ for replacements, in view of possible change in Division's future. NZ would continue, with camouflage clothing, to forward automatically to AOD unless advised to the contrary. HQ 3 NZ DIV were given full details of main clothing stocks and outstanding indents.

" " SOME (DIV) Set of Maintenance Schedules forwarded to No.1 and No.2 Rec Secs for reference as to correct nomenclature of components.

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

Moindah " Squarepeg W/S: Personnel working on engineers equipment. Setting up MT store. Secured face cuts from sawmill for mess tables and store shelves. Received first parcel mail since Xmas.

Bourail " Rear DOW: 2 i/c assumed administration and transport duties within unit. General routine.

" " Base Det: Routine repair work. Remetalling and road constn. All sections working hard, and all work well in hand. Morale good.

Noumea " NZOW DET: Maintenance of vehicles. Station: waggons arrived.

Lunga " Tank W/S: General repairs to tanks. Other workshop units and LADs - normal routine.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Shifting stores from temporary dump to sections. Stores loaded out for Nissan.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather fine but overcast ; very warm ; Routine duties.

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G' canal	8 Mar	<u>DADOS Office:</u> Div HQ Admin Instn. No. 25 advises units that no Ordnance Depot will be established at SQUAREPEG (Nissan). Units may find it necessary to order on a rather more generous scale than formerly. Stores, except for small items which may come through Bde Ord. WO's, will be supplied from A.O.D., through ASC channels.
G' canal	"	<u>A.O.W.:</u> 8 Bde vehicles arrive from 8 Bde MT pool for overhaul and painting.
Treasury	"	<u>No.1 Rec Sec:</u> Vehicle and instrument repairs.
Nissan	"	<u>Squarepeg W/S:</u> MT repairs; workshops area very muddy. Telephones frequently out of order owing to falling trees and road construction.
Moindah	"	<u>D.O.W.:</u> General routine. Instructions from DADOS to prepare technical personnel survey of NZOC, personnel.
Bourail	"	<u>Base Det:</u> Routine duties; metalling of area. Weather dry. Paint shop at full capacity.
Lunga	"	<u>Tank W/S:</u> Adjusted brakes of tank sqn Ford truck. Routine duties.
Nissan	"	<u>20 LAD:</u> Work on vehicles. Workshop area very muddy. Still separate from Squarepeg Workshops area.
Vella	"	<u>37 LAD:</u> Little work to be done; waiting for transport to G' canal.
-	"	<u>Other LADs:</u> Normal routine of maintenance and repairs.
G' canal	"	<u>A.O.D.:</u> Stores being loaded out for Treasury.
Bourail	"	<u>BOB:</u> Routine duties. Weather hot and fine.
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G' canal	9	<u>A.O.W.:</u> MT and armament repairs.
Treasury	"	<u>No.1 Rec Sec:</u> Vehicle and instrument repairs. Improvements to camp area and workshops.
Nissan	"	<u>Squarepeg W/S:</u> MT repairs. Setting out parts in MT store.
Moindah	"	<u>DOW:</u> OC inspects base detachment. Last of 8 station waggons completed ready for use.
Bourail	"	<u>Base Det:</u> M/C shop busy. Routine repairs. Metalling continues.
Noumea	"	<u>NZOW Det:</u> Maintenance of vehicles.
Treasury	"	<u>29 LAA W/S:</u> Routine work on guns and MT.
Lunga	"	<u>Tank W/S:</u> Routine duties; repaired ration box and master switch of tank.
Nissan	"	<u>20 LAD:</u> Work on vehicles. Supply of parts difficult owing to poor communications.
Moindah	"	<u>67 LAD:</u> Recovery unit 3 miles south recover US Army 6 x 6 with petrol blockage. Routine work.
-	"	<u>Other LADs:</u> Routine maintenance and servicing.
G' canal	"	<u>A.O.D.:</u> First indents from Squarepeg to hand and under action. Engineers working on new buildings. Trucks carting ashingle for roads in Depot area.
Bourail	"	<u>B.O.D.:</u> Routine duties.

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G' canal 10 Mar A.O.W.: Lt. J. Danby marched in from tour of duty in fwd areas, and report submitted to HQ DOW and SOME (DIV). Armourers fully engaged on repair of SA received from AOD Salvage Section.

Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: M T repairs. GOC visited unit in afternoon. Signalled AOD for parts needed urgently.

Moindah " D.O.W.: Number of personnel in hospital reduced by half this week. No further cases of dengue fever.

Bourail " Base Det: Routine repairs. 76 vehicles repaired for week, increase of 3 over previous week.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles.

Lunga " Tank W/S: Overhauled motor of charging plant. Ground crankshaft, made new bushes and welded up crankshaft. General repair and construction work, also work on workshop building.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles; painting and greasing.

Treasury " 64 LAD: MT repairs and maintenance. Other LADs - mostly normal routine.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Working parties transferring stores, which have been stored under tarpaulins since December when they arrived, into new area. A.E. & S section transferring technical stores to new tent.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather fine and hot. Showers in afternoon. Routine duties.

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G' canal 11 A.O.W.: Recreational activities extended to inter-unit competitions. Usual routine. Free afternoon.

Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs; recreational afternoon.

Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: M T repairs. Signalled for parts required urgently. Div HQ advise unit to remain in present position.

Moindah " D.O.W.: General I.E. throughout the camp, and normal leave.

Bourail " Base Det: Camp I.E.; inspection of plant and equipment. Construction work & camp maintenance.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. Interior economy.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Machinery, equipment, and tool kits inspected. I.E. of workshops and camp area.

Vella " 37 LAD: Odd jobs; pretty slack. Waiting for transport back to G' canal.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance etc; tool check and general clean up. Wrecker returned from manoeuvres. Wrecker crew received valuable training throughout manoeuvres.

- " Other LADs and Workshops: Normal routine.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Ammn section loading out ammn for Squarepeg. Routine duties in depot.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties until 1200 hrs. First soccer practice and last cricket match of season.

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G'canal	12	Mar	<u>A.O.W.:</u> Voluntary church services. Free day for I.E. and recreation.
Nissan	"		<u>Squarepeg W/S:</u> MT work until 1145 hrs, and afternoon free. Bulldozer clearing track and removing mud.
"	"		<u>20 LAD:</u> Packed equipment ready for shifting over to Squarepeg Workshops following day.
"	"		<u>Other workshops and LADs:</u> Normal Sunday routine.
G'canal	"		<u>A.O.D.:</u> Routine duties.
Bourail	"		<u>B.O.D.:</u> Free day. Weather fine and exceptionally hot.

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G'canal	13	<u>A.O.W.:</u> Routine MT repairs and maintenance. Inauguration of Island (US) broadcasting station.
Treasury	"	<u>No.1 Rec Sec:</u> Vehicle & instrument repairs. The instrument sections schedule of work has been completed. All instruments in 8 Bde have been checked and adjusted.
Nissan	"	<u>Squarepeg W/S:</u> M.T. repairs. 20 LAD moved over to Squarepeg workshops.
Moindah	"	<u>D.O.W.:</u> O.C. visits Base Detachment, Bourail. Capt Sandelin departs for Noumea to relieve as OC following departure of Lt. Black to 37 LAD, and pending 2/Lt Skinner taking over Noumea Det.
Bourail	"	<u>Base Det:</u> Routine repairs. Paint shop working to capacity, likewise M/C. shop. Spares coming to hand very well. Metallising continues.
Noumea	"	<u>NZOW Det:</u> Maintenance of vehicles. Capt. Sandelin m/v. from DOW to take over unit.
Lunga	"	<u>Tanks W/S:</u> Work on construction of water boiler. Welding to unit trailer.
Nissan	"	<u>20 LAD:</u> Shifted camp to Squarepeg workshops.
Vella	"	<u>37 LAD:</u> Working on old Jap landing barge.
Nemeara	"	<u>42 LAD:</u> Maintenance, painting, and greasing. Wrecker out to assist ATD vehicle.
Treasury	"	<u>64 LAD:</u> MT repairs and maintenance.
G'canal	"	<u>A.O.D.:</u> Construction of new stores. Bulldozer levelling area for new stores. Routine duties.
Bourail	"	<u>B.O.D.:</u> Routine duties in all sections. Weather fine.

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G'canal	14	<u>DADOS:Office:</u> HQ NZEFIP signals NZ re clothing supplies. (1) No further camouflage suits <del>now</del> now required to be shipped. Priority should be given to BD drill trousers and Bush shirts No.2. (2) No further boots R & F to be shipped to G'canal, but to NECAL; (3) No further canvas boots until further notice. (4) Stop manufacture jungle hats in meantime, pending suggestions for improved pattern. (5) Request supply of KD bush shirts with belt and buckle and BD drill trousers be accelerated. (6) All outstanding indents hats felt should be expedited and forwarded NECAL. (7) Can elastic be supplied for garters.
G'canal	"	<u>A.O.W.:</u> Routine repairs and maintenance in all sections.
Nissan	"	<u>Squarepeg W/S:</u> MT repairs. Erecting armament <del>shop</del> shop. Setting out MT parts in store. Unit RAP established.
Moindah	"	<u>DOW:</u> Routine duties. Training films screened in evening.
Bourail	"	<u>Base Det:</u> Repair work now well in hand. Special measures taken to control mosquitoes and combat dengue fever. Wrecker truck out of action with bent chassis, due to heavy work it has been called on to do.
Noumea	"	<u>NZOW Det:</u> Normal workshop duties. Capt Sandelin checked stock and ledger cards and is temporarily in charge.

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14 Mar Tanks W/S: Repaired tank turret traverse gear.  
 Nissan " 20 LAD: Unpacked stores and set up men's quarters and equipment. Interview with SOME (DIV) re personnel.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and greasing. Wrecker on job to Boguen. Other LADs - normal duties.  
 G'canal " A.O.D.: Indents coming to hand from 8 Bde and are under action. Working parties moving stores into area.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties. Board of Returned stores held. Capt KENNEDY & 4 O/rs received word of impending leave to NZ.

G'canal 15 DADOS Office: Div HQ Admin Instn. No. 50 refers to Ordnance Stores in fwd areas. States that unserviceable tents, clothing, etc, may be retained by units in Nissan & Treasury and used for rags, old, shelter canvas, etc, provided it is got off charge by a nil indent bearing the words signed by the C.O.: "Certified that this (tentage etc) is worn out through fair wear and tear and has been used as (canvas old etc)." Unserviceable items which have a salvage value or can be repaired (e.g. cookers) will be returned to Ordnance - to local workshops if repairable there and to G'canal if not repairable locally. The writing off of unserviceable technical stores and arms and vehicles will continue as before through Ordnance.  
 G'canal " SOME (DIV): Major SIGNAL returned from tour of duty to Green Island, by air. (Green = Nissan).  
 " " A.O.W.: Work being done on the painting and reconditioning of 8 Bde vehicles from FMC motor pool.  
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs.  
 Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Bulldozer clearing mud from ~~workshop~~ workshop area. Moved orderly room.  
 Moindah " D.O.W.: General routine and camp maintenance.  
 Bourail " Base Det: Routine repairs. Metalling of area completed. Radiator repairs section extremely busy. Trouble with Ford Quad radiators - pipes breaking away at entry to bottom tank of radiator. Due to type of construction, this part takes a very heavy strain.  
 Nissan " 20 LAD: Work on vehicles and returns. Applications submitted for various promotions.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and greasing. Two calls made on wrecker's services, on main road.  
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Routine duties. Recovery unit 22 miles south for GMC with broken tie rod.  
 " " Other LADs & Workshops: Normal routine.  
 G'canal " A.O.D.: Indents from Nissan coming to hand. Engineers working on new buildings.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties in all sections. Weather fine and hot.

G'canal 16 DADOS Office: Return from Nissan of Captain Reid, assistant to DADOS, after tour of duty.  
 " " A.O.W.: Routine repair work and maintenance.  
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs. Parts are coming to hand very satisfactorily. Vehicles are now being overhauled and put into good running order.  
 Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Chev 4 x 4 truck with equipment picked up from LST.  
 Moindah " D.O.W.: Overhaul of 30 4 x 4's on Div vehicle park commenced. Action taken to control dengue fever.  
 Bourail " Base Det: Precautions against dengue-carrying mosquitoes. Leave cancelled. All sections busy. 4 O/Rs in hospital, mainly skin trouble and blood disorders. Weather breaks.

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 D.A.D.O.S.



Noumea 16 Mar NZOW Det: Workshop duties. Weather continuing showery.  
 Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: Bulldozer still out of action (required on new site on Mono). Party sent over to Mono to prepare site. Big job owing to nature of terrain.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: Repairs to unit Chev truck. Re-line brakes, tune up motor and straighten tailboard.  
 - " All LADs: Routine repairs and maintenance. 20 and 65 LADs with Squarepeg Workshops, for duties etc.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: ss "Camanga discharged during night approx 500 packages for Depot.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather fine and hot. Routine duties. All ranks to wear long trousers, gaiters, and shirts against risk of infection by dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

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G' canal 17 A.O.W.: All sections fully occupied with repair work.  
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs. The workshop area has been completely coralled, but tented areas are yet to be done. Apparently some delay through difficulty with equipment.  
 Nissan " Squarepeg W/S:MT repairs. Secured equipment from beach and dumps.  
 Moindah " D.O.W.: 2/Lt G.A.P. Skinner marched in to NZOW Det Noumea. Lt. F.J.E. Black m/o to 37th LAD.  
 Bourail " Base Det: Routine repairs. Wrecker completed. Motor pump assy. fitted to hot shower truck. Turners and fitters busily employed making Ford 4 x 2 (ambulances) kingpins, which are unobtainable.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: Various camp equipment repairs and fittings for tank sqn.  
 Moindah " 67 LAD: Recovery unit 15 miles north to recover GMC with clutch trouble.  
 - " Other LADs: Routine repairs, adjustments, greasing etc.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: "C" Group transferring clothing etc into new store. Lt. BUCKLEY and 2 O/Rs arrived by air from Ve  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties. Major KNIGHT visited Nepoui. Truck went to Nepoui with rations & returned with amm

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G' canal 18 A.O.W.: I.E. and camp maintenance.  
 Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs. Recreational afternoon.  
 Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. 2 O/Rs to hospital. Secured timber for constn. of greasing ramp. Water limited to 1½ gallons per man per day, very short for washing clothes.  
 Moindah " D.O.W.: Capt. Sandelin formally hands over Noumea Detachment to 2/Lt Skinner.  
 Bourail " Base Det: Camp maintenance. Check of tools and equipment. Camp I.E.  
 Noumea " NZOW Det: Camp I.E. workshop duties. 2/Lt Skinner takes over control of unit.  
 Lunga " Tanks W/S: I.E. of workshops and camp area.  
 Vella " 37 LAD: Left on board LST 247 at 1400 hrs. and pulled out at midnight for G' canal.  
 Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and greasing of vehicles. Tool check and clean up of area.  
 Treasury " 64 LAD: Cleaned and improved workshop area and living quarters.  
 G' canal " A.O.D.: Work ceased at 1000 hrs with men detailed for urgent work only. First free week-end for so  
 months. (unit's notes state "since leaving Necal").  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather fine. Capt KENNEDY marched out to BRD for leave to NZ.

*Knights* Major,  
D.A.D.O.S.




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19 Mar Squarepeg W/S: Only very urgent jobs being done. First day off since arrival on island. (Sunday).  
D.O.W.: Church parade etc. 8 Staff Cars delivered by returning leave party from Noumea. Adjusted  
 and check-over after shipment.  
 All other workshops and LAD units - Free day, apart from church parades. Likewise AOD and BOD.

20 SOME (DIV): Question of return to NZ of unserviceable Gift Binoculars has arisen. Decided that  
 if they cannot be repaired locally, and are of no use as a source of components but are still of  
 some value, they shall be returned to NZ.  
A.O.W.: MT repairs and maintenance. 21 O/Rs comprising 37 LAD, and 10 O/Rs comprising part of No.2  
 Rec. Sec. arrive with equipment from Vella Lavella. Occupy site prepared in AOW area.  
No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs. 1 Offr and 10 men from 29 LAA W/Shops att. for duty.  
Squarepeg WS: MT repairs. Still short of water owing to distillation plant being shifted. Approx 6 personnel  
 per day are E.D. with septic sores, and boils. Constructing greasing ramp.  
DOW: General routine and camp maintenance. Storm warnings received.  
Base Det: Routine repairs. M/C shop extra busy. Painting to schedule. Radiator shop busy.  
NZOW Det: Normal workshop duties. Engineers putting in drain for storm water.  
29 LAA W/S: Erected tentage on new site. 1 Offr and 10 men moved in from Stirling Id, to be with No.1 Rec Sec.  
Tanks W/S: Unit truck carting metal. Panel beating and welding damaged mudguards, ration and tool boxes  
 on tanks.  
37 LAD: Arrived Guadalcanal at 0800 hrs; erecting tents etc. Other LADs - normal repairs & maintenance.  
A.O.D.: Working parties from Transit Camp at Depot and at Amm Section. Engineers making good progress  
 with new store buildings. Mr Lonergan and rest of F.O.D. personnel returned from Vella.  
B.O.D.: Routine duties.

21 DADOS Office: Lt.-Col. MYERS conferring with GOC, with reference to "over-age" officers and probable  
 Ordnance appointments which would follow the placing of DADOS on the NZ Roll. The GOC gave latest  
 confidential information regarding the probably future of the Force. It was decided to let the AOD  
 stores building programme go ahead, and the GOC - probably on his return from NZ - would then go into  
 the question of what outstanding indents on NZ, (from either G'canal or Necal) might either be  
 decreased or otherwise amended.  
A.O.W.: Small arms from F.O.D. arrive for servicing and repair. These arms are also in a bad state of  
 repair owing to the lack of grease and oil before packing. A report to this effect submitted to  
SOME (DIV). Routine repairs by MT section.  
Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Greasing ramp in operation. Erected unit canteen.  
D.O.W.: Five personnel marched out to furlough in NZ. General routine.  
Base Det: Routine repairs. Rain hampers operations. Spares coming to hand freely. Greasing up to schedule.  
NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles.

  
 Major,  
 D.A.D.O.S.



Treasury 21 Mar 29 LAA W/Shops. Personnel & equipment moved over to Mono. Id. The HQ of the unit is still at Stirling on the old site, 5 O/Rs remaining behind to guard the bulk of the unit stores and equipment, and to carry on the administration. As the unit is so split up, this semi-permanent arrangement avoids a lot of confusion.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Continued work on mudguards etc of tanks. Carting metal.

G' canal " 37 LAD: Cleaning up tent lines etc and general maintenance in new area at AOW.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance, greasing and painting of vehicles. Vehicle assisted ASC vehicle Houailou Road.

G' canal " Other LADs and workshops: routine maintenance and repairs.

Bourail " A.O.D.: F.O.D. personnel sorting stores and checking records before beginning regular depot routine.

" B.O.D.: Weather wet. Routine duties. Storm warning received and precautions taken. Leave party of 5 marched out to B.R.D. for leave to N.Z.

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G' canal 22 DADOS Office: Captain REID to Treasury on tour of duty.

G' canal 22 A.O.W.: MT repairs and maintenance. 37 LAD settled in in new quarters and commencing to assist with MT work.

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

Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Erecting MT workshops. Secured coral for part of area.

Moindah " D.O.W.: General routine and maintenance. Dengue control measures continued. No further cases.

Bourail " Base Det: Weather wet and squally. Storm warning. Tents and loose equipment secured. Repairs well in hand. Twelve of personnel shooting on the range, with good results.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. Water laid on to camp from civil main.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Removed cylinder head, fitted new gaskets and adjusted clutches of Valentine tank.

Nissan " 20 LAD: Work on vehicles and guns. LAD split into sections of MT and Armaments with rest of Squarepeg W/Shop.

G' canal " 37 LAD: Carting coral, erecting store tent and orderly room.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Greasing, painting and general maintenance of vehicles.

Treasury " 64 LAD: Repairs and maintenance on MT. Other LADs - normal routine.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather wet. Issue of third blanket because of onset of cooler nights.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Working parties from Transit Camp shingling road into camp. Indents received from 8 and 14 Bdes.

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G' canal 23 DADOS Office: Question of ordering of tentage, in view of changed conditions, being discussed with BOD.

" " Referred to HQ 3 NZ DIV and GOC for decision. Tentage will probably have to be sent to NECAL, not G' canal.

" " SOME (DIV): Report by SOME (DIV) to Chief Ord. Mechanical Engineer (C.O.M.E.) Trentham on conditions at Green Island (NISSAN). See Appendix I. .. .. . Appx. I.

Nissan " A.O.W.: Routine repair and maintenance work.

" Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Erecting new workshops. (MT) Workshop split into 3 sections - 1 armament and 2 M.T. - with an Officer in charge of each section.

Moindah " D.O.W.: Workshops maintenance routine.

Bourail " Base Det: Take over maintenance of engine units, pumping etc, in Base area, formerly done by Works Services.

Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: Wprk being done on new camp site.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Repaired Besa MG (removed projectile from barrel). Further welding and panelbeating on tanks.

*John St* Major,  
D.A.D.O.S.



23 Mar 37 LAD: Carting coral, unpacking stores and gear. Assisting with MT.

- G' canal 23 Mar 37 LAD: Carting coral, unpacking stores and gear. Assisting with MT.
- Moindah " 67 LAD: Routine repairs. Recovery unit 11 miles South to recover weapon carrier over bank.
- G' canal " A.O.D.: Large working party at ammn section dump clearing grass from round stacks. One new store building in Depot completed and another nearly ready.
- Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties.

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- G' canal 24 A.O.W.: Unit library opened with books from Nat Pat Bd. Routine duties.
- Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs. Capt. REID from DADOS Office discussed parts and equipment problems.
- Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: M.T. repairs. Erecting MT workshop.
- Moindah " D.O.W.: Work on some vehicles still delayed through unavailability of spares, notably brake washers at present.
- Bourail " Base Det: Busy week but held up on four vehicles for which parts are not available. Total of 59 vehicles repaired with 21 still under repair.
- Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. Engineers finished storm water drain.
- Lunga " Tank W/S: Commenced checking and adjusting "B" vehicles ex Vella for A.O.W., Complete check and repairs.
- G' canal: " Various LADs: Routine repairs, maintenance etc.
- Bourail " A.O.D.: Indents from 8 and 14 Bdes coming to hand. Routine duties. Roadway into camp shingled.
- " B.O.D.: Routine duties. Party went to B.R.D. range in morning for practice shoot.

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- G' canal 25 A.O.W.: Camp maintenance and I.E. Free afternoon for recreation.
- Treasury " No.1 Rec Sec: Camp maintenance and interior economy.
- Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: M.T. repairs. Despatched enemy barrage mortar by SCAT.
- Bourail " Base Det: Machinery and maintenance check. Camp I.E. Full parade and rifle inspection. Afternoon free.
- Lunga " Tank W/S: Work on trucks. I.E. of camp and workshop area.
- Treasury " 64 LAD: Improved and cleaned living area. Other LADs and Workshops - Normal Saturday programme (i.e. etc).
- G' canal " A.O.D.: Work in morning and all personnel off for Sat. afternoon and Sunday. B.O.D. - same programme.

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- G' canal 26 DADOS Office: HQ 3 NZ DIV and HQ NZEFIP given schedule showing tentage in stock AOD, issues made by AOD since arrival, tentage on order from NZ for AOD, Outstanding unit indents and balance which will be available for stock if all indents from NZ arrive and all unit indents are filled. Issues so far made should mean that half of units' tentage is in good order. Tentage still on order should be sufficient to set up units with good quality tentage. Considered advisable to let tentage on order come forward to Guadalcanal, as it will be required in the forward area.

*Schuyt* Major,  
D.A.D.O.S.



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WAR DIARY

2 DIV

G' canal 26 Mar SOME (DIV): Report received from Radio Maintenance Officer that 2 unserviceable transformers P.P.I. H.T. supply are being returned here for forwarding to Trentham for repair and return. The Transformer, according to the report received, appears to be too lightly constructed for the high temperature and humidity of tropical work. R.M.O. requests that they be rewound with more efficient insulation. One transformer is being returned to Trentham, and A.O.W. are undertaking the repair of the other. A.O.W. will make thorough examination and supply a detailed report.

G' canal " All Workshops and LADs: Normal Sunday programme, with church parades in most instances, and only urgent work. A.O.D.: Only men on duty are those detailed to stand by for urgent calls. B.O.D. (Bourail) - Free day.

G' canal 27 SOME (DIV): Attention of HQ 8 NZ Bde drawn to large numbers of bulged barrels of TSMGs, reported by No.1 Rec Sec, 8 Bde. Requested 8 Bde to ensure that ammn is kept in as good order as possible by opening cases only as required, and by using ammn as soon as possible after opening cases.

" " A.O.W.: Bodywork repairs and painting of 8 Bde pool vehicles being carried out to schedule. Considerable time entailed in cleaning rust from rifles received from fwd area. The 2 armourers on the strength of the unit are fully engaged in servicing anti-tank rifles and Small arms.

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

Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs.

Moindah " D.O.W.: Clerical staff fully engaged on stock figures for 31st March. General workshops routine.

Bourail " Base Det: Routine repairs. Heavy day for M/C shop and electrical dept. Personnel worked late to complete urgent repairs by time required.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. WO-2 Lindaay marched in from hospital.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Reconstruction of one collapsed workshop commenced. Work on trucks continued. Repairs to mudguards etc of tanks continued.

Nissan " 20 LAD: Work on vehicles and guns, with Squarepeg W/Sbyps. OC gave lecture at HQ 17 Fd Rgt to representatives of Arty units on "Care and Use of Petrol."

G' canal " 37 LAD: Indenting for unit personnel clothing etc. Routine work with A.O.W.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and greasing of vehicles. Wrecker out on 10 days manoeuvres with A.T.D.

Treasury " 64 LAD: MT repairs and maintenance. Other LADs - normal routine.

G' canal " A.O.D.: Work proceeding on stores buildings. Area on which these have been built was badly cut up during rain.

Bourail " Indents being actioned by all sections.

Bourail " B.O.D.: Routine duties. Weather overcast but fine.

Schuyt Major,  
 D.A.D.O.S.



28 Mar A.O.W.: Routine repairs and maintenance, with 37 LAD personnel assisting.  
 " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Several personnel marched in and out to hospital during past few days.  
 " D.O.W.: Routine duties. OC visits Base Detachment.  
 " Base Det: Workshops busy. All sections fully employed. Weather dry.  
 " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles.  
 " 29 LAA W/S: Camp well settled in, and work begun with No.1 Rec Sec on Mono.  
 " Tanks W/S: Workshops shelter completed. Work on vehicles. Unit truck carting metal.  
 " 37 LAD: Small amount of MT work. Carting coral.  
 " 42 LAD: Maintenance, greasing and painting of vehicles. Wrecker returned with Chev 15cwt 4 x 4.  
 " A.O.D.: Fatigue parties from Transit Camp at AOD and at Ann Section. Large number of indents being dealt with from both Bdes. Approx 9500 camouflage Jungle Jackets and 5000 camouflage Jungle Trousers of US pattern, received from NZ, returned to US Forces, Forward Area, on Reverse Lease-Lend.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather fine and hot. Routine duties. Several trucks arrived with stores from AK 94.

29 SOME (BASE): See Appendix II for monthly report by SOME (Base), summarised. Appendix II.  
 " A.O.W.: Routine maintenance and repairs for rest of month.  
 " No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs - for remainder of month.  
 " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs.  
 " D.O.W.: General routine. Major Knight (COO, BOD) and Major Foote (DAG, Base) visit camp.  
 " Base Det: Routine repairs. Unit vehicles painted. Hot shower unit being constructed. Shortage of oxygen gas limits welding operations.  
 " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles.  
 " Tanks W/S: Completed constn of ice box. Work on trucks and tanks and carting metal.  
 " 42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and greasing of vehicles. Other LADs - normal routine.  
 " A.O.D.: Field Park Coy engineers working on stores buildings. Fatigue parties cutting grass at Ann Dump. Sections packing stores for both Brigades.  
 Bourail " B.O.D.: Weather fine. Routine duties in all sections.

30 DADOS Office: On GOC's return from NZ he interviewed DADOS and gave him full details of decisions arrived at by War Cabinet regarding return to NZ of personnel for essential industry. DADOS to remain further 3 or 4 weeks at Guadalcanal prior to Major Knight succeeding him. Left to DADOS to promptly consider tapering off demands on NZ and possibly amending some existing demands, having regard to the future role of the progressively diminishing Force.

*Schuyt* Major,  
 D.A.D.O.S.



Volume 26, March 1944. Sheet 15.

WAR DIARY

3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEF.

G' canal 30 Mar SOME (DIV): Report received from A.O.W. that a rifle coming in for repair has had the fore-end and front hand-guard sawn in two at the outer band (upper sling swivel band). This enables the woodwork forward of such band to be removed with the nose-cap, the effect being to convert to a sporting type, with reduction in weight. The woodwork, on replacement, however, is not securely held in position, and when a bayonet is fixed or rifle is fired, the tendency is for the woodwork to come loose. It would be quite possible for it to come off and constitute a danger, particularly when drilling with fixed bayonet. The practice of tampering with arms by unauthorised persons is strictly forbidden. Repairs and adjustments should only be carried out by Armourers. This was reported to HQ 3 NZ DIV, who issued an instruction calling for examination of all rifles by armourers, forwarding of a return, and punishment of offenders.

Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. O.M.E. 14 Bde gave a lecture on care and use of petrol.

Moindah " D.O.W.: O.C. interviews D.A.G. at Base. Routine maintenance work.

Bourail " Base Det: Routine repairs. Washing plant for vehicles in operation. Satisfactory progress with repairs. Spare parts not now coming to hand too freely.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. WO-2 Lindsay marched out again to hospital.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Repaired main spring leaf and starter on Squadron jeep. Work on B vehicles continued.

G' canal " 37 LAD: Clothing issued. Four men pulling-down Bedford tractor.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance, greasing, and painting of vehicles. Other LADS & Workshops - normal routine.

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

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

G' canal 31 DADOS Office: Lt.-Col MYERS conferred with all local Ordnance Officers and O.M.Es re Ordnance problems arising out of future of Division. AOD area inspected by the G.O.C. Capt. REID made inspection of Treasury during the past week and returned to Div Ord HQ.

" " SOME (DIV): Report by Major SIGNAL on state of workshops in Green, Treasury and Guadalcanal.

" " A.O.W.: Routine maintenance and repairs. Comments for the month: A considerable volume of work was again handled. Repairs were carried out on a total of 277 vehicles of all types. MT spares were in good supply from AOD, enabling a quick return of vehicles to units. No vehicles had to be placed on the dead-line because of lack of spares. Health of personnel remains good, there being no evacuations to hospital during the month.

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

Nissan " Squarepeg W/S: (incl. 20 and 65 LADs etc): MT repairs and armament repairs.

Moindah % D.O.W.: Stock figures approaching finalisation. General workshop routine.

Appx III.

*LeKnight* Major,  
D.A.D.O.S.



Bourail 31 Mar Base Det DOW: Routine repairs . A busy week. Morale of personnel good. Weather dry. Mosquito control measures yielding good results. Fitters and turners kept busy, on bushes and bearings. All work well in hand. Comments for the month:-- The month has been a very progressive one. Camp conditions have been very much improved, morale has improved, with the result of greater efficiency in all sections and with the new NCOs settling into the routine, there has been greater cooperation, from all ranks, in every way.

Noumea " NZOW Det: Maintenance of vehicles. Comments for the month:-- A fairly busy month with personnel working well. Several vehicles painted including the new issue of cars in this area. MT parts coming to hand very well. Health and morale good. Back to normal strength except for S/M. Lindsay being readmitted to hospital.

Treasury " 29 LAA W/S: The month has been most unsettled. Mono appears to be a much healthier island than Stirling - the number on sick parade for skin troubles has dropped considerably.

Lunga " Tanks W/S: Work on B vehicles. Unit truck carting metal.

G' canal " 37 LAD: Change parade. Carting shingle. Weather very hot.

Nemeara " 42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and greasing of vehicles.

Treasury " 64 LAD: MT repairs and maintenance.

Moindah " 67 LAD: The month concludes with the unit fully engaged in vehicle maintenance in the area. During the month 57 new vehicles were given a complete paint ; 23 front differentials were removed from Chevrolet 15 cwt 4 x 4's to have the housing strengthened by D.O.W., and 31 jobs were completed in the workshop.

G' canal " A.O.D.: All sections packing stores for both brigades. Depot inspected by G.O.C. in morning. US petrol dump near camp caught fire in evening and an emergency party stood by in case of spread. Fire was extinguished by US fire parties and kept to its original locality.

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

*Seknight* Major,  
D.A.D.O.S.



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APPENDICES I, II, and III.

- I. SOME (DIV). -- 23 Mar 44.
- II. SOME (BASE). 29 Mar 44.
- III. SOME (DIV). 31 Mar 44.



March 23

Forwarded report on conditions on Green Island to C.O.M.E. Trentham.

Early in operations on the Island, transport conditions were bad, owing to rough ~~state~~ state of roads and tracks and also to very heavy rainfall. All types of vehicles heavily suffered from mechanical failures and spring replacements on Jeeps ~~were~~ were about 25% over first month. The latter was accentuated through insufficient supplies of shock absorbers. Bedford Tractors performed well, but lack of spares made them a liability from repair point of view, failures in axles, transfer cases, electrical system and clutch being most apparent.

Failure in Rzeppa Front Universal Joint was the most serious trouble in Ford 4 x 4 30 cwt Quad., but these vehicles performed well in the mud.

Brake Failures were heavy for all types of vehicles, flexible brake hose being fractured frequently. Penetration of coral into brake drums caused all the linings to wear out very rapidly. This has been noticed in all ~~these~~ <sup>three</sup> operations forward of Guadalcanal. Chev. 4 x 4 30 cwt. Winch Trucks have been operating for nearly two years and the spare parts situation is acute. It has now become necessary to cannibalise to keep these vehicles in operation.

The spare parts situation makes it imperative that in an amphibious operation only those vehicles for which spare parts are available, be taken forward, as the number of vehicles is kept to a minimum.

Artillery equipment was not used extensively and is being maintained in good order. At the moment Bofors Guns and Predictors are being progressively overhauled.

The heavy equipment proved very effective, the D8 Tractors being kept operating full time. This was possible only because the equipment was practically new throughout. Tractors below Class 1 type are not considered heavy enough for conditions of operation in these areas.

A Composite W/Shops Group was formed for the ~~primary~~ operations, and has proved quite successful. The question will be fully considered before a ny future operation.

Automatic Maintenance Packs, which are now arriving, will assist greatly in servicing 3 NZ Div. Equipment.

...*E. P. Signal*...Major  
S.O.M.E. DIV.



D.O.W.: Base Det. workshops have completely taken over all Base work from DOW and the latter can concentrate on Div. vehicles exclusively. Capt Sandelin as 2 i/c g handles all regimental duties. Ford 30 cwt 4 x 4, Dodge water trucks, jeeps, ambulances, Chev 30 cwt 4 x 4's and motorcycles are going through the workshops. Modification to Chev 15 cwt 4 x 4 trucks is still being done - strengthening of front axle flanges by the electric welding of gussets to support the flanges.

Base Det Workshops: is now handling all base work except for Noumea area. Works Services Coy have provided a heavy ramp, a concrete washing area and metal for workshop. The Detachment handles approx 60 - 70 vehicles per week, and is operating quite efficienztly, fully serving the puppose for which it was formed.

A.S.C. Workshop Platoons: These have completed their quota of Ford 4 x 4 30 cwt trucks and are now reconditioning Div GMC 6 x 4 trucks. Should turn out 6 vehicles per platoon (3) per week.

67 LAD: Still fully engaged on maintenance of Div vehicles. Their work is becoming heavier as more vehicles are reconditioned, and the remainder of the Tank Sqn personnel rear party have been attached to them.

42 LAD: Arty T aining Depot's vehicles are now in good condition, All have been repainted.

Noumea Det. DOW: Repair work has increased in this area with the expansion of the 4 Gen Hospital at Dumbea, but they are coping with the work satisfactorilly.

General: A rough outline of the reconditioning programme is as follows:-

- Ford 4 x 4 30 cwt trucks : 100 of these on park. 51 are now completed, and the remainder will be completed in 2 weeks.
- Chev 4 x 4 30 cwt trucks : 43 of this type on park. - 6 completed and 18 almost finished.
- GMC 6 x 4 60 cwt trucks : All ASC 6 x 4's are completed - 4 5 Div vehicles reconditioned, with 32 in workshops now.
- Dodge water trucks : 4 xompleted. 11 passing through workshops.
- Chev 15 cwt 4 x 4 trucks : We are carrying out the front axle modification to these vehicles - two thirds completed.
- Jeeps : 5 completed apart from those completed and issued to Base.
- Motorcycles : 80 completed - remainder going through workshops steadily.

Spare parts: The spare parts position is fairly satisfactory and we are not experiencing any serious hold-ups.

The position generally is that we are not fully in our stride on the reconditioning of Div vehicles, and our only worry is that there will not be sufficient time to complete the vehicles before *your* return.

The health of the men on the whole is ~~not~~ satisfactory and all workshops are working smoothly.

Original signed by D.W. LAWSON, Major,  
SOME (BASE).



APPENDIX III.

31 March 1944.

SOME (DIV) Report upon equipment and workshops at Green, Treasury & G'canal.

TREASURY: 8 Bde equipment is now in good repair. Complete overhaul of 25-pr guns was not recommended by this HQ, only the equipment giving trouble to be stripped down for repair. It is now possible to carry out complete overhaul of vehicles and this is being carried out by No.1 Recovery Section, LADs and LAA Workshop sections. The schedule for repair of instruments set out by Lieut DANBY has now been completed. A system of progressive repair of instruments is being carried out by workshops.

GREEN Id: The workshops group is functioning satisfactorily and I consider gives greater efficiency to a Brigade (Nissan) Group. Septic sores have been prevalent in the unit, this being accentuated through limited water supply. On all future operations of a Brigade Group, it is considered necessary to equip workshops with one heavy and one light machine shop. Time lag is still a serious factor in supplies going forward from advanced base. It is essential in future operations that sufficient trucks be allotted to workshops for carrying range of spares.- important spares were often shut out from ship through not being loaded on trucks.

GUADALCANAL: Advanced Ordnance Workshops are being kept very busy with current repairs. Progress is being made on Brigade Reserve vehicles to completely overhaul and paint all vehicles. All small arms are being checked, repaired, and suitably preserved for despatch to BOD: The health of this unit is good, having no admissions to hospital over this last month.

(COPY) Original signed by:

E.J.R. SIGNAL, Major,  
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