ORIGINAL.

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SECRET.
SECRET.

WAR DIARY.
WAR DIARY.

3 Div Ordnance Corps, 2 NZEF IP.

for the month of:

APRIL, 1944.
APRIL, 1944.

Volume XXVII.
Volume XXVII.

Compiled by DADOS Office, HQ 3 NZ DIV.

16 Sheets & 1 Appendices.

INDEX of:

(a) Consolidated War Diary for APRIL 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 W/Shops	- Guadalcanal.
	No.1 Rec. Sec with 8 Bde Gp.	- Treasury Group, B.S.I.P.
	**No.2 Rec Sec with 14 Bde Gp.	- Nissan Id (N.Guinea mandated Ty)
	Rear Detachment DOW	- Moindah, N.C.
	Base Detachment DOW	- Bourail, N.C.
	Noumea Det DOW (NZOW Det)	- Noumea, N.C.
** Squarepeg Workshops	.. .. ..	- Nissan.
which includes:		
	(No.2 Rec Sec, less 10 men.	
	(29 LAA W/S detachment only	- {acting with 14 Bde and
	(Tank W/S detachment only	{Div Tpd Gp in Nissan.
	(20 LAD in full	
	(65 LAD in full	
29 Light AA Workshops (att 29 LAA Regt).		- Treasury Gp. (Det. with Sqpeg.)
Tank W/Shops & Fd Pk Det (att 3 NZ DIV Tank Sqn)		- Lunga River area, G'canal & NECAL
** 20 LAD (normally att. 17 Fd Regt)-att Sqpeg W/S.		- Nissan
37 LAD (att. 14 Bde Gp, normally)		- G'canal and Necal.
42 LAD (att. Arty Trg Depot)		- Nemeara N.C.
64 LAD: (att. 8 Bde Gp).		- Treasury Gp.
** 65 LAD: (att. Div Engrs, normally)-att Sqpeg W/S.		- Nissan.
67 LAD: (att. Rear Det. DOW)		- Moindah.
Advanced Ordnance Depot, (Adv Sec., of BOD).		- Guadalcanal. (F.M.C. area).
Base Ordnance Depot		- Bourail, N.C.

(b) Appendices I. - SOME (DIV.)

Volume 27, April 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 DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

- 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP.

(Form N.Z.—375.) (In pads of 100.)

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
G'canal	1	April	DADOS Office: Capt. H.McK. Reid leaves for NECAL by ship at 1330 hrs. Letter to HQ 3 NZ DIV sent setting out position of stocks in AOD, and proposals for return of certain quantities to BOD, NECAL, in view of Division's projected return to NECAL. Provision also made for certain shipments of goods en route to FMC to be diverted to NECAL, if possible. HQ 3 NZ DIV approved. As units progressively reduce strengths in the forward area, reserve stocks held by them will increasingly suffice to tend them over the remainder of the period in the forward area.	
G'canal	"		SOME (DIV): Normal office routine.	
G'canal	"		A.O.W.: Free day for troops after general camp I.E.	
Treasury	"		No.1 Rec Sec: Camp maintenance and interior economy.	
Nissan	"		Squarepeg W/Shops: MT repairs. Brig. Potter (14 Bde) and Lt.-Col BENNETT (AA & QMG) visited workshops.	
Moindah	"		D.O.W.: Parade and inspection. I.E. and normal leave.	
Bourail	"		Base Det: Camp I.E., check of tools and equipment, and maintenance repairs. Vehicles repaired for week 72, and 9 vehicles held over awaiting parts. Weather fine.	
Noumea	"		NZOW Det: Normal workshop duties. I.E.	
Treasury	"		29 LAA W/S: Normal maintenance and repairs.	
Lunga	"		Tanks W/S: Continued work on vehicles ex A.O.W.	
Nissan	"		20 LAD (with Squarepeg W/S) Maintenance of vehicles, guns and equipment.	
G'canal	"		37 LAD: Working in conjunction with A.O.W.:	
Nemeara	"		42 LAD: Tools and equipment inspection. Maintenance of equipment.	
Treasury	"		64 LAD: Motor vehicle maintenance and repairs.	
Nissan	"		65 LAD: M.T. and Tractor repairs (in conjunction with Squarepeg W/S) Have found that our present electric welder is not capable of handling the amount of welding necessary for the maintenance of the heavy tractor equipment. Have found it necessary to borrow additional welder from US sources.	
Moindah	"		67 LAD: The month starts with the unit fully engaged in the maintenance of School of Signals, Officers' School vehicles, and vehicles in the Veh. Reception Depot. The work includes greasing, checking batteries and light running repairs.	
G'canal	"		A.O.D.: Depot ceased work at noon, with men from each section detailed for any urgent work. The fourth store building is now under construction.	
Bourail	"		B.O.D.: Weather fine and hot. Routine duties in sections. Sports in afternoon.	

Lt.-Col.,

D.A.D.O.S.

Volume 27, April 44, Sheet 2.

WAR DIARY.

3 Div Ordnance Corps.

G'canal	2 April	SOME (DIV):	No report - Sunday programme.
"	"	A.O.W.:	Voluntary church services. All other workshops and LADs normal Sunday routine.
"	"	A.O.D.:	Stores for Squarepeg loaded out during the day, and for Treasury during the evening.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.:	Sunday programme; no duties. Some men being marched out with dengue fever.

G'canal	3	A.O.W.:	Routine MT and maintenance repairs.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec:	Vehicle and instrument repairs.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S:	MT repairs. US equipment , arms etc, collected and delivered to 3 Div HQ.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.:	General workshop routine. O.C. departs on visit to Noumea Detachment.
Bourail	"	Base Det:	Routine repairs. Machinery, stores and welding trucks raised off ground onto wooden blocks. 6 personnel on rifle range for practice. Result good.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det:	Workshop duties. Repaint weapon carrier.
Lunga	"	Tank W/S:	General duties.
Nissan	"	20 LAD:	Maintenance of vehicles, guns and equipment. US equipment returned to Div HQ.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD:	Maintenance, packing and checking of vehicles. Approx 75% of Arty Trg Dep. vehicles done.
G'canal	"	37 LAD:	New OC, Lieut F.J.E. Black arrived from NECAL to take over, at week-end.
Treasury	"	64 LAD:	M.V. maintenance and repairs.
Nissan	"	65 LAD:	M.T. and tractor repairs. US equipment not on charge returned to Div HQ.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.:	Working parties from Transit Camp carting shingle for camp. All sections packing stores for both Brigades.
Bourail	"	B.O.D:	Routine duties in all sections. Weather misty in morning with cool temperatures.

G'canal	4	A.O.W.:	All sections busy with repair work. Free issue of Nat Pat parcels.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S:	MT repairs. Packed enemy equipment and taken to 16 MT Coy. Workshops getting very muddy.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.:	Supplies of parts coming to hand slowly. General maintenance routine.
Bourail	"	Base Det:	Routine repairs. Personnel busy in all sections of workshops.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det:	Normal workshop routine and camp construction. Other workshops ; normal routine.
Nissan	"	20 & 65 LADs:	As for Squarepeg W/Shops.
G'canal	"	37 LAD:	Working with Advanced Ord. Workshops on MT repairs and maintenance.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD:	Maintenance, painting and checking of vehicles. Other LADs - normal routine.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.:	Working parties from Transit Camp carting shingle and spreading it in new stores. 20 men at Ammo dump clearing grass from round stacks. Sections packing stores for North.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.:	Routine duties in all sections. Major Knight and 2/Lt Paul travelled to Noumea.

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

W A R D I A R Y.

Volume 27 April 1944. Sheet 3. 3 Div Ordnance Corps, NZEFIP.

G'canal	5 Apr.	DADOS Office: Circular put out by HQ 3 NZ DIV re Census returns, which are collected by this office and sent on to BOD (for final War Office information). These are 4-monthly returns and cover all items of warlike stores. In addition wastage returns, and monthly ammunition and equipment returns are handled by this office, in conjunction with BOD, and SOME (DIV).
"	"	A.O:W.: Routine MT and armament repairs.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Little work done owing to heavy rain.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General routine until 1430 hrs, followed by organised sports, as instructed by SOME (BASE).
Bourail	"	Base Det: Hot shower plant completed and works excellently. Routine repairs.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Normal workshop routine. Visit from OC, DOW, Major Costelloe.
-	"	29 LAA W/S, Tank W/S, and No.1 Rec Sec W/S: Normal routine.
Nissan	"	20 and 65 LADs: As for Squarepeg Workshops.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and checking. Wrecker returns from ATD manoeuvres.
-	"	Other LADs: Normal routine of minor repairs and maintenance. (39, 64 and 67 LADs)
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Shingling still in progress (stores floors). Indents being actioned for both brigades as quickly as possible.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Major Knight, and 2/Lt Paul returned from Noumea with Captain Reid.

G'canal	6	A.O.W.: GOC's memo S/1 regarding the release of manpower for industry in NZ received. Armourers fully engaged in the overhaul and repair of Small Arms.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. 52 personnel apply for various categories in essential industry in accordance with GOC's memo S/1 of 5 April. (includes associated personnel).
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: OC returns from Noumea. Work being done on vehicles from Div. pool.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Busy day. Repair work cleaned up - over the holidays only those vehicles awaiting parts will be on hand. Workshops cleaned and machinery checked before Easter break. 60 vehicles repaired for the week.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: Routine duties in conjunction with No.1 Rec Sec.
Lunga	"	Tanks W/S: General work.
Nissan	"	20 and 65 LADs: Applications taken for essential industry. MT, tractor and gun repairs & mtce.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: M.V. maintenance and repairs. Other LADs : normal routine, and clean-up before Easter.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Shingling still in progress. Indents actioned for both brigades.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Some men being marched out to essential industry, for return to NZ.

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

WAR DIARY.

G'canal 7 April **DADOS Office.**: Request made to HQ 3 NZ DIV for crates, cases and material for packing Ordnance stores back from AOD to NECAL and NZ. Considerable correspondence proceeding regarding the return of stores, and the suspension of shipping of some items from NZ to NECAL and Guadalcanal, also varying of other orders for stores. DADOS conferred with FMC and other officers re scheme for release of men for essential industry in NZ. Several members of DADOS and SOME staffs volunteered.

" **SOME (DIV)**: OME Div Arty supplied details with sketches showing suggested modification to Ord QF 40mm for draining of deflector tube and base ring. Modification entails:-
(a) enlarging the existing 4 x ½" holes in the base ring to ¾".
(b) enlarging the 2 x 3/16" holes situated on the periphery of the slip ring to 1/4".
(c) drilling 1 x ¼" hole in the deflector tube in a position where it will drain into the holes mentioned in (b).
Line of drainage will then be from the deflector tube to the 1/4" holes outside the slip ring, down the inclined surface of the base ring to the 4 x 3/4" holes and out to the platform receptacles which have already been drilled for draining purposes.
Decided that the modification will be carried out during the overhaul of the guns.

G'canal " **A.O.W.**: Workshops closed for 3 days over Easter. This is the first leave troops have had other than at week-ends. Return submitted to Adm HQ for personnel volunteering for return to essential industry.

Nissan " **Squarepeg W/S**: MT repairs until midday. Free in afternoon (Good Friday).

Bourail " **Base Det**: A quiet day. Leave arranged - each man serves one day on duty and three off duty.

Noumea " **NZOW Det**: Workshop closed to & including Monday 10th over Easter.

Treasury " **29 LAA W/S**: Conference at 8 Bde HQ re the release of men for essential industry. Free day.

Lunga " **Tank W/S**: OC attended conference of all Officers at FMC re Manpower for industry. All ranks interviewed and category lists prepared and submitted. Otherwise free over 8th & 9th.

Nissan " **20 LAD**: Maintenance until midday.

G'canal " **37 LAD**: As for A.O.W.

Nemeara " **42 LAD**: Only important maintenance carried out over Easter (to and incl. Monday 10th).

Treasury " **64 LAD**: ~~Conference re manpower~~. Free day, also 8th and 9th.

Nissan " **65 LAD**: MT and tractor repairs and maintenance in morning.

Moindah " **67 LAD**: and D.O.W. : Free period over Easter - until 10th.

G'canal " **A.O.D.**: Depot holiday. Details taken of Manpower volunteers.

Bourail " **B.O.D.**: Good Friday - holiday.

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

G'canal	8 April	DADOS Office: DADOS conferring with Depot Officers re the return of stores to NECAL and NZ, also future ordering for troops returning to NECAL. HQ NZEFIP and DIV HQ also BOD informed that AOD will redirect to NECAL stores due to arrive by ship from NZ - principally clothing. Importance of adequate supplies of woollen clothing stressed for men returning to NZ.
"	"	SOME (DIV): AOD instructed to forward Artillery inspectional equipment to OME Div Arty.
"	"	A.O.W.: Further return submitted re manpower scheme. Urgent MT repairs only.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec (also 64 LAD & 29 LAA W/S): O.C.s attend conference at HQ 8 Bde re personnel for essential industry.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Received 2 cases parts by air.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Breakdown truck in operation. Minor repairs. Free day.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: Conference re manpower (wrongly entered for 7th, which see.).
Nissan	"	20 and 65 LADs: Maintenance of tractors, vehicles, guns etc. (with Squarepeg W/S).
Treasury	"	64 LAD: OC attended conference at Bde HQ re manpower. Free day. (This entry made for 7th in error).
-	"	Other Workshops and LADs - Easter holidays - only essential jobs.
G'canal	"	Depot on duty in morning but afternoon free.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Holiday. Weather fine. Sports arranged. Three men to hospital, second so far with blood poisoning, one with dengue, which is prevalent, one with injury.
Treasury	9 (Sunday)	No.1 Rec Sec: Survey of manpower for essential industry.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: Air raid warning at 0500 hrs. No. MT work. (Also for 20 and 65 LADs).
Bourail	"	Base Det: OC attends manpower conference. Statement by GOC read to men re manpower scheme.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: Survey of personnel for manpower. (Also for 64 LAD.).
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Arrangements made to have 150 tons of stores ready for shipment back to NECAL by next available ship. All sections will work longer hours while necessary, to get stores away. 37 Fd Pk Coy, NZE will be making required crates and boxes for stores.
G'canal	10	SOME (DIV): Paras. 63 and 64 of 3 Div HQ Admin Instns call attention to (1) damage to small arms by wilful mutilation as mentioned in last month's diary notes. Instruction calls for an examination and disciplinary action against offenders. (2) Deterioration of S.A.A. amm, particularly .45 TSMG amm. Instructions issued that cases are to be opened only as required. All unsealed cases are to be used before further cases are opened, thus maintaining maximum quantity of amm in airtight cases,

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

WAR DIARY.

G'canal	10 April	A.O.W.: A total of 36 personnel have applied for release to essential industry.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Details being collected from personnel for manpower scheme.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Instructions received from Base re personnel required for manpower scheme.
Lunga	"	Tank W/S: General repairs, overhauls and maintenance.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles, guns and equipment. Details taken for manpower scheme.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: OC attended meeting at Base HQ re release of men for industry. Free day.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: MT maintenance and repair.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: M/V and tractor repairs. Details taken for manpower scheme.
-	"	Other LADs and Workshops: Free day. (also B.O.D.).
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Depot working longer hours owing to increased urgency of work. Packing stores for NECAL also for North.

G'Canal	11	SOME (DIV): Called for returns from Arty units of registered numbers of Artillery pieces, and main items of equipment, to check over records and request Trentham MOD to forward any History Sheets and Memos of Exam not already asked for.
"	"	A.O.W.: MT section busy on overhaul and checking of vehicles for return to NECAL.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Recreational day.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. ~~3 O/Rs evacuated to 20 Fd Ambulance hospital.~~
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General workshops routine. Men interviewed re manpower scheme.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. Manpower details sent to HQ DOW. Spares coming to hand more freely. M/C shop busy after holidays. All sections working well. Weather dry.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Normal workshop duties. Survey of personnel for manpower scheme.
Nissan	"	20 and 65 LADs: Maintenance of tractors, vehicles, guns and equipment.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance, painting and checking of vehicles. Seven volunteers for essential industry. Notified by SOME (BASE) that no personnel to be released (at present).
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Recovery unit 15 miles North to recover car from ditch. Routine duties.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Working parties again carting shingle for new stores. Routine duties in sections.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Parade re manpower in messroom at 0745 hrs. Routine duties. Weather fine. Capt. REID and 2/Lt WOODHAMS to Nepoui for day.

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

G'canal	12 April	A.O.W. Surplus stores returned to AOD. Non-essential unit equipment crated for return to NECAL with first draft. Shipping schedules prepared. MT repairs and maintenance.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Work on vehicles and instruments. The work on vehicles is well in hand and the overhauls should be completed very shortly.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S:& 20 and 65 LADs: MT, tractor and guns repairs. ~~OC attended~~ 3 O/Rs to hospital. G.O.C. and ADC visited unit.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General workshops routine. Work on manpower cards. Organised sports from 1430 hrs.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Workshops working to capacity. Sports training from 1500 hrs. Weather dry.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Normal workshop duties. 16 tents erected in workshop area for personnel returning NZ.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles. One NCO on manoeuvres with Arty Training Depot.
-	"	37, 64, 67 LADs, Tank W/Shops, 29 LAA W/S, - normal duties.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Sections packing stores for NECAL and both brigades.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Weather fine . Routine duties. One more O/R marched out to hospital with dengue fever.

G'canal	13	DADOS Office: Ammunition figures supplied to DIV HQ for transfer to US Forces on Lease-Lend.
"	"	A.O.W.: MT maintenance and repairs. 37 LAD: workshop duties in association with A.O.W.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S:MT repairs. One O/R m/i from hospital. OC attended manpower conference. 10 O/Rs included in first draft. Shipments of MT parts coming to hand.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Progress made on Dodge water carts from Div vehicle pool, and upon motor cycles.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. All sections busy. Weather showery.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: Normal workshop duties. 126 A.P.R. personnel quartered in area.
Lunga	"	Tank W/S: Continuing on general duties.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Maintenance of guns, vehicles & equipment. No personnel from 20 LAD in first draft to NECAL.
"	"	65 LAD: M.V. and tractor repairs. 3 of unit personnel picked for 1st draft for essential industry.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Recovery unit on job with m/cycle 23 miles North. Routine duties.
-	"	Other LADs and workshops : Routine duties.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: New stores being used to house stores packed for shipment to NECAL. Routine duties.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Weather fine . Routine duties. Manpower cards filled in by personnel.

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

G'canal	14 April	DADOS Office: HQ NZEFIP have arranged for US Forces to take over on Reverse Lease-Lend at GUADALCANAL dump, approx 40,000 rds 40mm AA amn, 7,000,000 rds .45 TSMG amn, and 8,000 rds 2-inch mortar, smoke. General PUTTICK concurred. In addition 160,000 grenades mixed types to be offered to Fiji Military Forces, plus any other types they may require. Indenting by Units : Admin Instruction No. 65 advises units that after 23rd April all outstanding indents will be treated as cancelled, and units will indent thereafter only for really essential items. AOD will only forward indents which can be fulfilled by 15 April, and units will act upon the vouchers for these which should reach them by 23rd.
"	"	A.O.W.: Personnel to return with first draft duly advised..Total of 20. MT repairs and painting of vehicles for shipment.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S:MT repairs. Very heavy rain. Little work done. 20 and 65 LADS : as for Squarepeg W/S.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Considerable progress on Chev 4 x 4's from Div Pool.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. 40 vehicles repaired for week. Awaiting parts for 19 vehicles. Paintshop at full capacity all week.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: OC on Board of Inquiry. Normal workshop duties.
Lunga	"	Tank W/S: Commenced packing for move to NECAL ; 7 trucks borrowed from pool for Tank spares.
-	"	Other LADs and workshops - routine duties- repairs and maintenance.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Working party from Transit camp shingling roadway. Packing of stores.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.:Routine duties.

G'canal	15	DADOS Office: Lt.-Col. M.S. MYERS to 2-NZ-CCS with skin trouble etc.
"	"	SOME (DIV): Major SIGNAL left for Green Island and Treasury on tour of duty. Position re repair at Treasury was excellent - no vehicles on dead line. Spare parts situation at both islands quite good.
"	"	A.O.W. : MT section busy on repairs. Stores loaded on vehicles for return to NECAL.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs (also for 20 and 65 LADs) Major Signal arrived from G'canal.
Moindah	"	D.O.W: Kit inspection ; I.E. and normal leave (Saturday).
Bourail	"	Base Det: Check up tools and equipment, camp I.E., Weather showery. Work ceased 1100 hrs.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: I.E. Normal duties . Clean up of area.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Tool check and general clean up.
-	"	Other LADs and workshops ;: Normal Saturday routine. I.E., urgent jobs, and leave.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Loading out stores for NECAL..Advised that 1000 tons of amnn to be shipped to fill space available on ship for NECAL. All outstanding indents cancelled as from 1700 hrs today.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Weather fine. Routine duties. Capt. H.McK.Reid took over duties of C.O.O.

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

G'canal	16 April	DADOS Office: Request received from HQ NZEFIP that an Ordnance NCO accompany each shipment of stores being sent back to NECAL. Arranged with AOD for this to be done. Unit photo taken.
"	"	A.O.W.: Voluntary church parade. MT checking and servicing for return of vehicles to NECAL. (incl 37 LAD)
Lunga	"	Tanks W/S: Continuing packing for return to NECAL.
-	"	All Other Workshops and LADs : Sunday, free day except for urgent MT casualties.
G'canal	"	A.O.D. Official photographer taking section and unit photos in morning. Ammunition Section loading out 1000 tons of ammunition for NECAL. Progress delayed owing to heavy mud on roads in dump.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Sunday programme . Weather showery.

G'canal	17	DADOS Office: Signal from HQ 3 NZ DIV (AQ 682) states that SS Dalton Mann at present discharging stores at GUADALCANAL will carry balance ammn and other available cargo and vehicles. to limit capacity from Guadalcanal to Nepoui (NECAL). Advised to take advantage of as much space as possible, even at risk of cutting down on Ordnance stores, and reshipping Ordnance stores arriving from NZ.
"	"	SOME (DIV): Received from COME (Trentham) a summary of modifications to 40mm AA, 25-pr and 6-pr 7 cwt, together with a request that advice be given if any of the modification Instructions are required. Copies of these were asked for from Trentham, in reply.
"	"	A.O.W.: Loading of stores on vehicles continues. MT maintenance and repairs. (also 37 LAD)
Treasury	"	Nol Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs. 22 men will be returning in first manpower draft.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. 2 men m/i from hospital. Rifles inspected by armourer.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: OC visits Base HQ, General workshop routine.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. M/C shop busy. Greasing service maintained.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: Normal workshop duties. Works Services Coy carting metal for area. 125 APR personnel (awaiting passage return) arrived for quartering.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: Lieut Hayman and 6 O/Rs will be returning in first draft of manpower release. One O/R will be returning from Nissan (Squarepeg W/Shops) in addition. Lt. Hayman later withdrew from manpower scheme, but returned to NECAL.
Lunga	"	Tanks W/S: Continued packing.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Maintenance. A number of promotions and ED pay put through Casualty Return.
Nemeara		42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles. Overhaul of compressor plant.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: M.V. maintenance and repairs.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: M.V. and tractor repairs.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: General maintenance etc. Recovery unit went South to recover US vehicle over bank.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Ammunition being transferred to Point Cruz dock prior to loading. Some indents for 14 Bde Arty units cancelled and stores returned to stock, as these have left for NECAL.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Weather fine. Major KNIGHT marched out on transfer to HQ 3 NZ DIV Ordnance (DADOS). 15 trucks of bulk stores arrived.

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

G'canal	18 April	DADOS Office: US now taking over all serviceable 40mm (AA) ammn on NISSAN (Green Island), under Reciprocal Aid basis. S/M. A.K. BRISTOW marched in from 8 Bde at Treasury.
"	"	A.O.W.: 12 drivers supplied to move 14 Bde pool vehicles to dock. MT maintenance & repairs. (incl. 37 LAD)
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Major SIGNAL, SOME (DIV), left by air for Treasury and Guadalcanal.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General routine. Supplies of paint received from BOD.
Bourail	"	BASE DET: Repair work well in hand. All sections busy. Spares coming to hand freely.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: General routine of workshop duties.
Lunga	"	Tanks W/S: Packing for move, rearward.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles, guns and equipment. Received canteen funds grant of $ 12.60.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: MV maintenance and repairs.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: M.V. and tractor repairs in conjunction with other sections of Squarepeg Workshops.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Routine work in vehicle pool, with DOW.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: All sections packing stores for NECAL & NZ. Began loading out all stores available for NECAL. Personnel working through the night.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Weather fine. One O/R to hospital with dengue fever. 19 trucks stores arrive.

G'canal	19	DADOS Office: Lt.-Col. MYERS marched in from 2 NZ CCS. 3 clerks, one driver and one SOME clerk embarked for NECAL under manpower scheme, together with 25 AOD personnel. SOME (DIV): at Treasury inspecting workshops, etc.
"	"	A.O.W.: Movement order received for manpower draft to NECAL. AOW personnel (21) marched out at 1830 hrs, together with 37 LAD OC and full personnel. Unit vehicles loaded and equipment taken.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs. Major SIGNAL (SOME -DIV) visited the unit.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: All sections of unit fully occupied. Organised sports after 1430 hrs.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. Organised training in swimming after 1500 hrs. Good results.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: Normal workshop duties. Afternoon swim parade.
Lunga	"	Tanks W/S: Embarked with complete equipment and all personnel (with Tank Sqn rearguard) at 1900 hrs. (AK/105 - USS NAOS).
G'canal	"	37 LAD: Complete unit embarked at 1830 hrs with AOW manpower personnel.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: Normal routine. Weather very wet. Other LADs - normal routine, also.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Packing still in progress. First draft of returning manpower personnel embarked at 1830 hrs.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Weather fine. More store sections (for buildings) arrived.

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

G'canal	20 April	DADOS Office: Arrival of Major Knight from NECAL to take up position of DADOS.
"	"	SOME (DIV).: Major SIGNAL returned by air from Nissan Island and Treasury.
"	"	A.O.W.: MT repairs and maintenance.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and instrument repairs.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General routine. OC (Maj. COSTELLOE) departs for tour of duty in NZ.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Pressure of work increases in all sections. Weather dry. Morale of personnel good.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: Normal workshop duties. APR personnel left (for NZ).
G'canal	"	Tanks W/S: On board ship. Left pier at 0825 hrs. Moved to Lunga and waited for convoy.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Overcast but fine. Maintenance of vehicles, guns, etc. Coral obtained for workshop area which is very muddy.
G'canal	"	37 LAD: On board ship and waiting for convoy to depart.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: M/V and tractor repairs. Workshop area very wet & muddy.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Recovery unit 12 miles North to recover US jeep.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Ammn section loading out ammn for Necal. Arrangements made for US and Fiji Forces to take over certain lines of ammn.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Weather fine. 16 personnel warned that they are returning to NZ shortly under Manpower scheme. 10 attached Arty and Inf Xiv personnel transferred to BOD strength.

G'canal	21	DADOS Office: Duties of DADOS taken over by Major S.A. KNIGHT, vice Lt.-Col. M.S. MYERS who is to be placed on NZ Roll w.e.f. 24th April.
"	"	A.O.W.: Tractors for return to NECAL loaded at 0300 hrs. Routine repairs & maintenance.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle and armament repairs etc.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Rained hard most of afternoon and work limited to about an hour.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General routine. 67 LAD marched into DOW camp for rations and quarters.
Bourail	"	Base Det.: Routine repairs. 57 vehicles repaired this week, bigger repair jobs handled. Shortage of oxygen gas holds up work. Weather dry.
G'canal	"	Tanks W/S: Departed from Lunga in convoy 1530 hrs for NECAL.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Overcast in morning and heavy rain in afternoon. Maintenance of vehicles, etc. Bulldozer used to clear mud from entrance to camp. Received allocation of 2 dollars per man from 17 Fd Regt regimental funds. To be credited to men's accounts in canteen or may be drawn later. Received instructions re manpowered personnel. 37 LAD - on board ship waiting for convoy off Lunga.
"	"	65 LAD: MT and tractor repairs. Other LADs and workshops - normal routine.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Ammn section loading out ammn on Dalton Mann for NECAL. Packing of stores for NECAL in full progress. One NCO sent on Dalton Mann in charge of stores.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Ten further men transferred in to BOD from B.T.D. Xiv list. Three men attached for duty. Practice rifle shoot by BOD rifle team. More trucks of store sections arrived in afternoon.

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

G'canal	22 April	DADOS Office: Details of ammn shipped back to NECAL sent to Div HQ and HQ NZEFIP. All despatched but 60 tons and that handed to US and Fiji Forces.
"	"	A.O.W.: Camp I.E. Free day for men.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Tool and equipment check.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs in morning, afternoon free. Men for embarkation warned.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Parade 0800 hrs. I.E. and recreational training.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Unit photographs taken by official photographer. Camp I.E. Check of machinery and equipment. Weather dry. Work finished 1100 hrs.
Noumea	"	NZOW DET: Rifle inspection. I.E. and normal workshop duties in morning.
-	"	Tanks W/S: and 37 LAD: at sea en route to NECAL.
Nissan	"	20 and 65 LADs: Maintenance of vehicles, guns, tractors and equipment. Half day .
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles. Tool check.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: 3 O/Rs sent to Dumbea to collect reefer box for Bourail Beach clubhouse(using Tank Transporter).
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Packing. Stores loaded out for Treasury at night.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties in morning. 16 men marched out to Xvi list for return to industry.
Treasury	23	No.1 Rec Sec: First draft of manpower personnel standing by ready to embark. Otherwise Sunday programme.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S; Personnel for manpower standing by. No work done.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Five personnel marched in from furlough in NZ.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Further APR personnel marched in. 3 smashes salvaged.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: First draft for manpower personnel standing by for embarkation.
-	"	Tank W/S and 37 LAD and other Ordnance personnel concerned - At sea.
-	"	Other LADs and workshops : Sunday programme.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Depot off duty. 15 tons of stores arrived from 8 Bde for salvage section.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Weather fine. Leave party - 1 Officer, 1 W/O and 4 O/Rs returned from leave in NZ. 2/Lt WOODHAMS and 5 O/Rs went to Noumea with 4 x 4 truck to supervise unloading operations. One 6 x 4 sent to Nepoui to cart metal for roads in ammunition dump. Earth-moving equipment arrived during day to prepare site for new bulk stores. 3 O/Rs attached w.e.f. 21st now transferred to NZOC and posted to BOD.

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

G'canal	24 April	DADOS Office: Lt.-Col. MYERS on NZ roll as from today, and Major Knight officially takes up post as DADOS and is appointed Lt.-Col.
"	"	SOME (DIV): Received from BOD copy of a memo from COO, Trentham, re Gift Binoculars, requesting the return to MOD of all Binoculars obtained from the public in response to an appeal earlier in the war. Workshops and AOD advised.
"	"	A.O.W.: Routine repair work by armament and MT sections. Logistic data return forwarded to Adm HQ, FMC, in respect of vehicles, and equipment to be returned to NECAL
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Checking and packing equipment to be returned to Base. MT etc repairs.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. 11 personnel marched out for return to industry.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General routine.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. All sections busy. Preparing for new arrivals expected shortly.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: General workshop duties. One smash job put back on road.
-	"	Tanks W/S and 37 LAD: At sea.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Heavy rain in afternoon. Maintenance, guns, vehicles and equipment. Workshop very muddy.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles. Started check of vehicles put on Dead Line.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: MV and tractor repairs. 3 manpower personnel embarked.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: 5 O/Rs as drivers and LAD to convoy of 15 Bedford Bofors tractors taken in convoy to Noumea.. Recovery unit 7 miles south to recover ambulance in ditch.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Packing of all surplus stores and clearing areas round sections.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties.
G'canal	25	A.O.W.: Routine repairs and maintenance. (No general observance of Anzac Day.)
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: First manpower draft embarked on President Munro. MT work as usual.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. 1 O/R evacuated to hospital with severe burns.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Anzac day; parade at 0800 hrs. Message from GOC read to troops.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. Shortage of gas holds up welding repairs. Weather dry.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Normal workshop duties. Remaining 2 smashes towed away by 29 MT Coy.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: OC and personnel of first manpower draft embarked on President Munro.
Nissan	"	20 and 65 LADs: MT, tractor and gun repairs and maintenance. Tank W/S & 37 LAD - At sea
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles. Check of vehicles on Dead Line.
-	"	Other LADs and W/Shops: normal routine.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Stores shipped for Squarepeg. All sections packing.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather fine. 12 engineers m/i. for work on bulk stores. WO1 Williams and 6 O/Rs to Nepoui to open ships dump and supervise unloading of stores. 2 men to hospital with dengue.

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

G'canal	26 April	A.O.W.: Routine repairs and maintenance.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle repairs and packing of MT parts.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Condition of area very bad through heavy rain
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: General workshops routine. Unit rifle team secured 2nd place in Base rifle competition.
Bourail	"	Base Det: OC attends transport conference at office of SOME (Base). Routine repairs. Sports from 1430 hrs.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Normal workshop duties. Afternoon swim parade.
Noumea	"	Tanks W/S and 37 LAD: Anchored off Noumea Harbour 1230 hrs. Departed 1715 hrs, for Nepoui. (by sea).
Nissan	"	20 LAD and 65 LADs: MT, tractor and gun maintenance and repairs. Weather wet and overcast.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles. Check of vehicles on Dead Line, continuing for rest of week.
-	"	64 and 67 LADs: General routine of maintenance and repairs.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Routine duties. Packing for south.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties; weather fine. Lieut Wise and 24 Engineers m/i/ for duty building bulk stores.

G'canal	27	DADOS Office: Lt.-Col. MYERS and batmen left for Necal by sea, at 1430 hrs.
"	"	A.O.W.: Write-offs for tools and equipment lost or rendered unserviceable completed and forwarded to DADOS and OC, DOW. Routine repairs and maintenance.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle repairs and packing of MT parts.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs. Rain interfered with work and none done during afternoon due to the weather.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Routine repairs. Electrician Sgt. m/i . from A.O.W. to replace S/Sgt now required to service electrical equipment in camps in NECAL.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. Unit to supply 25 drivers for impending movements. All sections busy.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: Normal workshop duties. Inspection by Brig. DOVE, (OICA.).
Nepoui	"	Tanks W/S and 37 LAD: Arrived Nepoui 0715 hrs. Disembarked 1000 hrs. Bivouacked Nepoui Flats night of 27th-28th. Work of YMCA greatly appreciated by all ranks. Manpower personnel marched out to B.T.D., incl. 15 men of 37 LAD.
Nissan	"	20 and 65 LADs: MT, tractor and gun repairs. Work stopped in afternoon by heavy rain.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles and check of those on Dead Line.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: MV maintenance and repairs.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Two jobs by recovery unit, 12 and 23 miles South, to recover vehicles broken down.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: A few urgent indents coming to hand and being actioned where necessary.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Three men previously attached now transferred to BOD.

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

G'canal	28 April	SOME (DIV): AOW advises that one of the transformers as mentioned last month has been forwarded to NZ, The other had been repaired and wd be returned to unit by air. Primary winding was considerably burned, and heavier gauge wire was used in replacement. High voltage secondary winding has been insulated with impregnated waxed paper, as oiled silk not available. Unit asked to test and report.
"	"	A.O.W.: Routine repairs and maintenance.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Vehicle repairs and packing of MT parts.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: MT repairs etc. OC 65 LAD cleared area of mud with tractor and carryall. Weather very wet. Difficulty in obtaining white spirit for instrument work.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: Drivers provided for vehicles from forward area unloaded at Nepoui Dock, and for vehicles transporting troops disembarked at Noumea.
Bourail	"	Base Det: Routine repairs. 1400 hrs 25 drivers proceeded to HQ DOW to check over trucks. Work more or less at a standstill.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: The remainder of unit equipment - tents etc- were moved over to MONO Id. The bulk of unit equipment was sent back to Base with first draft.
Nepoui	"	Tanks W/S and 37 LAD: All workshops vehicles off-loaded from ship and proceeded in convoy to camp area at Moindah.
Nissan	"	20 LAD: Overcast with heavy showers. Maintenance work. Continued heavy rain with high humidity is holding up work on optical and other instruments.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Maintenance on vehicles. Check of those on Dead Line.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: M.V. maintenance and repairs.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: Tractor and MT repairs . Mud being cleared with tractor and carryall. Heavy rain.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Normal maintenance routine on vehicles in Div, motor pool.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Board of Survey in progress during morning. Packing for Necal. FMC Engineers making cases.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties. Another O/R to hospital with dengue fever.

G'canal	29	SOME (DIV): Forwarded to COME (Trentham) Notes on Operations as shown in Appendix I. These were requested by Trentham for inclusion in R.E.M.E. Notes, as a source of useful information for future operations, in this area. APPENDIX I.
"	"	A.O.W.: Routine repairs and maintenance.
Treasury	"	No.1 Rec Sec: Interior economy. Recreational afternoon.
Nissan	"	Squarepeg W/S: Intermittent rain all day, greatly reducing work. 65 LAD personnel working in shifts all day clearing mud from area with tractor and carryall. Obtained from US Forces 1 drum of white spirit for instrument purposes.
Moindah	"	D.O.W.: 21 members of unit marched out (ex Forward area) to await transfer to essential industry.
Bourail	"	Base Det: 25 drivers supplied will refuel and service convoy trucks (45) and make minor adjustments and repairs. Personnel on duty until 0030 hrs. A picquet was also provided for vehicles.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: I.E. in and around workshop. Rifle inspection and normal duties.

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

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

Moindah	29 April	Tanks Workshops: Commenced setting up camp facilities and erecting tents in new area.
Nemeara		42 LAD: Maintenance of vehicles. Check of those on deadline. Check of tools.
Treasury	"	64 LAD: Maintenance, I.E. and recreational afternoon.
Nissan	"	65 LAD: M/V and tractor repairs. Men working on tractor and carryall.
Moindah	"	67 LAD: Maintenance. 3 O/Rs to Noumea with tank transporter to bring back bulldozer.
G'canal	"	A.O.D.: Working parties from Transit Camp clearing area under supervision of Depot NCOs.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Routine duties to 1200 hrs. Engineers commenced improving and widening road through camp.
"	"	37 LAD: Proceeded to racecourse camp and set up tents there.

G'canal	30	SOME (DIV): General for month: Condition of transport discussed with GOC. Decided to cannibalise vehicles which had deteriorated to such an extent that shipment to NECAL would not be warranted. Between 19th and 25th April, slightly less than one quarter of Ordnance personnel (workshops) evacuated from Forward area for return to essential industry in NZ.
"	"	A.O.W.: Preparations in hand for move to NECAL. Summary for April: A total of 220 vehicles passed through the workshops during the month. Of these vehicles, 214 were repaired and returned to units. One RD4 and one RD7 tractor were condemned as beyond local repair. Also condemned were 3 motorcycles and one Bedford Arty tractor. Parts recovered from these vehicles were used to repair other vehicles. Small arms received from AOD were overhauled, greased, and packed for shipment to NECAL. Health of personnel remains satisfactory there being 2 evacuations to hospital during month.
Bourail	"	Base Det: General comments. Quite a good month. Workshops settled down to routine and working efficiently. Morale good, although slightly unsettled by manpower scheme. The extra work entailed in servicing trucks to and from Noumea was accepted cheerfully and done well.
Noumea	"	NZOW Det: A busy month, with personnel working to capacity. Workshop repairs exceptionally heavy. Health fairly good. Morale high.
Treasury	"	29 LAA W/S: Of those men left in area (some are with Squarepeg W/S and 7, incl. OC, returned to NECAL) two O/Rs are attached for duty with 64 LAD. 7 O/Rs are attached for duty with No.1 Rec Sec., where the HQ of the workshops is now situated. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.
Moindah	"	Tanks W/S: Continued work on new camp area.
Nemeara	"	42 LAD: Church parade. Recovered vehicle on Houialou Road.
t -	"	All Other Workshops and LADs: - normal Sunday programme.
Bourail	"	B.O.D.: Roadwork continued by Engineers. Several trucks in during day for tentage for APR personnel.
"	"	37 LAD: Drew personal & unit equipment from Base Kit store. Noted that shortage of unit transport was big handicap during move and prior to same.

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

Appendix I.

Report by SOME (DIV) to COME (Trentham)

being report on Ordnance Workshops experience during period

3 NZ Division was engaged in amphibious operations in Pacific - Sept 1943 to May 1944. period.

See Notes at conclusion of Appendix to the effect that these notes must be regarded as being only the personal observations of Major E.J.R. SIGNAL, as they had not been passed through Div HQ for approval.

all the information possible to explain any excessive demands. Depots must always be kept in the picture to enable them to budget for a continually changing supply problem.

(Sgnd) E.J.R. SIGNAL Major.
S.O.M.E. DIV.

Distribution:-

HQ 3 NZ DIV.
S.O.M.E. BASE.
S.O.M.T. A.H.Q.
War Diary
File.

ME 10/547
S.O.M.E.(DIV)
F.M.C.
12 May 44.

NOTE:

Lt.-Col. Andrews,
C.O.M.E.,
Main Ordnance Workshops,
TRENTHAM.

Notes for R.E.M.E. Publication.

Owing to my not having submitted the notes for R.E.M.E. Publication to HQ 3 NZ DIV, for prior approval, these cannot be considered as having been submitted in my official capacity as S.O.M.E. (DIV).

No objections regarding the text of the notes were raised by Div HQ. Should any of the text be forwarded for publication would you please have deleted any reference to my official capacity, submitting same under Name and Rank only, if necessary.

Thus the information forwarded to you in my ME 10/534 of 29 April 44, can only be interpreted as my personal views and observations.

(Sgd) E.J.R. SIGNAL, Major,
S.O.M.E. (DIV).

Copies: HQ 3 NZ DIV,
DADOS
FILE.

PREDICTORS.

Damage was caused to Predictors in initial landings and unless mounted on trucks, fared badly through handling from ship to shore. Condensation occurred rapidly in Predictors, with disastrous results to the equipment. Every Predictor should have suitable type of dessicator fitted to assist in overcoming this condensation. About 50% of the Predictor boxes will require replacing owing to continual damp and heat, causing rotting of timber.

Fungus growth was apparent on lenses of Range-finders, Sights Dial, Directors, Periscopes etc. and Binoculars. Every endeavour must be made to equip Work-Shops Instrument Sections with efficient equipment to cope with the excessive deterioration of F.C.I. equipment in tropical areas. Fungus growth is the cause of the greatest number of casualties in optical instruments, and unless continually checked will rapidly etch the prisms.

Sufficient sterilising cabinets should be made available to Brigade Workshops.

Greatest care must be taken of all spare components and packings held by Batteries, Workshops or Depots. All packings should be stored in sealed containers such containers being issued to all Batteries with initial issues. Optical Instruments should be left uncased to avoid condensation and mould. Care and preservation in packing stores cannot be too greatly stressed as it is imperative that all stores that are shipped forward arrive in a serviceable condition if humanly possible.

WATCHES G.S.

Failure of Mainsprings, Balance Staff, and Rusting caused heavy casualties.

SMALL ARMS

Breakages of Springs, particularly magazine and Extractor springs fairly heavy.

Corrosion of all ferrous metals is very diff-icult to check in humid atmospheric conditions prevalent in tropics. Stored Small Arms should be thoroughly coated with solution of Mineral Jelly and Beeswax applied hot to give an effective seal.

Many cases of jammed rounds and bulged barrels occurred in .45 T.S.M.G. Tests were carried out with ammunition taken direct from sealed containers and the only failures were faulty caps. From observation it would appear that the ammunition deteriorates after exposure to climatic conditions after a period of approx. three months.

Canvas Covers and Shelters rotted within 6 months. Workshops require ample coverage so that repairs are not held up during periods of excessive rain.

Climatic conditions alone cause rapid deterioration of equipment with consequent heavy repair schedules to be maintained.

It is essential that Workshops be equipped with sufficient modern equipment, plus suitable lubricants, preservatives, parts and raw materials to enable them to maintain the equipment in serviceable condition. Units when demanding stores in excess of W.E., to avoid delay, should forward

CLUTCH PLATES

Owing to conditions of operation, required 18% replacement on Chev.; 19% on Ford.

STEERING

Drag Link Bell Crank and Bearings were being continuously replaced on Jeeps, greater than 50% replacement being necessary.

MUFFLERS

Were constantly rusting through.

TYRES AND TUBES

Replacements were approximately 18% all types. Only vulcanised patches gave satisfactory results in tube repairs. Patching material deteriorated rapidly if not preserved during storage.

EXPENDABLES.

Spark Plugs 50% repalcement

Radiator Hose. 33% repalcement

PAINT WORK Depreciation excessive.

SUMMARY.

The greater percentage of the load carrying vehicles used were 30cwt 4 x 4 G.S. Trucks; 4 x 2 or 6 x 4 vehicles would not be satisfactory in areas such as the 3 NZ DIV. operated in during these three operations. No vehicles should be taken forward for which spare parts are not available. Sufficient supplies of expendables should be shown on W.E. Tables. Supplies of phosphor bronze and bar brass were generally inadequate.

All crates containing stores must be strong and if possible wire-bound to with-stand rough handling, - a soldier, when endeavouring to unload ships in minimum of time has not time to consider whether a case can stand rolling over or dumping off a truck, it has to be done. The responsibility of packing and preserving stores so that they are usable when they arrive in Forward Area is that of the Depot sending them forward. The greatest care should be taken to preserve stores against deterioration from dampness, sea water etc.

ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT

No serious trouble was experienced with the guns. Lubricants collapsed rapidly, Rust Veto standing out as efficient against dissolution in the heat and combatting moisture.

&IL MOTORS.

40mm Bofors showed corrosion and rust even with constant topping up, and checking of packings and gaskets. Moisture formed inside the motor due to condensation with disastrous results to bearings and springs, screws etc. More frequent exercising of these motors would assist in curtailing deterioration. Heavy rusting on the rotor of the electric motor was apparent and again points to the necessity of frequent exercising of equipment.

BRAKES.

Rapid wear of Brake Linings was apparent on all operations due to penetration of coral dust and water, linings in some cases required replacement after three weeks operation.

Jeep Linings replacement 150%; Wheel Cylinder Repair Kits, Front - 17%; Rear - 14%

Ford 30cwt Linings - 100%;

Brake Shoe Return Springs - 8%

Chev. Linings - 100%

Brake Wheel Cylinders on all types rusted up rapidly and required frequent replacement and constant attention. Repair Kits at the rate of 12% for both Ford and Chev. being required.

Units were instructed to remove wheels and clean out shoes and brake system at least once every fortnight to avoid corrosion and seizing up.

Hydraulic Brake Lines corroded rapidly and required frequent replacement.

A first class rust resisting paint should be held by Workshops for painting Brake Backing Plate and Return Springs

ELECTRICAL

Frequent trouble and failure was experienced due to high humidity causing greenspot mould with consequent corrosion of Voltage Regulators and other Electrical Equipment. High Tension Cables also deteriorated rapidly, approx 30% replacement being necessary. Due to various contributing factors, heavy demands for Distributor Points was made by Workshops for all types of vehicles. Rotors on Chev. required 30% replacement - Ford 25% and Jeep 50%. The practice of removing Rotors from Jeeps when parked accentuated this trouble.

Batteries require constant attention and topping up. Replacements being 20% over period of 6 months. Dry Batteries showed excessive deterioration and should be tropically treated, - replacements in some areas being in excess of 100% per month.

WIRELSS

Resistors and Condensors deteriorated rapidly in tropical area; mould and greenspot formed in the sets to a great degree. Heat generated during operation of sets was not sufficient to overcome condensation forming and moisture appearing in the sets.

All sets should be tropically treated and fitted with an adequate dessicator.

MOTORS

The only exceptional demands in respect to motors were; Connecting Rods for Chev 15 cwt; Valve Springs Chev and Valve Cover Gasket - the latter requiring 100% replacement. All cork gaskets deteriorated even in well kept stores.

TRANSMISSION.

Both gearbox and transfer case Bearings collapsed frequently in all types of vehicles. This could be attributed to condensation and moisture causing breaking up of the gear box lubricants used.

S E C R E T

COPY.

ME/IO/534

S.O.M.E. DIV.
HQ 3 NZ DIV.
2 NZEF IP
NZAPO 150

29 APR. '44

C.O.M.E.
Main Ordnance Workshops
Military Camp
TRENTHAM NZ.

NOTES FOR R.E.M.E. PUBLICATION.

Ordnance Workshops experience during period 3 NZ DIV. was engaged on Amphibious Operations in Pacific

1st Operation. Div. Troops and One Infantry Brigade Group.

2nd Operation. One Infantry Brigade Group.

3rd. Operation. Div. Troops and Brigade Group.

Ordnance Workshop personnel for the 1st and 2nd operation consisted equivalent two (2) L.A.D.'s and W/Shops section of 52 personnel.

3rd. Operation

L.A.D.'s and Workshops personnel combined to form a Brigade Workshop Group, this to make greatest use of Technical personnel available, and owing to L.of C being limited, L.A.D.'s did not have to carry out extensive recovery work. All types of repairs were carried out, up to, and including 4th line on all equipment. It was not considered economical to evacuate repairs to a rear formation owing to shipping difficulties. It was not possible to send forward with the early echelons all the spares which were necessary to maintain vehicles in serviceable condition. owing to their being shut out from ships through being loose cargo.

For General Spares, bins which can be readily removed ~~xxxxx~~ from trucks would prove most satisfactory thus allowing the trucks to be utilised for general purposes. when necessary.

EQUIPMENT

Two (2) Machine Shops complete with Lathe, Valve Refacing Machines, Honing Sets, Variable Speed Drills etc. proved sufficient to cope with repairs for a Brigade Group. It is essential to have (a) an air conditioned repair shop for F.C.I. and Instrument repairs, with the necessary sterilising and polishing equipment etc. and (b) One Heavy Duty Type Electric Welder.

REPAIRS MT

SPRINGS.

Heavy failures were experienced owing to difficult terrain traversed. After roads were formed, spring trouble became a negligible factor. Replacement of Jeep springs over 6 months being: - Front 25%; Rear, 12% ; Leaves Nos. 1 and 2 showed 33% replacement. At least 75% of these failures occurred during first 2 months of each operation.

UNIVERSAL JOINTS

Owing to continuous operation through mud, failure and wear in Universal Joints, particularly in Jeeps was heavy; replacement ranging as high as 37%; Chev. 30cwt 4 x 4 26%; Spiders for Ford 30cwt and F.A.T. Tractors - 5%. Rzeppa Univer Sal Joint FORD - 20%

Appendix I