

21.4/1/17

21.5/1/11 (as Appx)

A D O S N Z D I V
D A D O S (E)

War Diary for May 1941.
Crete to Egypt.

(Original)

S.E.C.R.E.T

WAR DIARY

of

A.D.O.S. -- N.Z. DIVISION.

OFFICIAL ARCHIVE	
	Initial
Received	<i>S</i> 4/7/41
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(Volume *No 15*))

20 JUNE 1941

Summary of Events and Information.

Commanding Officer

13/5/42
13/10/42

References to Appendices.

1. Flew from Crete to Cairo in Empire flying-boat. In evening saw ADOS (OS 1), ~~XXX~~ ADOS (OS 2) and ADOS(OS 3) re equipment for the Division. Returned to Maadi where I stayed for several days.
2. Conferred with DDOS & BOO regarding steps already taken to provide camp equipment for troops now arriving and also the reequipment of the Div. DDOS has the reequipment problem well in hand and the scheme of operation should function very well and at the same time provide for a minimum of paper work by everyone concerned.
3. Went to Middle East with the DDOS and conferred with ADOS (OS 1) and ADOS(OS3).
4. At Helwan again. Arranged transfer of camp equipment from certain areas to other areas so that quantities available would coincide with personnel in the areas. There appears to be sufficient camp equipment in the areas and in the Ordnance Dump to cater for all the troops in camp provided suitable redistribution is effected quickly.
5. Div. Cav. drew 20 Bren carriers; 17 Norton M/cycles were issued to various units on the basis of three per major unit and one per small unit. 100 Thompson Sub-MG's were received from Base Ordnance Depot, Maadi. Saw Garrison Engineer about obtaining wire and pickets for a fence around the Ordnance dump. He could supply little material and no labour.
6. 6 Inf. Bde. drew 20 Bren carriers and 12 M/Cycles. Took over some ~~xxx~~ of the clerks and storemen of the 1 NZ Fd. W/shops to assist in the office and stores until the field staff arrives from Crete.
7. Further 10 Bren carriers to both Div. Cav. and 6 Inf. Bde. Further M/C's issued -- that makes 65 out of 100 now on issue. 6 Inf. Bde. was completed to scale with Thompson sub-MG's. Submitted schedule to DDOS of arms of all units on Crete as near as could be recalled from memory.
8. 180,000 rounds of .303 issued to 6 Inf. Bde. & arty. units. Consolidated return of all war equipment held by units in Helwan camp forwarded to DDOS, 2NZEF Base.

21.4/1/17
 W. J. H.
 W. J. H.
 H. D. A. D. O. S.
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12. Fierce Air Raid over Suda Bay. Base...
 der return of deficiencies of clothing
 ts to 5 and 10 Bdes.
 tion, wire and pickets to all units.
 location 1 1/2 miles from Canea. Hea...

Summary of Events and Information.

References to Appendices.

- 8 ctd. Called for return of all attached Ordnance personnel ~~xx~~ in Helwan Camp & of all surplus arms over and above AFG1098 scale held by units. Advised all units that second issue of clothing plus a certain reserve could now be drawn from the Ordnance dump.
9. HQ, 2NZEF advised through DDOS that pith helmets would have to be paid for by officers. Tried valiantly but unsuccessfully to obtain a car for Brig. Barraclough of 6 Inf. Bde.
10. Routine. The end of an exceptionally hot week.
11. Drew web equipment to complete composite Bn. details to scale. Arty. units issued with rifles for internal security measures.
12. Routine conference with DDOS and SOME, 2NZEF Base.
13. Routine.
14. A/Tk Regt. have now drawn 24 2-pdrs practically complete with gun stores. Balance of personnel of 1 NZ Fd W/shop arrived from Crete.
15. Issued 36 2" mortars to 6 Inf. Bde. Recommended to DDOS the transfer of 2/Lt J W Neale to NZAOC as an OME. Met large party of Ordnance reinforcements just arrived from N.Z. Party consisted of 5 officers and 220 other ranks.
16. Routine.
17. S/Major Kerby, three clerks and two storemen arrived from Crete. Received 20 3" mortars and authorised issue of 6 to each Bn. of ~~each Bde~~ 6 I. Bde.
18. Mr. Peter Fraser had an inspection of the personnel recently arrived from Greece. He lunched at B Mess with CO's and heads of the services.
19. Routine. Attended reception to Mr Fraser at Sheppard's Hotel.
20. Visited Middle East and saw G(SD)2, ADOS(OS1), ADOS(OS2), & ADOS(OS3). It was very obvious that war equipment was going to be difficult to obtain. Decided to take a few days leave and left Capt. G D Pollock to carry on.
21. At Maadi on leave. Conference all morning with SOME Base and BOO.
- 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. On leave.

Raid over Suda Bay. Bdes. 1800
 deficiencies of clothing and camp

all units. Issue of 12 M/Cyclo
 Heavy Air Raid

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	SHEET 3
27.			Accompanied DDOS, 2NZEF, on his inspection of Ordnance reinforcements at Garawi Camp. After inspection met reinforcement officers. Conference with DDOS on Ordnance matters. He met OME's of 12 & 19 LAD's for the first time. 6 Bde. were completed with all web equipment and respirators, rifles and clothing in preparation for their move to-morrow. Called for application for artificers for regular forces.
28.			Cleared up outstanding correspondence. Visited Porton Depot, No. 2 sub-depot & several groups of No 2 Sub-depot to see what stores were available for issue on the bulk I.O's for the equipment of the Div. Arranged programme of collection of stores.
29.			Heard of evacuation from Crete. Made arrangements for all camp equipment required for troops coming into Helwan camp. Arranged to borrow 4000 blankets from Camp Adjutant Garawi camp. Will have to get 600 sets of messing gear for units going into Garawi Camp. Confirmed system of drawing stores from No. 4 BOD with DCOO.
30.			Transferred Ord. storemen attached Div. Supply Column to the Ord. Depot, Helwan. To Maadi in the afternoon to see DDOS, BOO and SOME, then on to the Publications Dept. in respect to War Equipment tables. Of 24 different tables required I could only obtain three.
31.			To Middle East with DDOS. Saw ADOS(^{OS. Plans} Prvns.), ADOS(OS 1), & ADOS(OS 3), but got very little satisfaction. Then saw G(SD). As a result we were given 3 cars, 70 Brens, 70 Thompson Sub-M/G's, 10 Rangefinders, 35 2" Mortars, 14 3" mortars, certain signalling and engineering gear equipment. Several loads of Section K war equipment were drawn by Cpl. Watson.

Handwritten:
 N.Z. EW.

Wt 13474/1805 1,200,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22

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 3.

Fierce Air Raid over Suda Bay. Bdes. issued with...
 to render return of deficiencies of clothing and camp equipment. Distributed...
 wire and pickets to 5 and 10 Bdes.
 Distribution of ammunition, wire and pickets to all units. Issue of 12 M/Cycles to...
 to new location 1 1/2 miles from Canea. Heavy Air Raid.

The Staff manual respectively. Title pages be prepared in manuscript.

(Erase heading not required.)

Classified by *20-5/1/57*
 25/1/41
 11.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and References to Appendices

Place.	Date.	Hour.		
CRETE	1941 May 11.1			<p><i>Major Kelsey</i></p> <p>After the departure of Major Andrews 2 was temporarily appointed D.A.D.O.S. of th Maleme Sector of Crete Force. Collected stores and Ammunition from Ordnance Dump for Div. Reserve. To inspect N.Z. Ordnance Dump. Reported on position of re-equipment of N.Z. Units to A.A. and QMG.</p>
	2;			Completed report of D.A.D.O.S.(E) on the work of Fd. Workshops, L.A.Ds. and O.F.P. in Greece and submitted this to D.D.O.S., H.Q. 2 N.Z.E.F.
	3.			Normal routine
	4.			Collected supplies from B.O.D. Normal routine
	5.			Collected supplies from B.O.D. Normal routine.
	6.			Distributed shorts, shirts, hose tops, 2" and 3" Mortars, Anti-Tank Rifles and ammunition to Units.
	7.			To Canea to interview A.D.O.S. and C.O.O. of Crete Force. Further distribution of clothing, ammunition, wire and pickets to Units.
	8.			To N.Z. Ordnance Dump and arrange distribution of clothing and camp equipment to 5 Inf. Bde.
	9.			Normal routine.
	10.			Normal routine. Further distribution of stores and ammunition to Units.
	11.			Normal routine.
	12.			To see A.D.O.S. Creforce and work with him on plan for equipping N.Z. Units on pro rata basis.
	13.			Fierce Air Raid over Suda Bay. Bdes. issued with 5 Carriers Bren each. All Units requested to render return of deficiencies of clothing and camp equipment. Distribute 1400 coils of wire and pickets to 5 and 10 Bdes.
	14.			Further distribution of ammunition, wire and pickets to all units. Issue of 12 M/Cycles to N.Z. Units. Move with Div. H.Q. to new location 1 1/2 miles from Canea. Heavy Air Raid.

(Erise heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and
References to
Appendices.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	
CRETE	1941 May 15.		Move N.Z. Ordnance Dump to N.Z. Div. H.Q. area as there was no protection where this dump was previously located. Prepare issue orders for all Bde. Groups. Lieut. Cooper instructed to report to Suda Bay to assemble 75mm. French and Italian Guns.
	16.		To Canea to investigate position of Ordnance supplies. Heavy Air Raid on Suda Bay.
	17.		36 15cwt trucks and 7 M/Cycles issued to N.Z. Units.
	18.		Normal routine.
	19.		Normal routine.
	20.		The German invasion of Crete begins and parachutists land. General strafing all day. Deliver ammunition as follows :- 97,250 rds. S.A.A. 20,000 " Stripless L.M.G. 500 " A/Tk. Cpl. Solon taken prisoner but later recaptured.
	21.		Repetition of previous day. Collect ammunition reserve at dawn. Issue blankets to German wounded. Heavy naval action at sea. Ammunition issued as follows:- 110,000 rds. S.A.A. 100 Grenades. 1,100 rds. 75mm. French and Italian.
	22.		Very fierce strafing during the late afternoon. Ammunition issued as follows:- 97,000 rds. S.A.A. 6,000 " Stripless 340 Grenades.
	23.		Very fierce stafing and bombing. Ammunition and stores issued as follows:- 27,000 rds. S.A.A. 190 Picks 200 A/Tk. Mines 70 Coils of wire. 148 Grenades 140 Pickets 700 Shovels 100 Local bombs.

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.																
CRETE	1941 May 24		<p>The worst strafing so far experienced. Canea systematically bombed. Propose to recommend W.O.I. Schou for decoration for his conspicuous gallantry in delivering ammunition to units. I am promoted to rank of Temp. Major while performing duties of D.A.D.O.S.(E). Ammunition and stores issued as follows:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">90,000 rds.</td> <td style="width: 20%;">S.A.A.</td> <td style="width: 20%;">72 rds.</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Mortar 3"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10,000 "</td> <td>Stripless</td> <td>60 coils</td> <td>Wire and pickets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>480 "</td> <td>75mm</td> <td>250</td> <td>Shovels</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8,000 "</td> <td>Thompson Sub-M.G.</td> <td>60</td> <td>Picks</td> </tr> </table>	90,000 rds.	S.A.A.	72 rds.	Mortar 3"	10,000 "	Stripless	60 coils	Wire and pickets	480 "	75mm	250	Shovels	8,000 "	Thompson Sub-M.G.	60	Picks	
90,000 rds.	S.A.A.	72 rds.	Mortar 3"																	
10,000 "	Stripless	60 coils	Wire and pickets																	
480 "	75mm	250	Shovels																	
8,000 "	Thompson Sub-M.G.	60	Picks																	
	25		<p>Div H.Q. bombed. Ammunition issued as follows:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">55,000 rds.</td> <td style="width: 20%;">S.A.A.</td> <td style="width: 20%;">2,000 rds</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Thompson Sub-M.G.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6,000 "</td> <td>Stripless</td> <td>500 "</td> <td>A/Tk.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Div. H.Q. moved to new location by wireless station outside Canea. B.A.D. Canea objected to issue of ammunition after midnight as "their books were closed". However ammunition was obtained.</p>	55,000 rds.	S.A.A.	2,000 rds	Thompson Sub-M.G.	6,000 "	Stripless	500 "	A/Tk.									
55,000 rds.	S.A.A.	2,000 rds	Thompson Sub-M.G.																	
6,000 "	Stripless	500 "	A/Tk.																	
	26		<p>Serious strafing. Bdes. retiring. Take back 3 Amm. lorries fully loaded to East of Suda Bay and join Div. H.Q. there.</p>																	
	27		<p>Move again down Sparkis road. Deliver ammunition to 4 and 5 Bdes. as follows:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">100,000 rds.</td> <td style="width: 20%;">S.A.A.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10,000 "</td> <td>Stripless</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,000 "</td> <td>Thompson Sub-M.G.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	100,000 rds.	S.A.A.			10,000 "	Stripless			2,000 "	Thompson Sub-M.G.							
100,000 rds.	S.A.A.																			
10,000 "	Stripless																			
2,000 "	Thompson Sub-M.G.																			
	28		<p>Strafed ceaselessly all day. Move only at night. Ammunition lorries taken by Force H.Q. Move again with Div.H.Q. Learn of evacuation scheme.</p>																	
	29		<p>Food and water position acute. March 12 miles to Embarkation point but remain there.</p>																	
	30		<p>Morale of troops getting low on account of enemy air activity and lack of food and water. prepare to embark.</p>																	
	31		<p>Embark with Div. H.Q. at 2 a.m. on destroyer "Nizam" and cross to Alexandria. Bombed by 12 planes en route but with only one "near miss". Arrive at Alexandria at 1830hrs.</p>																	

I. O. Kebab Major
 DADOSCE) H.Q. N.Z. Div. 4 June 1941.