

APPENDIX. (7)

1. RATIONS :- Para (2) Bn. R.O. 109, advises that as from that date preserved meat will be issued in lieu of fresh meat on each Wednesday and Saturday of each week.

Para (3) ~~smt~~ stating that an issue of biscuits once fortnightly was to be made to replace fresh bread.

WATER : As per memo Q/5 dated 15 Oct 41 the ration for water was reduced from $1\frac{1}{2}$ gals per man per day to 1 gal., for all purposes.

2. DRESS: Helmets Pith were returned to Q, and Caps Field service were issued to all troops. This occurred in the second week of October.

the Bn Q.M. branch also issued a memo asking that coys make steps to measure and obtain numbers from all ranks re Battle Dress serge of N.Z. pattern.

3. CHANGES IN G1098 - The number of 3" Mortars within the Bn was increased to 6. As at the present date the Mortar Pl has 4. No 68 Anta/Tnk Grenade (Rifle) - 34 first line ammunition was received at TAHAG. No. 69 Bakelite Grenade (Hand) - 170 have been received this month.

4. Topography - The Bn Area itself lies in portion of the BAQQUSH BOX bounded on the SOUTHERN SIDE by an escarpment running EAST and WEST with lower hills running NORTH to the Mediterranean. On our Western boundary close to BN HQRS and beside the Main MERSA MATRUH Rd lies the Baqqush Airdrome.

Extending Southwards and to the East and WEST the Western Desert undulates into the blue. Patches of low scrub and occasional Palm tree innumerable wadis and stony flinted outcroppings of rock and lonely hills relieve the monotony of an otherwise desolate waste.

There are many cisterns some with waters others quite dry ~~smt~~ to be met with in many parts, while ancient ruins are to be seen in some places.

5. Climatic Conditions :

There is always the bright sun by day., and by night the eternal peace and calm of the desert. Again the paradox of hot days and cold nights. Winds are fairly frequent bringing occasional dust storms which render visibility difficult and even in the full light of day a good dust storm will ~~will~~ make visibility nil.

There have been two solid downpours of desert rain, it falls for a short time only in huge drops and then the dark clouds roll away quite suddenly.

The dust nuisance is checked for only a day or so.

6. Construction of Quarters Occupied :

To conform with the desert surrounding Bivouacs are dug into the ground and where necessary heavy beams of timber support the weight of the covering earth and iron. Some of the larger places are lined with iron sheets. Sand bagging is used extensively with an eye to camouflage and protection from aerial bombardment. In some Bivouacs there is an insufficient number of supporting stays, and their ability to withstand even concussion blast from heavy bombs is questionable.

D/Coy situated below and above the escarpment on the SOUTHERN boundary have made shift shelters in odd caves

In some COYS 2 men Bivouacs are being used as there is insufficient space in the properly built camouflaged dug outs, otherwise the Bn is well hidden and securely dug in.

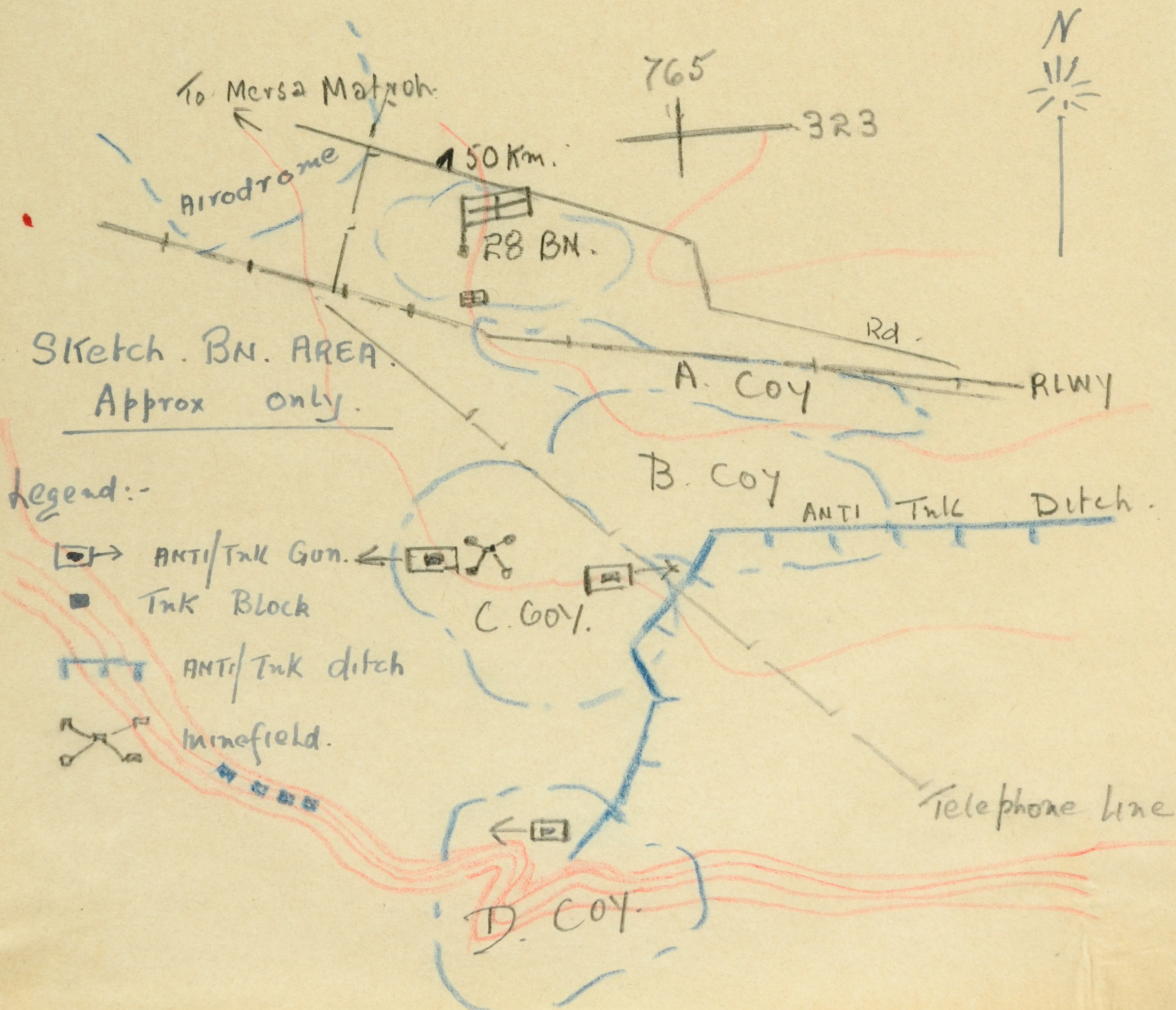
APPENDIX (7) (Cont)

7. HYGIENE AND SANITATION :- As per attached reports.

8. POLITICAL INFORMATION AND GENERAL :-
As per attached pamphlet.

9. CASUALTY RETURNS:- As per Part II Orders.-(extrace.).

10. Field Engineering. The BN Area is heavily wired and in C. COY area there is a mine field. An anti/tnk ditch has been dug along the BN Eastern Boundary as in Sketch attached. Tank blocks are in various places. Three concrete Anti/Tnk gun posts are in the Area also.
This construction & defensive scheme was laid down by a previous UNIT.



CASUALTY RETURNS

For the month of October the following attachments and detachments have taken place:-

in No 1926.
 Mched/from Maori Trng Coy 2/Lieut Pohio. EC/on the 6 Oct 41.
 Mched in and attached to this unit 25892 2/Lieut Jackson SF,
 2/Lieut JP. Tikao-Barrett 25814
 " WM. Awarau. 39656.
 " HP Rangiua. 25998.
 " JR. Ormsby 25963. Date of mchg in 8 October - FAP.

2/Lieut P. Taiapa - 26037 is posted to this unit wef 10 October
mched out to Hospital & mched in again

Detached ~~xxxx~~ Officers were Major Dyer GH., who returned from Combined Trng Centre on the 11 October.

The I.O 2/Lieut Awatere. A. on Course 11 October and rejoined unit on the 22nd of the month.

Lieut MR Pene was detached for Court Martial duties on the 12 October.

4108 2/Lieut Maloney. HT granted 7 days conv leave WEF 13 Oct 41.

22 October 41 Major GF Bertrand and Capt GH Weir mvhed out and tld to Composite Trng Depot.

On the same day some of the Reinforcement officers attached to the unit returned to Base.

Capt WH Werohia mached out to Composite Trng Depot.

 On the 22 Oct 19 O.Rs mched in from Comp Trng Depot, and on the 7th Oct a further 21 O.Rs had arrived.

Archives New Zealand = Archives New Zealand = Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga.
Ref: 28 NZ (Māori) Battalion Diary, WAI 1 1664 DA 68/1/22, pp. 93-95.