

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit HQ 20 AUST INF BDE

Date and Time.—From 31 MAY 45

To 30 JUN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	1 Jun		During the morning a signals exercise was carried out within the bde gp on Bde A and B nets. Comn was opened with HQ Ship ROCKY MOUNT. Object of the exercise was to test the sig channels for the landing.	
	2 Jun		In the morning the Bde Comd attended a discussion on the ROCKY MOUNT, on the naval rehearsal held on 31 May.	
	3 Jun		Bde Comd and BM attended a press conference on HQ Ship ROCKY MOUNT. Bde Comd outlined the 20 Bde plan for OBOE SIX.	
			Maj RANSOM came aboard USS SPENCER. All loading has now been completed.	
	4 Jun	1030	Bde Comd went to LST 751 to visit Lt-Col GRACE.	
		1130	Lt-Gen MORSHEAD, Maj-Gen WOOTTEN, Admiral ROYAL and Brig WELLS visited Bde Comd on USS SPENCER.	
			Convoy sailed from MOROTAI for BRUNEI BAY.	
	5 Jun)		The voyage was quite uneventful and calm seas were experienced throughout. During the night 9/10 Jun the task force moved into BRUNEI BAY without encountering any opposition.	
	6 Jun)			
	7 Jun)			
	8 Jun)			
	9 Jun)			
			The uniformly happy relations between Australians and Americans that existed in USS SPENCER - and in all other vessels in which this bde was embarked - made the slow journey to the objective much pleasanter than it would otherwise have been. LSTs and LCIs in particular, were very crowded and had facilities for only a fraction of the men they carried. The officers and men did all in their power to make our people comfortable.	
			The Comd gp in "SPENCER" were especially well cared for by Commander HINNANT USCG and his ship's company. We gained the impression that	

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			she was a "happy ship", disciplined and efficient. Something should be said, too, about Capt MANEES USN who commanded the Southern Attack Unit and flew his pennant in USS SPENCER. He and his staff were extremely co-operative in planning, during the voyage and in the assault stage itself. They were experienced officers who had taken part in several combined operations in the PHILIPPINES and some had seen service in the EUROPEAN theatre.	
	10 Jun	0830	Bde A and B and R/T links were established and working satisfactorily. Bde Comd and EM took up posn on the bridge of SPENCER with Capt MANEES to observe the progress of the landing. Combined Ground Post and Int Office was set up in a cabin under the bridge with LT comm with both the wireless room and bridge.	
		0905	SAO reported an airstrike on BRUNEI town appeared to have hit an ammunition dump. SAO continued to supply speedy and accurate information of dispositions of own troops and topographical information.	
		0915	Landings took place on GREEN and WHITE BEACHES without enemy opposition. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn first wave landed approximately 1000 yards further east than intended. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn first wave landed out of line and generally badly spaced. Some uncontrolled fire into the beachhead area from the LVTs resulted in the death of two of our troops.	The weather was calm clear and very hot.
		1025	The forward companies on each beachhead pushed rapidly inland although the going was found to be more difficult than anticipated. Heavy rain had fallen during the few days prior to the landing. Airforce were advised that no strikes were required at the moment in the immediate area. The aircraft were directed on LIMBANG, where a successful strike was put in. Unloading of one LST commenced on SAPO PT. Great difficulty was experienced from piles of logs and debris on the beach, necessitating considerable work by engrs to clear unloading points for the craft.	

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		1055	2/13 Aust Inf Bn was ordered to land on GREEN BEACH and move into reserve behind 2/17 Aust Inf Bn in the FOOCHOW area. GREEN BEACH was found suitable for LSMs and the troop of tanks and bulldozer were landed. The troop of 75mm pack Hows and other stores for which flotation equipment had been prepared were landed without difficulty.	
		1200	By this time all beaches were secured, 2/17 Aust Inf Bn had captured COWIE RIDGE, 2/13 Aust Inf Bn had landed on GREEN BEACH and was moving into FOOCHOW area and 2/15 Aust Inf Bn was pushing rapidly along the NORTH and SOUTH coasts of MUARA ISLAND. No opposition of any kind had been encountered.	
		1300	Maj MILL (PM) with a portion of Bde HQ from USS SPENCER left by LCM to establish Bde HQ on YELLOW BEACH.	
		1400	Bde Comd and IO with remainder of Bde HQ Gp on USS SPENCER left for YELLOW BEACH. On the way the Bde Comd inspected the unloading progress on RED BEACH. Great difficulty was still being experienced in unloading owing to logs and debris and unloading was a little behind schedule. Bde Comd proceeded to YELLOW BEACH to Bde HQ, which was established at ref 633554. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn killed two Japs in the GEELONG area and captured one PW. Interrogation revealed that a small force of approx 70 Japs had been in the BROOKETON area but had commenced withdrawal WEST as our troops landed.	
		1535	L/T was established with 2/17 and 2/13 Aust Inf Bn HQs. LSMs were standing off YELLOW BEACH ready to commence unloading. A message was received from 9 Div that the C-in-C SWPA would visit the area on 11 Jun and Bde Comd was requested to meet the party at WHITE BEACH.	
		1600	Bde Comd went forward to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn HQ.	
		2000	By last light all initial objectives were secured and there was no contact with enemy. A considerable amount of stores and vehicles had been offloaded at YELLOW BEACH although the beach was found	

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		2330	generally unsuitable for LSMs. There was a long water gap and a number of vehicles were drowned, but pulled clear by tractor. There was no unloading carried out during the night. 002 was issued. One enemy 2½ ton veh with 8 Japs came from the direction of BRUNEI and drove into 2/17 Aust Inf Bn FDLs. 7 Japs were killed and one taken PW. There was no further action during the night. Last light dispositions traces appended.	
	11 Jun	0620	Bde Comd left for RED BEACH to meet Gen MACARTHUR and party.	
		0915	Gen MACARTHUR, Lt-Gen MORSHEAD, Maj-Gen WOOTTEN and party arrived. The C-in-C's party landed unexpectedly on GREEN BEACH. Bde Comd came back from RED BEACH and the party moved by jeep up to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. After a short inspection of the area the C-in-C party left by craft from GREEN BEACH.	
		0930	2/17 Aust Inf Bn forward troops continued to push forward <i>advance</i> along the road towards BRUNEI without encountering opposition. Troop of tanks allotted to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn could not proceed further than 587539 owing to weakness of culverts and state of road.	
		1015	An air strike was put in on Mt PISANG. Natives reported a small party of enemy in the area. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn sent patrols out to the PISANG area and took over the ground vacated by 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.	
		1130	2/15 Aust Inf Bn River Force came to YELLOW BEACH for rations and then proceeded towards BRUNEI River.	
		1400	Capt WORTHLEY (BM(L)) went forward to COWIE RIDGE to select a new position for Bde HQ. This was found at 610555 and movement commenced immediately.	
		1525	2/15 Aust Inf Bn River Force landed unopposed at 521398 and in subsequent exploitation to secure a beachhead no enemy were encountered.	
		1630	2/17 Aust Inf Bn forward troops were in light contact with enemy at 516472. Bde Comd went forward to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn HQ.	

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			Bde HQ was established in new position and was in WT comm with 2/15 and 2/17 Aust Inf Bns. Maj EASTICK OC 2/3 Aust Pd Coy reported that AUSTER strip at 633554 was completed.	
			2/13 Aust Inf Bn carried out local patrols without contacting enemy.	
		2230	OO3 was issued.	
			2/17 Aust Inf Bn reported that native infm suggests there are 80 Allied PW being held in the BRUNEI area.	
			During the night a destroyer put down accurate harrassing fire on x-rds 480456 in support of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.	
			Otherwise there was no action during the night.	
	12 Jun	1030	Bde Comd, Capt WORTHLEY, and Capt BLACKBURN went forward to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn continued the advance without contacting enemy.	
		1100	2/13 Aust Inf Bn completed concentration less one Coy and were prepared to move quickly as directed.	
			One troops of guns despatched by LCM from RED BEACH joined 2/15 Aust Inf Bn River Force and by 1200 hrs were in action.	
			Forward elements of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn made contact with small party of enemy at MASON. Naval bombardment was brought down and the enemy withdrew.	
		1155	Bde Comd advised the EM that there appeared definite evidence that there were Allied PW in the BRUNEI town area and to direct the 2/15 Aust Inf Bn River Force not to patrol SOUTH of 40 grid and not to send any troops into BRUNEI town.	
		1223	Bde Comd ordered that a patrol be sent from 2/13 Aust Inf Bn by MT to MASON thence by foot NORTH along the BERAKAS rd to the coast.	
		1335	BRUNEI airfield was captured but found to be US.	
		1500	An Auster from LABUAN landed on BROCKETON strip.	
		1730	2/17 Aust Inf Bn continued the adv towards BRUNEI, and after	

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		1800	several small engagements reached 496423, remaining in that position for the night in light contact with the enemy. Bde Comd and party returned from 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. Col CAPERS US Army observer with 2/15 Aust Inf Bn joined the HQ.	
		1840	004 was issued.	
		2200	2/13 Aust Inf Bn patrol up the BERAKAS rd reached the coast and reported NMS.	
			Enemy were active during the night and used 81mm mortars against 2/17 Aust Inf Bn, killing two of our troops. Last light dispositions appended.	
	13 Jun	0945	Bde Comd and Col CAPERS went forward to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. After an airstrike in sqs 4742 and 4841 at 1100 hrs 2/17 Aust Inf Bn again continued the advance on BRUNEI. It was later learned from PW interrogations that the airstrike forced the Japs to give up the defence of BRUNEI and they broke contact in a disorganised manner and moved EAST and SE into the hills around BRUNEI.	
		1140	GADONG FERRY area was secured without opposition. In the area 8 natives were found dead, chained to stakes and a number of others were released from chains in a shocking condition as a result of ill treatment and starvation.	
		1227	Bde Comd directed that 2/15 Aust Inf Bn River Force would send a gunboat up the river towards BRUNEI but could not engage any target WEST of the 49 grid. Lt-Col DENISTON GI 9 AUST Div arrived at Bde with orders for the Bde Comd to nominate one bn gp for an amphibious operation against MIRI-LUTONG.	
		1445	2/17 Aust Inf Bn reported that BRUNEI town was captured and was clear of enemy except for small parties on the eastern edge of the town. Many mines had been clumsily laid by the Jap on the rd from the airstrip to the town but these were easily located and caused no casualties.	

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		1545	Bde Comd returned and conferred with Lt-Col DENSTON and Lt-Col COLVIN (CO 2/13 Aust Inf Bn) concerning the General's orders for a bn gp to capture MIRI. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn gp have been given the task and will plan directly under HQ 9 Aust Div but the bn will remain in the BROCKETON area until embarked.	
		1900	2/17 Aust Inf Bn reported the town area completely clear of Japs and that the CLIFFORD BRIDGE had been secured <i>by hard action on the part of Japs and engineers.</i>	
		2310	There was no action during the night. CO5 was issued. A message was received at 0230 hrs 14 Jun ordering 20 Bde to supply a two coy res for the 2/13 Aust Inf Bn Gp op on MIRI. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn were therefore ordered to leave two coys in the BROCKETON area and move one coy and Bn HQ by LCM 14 Jul to join the River Force and move into BRUNEI. Last light dispositions appended.	
	<i>June ?</i> 14 Jul	1000 1104 1400	Bde Comd held a staff conference and outlined the present situation. Capt MAIN (LOI) left for BRUNEI to lay out a new Bde HQ. The old British Residency will most likely be used. One troop of arty with one pl of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn moved across the BRUNEI RIVER and established a beachhead without opposition astride the LIMBANG RD. By last light two coys of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn less one pl were established in BRUNEI. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn carried out local patrols around the BRUNEI town area killing 17 Japs and taking 2 PW. The bn suffered only one casualty. Two tps of tks moved to BRUNEI airstrip. During the night several Japs infiltrated through the BRUNEI town area. Last light dispositions appended.	
	<i>June ?</i> 15 Jul	0500	Message was received from 9 Aust Div that target date for LUTONG-MIRI op was 19 Jun.	

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		0900 1030	Bde Comd held a staff conference. Maj NEWCOMBE 2IC 2/15 Aust Inf Bn called to see Bde Comd. Maj NEWCOMBE will comd the two coys of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn being supplied as reserve for 2/13 Aust Inf Bn Gp.	
			2/17 Aust Inf Bn commenced the advance from BRUNEI to TUTONG along the main rd and by last light one coy was established at 387404. One Jap was seen and killed. Numerous 500 lb aerial bombs were found alongside the rd apparently for demolitions, but no attempt had been made to use them. A 2/15 Aust Inf Bn pl patrol SOUTH along the LIMBANG rd was ambushed by a party of Japs at 474370. Patrol withdrew and arty engaged the enemy. Our troops suffered 1 killed and two wounded. Bde HQ moved to BRUNEI and opened new HQ in the British Residency. Local patrolling was carried out by 2/17 Aust Inf Bn in the BRUNEI area without contact.	
	16 Jun	0845	Message from HQ 9 Aust Div that target date for MIRI op was 20 Jun. 2/17 Aust Inf Bn two coy advance continued along the TUTONG RD. Jeeps, sandbagged in front, were used most successfully to move the forward coy. The leading jeep contained a dvr, a spr and a brengunner with two gun numbers. The second, towing a trailer, contained a complete sec with its Bren gun. Remainder of the coy followed in Jeeps and 2 1/2 ton vehs supplied by AASC. One pl of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn left BRUNEI by LCM supported by two LCM gunboats of 593 EB&S Regt to advance up the PANDARUAN River with a view to establishing a beachhead in the Bt TERUMI area to enable an advance on LIMBANG from the EAST. A Coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn continued advance SOUTH along the LIMBANG RD reached 469364 without contact. The LIMBANG RD is impassable even to jeeps owing to swamp.	

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		1355	Natives reported that SRD had captured UKONG and killed 16 Japs. Bde Comd left for 2/17 Aust Inf Bn HQ. The PANDARUAN RIVER Force was diverted to BROOKETON owing to instrs being received by the gunboats from their own HQ that they return to LABUAN. This, however, was found to be a mistake and was rectified later in the day. The Force set out once more and by last light reached the mouth of the PANDARUAN RIVER, where it remained for the night. Bde Comd returned from 2/17 Aust Inf Bn	
		1750 1850	2/17 Aust Inf Bn forward coys occupied TUTONG without contact with enemy. Patrols were sent to the coast in the immediate area but reported NMS.	
		2000	A 2/13 Aust Inf Bn patrol in the BROOKETON area killed one Jap. Message received from 9 Div stating that the pl of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn on MUARA ISLAND can be withdrawn and that the Radar Sta would move to BRUNEI BLUFF.	
		2008	008 was issued. There was no activity during the night. Last light disposition traces appended.	
	17 Jun	0800	A reliable native reported to Bde HQ that approx 200 Japs had crossed the BRUNEI RIVER during the night to sq 5037. A 1000 hrs one tp of arty engaged the area and one pl of B Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn from the high ground behind the British Residency also fired into the area. At 1200 hrs a pl of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn moved by LCM from BRUNEI to BERAMBANG ISLAND to investigate but found no Japs in the gen area 5037. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn pl raiding force which spent the night in LCM at mouth of the PANDARUAN landed unopposed near Bt TERUMI at 0930 hrs and patrolled forward towards LIMBANG for a short distance without making contact. A Coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn continued the advance up the LIMBANG and	

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			reached 455325 without contact. At 0940 6 B25s bombed and strafed LIMBANG: 2/17 Aust Inf Bn sent a patrol from TUTONG to KUALA TUTONG. Pontoons were found for ferry crossing but the launch had been destroyed by the Japs. Natives reported that there was a launch in good working order at Kg ABANG.	
		1325	Sultan of BRUNEI accompanied by his wife ^{4 mile} arrived at the RESIDENCY <i>in canoe</i> to meet the Bde Comd. W/Comdr KAY acted as interpreter. The Sultan had been in hiding on LIMPAKU ISLAND for some weeks. The Bde Comd informed him that he might return to his palace but that the country would remain under military government until the Japs had been driven out. The sultan returned to a small house between the palace and BRUNEI town accompanied by his wives and staff. His palace had been slightly damaged by our air attacks. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn was still concentrating in BROOKETON area. The bn planning team, assisted by Maj RANSOM MLO, carried out all planning at LABUAN directly under HQ 9 Aust Div. A message was received from 9 Div stating that one bn gp may be required to capture SERIA by an amphibious op and that a bn planning team may be required at an early date to move to LABUAN. Bde was asked, however, to submit proposals for the capture of SERIA by overland ops.	
		2130	The Bde Comd discussed the situation with Lt-Col BROADBENT and it was decided that in view of all civilian reports that enemy had evacuated SERIA it would be possible for one coy to continue the advance by land from TUTONG. Immediate efforts were to be made to capture the TUTONG FERRY in working order and tpt vehs and stores across. Two coys 2/17 Aust Inf Bn would remain in the BRUNEI area as Bde res.	
		2200	Bde Comd held a conference attended by Lt-Col REFSHAUGE, Lt-Col JOHNSON, Maj ARBUTHNOT and Bde Staff offrs. Bde comd directed	

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			that every effort must be made to release tpt of any kind and preferably jeeps and trailers for the move of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn SW to SERIA. Last light dispositions appended.	
	18 Jun		The remainder of B Coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn moved by LCM and joined the pl at Bt TERUMI on the PANDARUAN. This coy occupied LIMBANG without opposition by last light. A small party of enemy had withdrawn SOUTH.	
		0945	One Coy of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn crossed the TUTONG RIVER and commenced the advance SOUTH WEST along the coast towards SERIA. A patrol up the TUTONG RIVER found a launch in working order and this was put into service immediately with a civilian crew. The forward coy of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn saw 20 Japs in area 056229. Japs withdrew SOUTH without making contact. HQ 2/17 Aust Inf Bn moved to TUTONG and 4 pl remained at ABANG tr junc.	
		1220	A request was sent to HQ 9 Aust Div that the two coys of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn att to 2/13 Aust Inf Bn gp be returned immediately if not required at MIRI and that they be returned direct to BRUNEI in LCVP to save time and LCMs. A Coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn received reports of a large concentration of enemy SOUTH of the LIMBANG RIVER in the MENGATAI area. Natives are becoming particularly co-operative in giving infm and bring in PW. They are rewarded with food by BBKAU. Last light dispositions appended.	
	19 Jun		2/15 Aust Inf Bn HQ with one sec of 25 prs moved by LCM up the LIMBANG RIVER to join B Coy at LIMBANG. Forward coy of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn reached the mouth of the LUMUT RIVER without making contact with enemy. Engrs completed work on an Auster strip at TUTONG. The BRUNEI strip is US owing to heavy rain night 18/19 Jun.	

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			2/13 Aust Inf Bn gp completed loading during the day. Convoy will sail late m afternoon and the landing is to take place at LUTONG on the morning of 20 Jun. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn gp is under direct comd HQ 9 Aust Div. During the day 9 PW were captured, 8 by natives in the LIMBANG area.	
		2000	A native brought in a message from Sjt SANDERSON SRD UKONG stating that position of SRD party which had occupied UKONG was very precarious and that they could not hold out much longer. Sjt SANDERSON asked for a pl of inf to come to his assistance at UKONG at the earliest. He stated that the LIMBANG RIVER would be a safe route. SANDERSON requested an immediate air drop of arms and amm. Bde Comd decided to send one pl of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn from LIMBANG by LCM to UKONG on 20 Jun. Last light dispositions appended.	
	20 Jun		Fwd coy of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn continued the advance towards SERIA and by last light had secured the BIRA RIVER bridge. Contact had been made with 12 Japs at 836105 and in a short engagement 9 Japs were killed and the remainder fled into the bush. 2/15 Aust Inf Bn patrol to UKONG by river reached the village and made contact with SRD party. It was found that the SRD message sent in on 19 Jun was considerably exaggerated and that native infm of Jap movements supplied to SRD had been mostly false. In the LIMBANG area local patrols made no contact but Dyaks brought in six fresh Jap heads. There is increasing evidence that Dyaks in all areas are intensifying their search for Jap heads. Numerous reports are coming in of Japs being killed singly and in small parties by Dyaks.	
		1055 1450	Bde Comd and BM(L) went forward to 2/17 Aust Inf Bn HQ at TUTONG. Sjt B25s bombed and strafed suspected Jap concentration areas in	



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			<p>the Bt MALAU area SOUTH of the LIMBANG RIVER. A Coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn reported that strike seemed accurate.</p> <p>A Sqn 2/9 Aust Armd Regt took over the protection of CLIFFORD BRIDGE from 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. 3 tks were put across the river by LCM to the WEST side as the bridge is considered too weak to carry inf tks.</p> <p>Total enemy cas known to date are 96 counted dead, 13 estimated killed and 30 PW.</p> <p>Last light dispositions trace appended.</p> <p>Maj NICHOLLS (9 Aust Div Sigs) arrived to assist the Bde Sig Ofcr Capt WATSON in the organising and maintenance of the wide and difficult sig system throughout the Bde area. At present two bns are advancing in the widely diverging directions and there is the prospect of having to open comms with 2/13 Aust Inf Bn at LUTONG when this unit reverts to bde cmd. The rapid advance to BRUNEI has strained the Sig Secs resources in men vehs and cable to the utmost but the adv of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn has tended to increase the strain. The speed of the op has been such that there has been little opportunity to build securely and maintain all lines. Reinforcement by dets of Div Sig would be welcome.</p> <p>2/17 Aust Inf Bn occupied SERIA without opposition. More than 30 oilwells were burning as a result of demolitions carried out from 10 Jun, onwards. The enemy attempted to destroy several bridges by burning but they were quickly made safe by engrs and put into operation for MT. Native reports indicated that the enemy - numbering 300/400 had withdrawn through BADAS to the LABI area.</p> <p>Bde Comd, accompanied by Maj EASTICK and Lt CHILDS left by launch for 2/15 Aust Inf Bn HQ at LIMBANG.</p>	
	21 Jun	1050		

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			News was received from HQ 9 Aust Div that 2/13 Aust Inf Bn gp had landed successfully at LUTONG.	
			A Coy 2/15 Aust Inf Bn was withdrawn from the LIMBANG RD to BRUNEI and moved by LCM to LIMBANG. It was found unnecessary to continue the advance by river to LIMBANG over difficult terrain as LIMBANG was now securely held by our troops.	
		1400	A Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn was placed on two hrs notice to move to SERIA to join the remainder of the bn.	
		1900	Bde Comd and party returned. Lt WOOD SRD with two SRD NCOs some Dyaks and 17 Javanese coolies released from the Japs also arrived at BRUNEI by LCM from LIMBANG.	
			Bde Comd instructed 2/17 Aust Inf Bn not to advance beyond SERIA except for local patrols until 2/15 Aust Inf Bn Coys return from LUTONG gp and thus release the two coys of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn now in BRUNEI in bde res.	
		1930	A message was received from Div stating that it was intended that 2/13 Aust Inf Bn revert to comd 20 Bde when comd 20 Bde was in a posn to exercise effective control.	
			Bde Comd sent a signal to Div stating that he would be glad to resume comd 2/13 Aust Inf Bn but would prefer to wait until the comms system was on a sender basis. It was expected that comms would prove satisfactory within two days.	
			Last light dispositions trace appended.	
	22 Jun		Two Coys of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn returned to BRUNEI by ^{LST + LCV} LCM from LUTONG.	
			A Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn left BRUNEI for SERIA.	
			Local patrols in all areas reported NMS.	
			Several of the smaller fires at SERIA were extinguished by 3 Pl 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE.	
			A message was sent to Div requesting that an expert be procured to	

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(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit HQ 20 AUST INF BDE Date and Time.—From 31 MAY 45 To 30 JUN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			assist in putting out the oilfires. Owing to heavy rain the BRUNEI Auster Strip was US and the BRUNEI-BROOKETON RD impassable to jeeps. A message was sent to Div requesting that despatches be dropped by Courier plane at Bde HQ. Last light disposition traces appended.	
	23 Jun	1000	Bde Comd and IO left for 2/17 Aust Inf Bn HQ at SERIA. A 2/15 Aust Inf Bn pl patrol by LCM to BERAMBANG contacted a small party of Japs at 538389, killing two. Patrol was ordered to remain on the island overnight and carry out further patrolling. A Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn arrived at SERIA from BRUNEI.	
		1700	Bde Comd arrived at SERIA, conferred with Lt-Col BROADBENT and went forward to the forward coy along the KUALA BELAIT RD. A 2/15 Aust Inf Bn river patrol up the PANDARUAN RIVER reached 585172 NMS and went on towards BANGAR. Last light dispositions attached. Total cas to date were 120 counted dead, 13 estimated killed and 35 PW.	
	24 Jun		Forward Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn occupied KUALA BELAIT at 1030 hrs without opposition. Japs had withdrawn up the BELAIT RIVER to LABI. Before leaving they massacred approx 30 Indian PW of 2/15 PUNJAB Regt who had been held for some time as PW in KUALA BELAIT. The bodies of many were partly burned and the remainder completely burned when the japs destroyed the PW compound by fire. Bde Comd made a quick inspection of the town with a view to moving Bde HQ into the area. ESB gunboats were withdrawn from LIMEANG to LABUAN.	
		1445	Gen BLAMEY arrived at BRUNEI accompanied by Lt-Col DWYER and GOC 9 Aust Div and Brig ROGERS DMI.	



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(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit HQ 20 AUST INF BDE Date and Time. — From 31 MAY 45 To 30 JUN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		2100	<p>Bde Comd left SERIA at 1200 hrs but could not reach BRUNEI in time to see the C-in-C, who left BRUNEI approx 1530 hrs. C-in-C was received by Lt-Col R JOHNSTON CO 2/8 Aust Fd Regt who was senior offr in BRUNEI.</p> <p>Bde Comd held a conference with BM, BM(L), SC, IO to work out the composition of a ^{adv} Bde HQ for KUALA BELAIT. It was considered that an advance Bde HQ would be established within a few days at KUALA BELAIT.</p> <p>Last light dispositions appended.</p>	
	25 Jun		<p>2/15 Aust Inf Bn River patrol returned from BANGAR without contacting enemy. During the day 2/15 Aust Inf Bn captured 7 PW five of whom incl one offr surrendered under a white flag near LIMBANG.</p> <p>Local patrols around the BRUNEI area were active. The Sqn Sec of 2/9 Aust Armd Regt Wksp sent out a patrol which killed one Jap. There were a number of isolated Japs around the BRUNEI area and natives would come in with the infm and their act as guides for our patrols.</p> <p>Total enemy case were to date, 122 counted dead, 16 estimated killed and 50 PW.</p> <p>4 Pl 2/17 Aust Inf Bn was relieved by a pl of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn atATABANG rd junc. 4 Pl moved to TUTONG and with the task of protecting the ferry and 2/64 Aust IAD which is near the ferry. BM(L) Capt WORTHLEY left for KUALA BELAIT with a recce party to establish a Advance Bde HQ.</p> <p>2/13 Aust Inf Bn requested that a patrol junction be effected between 2/13 Aust Inf Bn and 2/17 Aust Inf Bn patrols at BARAM PT. This was arranged.</p> <p>Lt-Col GRACE and Maj HILL (BM) went to LIMBANG.</p> <p>Last light dispositions traces appended.</p>	

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(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit HQ 20 AUST INF BDE Date and Time.—From 31 MAY 45 To 30 JUN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	26 Jun		Natives and PW reported that there were approx 100 Japs on LIMPAKU ISLAND and that many would surrender if given the opportunity.	
		A	2/17 Aust Inf Bn patrol from KUALA BELAIT made contact at BARAM PT with a 2/13 Aust Inf Bn patrol from LUTONG.	
		0800	Active patrolling continued in the LIMBANG and BRUNEI areas. A message was sent to Div stating that the Bde Comd was moving to KUALA BELAIT and that he suggested Bde assume comd of 2/13 Aust Inf Bn at 0700 hrs 28 Jun.	
		2125	HQ 9 Aust Div directed that 2/13 Aust Inf Bn would revert comd 20 Bde 270630 hrs. Last light dispositions traces appended.	
	27 Jun	0630	2/13 Aust Inf Bn gp came under comd 20 Bde. Enemy activity at SOUTH KNOLL in the MIRI area was shelled by arty and naval bombardment from one destroyer standing off MIRI. for naval support.	
			A sec patrol of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn moved up the BELAIT RIVER to BALAI without contact. Patrol was assisted by native guides. In the BRUNEI area 2/15 Aust Inf Bn patrols captured one PW but otherwise made no contact with enemy.	
		1345	Adv Bde HQ opened in a group of well preserved buildings at 479408 KUALA BELAIT. Adv Bde consisted of Bde Comd, BM, BM(L), SC(L) and the bulk of Bde HQ personnel. A small staff consisting of Capt TAIT WILLS (SC) and Lt CHILDS LO with a sec of the Gd pl and gets of sigs and cipher remained at BRUNEI and were known as Rear Bde HQ. It was considered necessary for the SC to remain at BRUNEI in view of the amount of resup still coming into that area and also to supervise the transfer of all stores and eqpt from YELLOW BEACH and BRUNEI. Maj SNEEL Comd YELLOW BEACH moved to BRUNEI to take over local adm duties. Stores were moved in the first part by rd, but owing to the rain and poor state of the rd it	

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(Erase heading not required.)

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(Adap ed.)

Unit HQ 20 AUST INF BDE

Date and Time.—From 31 MAY 45

To 30 JUN 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			became necessary to employ LCMs from YELLOW BEACH to BRUNEI. Last light dispositions traces appended.	
	28 Jun		<p>A patrol of 58 Fd Bty in the BRUNEI area made contact with approx 20 enemy at 324344. Our patrol suffered 3 cas—one missing believed killed and two seriously wounded.</p> <p>A 2/15 Aust Inf Bn river patrol reached LABU without making contact.</p> <p>Men of 2/3 Aust Fd Coy established a pontoon ferry service over the BELAIT RIVER with FBE and outboard motors. The TUTONG RIVER ferry has not been entirely satisfactory owing to numerous breakdowns in eqpt due mainly to over work and little opportunity for maint. This ferry has been working throughout the hours of daylight and often far into the night since it was re-established. The old Chinese launch driver and his crew have worked cheerfully day and night in all weathers to maintain the flow of traffic across this broad and difficult river mouth. Two streams join here running into each other at right angles setting up fierce currents. When the tide is running out it is sometimes so strong that the ancient motor launch is unable to tow the ferry against it. The state of this ferry imposes a severe limitation on the activities of forward troops in the event of their meeting strong opposition.</p> <p>Fd Btys under comd 2/13 and 2/17 Aust Inf Bns reverted to comd 2/8 Aust Fd Regt and were placed in sp respective bns in present areas. Last light disposns appended.</p>	
	29 Jun		<p>2/13 Aust Inf Bn troops occupied SOUTH KNOLL and released 10 Indian PW left there by the Jap. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn now controls all the high ground overlooking MIRI and the ground to the SOUTH and SE. Japs were reported to have moved back along the RIAM RD and taken up defensive positions in the 3 MILE area.</p> <p>A Pl patrol of 2/15 Aust Inf Bn from BRUNEI moved out to assist</p>	

