DATE EVENT

1 MAR 43 Unit strength and distribution of personnel as at 0900 hrs *(Singapore)*.

OFFRS O/Rs TOTAL

SIGNAL LINES (CHANGI) 8 224 232

HQ 27 Inf Bde 2 4 6

SINGAPORE GAOL 1 1

OVERSEAS (PARTY A,B 23 336 359

JAPAN & CAPT. PATERSON)

HOSPITAL (A.D.H.) 21 21

2 CON DEPOT 7 7

DETACHED – Concert Party 5 5

Mobile Laundry 2 2

Forestry G.P. 2 2

HQ A.I.F. 1 1 2

With 2/20 Bn 2 72 74

A.G.H. 1 1

36 676 712

1015 hrs. Week’s revisionary course for second group of N.C.O.s commenced. Capt. Barnett c/i , Lieut May and R.S.M. Cunningham instructors.

1900 hrs. Warning order received to the effect that Gardening Party would no longer be required from Signals – 2/10 Fd Regt and 2/15 Fd Regt supplying full quota. Sigs would provide permanent stump grubbing and wood party to service the Brigade.

Rations received today for unit (232 all ranks).

Sugar 8 lbs, tea 3lbs 12oz, oil 12lbs 8oz, rice polishings 6lbs 12oz, rice flour 24lbs, towgay *(bean sprouts)* 14lbs, salt 2lbs 8oz. Rice is still being received at rate of 13½ oz per man per day, with 7oz per day extra for personnel in Gardening Party.

DATE EVENT

2 MAR C.O. saw C.R.E. *(Commander Royal Engineers)* regarding re-organisation within the unit.

1345 hrs. C.O. and Adjt *(Adjutant)* attended C.R.A.’s *(Commander Royal Artillery)* conference. (As from 0001hrs today, Arty personnel all come under C.R.A. who relinquishes comd. Technical Pde which ceases to exist – and Sigs come under comd of H.Q. R.A.A. *(Headquarters Royal Australian Artillery)*. Matters arising therefrom

Information regarding Garden Party passed on to personnel of the Coy after I.J.A. *(Imperial Japanese Army)* check parade.

2015 hrs. Warning Order that 5 Sigs officers have to report at Conference House, Changi Gaol at 1100 hrs 3March received. Officers nominated by H.Q A.I.F. Lieuts Mansfield, Gawley, Anderson, Conway, Harrison.

3 MAR As from 0001 hrs today, unit appointments are as follows: C.O Capt. Stahl, 2 i/c Adjt and Q.M. Capt. Barnett, officer i/c technical training and Asst Adjt. Lieut Stewart, Sport and Entertainment Offr Lieut Gawley, O/C HQ Coy, Lieut Mansfield, O/C 1 Coy (Gardening Party), Lieut Conway, O/C 3 Coy, Lieut Anderson, O/C 4 Coy. Lieut Harrison. Detailed with 2 Coy, Lieut May (O/C) and Lieut Harrison.

1100 hrs. 5 offrs reported at Conference House. They were questioned about comms. In Australia, and were back in time for lunch.

1300 hrs. Information from H.Q. R.A.A. that Signals Garden Party would be retained and number to be supplied each day would be increased to 1 offr and 49 o/rs.

Sport Baseball v. R.A.S.C. lost 12 to 1. Basket-ball Offrs & Sgts v. o/rs

won 13 to 4.

Sigmn *(Signalman)* Russell J.A. & Sigmn Parker transferred to Forestry Group.

2000 hrs Talk by Padre Sexton on “Central Europe”.

DATE EVENT

4 MAR 25 lbs herrings received. Issue 4 days at ½ oz per man.

Garden Party increased to 1 offr & 72 o/rs. Increase made up from volunteers. Coy accommodation re-allotted to conform.

5 MAR Salt issue increased from 5 to 20 grams per day per man.

Weather – excellent. Hope it continues.

1830 hrs. Adjt’s Conference. Arising therefrom:-

Immediate return of *(illegible)* of personnel & offrs by name, who have NOT had malaria or dysentery. It is anticipated that this is in connection with a warning order received that some movement of A.I.F. troops north will take place on MAR 10 (9 offrs 172 o/rs).

Immediate return of personnel fit for Singapore Working Party also required (6 offrs 31 N.C.O.s 120 men).

Return of all blankets and mosquito nets required by 2000 hrs 6 MAR.

2000 hrs. Talk by Lieut Bob *(illegible)*, 2nd Ghurkas, on “World Polo and Hollywood”.

2245 hrs. Coy Comdrs asked to have returns of all personnel, showing fitness classification and whether they have had dysentery or malaria, to unit H.Q. by 0930 hrs 6 MAR.

6 MAR 0845 hrs. Wood trailer party reported at No.2 Gate

We are responsible for providing party to move large trailer for wood all day from new cutting area off *(illegible)* Rd. to area within P.O.W. perimeter indicated by Forestry Offr. Trailer Party is I offr & 25 o/rs.

Morning: C.O. & 2i/c went through Coy returns and made up list of personnel who could proceed north.

1230 hrs. C.O. discussed matter with C.R.E. and *(illegible)*. Our allotment 60 o/rs in party of 25 offrs and 2,500 o/rs. Anticipated date movement commences 15 MAR. All nominated personnel will have to have malarial tests, possibly comm. 8 MAR.

Sigs personnel att. to Forestry Gp. will move with L. of C. Area *(Line of Communication)* units.

Force will be known as FORCE D – Overland Party.

DATE EVENT

6 MAR In view of re-organisation within P.O.W. camp area Signals will cease contin. to supply Garden Party as from 8 MAR.

Sport Cricket v. A.G.H. Lost 87 to 3 for 110 (dec.)

Unit allotment of 28 seats for A.I.F. concert.

Rumours are very strong that there is a lot of mail at the Changi Gaol and personnel are over there sorting it for distribution.

7 MAR 0815 hrs. Particulars of move north, and names of 60 nominated personnel, *(illegible)* to men on check parade.

1050 hrs. C.O.’s Inspection Parade, compulsory Church Parade and march past C.R.A.. At the Church Parade Lt.Col. McEachern announced officially that there are twelve bags of mail, estimated at 60,000 letters, at Changi Gaol for A.I.F. troops.

1730 hrs. Information received that Signals will NOT now be supplying any personnel for FORCE D, and that we shall be continuing to supply 1 offr & 49 o/rs daily for the Garden Party.

Cricket. A.I.F. v. 18 Div. A.I.F. 224, 18 Div. 6 for 120 – rain. Capt. Barnett unit rep.

8 MAR 0845 hrs. Sgt Hall left for *(Changi)* gaol to attend to sorting of mail for unit personnel. He estimated there are about 3,000 letters for Signals. It is NOT known at present if the I.J.A. is going to read all letters before they are forwarded for distribution.

1030 hrs. Arrangements made for Capt. Clive Boyce to see Sigmn Hall (Detention).

Sport Cricket v. 22 Bde. Lost.

2030 hrs. Unit’s night at A.I.F. Concert.

DATE EVENT

9 MAR 0845 hrs. Sgt. Hall left for gaol to continue with letter sorting.

1400 hrs. C.O. and Adjt. attended Bde*. (Brigade)* Comdr.’s Conference. Matters arising therefrom:- Sorting of mail should be completed as from 3 to 7 days. 100 A.I.F. and 100 Eng. Letters have been given to I.J.A. as “test letters” for purpose of checking in an endeavour to have complete checking of the whole 200,000 letters waived;

Pay – I.J.A. parties entitled to pay at “leavy” rates;

In future, offrs on Salt Water Party will be doubled;

Lieut. Harrison to A.G.H. with, probably, rheumatism.

1430 hrs. Urdu classes commenced at Bde. H.Q. Capts Stahl and Barnett attended.

Sport Basketball. Offrs & sgts v 12/15 No.2 team. Lost 22 to 7.

10 MAR 0845 hrs. Sgt Hall to gaol to complete letter sorting. I.J.A. still intend to censor all letters. One letter received today for Sigmn Moncrieff, the first member of the unit to be so fortunate.

Sport Basketball v. 2/9-10 Fd. Amb. Lost 14 to 2.

11 MAR Wood Party (1 offr 25 o/rs) morning and afternoon.

1700 hrs. Word received that I.J.A. state A.I.F. troops took vegetables from I.J.A. garden last night. I.J.A. will deal immediately themselves with any men caught outside the wire.

As from today hospital patients will be paid by A.G.H. for day of discharge.

12 MAR 1100 hrs. Final T.A.B. inoculation for any personnel who have NOT already had it.

50 letters received for unit personnel.

2000 hrs. Lecture “The Grenadier Guards” by Capt. Walker of the Suffolk Regt.

13 MAR Morning Wood Party (1 offr 25 o/rs), Guard at No.3 Gate (1 offr 9 o/rs), Salt Water Party (2 offrs 4 o/rs), Garden Party (1 offr 49 o/rs) supplied by Signals out of Unit Strength of 7 offrs & 224 o/rs.

DATE EVENT

14 MAR Advance Party of ‘Force D’ left Changi.

1130 hrs. Voluntary C. of E. and O.P.D. Church Parade.

No C.O.’s Unit Inspection Parade as unit supplied Gardening Party (normal) and Wood Party.

Cricket A.I.F. v. 18 Div at 18 Div padang. 18 Div 177 A.I.F 141, unit rep Capt. Barnett.

Signals are now attached to Tech. Regt. Under Lt.Col. Wright.

15 MAR Wood Party, morning and afternoon.

Signals allotment of Salt Water personnel increased to 6.

Sigmn Beufitt finished electrician duties at gaol. Visited *(illegible).*

Pay received for period 1-10 Mar. A.I.F. deducted 1 day’s pay. W/Os 25 cents, N.C.O.s 15 cents, other duty personnel 10 cents & no duty personnel 2 1/2 cents a day.

16 MAR Morning Wood Party and 7 o/rs to assist Arty in afternoon. 10 o/rs on Wiring Party near Changi Gaol.

0945 hrs. Special party of 1 offr and 4 o/rs took W/O 2 Tearing to A.G.H.

1530 HRS. Comd. Tech Regt’s conference in connection with re-shuffle as result of move of FORCE D. Signals allotment Bldg 14, Bldg 15 and Attap Hut near M.I.R.. Personnel from square (att 2/20 Bn.) will rejoin Unit. C.O., Capt Stahl, protested that we were to be known as a Signal Coy of the Tech Regt. The Unit’s identity was being lost. He later discussed the matter with C.R.E. who was going to take it up with H.Q. A.I.F.

There will be no I.J.A. Check Parade until `9 MAR.

1930 hrs. Coy Comds conference with 2 i/c and allotment of quarters to Coys defined.

Movement to new quarters will be effected tomorrow. No movement before 1200 hrs. Bldgs to be vacated to be empty by 1430 hrs.

No move into new quarters until 1500 hrs.

2000 hrs. Unit lecture by Flight-Sgt McCabe on “Adventures of an Airman in Malaya”.

DATE EVENT

17 MAR 1100 hrs. Party of 1 N.C.O. & 9 o/rs to Supply Coy. to assist unloading rice (29 truck loads arrived).

1200 hrs. Movement to new bldgs. commenced. Unit vacated 4 *(illegible)* of Bldg 16. To facilitate Unit admin., 3 & 4 Coys are going to be combined as from completion of move. When personnel from square return tomorrow (18 MAR), Unit re-organisation will be:-

C.O. Capt. F.R. Stahl

2 i/c Capt. B.A. Barnett

Adjt & QM Lieut. N.N. May

Assist. Adjt QM Lieut. A.W. Stewart

and Tech Instr

O/C HQ Coy Lieut. S. Mansfield

O/C 2 Coy Lieut. S. Anderson

2 i/c 3 Coy Lieut. Harrison (Hospital)

O/C 2 Coy Lieut. G. Gawley

and Sports & Entertainment Offr

2 i/c 2 Coy Lieut. H. Henderson

O/C 1 Coy Lieut. R. Conway

(Garden Coy)

R.S.M. W/O2 A. Cunningham

C.Q.M.S (a/ R.Q.M.S.) S/Sgt. P. Climpson

Movement, with the exception of 2 Coy, completed during the afternoon.

Rumours are already current that another party (Force E) of 3,000 will be moving shortly. It is rumoured, too, that a party of 450 offrs. will be shortly be proceeding to Japan.

18 MAR Wood Party (15 o/rs only) morning & afternoon.

1000 HRS. Attap Hut taken from Signals Garden Party. Personnel therein returned to Bldg 14.

No 2 Coy moved from Barrack Square during the morning. Has evening meal with Unit. Disposition of personnel at kitchens now:-

No 3 Coy Kitchen – Offrs, Sgts, No 3 Coy

No 2 Coy Kitchen – U.H.Q., No 2 Coy

No 1 Coy Kitchen – No 1 Coy (Garden Party)

DATE EVENT

2000 hrs. Unit Lecture by Capt. Curlewis on “The A.B.C of Crime”.

19 MAR Wood Party (1 offr 25 o/rs) morning & afternoon.

A.S.C. *(Army Service Corps)* Supply Party 1 offr 30 o/rs (21 o/rs being supplied by R.A.E. *(Royal Australian Engineers)*

General settling in in new quarters. Sgt Levinsohn commenced manufacture of disinfectant from Derris root.

1600 hrs. Further 50 odd letters arrived.

1730 hrs, Conference Comdr, Tech. Regt. Attended by C.O. and Adjt. Matter arising therefrom:-

No latrines to be closed or new ones opened without reference to Regt. Hygiene Officer, Maj. Rogers; No bldgs or shacks etc. to be demolished without reference to C.R.E.; Boots – limited supply of material for repair available.; All un-audited paybooks to be forwarded Comdr Pay for audit; There are NO permanent light or no duties. Men must attend M.I.R. at least once a week. Piquet of 1 N.C.O. & 6 o/rs (all light duties) detailed for A.I.F. wood dump – hours of duty 2000 hrs – 0800 hrs – NOT required per W/O in charge.

20 MAR As from 0001 hrs today, Unit organisation is as set out on 17 MAR.

Wood Party (1 offr 25 o/rs) all day.

21 MAR 1100 hrs. C.O.’s Inspection. Then Church Parade. Those NOT desiring to attend, marched to Concert Hall, then marched to Unit Lines.

1600 hrs. Hockey A.I.F. v B.G.H. Lost 6 – nil. Capt. Stahl playing for A.I.F.

Wood Party all day.

DATE EVENT

22 MAR Wood Party all day.

Balance of Unit attended A.I.F. concert.

Broom making “factory”, disinfectant “factory” (solution from Derris Root), tailors and boot polish “factory” located in appropriate quarters. Sgt. Levinsohn i/c. Start made on spraying quarters with disinfectant to get rid of bugs.

Lieut. Gawley NO DUTY on account of eyes. Lieut. Stewart takes over 2 Coy.

23 MAR Wood Party (1 offr 25 o/rs) in morning. Half Wood Party in afternoon. Futher 50 letters received. News from all letters is collated by Cpl. A.K. Smith and a precis is placed on Unit notice board.

1630 hrs. Adjt. attended Regt. Cmdr.’s Conference.

24 MAR Memo received from H.Q. A.I.F. stating Signals would continue as a unit (i.e. we would NOT lose our identity by becoming only a Sig. Coy. of the R.A.A. *(Royal Australian Artillery)* Regt.)

1530 hrs. All offrs attended a lecture by Lt.Col. Oldson on “The Slim River Battle” in A.I.F. Concert Hall.

25 MAR Full Wood Party in morning. Half Wood Party in afternoon.

26 MAR Further 50-60 letters received.

Rumours state that an additional batch of letters has arrived at Changi Gaol.

1700 hrs. Pay, covering period 11-20 Mar. received. Allotment same as for last period.

1500 hrs. Sport. Hockey v H.Q 27 Bde. Lost 1-nil.

DATE EVENT

27 MAR Wood Party in morning.

1115 hrs. Warning of further working party of 500 A.I.F. to be ready to move tomorrow.

1300 hrs. C.O. attended Regt. H.Q. . Our quota of party 25 o/rs – no offrs. Total party A.I.F., 500 including 20 offrs.

Further bundle of letters received.

28 MAR 0600 hrs. Reveille for Force E. Balance of day’s rations carried on man. Another day’s rations taken in bulk by Party Q.M.. Information indicates party is moving by boat to a place not previously inhabited by P.O.W.s. Climate is similar to Singapore. Food will be better than here, but still no meat. Estimated time of travel, two days.

0725 hrs. Party under A/C.S.M. Cummings marched out of Unit lines.

0800 hrs. Party left Barrack Square by truck.

1130 hrs. Voluntary Church Parade C.O.E. & O.P.D.. No 1 Coy (Garden Party) made up to full strength from 2 & 3 Coys.

29 MAR Portion of Wood Party and another brushwood party (1 offr 10 o/rs) required in afternoon.

I.J.A. issued one cigarette per man today. 20 grams per day of Rice Polishings will, in future (as from 1 APR 43) be an I.J.A. issue. Rice is reduced to 430 grams per day per man as from 1 APR 43.

30 MAR In compliance with orders from Regt. H.Q., four offrs (Lieuts Stewart, Henderson, Conway, Anderson) moved into Bldg 14.

1315 hrs. About 200 letters arrived.

Wood Party in afternoon.

1415 hrs. Capt. Shearing, S.C. (Q) *(Staff Captain Quartermaster)*  L of C H.Q. called to discuss availability return.

1700 hrs. Comdr. Tech. Regt.’s Conference attended by Adjt., Lieut. N.N. May, Matters arising therefrom:-

DATE EVENT

30 MAR Tech. Regt. Comdr.’s Conference:-

(contin.) Vegetable issue today ( *space* ) is for 14 days; Parade on Anzac Day – details later; Pay for April (Officer’s for March) Lt.Col. & Majors adm. comd., 70 cents per day, Majors 60, Capts 50, Lieuts 40, W/Os 30, N.C.O.s 20, o/rs 10 cents per day, No Duties 2 ½ cents per day; Regt. Comdr. Will lay down minimum contrib. to Unit Amenities; Local eggs 15 cents – imported eggs only 9 cents, endeavours being made to purchase latter; Regt. Funds, balance sheet to be sent to Regt. H.Q. by 3rd of each month; No trees in Unit area to be cut down; War Diary notes to be at Regt. H.Q. by 1200 hrs on 1st of each month under following headings: Training, Sport, Education, Entertainment & Lectures, Rations & Accommodation, Relations with I.J.A., Morale & Discipline, Health & Hygiene, Spiritual & General.

31 MAR 1030 hrs. Instructions received from L. of C. *(Lines of Communication)* H.Q. that all men over 50 (number actually on gardening work) would have to be shown as available for other duties on availability return. This is NOT in accordance with original arrangement made by Capt. Stahl with Lt. Col Galleghan *(later Maj. Gen. Frederick Galleghan)* and Capt. Stahl, therefore, immediately made a strong protest.

1430 hrs. Trailer Party to transport Concert Party “props” to A.G.H.

Summary for March

Morale & discipline of the troops is good. Good weather has kept up their spirits. Lieut. Harrison has been in A.G.H. since 9 MAR. and Lieuts. Gawley & Mansfield have been off duty from , respectively, 22 MAR (eyes) and 31 MAR (throat). Movement of troops towards the end of the month curtailed the no. of lectures and sports activities of the men.

The N.C.O.s who attended the course at the beginning of the month profited by their week’s revisionary training and, as a result, movement of Unit Parties around the area improved.

The contributions by the men enabled the Amenities Fund to purchase additional food to supplement the I.J.A. issues, and all kitchens were able to turn out palatable food.

The movement of two parties from Changi – Force D of 2,500 men on 6-11 MAR and Force E of 500 men on 28 MAR (we only had personnel in the latter party and then only 25 o/rs) – meant that, in addition to our Gardening Party of 50 men daily and our D.R. *(despatch rider)* service throughout the A.I.F. area, Signals were called on regularly for Trailer Parties. All thoughts of any training had, therefore, to be abandoned.

The personnel under Lieut. May, who were quartered in Barrack Square and att *(attached)* 2/20 Bn, rejoined the Unit on 18 MAR, we having vacated our 4 flats in Bldg 16 and taken over Bldgs 14 & 15 on 17 MAR.

Our numbers, approx. 300, did NOT allow of any space to be allotted as mess rooms; although the men were NOT too crowded – there being about 32-35 to a flat.

Coys were re-organised to reduce no. of Coy clerks etc. required and to reduce kitchens necessary. The wood issue would permit of only 3 kitchens being used, the officers and sgts. Dining from the men’s’ mess.

Our experience with regard to sickness within the Unit during the month was favourable. The main trouble has been eye complaints due to vitamin deficiencies. Men so suffering are usually on light duties or no duties which considerably reduces our available manpower for Trailer Parties. The light duty personnel have been used in making brooms, manufacturing of disinfectant from derris root, and the spraying of quarters. Boot polish was also made from palm oil and root.

The outstanding event of the month was the receipt of mail from Australia. From 10-31 MAR approx. 400 letters were received for Unit personnel at Changi. The letters were dated from late in June ’42 to early August ’42 and news was received of Maj. Popec, Capt. Fisk, Lieut. Lawson, Sgt. Law Sgt. Gray, Sgt. Henry, Sigmn Morley, Weir, Griffin, Nicholls, & Newton. All are apparently safe in Australia.

DATE EVENT

1 APR Wood Party in morning. Portion of Party in afternoon. Unit strength and distribution of personnel as at 0900 hrs:-

OFFRS O/Rs TOTAL

SIGNAL LINES (CHANGI) 9 264 273

H.Q. 27 INF. BDE 2 3 5

SINGAPORE GAOL 1 1

OVERSEAS (PARTY A, B, 23 361 384

JAPAN + CAPT. PATERSON’S + FORCE E)

HOSPITAL (A.G.H.) 1 21 22

2 CON DEPOT 8 8

DETACHED – A.I.F. CONCERT PARTY 5 5

MOBILE LAUNDRY 2 2

FORESTRY G.P. 8 8

H.Q. A.I.F. 1 1 2

A.G.H. 1 1

R.A.A. (TECH. H.Q.) 1 1

36 676 712

1415 hrs. Sport. Cricket v. 2 Con Depot. Lost.

2030 hrs. Talk by Padre Duckworth “Tour of Europe by Cambridge Crew 1935”.

Lieut. Mansfield ‘no duty’ for four days.

2 APR Wood Party morning.

1400 hrs. Capt. Stahl was *illegible* to Lt.Col. *illegible*, Comd L. of C. H.Q., in connection with Unit Garden Coy. Although we have to send out 50 men each day for gardening, we are only allowed 50 in our essential duty return – despite the fact that gardeners were promised one day a week off in addition to Wednesday and Sunday afternoons and Comd A.I.F. has already approved of our organized Gardening Coy of 1 offr & 72 r/rs.

2000 hrs – 0800 hrs. Tour of duty for piquet of 1 N.C.O. + 6 o/rs. on A.I.F. Wood Dump. Duty can be performed by “eye cases” and “light duty” personnel. Signals provide piquet from tonight until night of 8/9 APR incl.

DATE EVENT

3 APR Heavy rain cancelled morning Wood Party. Also hockey against Medical Group in afternoon.

1930 hrs. One offr (Lieut. Mansfield) & 11 o/rs. visited the show “Dancing Years” at Palladium (A.G.H. Area)

4 APR 1110 hrs. C.O.’s parade, then personnel marched to Concert Hall where those NOT desirous of attending Church Parade fell out and moved back to Unit lines. The Church Parade was voluntary. Signals numbers were 2 offrs and 43 o/rs. in attendance – the Garden Party and a Wood Party being on duty.

Sport. A.I.F. played 18 Div. Malaya Comd. & Southern Area cricket. A.I.F. 5 for 227 (dec.), 18 Div. etc. 63.

Lieut. Harrison returned from A.G.H.

5 APR No 3 Coy relieved No 2 Coy of Camp D.R. duties.

Wood Trailer Party.

6 APR Wood Trailer Party.

2 electricians – Sigmn Beufitt & Griffiths – to gaol on I.J.A. duty (only req’d for 1 day).

2000 hrs. Unit talk by Capt. B. Bowling (2/29 Bn) on “The Battle of Muar” *(Malaya - January 1942).*

DATE EVENT

7 APR Supplementary rations issued by A.I.F. as from today are:-

Peanuts – ½ oz. per man per day - 3 ½ ozs issued each Thurs.

Towgay *(bean sprouts)* – ½ “ “ “ - daily issue.

Dried herrings – 1 “ “ “ “ - 3 ½ ozs Weds and Saturdays

Rice Pol. (Profilactics) 1 oz. per man per day - 7 ozs. on Mondays

“ “ (*illegible*) - under medical instruction.

8 APR Wood Parties.

1430 hrs. Capts. Stahl & Barnett visited personnel in A.G.H.

1700 hrs. Information received that a party of 7,000, including 3,300 A.I.F., would be moving north in about a week’s time. Lt.Col. G.H. Kappe would comd the A.I.F. party. He wanted Capt. Stahl as his Staff Capt (A).

1945 hrs. Capt. Stahl attended conference at H.Q. 27 Bde. Indications are there will be approx. 5 offrs & 180 men from Signals in the party. All men to be fit, or nearly fit.

9 APR 1000 hrs. Capt. Stahl and Sigmn. Clapham marched out to H.Q. 27 Bde – Capt. Stahl to be S.C. (A) for Force F. Capt. B.A. Barnett took over comd of Signals.

Wood Party in morning.

1645 hrs. Sport Deck Tennis. Offrs. v. A.A.S.C Offrs.

1715 hrs. Lt. Gawley attended conference at H.Q. Tech Regt. Return of no. of men available for Force “F” requested. No information about the number of men required from Signals yet available.

2000 hrs. Talk by Capt. Kinder on “Malayan Police and Crime”.

Sigmn. Griffiths and Sigmn. Moylan marched in from Mobile Laundry, to which unit they have been attached for some months.

DATE EVENT

10 APR As from today D.R. service in the A.I.F. area reduced to D.R.L.S.. Only 1 N.C.O. & 3 o/rs. required & they will be on duty at H.Q. A.I.F.. In view of this reduction in personnel (26 to 8 daily) H.Q. L. of C. gave us a second Wood Trailer Party this morning. Unit is also supplying 11 o/rs. to assist R.A.A. with a third trailer, as well as supplying a guard of 1 offr. & 5 o/rs. at No. 3 Gate.

Good supply of greens received from Unit garden.

Sport. Basketball. Offrs. v. R.A.A. offrs. Lost.

11 APR 1000 hrs. Information received that 5 Signals offrs., Capt. Barnett, Lieuts. May, Stewart, Anderson and Henderson, will be proceeding north with Force F.

1030 hrs. All Group 2 (Light Duty) personnel re-classified as only fit, or nearly fit, will be moving with Force F.

1130 hrs. Voluntary Church Parade at Concert Hall.

1300 hrs. C.R.E. (Major R.J Bridgland) and Capt. Hamilton (Fortress Signals – from Southern Area) to lunch.

1500 hrs. Capt. Barnett attended conference in connection with Force F. No definite figures yet available. Signals will form one Coy. in a Bn. commanded by Major Parry (A.A.S.C.). It is anticipated Force will commence to move on 17 or 18 APR. There will be 12 trains, one per day, each carrying 580 or 590 troops. All personnel will be tested for dysentery & malaria. They will also be vaccinated and inoculated against cholera & plague prior to departure.

Indications are that we shall be moving to an unfurnished hutted camp about 5 days train journey from Singapore. All cooking gear will be taken.

1900 hrs. Voluntary Church Service in Unit Lines.

DATE EVENT

12 APR Rice issue increased by 5 ozs. per day per man from Unit reserve.

Wood Parties morning & afternoon.

Information received the Force “E” had gone to Kuching, Borneo.

Note from C.R.E. stating that A.Q. had directed 10 fit men from Signals will be left at Changi. These will include Sgt. Ingleton, Arthur *(illegible)*, and Sigmn. Ohlmeyer.

13 APR Wood Parties morning & afternoon.

1600 hrs. Capt. Barnett & Lieut. May attended conference at Regt. H.Q. Signals allotment of men for Force “F” is 219, comprising all fit (less10), all Class 2, and 7 of Class 3 personnel. Signals will move in Train 4 – possibly on 21st or 22nd APR. I.J.A. want return of no. of men without mosquito nets (1), blankets (1) and singlets (1).

1900 hrs. After I.J.A. Check Parade, personnel concerned warned for move. Class 3 personnel had to be re-classified to enable 7 to be selected. Farewell message of Lt.Col. Gallaghan read, and good wishes etc. of Lt.Col. Jester passed on to troops.

1930 hrs. Advice received that troops moving north would be vaccinated, inoculated and tested for malaria at 1400 hrs. , 14 APR, on Barrack Square.

14 APR Nominal rolls for Medical Tests prepared.

1000 hrs. Capt. Barnett & Lieut. May attended conference of *(illegible)* Bn. offrs. at House 42. Major Parry advised that latest information stated Force F was to be divided into 7 camps of 1,000 men. If this were so, our newly formed Bn. would be disintegrated on arrival at our destination and Units att. to Bns. of 27 Bde.

DATE EVENT

14 APR Indications are that feeding en route is good; but that drinking water

(contin) has to be carefully watched.

Only sufficient containers to feed men will be carried loose. The remaining cooking gear should be crated – if possible. Lieut. Lusk (2/20 Bn.) will be att. to Signals on arrival at destination.

1300 hrs. Capt. Hamilton (Fortress Signals) for lunch.

1400 hrs. Parade of Unit personnel moving north on Barrack Square for inoculations (cholera), vaccinations and malaria test.

1830 hrs. Lieut. Lusk for mess.

15 APR 1000 hrs. Capt. Barnett lectured offrs. in House 20 (Lt. Col. Oakes party) on Comms. – Advantages and Dis-advantages.

1430 hrs. Parade of Unit personnel moving north on Barrack Square for glass rod (dysentery test) and inoculations (plague).

Two wood parties in morning.

3 men of Northern Draft to A.G.H. with dysentery (Sgt. Christopher, L/Cpl. Jackson, Sigmn *(illegible)* ).

16 APR Two wood parties in morning.

1330 hrs. Capt. Barnett and Lieut. May visited A.G.H. and saw the 25 Signals personnel. There were 6 men in dysentery ward. Most of the others were eye cases.

2000 hrs. “D” Sec had a “get together” to celebrate their “break up” and Signalman Marsh’s birthday. He is 50 on 20 APR 43.

Two men re-joined Unit from Forestry Group (Sigmn. Russell & Porter).

DATE EVENT

17 APR 1000 hrs. Warning Order that, if last night’s I.J.A. order that all A.I.F. personnel have to move first is put into effect, Signals may have to leave Barrack Square at 0400 hrs. tomorrow.

1030 hrs. Two more men to A.G.H. with suspected dysentery (A/Sgt. *(illegible)* Sigmn. Smith W.M.)

1400 hrs. Information received that Signals would be moving on Train 1 – i.e. 18 APR.

1430 hrs. Conference of offrs at H.Q. 27 Bde. Addressed by Lt. Col. Kappe. Party leaves Barrack Square at 0400 hrs. Assemble on Barrack Square 0230 hrs. 26 all ranks on trucks. 22 all ranks per train truck.

Cooks working all day and up to 2230 hrs preparing food for men to carry. Cooking gear then dismantled and a fatigue party of personnel

remaining in Changi took party’s allotment to trucks at Supply Depot.

18 APR 0100 hrs. Reveille. 0130 Breakfast. 0200 Fall in. Party, 5 offrs and 215 o/rs. moved to Barrack Square and were sorted into truck loads (alphabetically) by Div. H.Q. staff in teeming rain. I.J.A. trucks arrived fairly well on time – there were 14 of them for 600 men, their gear and all cooking gear for the force – and party proceeded in convoy to Singapore. Each train load had its own medical supplies. There were 26 men to a railway truck. Trucks were small, metal and completely closed in except for two sliding doors in the centre, one on each side. It was impossible for all men to lie down at one time and tall men could not stand up straight. There were no conveniences of any description.

0650 hrs. Train left Singapore. An I.J.A. sergeant and about 15 guards were in charge of the party. Lunch, rice and vegetable stew was served at Gemas about 1500 hrs. Men had opportunities to purchase bananas & pineapples en route but were prevented from doing so in many instances by I.J.A. guards. The absence of conveniences meant that at every stop men were relieving themselves at the side of the train, irrespective of where it was.

19 APR 0300 hrs. Meal at Kuala Lumpur. Trip continued as for previous day with men taking every opportunity of washing themselves at engine supply points. A few men were hit by guards for getting out of the train before permission was given.

20 APR --- 21 APR. Still proceeding North in train.

22 APR 1100 hrs. Arrived at BANPONG in Thailand and de-trained. Party moved to filthy camp about ¾ mile from station and there all men received stencilled I.J.A. number which was to be their identification for the next ten days. All gear had to be carried to the camp. This meant two trips back to the station for cooking gear.

DATE EVENT

22 APR It was learnt too, that the men now had a long march in front of them and the only gear that could be taken was that which could be carried. This was quite contrary to information given at Changi. Men immediately began to re-pack and sell anything that was not absolutely essential. Officers’ trunks and cooking gear could not be taken. These were left stacked and W/O Allen (Engineers) was left behind to look after the gear and endeavour to get it transported to our final destination. The time of departure was originally given as midnight, but this was subsequently changed to 24 hours later. After the evening meal, then men had an impromptu concert and then a good night’s sleep.

23 APR Men continued to reduce amount of kit.

1200 hrs. Train load No. 2, including Lt. Col. Kappe, Capt. Stahl & Capt. Hargrave, arrived. Their experience had been similar to ours.

2230 hrs. Fall in for Train No.1. 2330 hrs. I.J.A. check.

24 APR 0030 hrs. Party moved off on start of 24 kilometre march. March table was 40 mins march, 20 mins rest. Hot water was provided after about 10 kilos. Destination was reached at about 0930 hrs. We had to provide our own cookers to prepare meals (breakfast, rice & a small piece of dried fish had been carried on the man). Men welcomed a swim in nearby river. They were also permitted to trade with natives and consumed large quantities of eggs, coffee etc. to supplement rice & stew. In view of the strenuous nature of the march and the possibility that it was to continue for several days, men were allowed to consume the reserve rations they had brought from Changi.

2130 hrs. Fall in. 2230 hrs. Move off on next stage of march. Distance approx. 25 kilos. Hot water was provided after about 14 kilos and men had an hours rest. At *(deleted)*, our doctors dais there were 42 men who were too sick to proceed. This number the I.J.A. reduced to 10. The others had to march. Here, too, we were fortunate enough to hire a hand cart to transport the medical paniers which had been carried by the men on the previous night. At the halfway halt, the sick were again inspected and the I.J.A. allowed another 6 or so to be transported.

25 APR 0930 hrs. Arrived at halt No.3. Only covering was one shelter for cooks, R.A.P. *(Regimental Aid Post)* and offrs. All o/rs. slept in open or under trees. Men were permitted to swim in river about 1 mile away, proceeding there in organised parties under I.J.A. guard.

Night spent at this camp – KANCHAN BURI.

26 APR 0930 hrs. Train load No.2 personnel arrived.

1400 hrs. Our party proceeded to I.J.A. hospital about 3 kilometres away where we received blood test, dysentery test (glass rod) and two inoculations (cholera & fever).

2130 hrs. Fall in for next stage of journey – approx. 20 kilos.

During this stage we left the good roads and proceeded along bush tracks. At halt No.3, medical stores had been broken up and given to individuals with the exception of 2 paniers. This made carriage much easier.

27 APR 0900 hrs. Arrived at halt No.4. Best camping spot to date, right on river with facilities to purchase from natives. ( ? TISOR)

DATE EVENT

27 APR 2100. Fall in. Check and then start on next stage – approx. 22 kilo.

Hot water at halfway house, and hours rest.

28 APR 0830 hrs. Arrived at halt No.5, about ¼ mile from river.

Policy was adopted of putting men with sore feet etc. into the cookhouse to enable them to obtain a few days rest. No experience is needed for cooking plain rice and a stew consisting of onions and a little whitebait.

Independent swimming was permitted and men were allowed to trade with natives. Prices were getting higher, however, and variety of goods very limited. Night 28-29 Apr. spent at this halt.

29 APR 0730 hrs. Train load No.2 arrived.

1930 hrs. Fall in and start on next stage – approx. 24 kilos.

Water at halfway house and an hours rest. Fortunately up to this stage we have had no rain during our marches and marching at night is much preferable to marching in the heat of the day. We had a few hours rest and a sleep just before dawn.

30 APR 0830 hrs. Arrived at halt No.6, TARSO *(Tha Sao)*. This is a big base camp and here we met Capt. Newton and a number of “D” Force. As usual, cooks & sick personnel were left by us.

1930 hrs. Fall in and start on next stage – another 20 kilos. Hot water & rest at halfway house.

1 MAY 0630 hrs. Arrived at halt No.7. Spent the day resting. No natives with whom to trade. It was in flat swamp by small creek.

1900 hrs. Fell in, check and again onwards. Nobody left at this camp. Just after we started, it rained heavily. Track was very muddy and slippery and going was bad. After about 8 kilos passed another “D” Force camp with Lt.Col. McEachern in charge.

2 MAY 0530 hrs. Arrived at halt No.8 & spent 2 hours sitting on road waiting to be checked. This site is near another large camp. We swan in the river about I kilo away; but opportunity for local purchases were few. Camp was named KENSIOKE. Spent night 2/3 MAY here.

3 MAY 0530 hrs. Train load No.2 arrived.

1900 hrs. Fall in, check, move off. *(Sentence deleted)*. After about 10 kilos halted for 1 hour. It rained and we proceeded in heavy rain. Track very slippery, steep and dark. Progress for next hour extremely hard and slow.

4 MAY 0830 hrs. Arrived at halt No.9. Camp near creek & plenty of trees for shelter. *(Sentence deleted)*. Day spent resting. 1930 hrs. Fall in and moved off on next stage.

5 MAY 0830 hrs. Arrived at halt No.10. *(Sentence deleted)*. I.J.A. guards strict. 20 offrs allotted to 1 tent. Men in open. Good swimming in river100 yards off. Day spent resting. Tenko *(roll call)* at 2030 hrs. Night 5/6 May spent at this camp. No opportunity for private purchase.

DATE EVENT

6 MAY 0830 hrs. No.2 party arrived. Lieut Rowe 2/29 Bn “cracked”. Their officers (approx. 26) also allotted 1 tent.

1900 hrs. Fall in and proceed on next stage. Rain and heavy going for portion of journey.

7 MAY 0830 hrs. Arrived at halt No.11 – about 2 kilometres beyond SANK(C)BURI which is 207 kilometres from BAN PONG. Were given 3 meals here instead of usual 2, and for evening meal one small tin of whale meat was issued to every 10 men. Only a mouthful, but very acceptable. The neighbouring creek was shallow but good for washing. Here supplies of chloride of lime *(calcium hypochlorite)* petered out and orders were issued that in future all drinking water had to be boiled. Men rested during the day.

1900 hrs. Fall in. The next stage is 26 kilometres, so we were told. After marching about 5 kilos, halted outside camp where Norfolk Regt. were in residence. Their food during that time had been rice & onions & whitebait stew, with no opportunity for canteen purchases.

8 MAY 0530 hrs. Arrived at halt No.12 – TARRA ROMPAT. It could not have been more than 20 kilos from TARRACOON, our last halt. Men slept ‘till 0800 hrs. Then tenko. This camp appears to be an I.J.A. stores centre. Good swimming in river 150 yards away. Men also collected large clams in stream and supplemented their diet. Lt.Col. Harris, Comd “E” Force, visited Major Parry and put him in the picture regarding his activities. Spent night 8/9 MAY here.

9 MAY 0800 hrs. No.2 party arrived. No.1 party was warned to be prepared to move at any time during day. R.C. and C. of E. church parades were arranged for 1600 hrs, but these had to be cancelled owing to an I.J.A. tenko being called at that time.

1930 hrs. A party of 700, consisting of 253 of No.1 party (party 1 included 120 sigs) – which had been re-organised into Units in place of Companies of numbers been two consecutive hundreds – and 447 of No.2 party fell in and moved off on next stage. We were told this stage was to be only 10 kilometres. After marching for about 16 kilometres, we were given 3 hours rest, then march continued. Only a very limited supply of water was available.

10 MAY 0930 hrs. Arrived at halt No.15 - KONKOITA – approx. 24 kilos from TARRA ROMPAT. Men were left sitting in the sun by the river until after lunch (1230 hrs). No swimming was permitted. Then party moved to un-roofed huts. A limited number of tents were supplied to provide covering. Offrs. & men were very cramped. Good swimming in river 50 yards away but no opportunity for local purchase. It was anticipated this was to be the base camp. Tea or coffee have by this time become most precious. None is supplied by I.J.A. whose other rations are unchanged. Men spent night 10/11 here.

11 MAY 1000 hrs. Warning Order that Signals, less 16 cooks, Sigmn Lowe (interpreter) & Sigmn *(illegible)* (batman to Lt.Col. Kappe) would be prepared to move at 1230 hrs. Distance 7 kilometres. Task, bridge building.

1300 hrs. Signals (6 offrs. & 99 o/rs.), Capt Mills (M/O) *(Captain Roy Mills -medical officer)* and one med. orderly left camp. 12 of our sick personnel were transported by truck.

1600 hrs. Arrived destination. Settled in roofless hut. 3 tents erected to provide partial covering (TAIMONTA). 2300 hrs. Part of 2/26 Bn passed through.

12 MAY 0930 hrs. Started work. 3 parties provided *(illegible)* 2 offrs & 29 o/rs, 2 offrs 29 o/rs, 2 offrs 25 o/rs. Other personnel Cooks 6, R.S.M., Hygiene Sgt, sick 8, R.M.O., Med Ord. Lunch 1330 – 1530 hrs. Men finished work 2045 hrs.

DATE EVENT

13 MAY Information is that bridge approx. 70 feet, is to be finished in 5 days.

2200 hrs. Balance of 2/26 Bn & some of 22 Bde passed through.

14 MAY Parties unchanged. O/C, Capt. Barnett, saw Capt. MURIAMA regarding better food for men and also requested only 1 offr. Be allocated to each party. People in sick bay at tenko is now 18.

2230 hrs. Balance of 2/30 Bn,, Ordinance, & 2/9 Fd Amb Passed through.

Capt. Stahl was with party. He had to return to TARSO from KENSIOKE with bad eyes, but was now with party No.6 & pushing forward.

15 MAY Sick now 21. Work parties unchanged, with exception that only one officer per party now goes out.

16 MAY Still on bridge. Sick 25. Rations – rice & thin onion stew. Balance of No.1 Party and No.2 Party moved up from KONKIOTA owing to cholera scare. Shifting Unit quarters cancelled night work we were supposed to do. Unit *(illegible)* increased to 122.

17 MAY Sick still mounting, now 31. Mostly diarrhoea & beri-beri.

2130 hrs. All Unit personnel again inoculated against cholera. News was received today that there was cholera in 2/30 Bn camping up river. 10 cases 1 death. Three doctors = Major Hunt, Major Stevens & Capt Hendric – sent forward.

18 MAY Men on bridge working until 2045 hrs. A hard afternoon finding & cutting logs.

19 MAY Morning task – cutting logs for decking of bridge. Afternoon half holiday. Lieut Anderson off colour for last few days. One officer loaned 2/29 Bn. One officer resting. About 40 men sick

20 MAY Still on bridge. Same no. off colour. Mess still rice onion stew but men gathering greens & doing a little private cooking. Wet night. Most men got wet. Gear also.

21 MAY Rain during afternoon.

22 MAY Wet all day. Miserable working conditions. Offr ‘not req’d’ by 2/29.

23 MAY Again wet. A lot of men had no dry clothes to wear but they were generally cheerful. In view of rain, work ceased at 1745 hrs. Still cutting timbers for a new bridge and clearing scrub around creek.

24 MAY No work in morning owing to wet state of ground. A/RSM reported spirit of unrest among some of the men.

2100 hrs. Check parade & men addressed by Lt.Col. Kappe on futility of escape.

25 MAY 0900 hrs. SX7592 L/Cpl Miller C.G., VX32772 Sigmn Benoit M.A.W. *(Military Medal 1942)* and SX7220 Sigmn Seymour E. absent from Work Parade. Matter reported to I.J.A. Fine in morning, rain during afternoon. Me working until 2020 hrs.

26 MAY All party placed in quarantine owing to a suspected cholera case. 0845 hrs. approx. man died. No working parties.

27 MAY Still in quarantine. As there is no work, mess reduced to gruel (rice boiled twice, which reduces quantity) and the same with stew. 1900 hrs. second man from 2/29 Bn died.

28 MAY 0715 hrs. I.J.A. sentries saw man with uncooked rice in a bag. They did not catch him, but they said there would be no breakfast until he owned up.

0830 hrs. Muster parade for inspection by I.J.A. sentries. Unit hut inspection looking for food. 1500 hrs. Breakfast as man admitted guilt. 1800 hrs. “Lunch”. 2200 hrs. Evening meal. *(illegible)* injections for cholera recommenced.

29 MAY Still in quarantine & rations of gruel & onion water. Very little salt in food. A few decent fish have been caught recently & “greens” – boiled centre of banana palms have been popular. Ground still very muddy but sun for a short time during the day has enabled men to so some drying out. Information is that trucks are bogged all along the road. Our sick figures today 2 offrs (Anderson & Henderson) 43 o/rs. no duty, 12 o/rs. light duty, 13 o/rs. in hospital. All of these are dysentery or diarrhoea, fever, beri-beri, or tropical ulcers. Three men, *(ileegible)* & the two Arrowsmiths volunteered as orderlies in dysentery & cholera wards. Another death today from cholera (2/10 Engineers). I.J.A. have forbidden washing, swimming & fishing in the creek. All water must be carried to lines.

30 May 2017 0930 hrs. Capt. Hardacre set out for No.3 camp, 16 kilos further on, on errend for Lt.Col. Kappe. 1030 hrs. O.P.D. and R.C. Church Parades. 1730 hrs. All dysentery cases concentrated in one hut. 1900 hrs. Information that for next four days, we will only receive one (1) bag of rice for all troops (about 700) & this will be served in two meals.

Lt *(illegible)* off colour. 1½ bags of rice received, but only 2 meals – 1130 hrs & 1330 hrs.

1330 hrs. NX51375 Sigmn MORRISON L. admitted to cholera ward.

DATE EVENT

1 JUN Health state of 120 Signals at TAIMONTA, THAILAND today:-

FIT HOSPITAL NO DUTY LIGHT DUTY DETACHED

OFFRS 4 1 1

N.C.O.s 5 2 10 1

O/Rs 42 10 37 5 2 (120)

Lieut Anderson still in dysentery isolation. Lt Stewart fever. Sigmn Morrison improved. Lt. May walked to KONKOITA for Capt Mills *(Capt Roy Mills, Medical Officer)*

2 JUN Wet. One coy of 2/29 Bn had a YAK. Still on 2 meals a day – gruel and thin, very thin, stew supplemented by banana stalks.

Lt. Anderson returned to Unit lines. Stewart & Morrison both improve.

3 JUN Wet. Informed that all fit men had to go out to work today.

4 JUN Evidently I.J.A. has decided that cholera precautions no further necessary. Total party 235 – 9 offrs & 226 O/Rs (4 Sigs offrs & 28 O/Rs). Working men to receive 3 meals & those *(illegible)* rice, Task – removing mud from approaches to bridges up to 3 kilos from camp and replacing with creek soil. It was an extremely difficult walk along terribly muddy road to the job. Then continuous rain practically made the task impossible. Furthest men out did not get back to camp until about 2100 hrs. Japs killed yak & gave us 6 lbs meat *(illegible)*. From another one (un-official) Unit in lines (81) received 22 lbs.

5 JUN Wet again, but still work parties required. Task making & levelling roads. Rain made it impossible to complete task in time. Another cholera case (Engineers). Morrison definitely on the mend. Ditto Lt. Stewart & Lt. Anderson.

Warning Order that all fit men would be moving to another camp & carrying gear & tents – 10 kilometres from here. Out of 81 men in lines, only 44 say they could make the trip.

6 JUN Wet. 1000 hrs. Work levelling road. 1215 hrs. All men recalled to camp for another dysentery test (glass rod). Capt. Barnett touch of fever. Movement of fit men postponed a day. Lt Stewart O.K.. More yak.

7 JUN Work only in morning until it rained. Afternoon “off” in view of movements. Unit did well (privately!) in yak killed by I.J.A.. Our personnel to move – 4 offrs 41 o/rs. Offrs Capt. Hardacre, Lieuts May, Stewart & Henderson.

8 JUN 1045 hrs. Party moved out. Yak carts carried tents & cooking gear. Word received from party passing through that VX 32432 Sigmn Griffiths G.T.S. had died somewhere back along the road. Main party left him at BANPONG suffering from scrotum trouble. Sick personnel have been back on 3 meals a day – plain rice and very watery “stew” – since 6 JUN.

9 JUN Fine morning. Sigmn Mahoney went to camp 4, with party of 4, to bring back yaks. Wet afternoon. Midday meal, gruel only – no stew. Wet afternoon. Two yaks – neither official – cheered men. One 2/29 Bn man died of malaria’.

10 JUN A fine day. The first day without rain for some time. 1400 hrs. Men returned with 5 yaks. Information received that fit party *(that)* marched out on 8 JUN had proceeded on to NICKAYE – large Jap. Camp & store – 21 kilos. North. All personnel from this camp to move on shortly.

11 JUN Another fine day. Men here still on 3 meals a day with occasional yak stew. Warning Order that 2 offrs and 68 o/rs all “fit” will be moving on.

12 JUN 0945. Lieuts Anderson & Brindley (Engrs) with 68 o/rs marched out carrying gear, midday meal – 23 ozs. dry rice per man (rations until & incl. midday meal 13 JUN) *(illegible)* cooking containers, & 3 tents less sides & ends (the I.J.A. insisted these tents be carried despite the fact that the men are in a weakened state.*)* At the last moment, each man was given a chunkel *(a kind of improvised pick-axe)* to carry. Signals personnel in the party were 1 offr (Lieut Anderson) and 23 o/rs..

0100 hrs. VX 43916 Miller M.J. transferred to cholera isolation.. He died later in the day at 1645 hrs here at TAIMONTA, THAILAND. He had been ill with dysentery for some time - in fact, he had not been really well since we left Changi.

1000 hrs. Capt Browning & 14 o/rs including 3 sigmn, left for KONKOIDA to collect sugar & coffee for us – so they were told by I.J.A. doctor here. 1815 hrs. Party returned with sugar & coffee (mostly for the nips) & I.J.A. clothing. Rain today, but not till afternoon. Signal Personnel at present at TAIMONTA – 1 offr (Capt. Barnett – fit) and 50 o/rs – 7 fit, 9 light duty, 17 no duty, 10 dysentery isolates, 1 cholera isolate and 6 other hospital cases. Morrison (cholera) still improving.

13 JUN Sigmn Miller cremated. Another cholera case (Engineers). Camp again placed in quarantine. Japs gave us 15 ½ lbs of sugar and 6 lbs of coffee. *(illegible)*

DATE EVENT

14 JUN Fine until about 1800 hrs. Wood & greens party. Mens health improving.

15 JUN Party of 20 o/rs (1 sigmn) to KONKOIDA. Collected 7 cases of 24 – 2 ½ lb. tins of tongue and 2 other cases, none received by us. Warning Order that further party of 2 offrs & 90 o/rs – fit men – moving on tomorrow. 9 sigmn in party.

16 JUN 0950 hrs. Party under Capt. Curlewis *(later Sir Adrian Curlewis)* moved out carrying tents, Jap cases, & rations for 2 days. Signals personnel left at TAIMONTA now 1 offr (Capt. Barnett, fit) and 40 o/rs (2 fit, 8 no duty, 13 light duty, 13 hospitalised, 4 cooks).

17 JUN Fine morning, wet afternoon.

1900 hrs. Lieuts Vietch (A.A.M.C.) arrived back from NICKAYE with quinine. He reported Lt.Col. Kappe & party were camped 1 kilometre from NICKAYE and were under 3 hours notice to move back to TAMARUMPET about 50 kilos back. Their task of bridge building & road making is NOT nearly half complete. Reason, shortage of rations.

18 JUN Information that all our party, 700 strong originally, will be moving back. No definite date of our departure. Japs state, strongly, that we shall all shortly be returning to Malaya.

19 JUN Fine most of day. 1230 hrs. Lt.Col. Kappe arrived. Remainder of his party 409 strong & well laden with tents & rations kept arriving until about 1900 hrs. They spent night 19/20 here. 19 Signals were left behind at hospital at NICKAYE. There are 5 offrs (Capt. Hardacre, Lieuts May, Stewart, Henderson & Anderson) & 51 o/rs in this party. They had been better off than us for rations, rice averaging about 1 lb. per man per day and plenty of yak *(meat)*. Additional rice could also be bought. We are now down to 11 ozs. per man per day – i.e.*(illegible)*, 1 pint cup of gruel 3 times a day. *(illegible)* bought some rice from the party& Capt Barnett was *(illegible)* seaweed.

20 JUN 1015 hrs. Lt.Col. Kappe’s party moved out for KONKOIDA, party of 130 returned in the afternoon to carry nip’s stores. 1400 hrs. Warning Order that all of our party would be moving back to KONKOIDA tomorrow. Very sick will have to be carried. As a result of our purchases from this other party, we had 3 adequate meals today. Personnel from dysentery isolation (11) moved back to Unit lines today.

21 JUN Reveille 0745 hrs. Breakfast 0815 hrs. Tents struck, gear packed and party carrying *(lunch?)* ready to move by 1100 hrs. Approx 150 men from Lt.Col. Kappe’s party arrived from KONKOIDA to assist in transport of our gear & sick personnel. Only one of our men Sigmn GYNAN carried on stretcher. Sigmn MORRISON could walk with assistance. Party eventually left at 1300 hrs. & completed arrival at KONKOIDA by about 1700 hrs, distance 7 kilometres. Rain after we had proceeded about halfway made bad track very slippery.

22 JUN 0900 hrs. All fit men of both parties (182) returned to TAIMONTA to collect Jap stores. Most loads were too heavy for men not 100% fit. Wire, axes, picks, chunkels, tents had to be carried. Salvage party would have profited. Japs insisted on a second trip being made. Would NOT let unfit men drop out after first trip, with exception of 13. Reinforcements of 45 men obtained. Second carry was heavier than first, and a heavy shower just before we left TAIMONTA made track very difficult. Capt Barnet & Lieut Henderson were on these parties. Last men arrived back at KONKOIDA after being reinforced by additional volunteers over final kilometre, at 2145 hrs. Two hard trips knocked up many men. Information received that A/RSM Robinson with “A” Force died a week ago.

23 JUN 0900 hrs. Another party of fit men to TAIMONTA (this time under Capt Graham 2/29) to assist in towing back 2 Jap trucks & staff car. All day task. Information received that complete party would be moving back another 8 kilometres tomorrow. Lt. Col. Kappe & Sigmn Duesberry would be returning to NICKAYE and Lt. Col. Pond would be re-assuming command of our personnel.

24 JUN 0700 hrs reveille. 0800 hrs breakfast. Party ready to move by 0900 hrs. All our tents and cooking gear had to be carried. Last men moved out at 1100 hrs. Rain made road very slippery & muddy. Arrival at new camp about 1700 hrs. Party had to move back immediately to assist stretcher cases. – one man developed cholera en route – another party under Capt Hardacre went back to pull out yak carts carrying Jap personal gear. Japs arrived at midnight & said tea must be sent out to these men (2 offrs 25 o/rs). They eventually arrived back about 0800 hrs on 25 Jun having left carts still stuck about 4 kilometres from here.

25 JUN 0700 hrs. Orders to move fit men to TAMARUMPET & sick another 7 kilometres (approx. ½ way) suspended owing to non-arrival of yak carts. Men were all packed in anticipation of move but at 0945 hrs. move back was cancelled and all fit & light duty ordered back to assist in movement of these carts. 1730 hrs. All men who could walk & carry gear ordered to move to next camp 7 ½ kilos away. Yak party sent back to carry tools & Jap gear to their camp. They set out about 1845 hrs & arrived back up to early hours 26 Jun. Party with gear left about 1930 hrs. Another 2/29 man died of cholera.

DATE EVENT

26 JUN Another cholera death (2/29) early hrs morning. Party remaining at this camp (approx. 400) started to move off from KRIEN KRIE (?) at 0930 hrs. Men could not carry all tents & had to lift them by *(illegible)*. It was anticipated party would only be moving 7 ½ kilos but they were sent straight through to TARRARUMPET. Track was very bad & wet in afternoon. Several men could NOT make distance & slept by side of track. All stretcher parties (8) except 1 got through, but men had a terrible job & only made the grade because of assistance sent out from first party. Many tents dumped after 3 ½ kilos & a number more at half-way point. At TARRUMPET there was no camp *(illegible)* & most men slept in open. Capt Mills & 9 o/rs (5 cholera cases) left at KROW KRIE. Sigmn Shepherd, batman to Capt Mills, remained.

27 JUN Lt. Col. Pond, C.O. of party, re-organised as follows:

C.O. Lt. Col. Pond, 2 i/c Maj Parry, Q.M. Capt Kemp, Adjt. Capt Barnett. Engineers & Signals were combined under Capt Hardacre in one party. Signals strength, excluding Capt Barnett, 5 offrs *(blank)* O/Rs.

Several cases of cholera developed after the extremely difficult move. Sigmn Tasker admitted.

Party of 230, fit & light duties, sent out without breakfast to 7 ½ kilos camp to collect tools.

1800 hrs. Party of 50 had to move to river 1 kilo away to carry rice. Four trips were necessary & it became increasingly difficult to obtain reliefs. Owing to difficulty of recovering *(illegible)* individuals some days ago, most men were on 2 meals only.

28 JUN Rice issue of I.J.A. approx. 18 ozs per man per day.

Men working carrying logs for small bridge & levelling road. Party of 30 o/rs went back to collect remaining tents – 5 Signals in party. Light duties used for collecting bamboo for tent flooring & for carrying rations (vegetables) from river 1 ½ kilos away. Men permitted to trade with vendors in camp area & could purchase guala malacca *(local sugar), (illegible)*, tobacco. No trading at neighbouring kampongs. Roads wet & slippery. Further two cholera suspects – no Sigs. Capt Mills arrived back from KRIEN KRIE at 2100 hrs.

29 JUN Fit total 104. 20 men under Lieut Henderson went back for final lift of tents. Capt Muriama gave permission for 1 offr to go across to kampong with I.J.A. soldier to make purchase of coffee, soap & guala malacca for R.A.P. *(Regimental Aid Post)*. Task for fit men – road levelling. Men were dismissed early – about 1745 hrs. Light duties still collecting bamboo & food. Another cholera death – Johnson 2/29 Bn.

(Evening mess for Lt. Col. Pond & me – rice, jungle stew, beans, seaweed. *(illegible)* – rice with guala malacca & tea).

30 JUN Total fit 103. No men on road. Further purchases O.K. from neighbouring kampong. 1300 hrs. Rumours of further move in 2 days’ time. Lieut Anderson admitted dysentery ward. He has been off colour for some time.

1 JUL 0845 hrs. Definite order that all fit & light sick would be moving back tomorrow. Heavy sick will remain. Approx is that 360 move (at 0800 hrs) & remainder 270 odd stay.

12.15 hrs. Lt. Col. Pond saw Capt Muriama. All men must eventually move with few days. Five days rice will be allowed total party. 360 fit moving carry 3 days rice for journey = 25 kilometres to TAKANOON in 3 stages of approx. 8 kilos.

1900 hrs. NX41485 Sigmn TASKER D. died of cholera at Tameron Park *(Tameron Pat)*, Thailand. Nips gave us 449 blankets today. Only 237 were required but they insisted we take the lot.

2 JUL 0830 hrs – Sigmn Tasker cremated.

0915 hrs. Party of 356 (2 offrs, Capt Hardacre & Lt May & 98 o/rs *from Sigs*) moved off, very heavily laden, 272 all ranks left at Tameron Park *(Tameron Pat)* (TARRUMPET) under Major Parry. Party moved approx. 7 kilos on dry track, then lunched & moved on. Passing cliffs where blasting was in progress, it would have been impossible to man-handle stretchers. It is to be hoped sick will be transported by barge as indicated by Japs.

2030 hrs. Pitched camp for night after walking 14 kilos. Tough going. Messing & quartering Coy arrangements.

3 JUL 1000 hrs. Moved on. The fact that we had only 1½ kilos to go was a pleasant surprise. Pitched camp on hill at TAKANAN. No huts. No latrines but close to good creek. Capt MURIAMA informed Lt Col Pond we would be here for 2 months working on the railway. Rumours were strong at all camps en route that all Europeans would be out of Thailand by the end of this month and the railway completed by Asiatic labour.

On arrival at camp site, all personnel started settling in but at 1400 hrs Nip *(illegible)* all fit men required as carrying party.

1500 hrs. Lt Col A.A. Johnson called He is Camp Cmdr neighbouring camp.

2000 hrs. Capt Barnett, Hardacre & Lt May dined with Maj Thyer (Malayan Cmd Sigs) at neighbouring camp. Best meal since leaving Changi, and plenty of it – rice & veg soup, meat rissole & greens, jam *(illegible)*.

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4 JUL 0900 hrs. All fit men (100) to work. Lt Col Pond saw Capt Muriama who stated all light sick must also work. This party (65) moved off with Capt Hardacre about 1030 hrs after much flashing of a stick by a Jap. Task building latrines at a new Jap camp adjoining our area. 1930 hrs. Capt *(Bowing?)* & Capt Barnett dined with Lt Col A.R. Johnson (Suffolk Regt) 1 ½ kilos down rd. Today, ‘no duty’ men had to work around Unit lines clearing scrub, erecting bamboo *(illegible)* etc. for tents.

5 JUL New timetable. Men have to work 12 hrs a day. Fall in 0800 hrs & return to camp about 2030 hrs. or when they complete a set task. One group of 4 men have to move *(illegible)* cub. Metres of earth per day, 5 party of 2 carry 250 loads of earth. Work is in railway cutting. Light duty men working around new Jap camp. 15 of these in Jap cookhouse.

1400 hrs. Personnel from Tameron Park *(Tameron Pat)* began to drift in. Party of 225 arrived during the afternoon. 48, sick 43 med personnel 5, only men left at Tameron Park. Signal personnel there are Lieut Anderson, Sigmn Morrison, Sigmn *(illegible)*. This party of 223 left on 4 Jul & had strenuous trip. Majority of them unfit. They carried tents, cooking gear, etc.

6 JUL 195 fit & light duty personnel out to work. ‘No duty’ men building fence around area. Latrines poor & fouled. ‘No duty’ personnel have to attend to all camp hygene. Signals strength at present as follows: offrs (incl Capt Barnett) 6. Fit 4. No duty *(blank)* (incl *(blank)* left at Tameron Park).

2000 hrs. Further glass rod test tomorrow. Working men will NOT go out until after test but must dig new latrines & clean up camp area beforehand.

7 JUL 0830 hrs. Fit men started on latrines. Light duty men on cleaning up lines.

1000 hrs. Glass rod test for cholera. Total no. (580) O.K. at first count.

1200 hrs. Working men moved out, 16 short of early morning count. Capt MURIAMA came down to camp & told Lt Col Pond he had lied about figures & paraded all *(illegible)* cases. He was satisfied they could NOT work. First choleras case in this camp today.

8 JUL Interference by several I.J.A. privates in dividing up working parties considerably delayed departure of workers. Light duties working in same parties as fit men. Lt Col Pond had long talk to Capt MURIAMA *(illegible)*. He promised to help light duties personnel *(illegible)* in future, look into matter of improved rations & canteen, *(illegible)* bamboo.

9 JUL 190 all ranks to work today. ‘No duties’ cleaning up camp & digging latrines.

1900 Cpl *(Badgery ?)* (Bde H.Q.) died of cardiac beri-beri. He was a post-cholera case.

2100 hrs. Capt MURIAMA gave Capt Barnett authority to operate canteen *(illegible)* English Camp through authorised Chinese vendor.

10 JUL Two more deaths this morning – Ptes Webster & Greenhill 2/29 – both malaria.

Another cholera case (2/29) too. Information through Capt Mills *(Medical Officer)* that Sigmn O’Driscoll (left at TARRUMPET) was in serious condition with cardiac beri-beri. A further 2 deaths this afternoon – Ptes Allen (malaria) & Harvey (cholera) – a bad day. 1730 hrs. Five bodies cremated on one pyor *(pyre)*. 1830 hrs. Further glass rod test for all personnel. 1600 hrs Sigmn McLeod, who had been left at Tarro some weeks back, passed through. He reported *(that)* Sigmn McKernon (‘H’ Force) had died and that Sigmn Martin A.A. (also ‘H’ Force) was NOT expected to live.

2115 hrs. Lt Col Pond & Capt Barnett saw Capt MURIAMA. He was most affable & listened to our requests for meat, rice polishings, changing of Malayan currency. We were given a favourable hearing on all counts.

Rations are improving. Plenty of rice (about 24 ozs per day per man) and excellent issue of vegetables & dried fish. Also 21 tins of coconut oil & 8 cases of tinned herrings left at *(illegible)* store. We understand the latter is for us.

11 JUL Wet morning after wet night. Only 118 o/rs (fit 83, light duties 35) available for work out of 546. Cholera cases still increasing & a further “Glass Rod” test for all ranks at 1800 hrs.

12 JUL In quarantine. No movement out of camp area without I.J.A. authority. Men working on railway at camp boundary and without strict I.J.A. supervision. Rations: approx. 24 ozs rice, 30 ozs vegetables, some dried fish per man per day. I.J.A. arranged Malaysian currency exchange dollar for dollar.

Cholera NOT abating. Late start at work owing to heavy rain early. Men working until 2200 hrs on railway. Another death (Thompson Engrs).

DATE EVENT

13 JUL 1700 hrs. Personnel whose cholera test was positive re-tested. As tests from 3 men went into one test tube, this meant re-testing of 63 men all of whom have to be isolated. Sigs personnel concerned Capt Barnett & Sigmn Easton.

14 JUL 1100 hrs. Work on railway stopped by Capt MURIAMA to enable men to complete bamboo flooring for tents - difficulty was collecting suitable bamboo – drainage camp area completely, latrines etc. All of this work should have been done in first few days at this site, but no respite was allowed after our hard march & all fit and light duty personnel had to go out to work next day.

Three signals to cholera isolation today: Lieut Henderson, Sigmn O’Brien and Sigmn Carless. A bad day. Signals health generally is fair.

One officer tent moved this morning to raised platform.

15 JUL A fine morning. Men concentrating on tent flooring & cleaning of additional area for cholera isolation. There are now 32 patients isolated. Signals patients progressing satisfactorily. Henderson walking about. 1500 hrs men – fit and light duties – started work on railway. Worked until 2000 hrs. Lt. Col. Pond off-colour.

16 JUL 0800 hrs. Work again. 20 men allowed for work at cholera isolation. Capt Muriama NOT receptive to repeated requests for meat. All tent floorings finished but many have to be improved. Sigmn Sexton admitted to cholera ward. Condition poor. 1700 hrs – yet another cholera test – glass rod – all ranks.

Some cooks ‘bashed’ by Capt MURIAMA for fishing in creek.

17 JUL Capt Muriama would not let party of light duty finish huts in cholera area. All must work on railway. Officers i/c/ parties given labouring jobs. Two more Signals to cholera Sigmn Gould & Sigmn Mahoney. Only very few men (Signals – 18) fit for working parties today. Wet day but no rest from work. New KOREAN guards took over from Sgt SHINAHARA’s party who set out for NICKAYE. Extra rations of fish for workers.

18 JUL Wet morning. Total working on railway 5 offrs 103 o/rs. 1600 hrs Sigmn Sexton & Mahoney NOT well. Capt MURIAMA would NOT allow party to assist cholera in *(illegible)* & erecting of tents. Capt Mills moved all A.A.M.C. personnel to cholera area & got volunteer ‘no duty’ personnel (including Cpl Warwick & Sigmn Short *(?)* ) to look after hospital in this area. 45 men (9 groups of 5) to be re-tested for cholera (glass rod). No Signals.

19 JUL 0139 hrs. SX7039 Sigmn SEXTON J. died of cholera at TARKANOON, THAILAND. All other cholera patients (Signals) on the improve.

Only 63 o/rs fit for work. Instruction received from Capt MURUYAMA that we had to supply 130 o/rs and 7 offrs. ‘No duty’ personnel were paraded by coys and Capt Mills indicated those most fit to make up number. Neighbouring creek has risen about 20 feet & cookhouse had to be moved. 5 *(illegible)* for rice cooking received – thank heaven.

1630 hrs. Further request from I.J.A. of no. of men who would NOT be able to work within a month. They are to be sent back to hospital at KANBURI.

20 JUL A fine day. 131 o/rs at work 8 offrs. Three more men (all 2/29) died of cholera during early morning. Conditions at isolation area very bad & no fit or light duty personnel allowed to assist in improving, Workers had lunch & tea out & were informed they would have to work through night until set task finished. They were eventually knocked off at 2245 hrs. I.J.A. provided meat – the first for ages – for yak stew for midnight meal for workers. 1600 hrs. Further cholera test for 45 suspected carriers. Previous test ruined at laboratory.

21 JUL Workers 8 offrs 100 o/rs. New task – clearing yak yard & cutting timber to improve rd.

1130 hrs. All men called back to camp. All tents vacated & sprayed by I.J.A. with disinfectant. Then Capt MARUYAMA supervised break up into fit, light duty & heavy sick areas. Schimozzle.

1330 hrs. All fit & light duty personnel in camp again tested for cholera (glass rod). Information that party had to move up to TARRUMPET to bring back tents & any sick who can move tomorrow & return 23 JUL. Order cancelled later. Also rumour that fit men will move to new camp about 200 yards away – in a yak yard. 50 men sent in afternoon to clear area & carry saplings to corduroy road. Another cholera case (Sgt Lloyd – Bde H.Q.) during afternoon. Sigmn Stewart J.G. admitted to cholera ward.

22 JUL Only 50 workers required. Task – clearing yak yard. 1200 hrs. Further cholera test for fit and light duty personnel. All Signals in cholera isolation progressing satisfactorily.

23 JUL Wet. Conditions bad. All fit & light duty personnel working on yak yard. Still in bad condition. 1200 hrs. Men classed as fit & light duty had further cholera test. 1700 hrs. All ‘no duty’ personnel & men in isolation & hospital tested for cholera. Sigmn Albert admitted to cholera ward. 1300 hrs. Three men arrived from KRIEN KRIE – 2 med orderlies & only remaining patient out of 4.

24 JUL Very wet. Stream still rising. Two cooks allowed to operate filter.

0250 hrs. NX60147 SIGMN O’BRIEN T.W.R.P. died of cholera at TAKANOON, THAILAND. All fit & light duties again working on railway line (2 offrs 68 o/rs).

1030 hrs. Capt Barnett saw Capt MARUYAMA regarding possible move of fit – no time set out yet, but after results of cholera tests –, pay – nothing definite but only for workers. Cremations – O.K. without referring to him. Assistance for Capt Mills – will *(illegible)* sick for BAMPONG. ’44 gall drums – none available. Canvas for repairing tents – will see if available.

DATE EVENT

25 JUL Padre Babb & Capt H Lord from English Camp about 2 kilos away still doing magnificent job supplying our lads with canteen goods, carrying them down themselves & delivering to our working party.

1700 hrs.. Word received that party of 70 sick men would be moved down to river by barge to WYNYEA (railhead near TARSO) leaving at 0900 hrs 26 JUL. Personnel selected by Capt Mills included 11 Signals – L/Cpl Brennan, Sigmn Reilly, Robinson, Smith J.L., Tapping, Clapham, Flack, Johnson R.M., Bryer & Cpl Matthews & Lieut Stewart. All party again tested for cholera (glass rod). Time of departure later altered to 0800 hrs and then 0730 hrs. Fit men building staging at new area. Then moved after mess.

26 JUL 0630 Reveille. 0745 Party of 3 offrs & 67 o/rs moved off. Creek still over road bridge. All who could had to cross by railway bridge. Others, including 4 stretcher cases, taken across by boat.

Further *(illegible)* of all “unfit” men. Officers built double decker staging in “fit” area & shifted after mess. Signals cholera cases still progressing satisfactorily. 2 further cholera deaths (1 Bde H.Q. & 1 2/29). “Unfit” area only on 2 meals today.

27 JUL 2 offrs 54 o/rs fit for work. Capt MARUYAMA ordered 10 offrs & 150 men out. All fit & light duties from “unfit” area (including suspected cholera cases in isolation) and 17 ‘no duty’ from “fit” area ordered out. Just enough. “Unfit” area, including workers & hospital orderlies, still on 2 meals only. Capt MARUYAMA would NOT listen to protest.

28 JUL Nos for work same as yesterday, but owing to these suspected cholera carriers in “unfit” area being definitely excluded, we could only supply 10 offrs & 106 men.

0930 hrs. Further cholera test for all fit men in “unfit” area. Cookhouse complete shifted to fit area. Capt Barnett received excellent “bashing” from 2 Korean guards for referring to them to Sgt ITO as “KOREANS”. Padre Dodds & Capt Lord still supplying us with canteen supplies from English camp. Task for all parties – fit, light duties & offrs – 450 baskets.

29 JUL Nos for work 10 offrs 106 o/rs.

30 JUL 1030 hrs. Capt Barnett visited English camp with authority from Capt MARUYAMA asking for medical assistance for Capt Mills. Task for all workers today 500 baskets. 1400 hrs. Information received that pay could collected later in day. Amt. received at 1900 hrs was Men $1399.30, Medical (2 months) $632.00, Offrs (1 month) $935.00 Balances for Medical (2 months) and Offrs (3 months) will be paid in about ten days time. Rates given were as follows

Men Medical Offrs

W/Os working 40 cents a day Sgt, S/Sgt $23.00 month Lt Col $40.00 month

“ camp duties 25 cents a day Cpl $20.00 “ Major $40.00 “

NCOs working 30 “ “ “ L/Cpl $13.50 “ Capt $40.00 “

“ camp duties 15 “ “ “ Men $9.00 “ Lieuts $25.00 “

Men working 25 “ “ “

“ camp duties 10 “ “ “

Information that NX72107 Sigmn O’DRISCOLL died at TARRARUMPET, THAILAND

on 29 JUL 43 received from I.J.A..

31 JUL Working 9 offrs 97 o/rs. Fish issue (*illegible*) for workers. “Unfit” on 2 meals a day only.

1400 hrs.. Coy Comdrs Conference re pay. It was decided to distribute money on following basis:

Lt Col, Maj, Capts $22.50 Medical certificate holders This accounted for

Lieuts $15.00 Sgts, S/Sgts $11.00 per month $2464.00 made up

W/Os $5.00 Cpls $10.00 “ “ as follows:

NCOs $3.50 L/Cpls $9.00 “ “ Offrs $555.00 (1 mth)

O/Rs $3.00 O/Rs $7.50 “ “ Med Ords $434 (2 mths)

O/Rs $1475.00

Balance of men’s pay made up from Offrs & Medical personnel. The remainder $552.30 went into Unit Amenities Fund to be administered by C.O.. Full particulars promulgated to men by Paying Officers – also fact that we had no idea of period covered by men’s pay.

It was decided that IN FUTURE:

1/ Full Duty personnel in camp receive same rate of pay as workers

2/ Contributions will be required from men to pay sick & to general messing fund to be administrated by C.O.

3/ It is anticipated contributions of Officers & Med personnel will run hospital

4/ Pay will be paid on basis of days worked by men, but some money will be made up to sick men who have done no work.

DATE EVENT

1 AUG Unit strength at present at TAKANOON 4 offrs (Capts Barnett & Hardacre and Lieuts May & Henderson) & 96 o/rs – 20 of latter in “fit” area. Remainder “unfit” area. General health of Unit personnel, poor. Sigmn Mahoney dangerously ill with cholera. Other cholera patients Lieut Henderson, Sigmn Gould, Carless, Albert, Stewart. Sigmn Shepherd isolated as a carrier. 1345 hrs. NX71052 Sigmn MAHONEY J.B. died of cholera at TAKANOON, THAILAND. Good supply of canteen goods obtained unofficially from Harry Lord & co . . . 500 eggs included – some of them to be gift of English offrs to our hospital patients.

2 AUG Men employed on railway about 2 kilos from camp. Very wet morning & night. Roads very muddy & slippery. River again in flood – above previous high level. Men had to cross precarious railway bridge on way to & from work. Men NOT knocked off until after dark. Coming home, Sigmn TUZER fell off bridge about 15 feet. Fortunately not seriously injured. Further canteen supplies obtained. NX1073 L/Cpl Jones J.A. to cholera ward.

3 AUG Again very wet. Capt Maruyama annoyed at there being only 3 offrs & 90 o/rs fit for work on railway. He ordered that 200 men be sent out tomorrow. This information conveyed also by I.J.A. guard sgt, Sgt AOKI. He said too that work was now “hurry hurry” as railway would be here in a week (Aug 10). Then we will move to NICKAYE, leaving Capt MARUYAMA here, and then to Changi – I wonder !!!

4 AUG Men at work 7 offrs 189 o/rs including about 70 heavy sick. Depressing seeing men moving out. Information received that NX51375 Sigmn MORRISON L. died at TARRARUMPET on *(blank space)* following a long drawn out cholera illness. Capt Mills obtained permission from I.J.A. doctor here to send two men – Lieut Dobbie and Pte Rydiard– to English camp 1½ kilos away for operations. Capt MARUYAMA approved. He also approved Capt Barnett taking parties to this camp to collect canteen stores. He also wants same number of men for work tomorrow. Last men finished work in the dark at 2145 hrs. They had hazardous journey back to camp along frightfully muddy route. River near “unfit” camp still rising. Offrs had to move their tent. Further canteen supplies obtained from Harry Lord. Two more deaths from cholera today, both 2/29.

5 AUG 6 offrs & 166 men to work (including Camp Duties). Capt MARUYAMA complained of small number & in afternoon asked for 50 more men. Twenty supplied including a party of 12 men who were standing by as a stretcher party. Capt Barnett & Capt Mills saw Capt MARUYAMA at 1515 hrs regarding his authority to move 2 sick men to English camp. Capt Mills also pointed out our position regarding unfit men. Capt Mills then visited English camp to “set up” movement of patients. Pay for men at TARURUMPET (?) and $50.00 from canteen fund sent up by I.J.A. carrier.

6 AUG Men for work on railway 5 offrs 158 o/rs. Capt Henderson, Lieut May & about *(blank)* o/rs did NOT get back to camp until midnight – the men having to work till after 2300 hrs. Lieut DOBBIE & Pte RYDIARD carried to English camp in late afternoon. Road wet & slippery (Monday *(?)* very wet). Carriers brought good supply of canteen stores. NX41626 Sigmn Anderson L.N. to cholera ward. Capt Hardacre has touch of fever.

7 AUG Fine – at last. 5 offrs 144 o/rs to work on railway. Capt Barnett reported nos. immediately to Capt MARUYAMA who did NOT show any undue resentment. Two yaks killed today. Some meat for the troops – at last. Large parties of coolies, diesel & English troops still passing through moving North. 1900 hrs Capt MARUYAMA spoke to Capt Barnett about small no. of officers going to work. Another cholera death – Pte Wallace 2/29 – making 56th death out of original 700.

8 AUG 8 offrs 135 o/rs to work on railway. Heavy sick men still going out. Today, all men were in before it was quite dark, i.e. by 2245 hrs. Two more yaks killed today. Another fine day. 3 men (2/29 & English) to Jap kitchen at camp 3 kilos away.

9 AUG Fine. 8 offrs 137 o/rs to work. Yak stew & fine weather certainly improves morale of men & offrs. 1900 hrs. Capt Barnett informed by Capt MARUYAMA that all men who did NOT go to work tomorrow would parade at 0900 hrs in railway cutting for inspection. Cpl Emui *(?)* , Bde H.Q., died of cholera.

10 AUG Fine. 8 offrs 135 men to work on railway. At 0930 hrs remainder inspected by Sgt AOKI who picked out only 1 offr (Capt Graham *(?)*) & 10 o/rs from approx. 220 men & sent them out to work. Pte Rydiard died at English camp & was buried in English Cemetery. Lt Col Pond, Capt Barnett & Padre Villacort *(?)* attended ceremony. Two more men (2/29) died here. One more (2/29) at TARRARUMPET. A bad day. Some workers did not get back to camp until 2330 hrs. Sigmn Baillie A.W. to cholera ward. Other Signals doing all right.

11 AUG Fine morning. 8 offrs 114 men to work on railway. Many men not in until 2230 hrs. 1700 hrs. I.J.A. doctor asked Capt Mills to supply names of 150 men who should be evacuated to WYNYEA.

12 AUG Fine. 6 offrs 98 men only fit for railway work. 1000 hrds. Capt MARUYAMA turned out remainder of camp. Personally examined them & sent out a further 9 offrs and 68 o/rs. Most of these men were malaria, diarrhoea, beri-beri, bad feet & ulcers. Some were definitely NOT fit. Task – carrying rice, then working on railway. In view of small number originally going to work, Capt M cancelled killing of yaks today. Therefore no meal.

DATE EVENT

13 AUG Friday, 13th. 16 offrs 192 men to work on railway. This included many ‘no duties’. Fit and “light duties” working on cutting shifting stone. “No duties” nearer camp moving earth. Both parties out for evening meal despite assurance that latter party would be returning to camp. This party eventually kept at work until 0225 hrs on 14 Aug. Other party working until mearly 0300 hrs on 14 and back in camp just before 0400 hrs. Capt MARUYAMA told Capt Barnett today men would be working late for next 3 days. When asked by Capt Barnett if they could then have a holiday, (a day’s rest), he said his contract finished in 7 days & they could then have a day’s rest. Canteen bought 1500 eggs today @ 12 cents. 500 to hospital.

14 AUG In view of late night only men preparing rock for blasting had to report at 0830 hrs. Remainder at 1000 hrs. All personnel working on rock cutting today. Finished work about 2200 hrs. No. of personnel for WYNYEA reduced to 70 – the first 70 on list – which unfortunately eliminated all Signals except Sigmn Smith M.D. & Sampson. Probable date of movement 16 AUG. Pte Singer *(?)* Bde H.Q. died during night 14/15 Aug. following cholera illness.

15 AUG In view of fact that railway cutting has to be finished today, 200 men were asked for & they had to be on the job at 0830 hrs. Therefore, reveille & breakfast at 0630 hrs. Men supplied on railway 11 offrs 175 o/rs. Number to be evacuated to WYNYEA tomorrow increased to 80. Four more Signals included - Sigmn Ford, Newbery, Collins and Turnbull. Total 8 offrs (no Signals) & 72 o/rs. 1630 hrs. Lieut J.A DOBBIE (R.A.E.) died at English Camp, following operation for removal of fluid from lungs, at TAKUNUN.

Men working on railway home at 2345 hrs.

16 AUG 0645 hrs. Party for WYNYEA moved off to river. 0900 hrs. Capt MARUYAMA advised Capt Barnett that 200 fit men – I don’t know where the men are coming from – move to hutted camp 2 kilometres north of here. Only personal gear will be taken by men. No tents. Cooking gear will be transported by barge. Only 7 offrs 139 men fit for railway work. Capt M insisted on another 30 who had to go out. Promised light work but working on railway with other party. 1100 Lieut Dobbie buried at English Cemetery. Funeral attended by Lt Col Pond, Capt Barnett & Padre Vellacott. Personnel remaining at TAKUNUN now 17 offrs 380 men – Signals 4 offrs (including Lieut Henderson still isolated in cholera area) and 70 o/rs. 2300 hrs. Capt M advised party would not move tomorrow – possibly 18 AUG. Men on railway working until nearly 0300 hrs. Condensed milk issue for 3rd successive night One small tin between 2 men.

17 AUG Reveille for rock drillers as usual. Others 0945 hrs & to report to I.J.A. camp at 1100 hrs. A/CSM Cunningham took over canteen duties. Men working until 2230 hrs and home by 2330 hrs. 2345 hrs. Advice received that moving party to be reduced to one hundred. Remainder to complete cutting here then to move. Task in new locality (2 kilometres from here) will take about 1 week. Then men return.

18 AUG 0900 hrs. 4 offrs 72 o/rs reported for work here on railway. Other party of 4 offrs (Capt Lloyd, Capt Hardacre, Lieut May, Lieut Trevis *(?)*) 7 cooks and 85 o/rs moved to new site. Accommodation – attap huts. Cooking gear transported by river.

Only personal gear carried. 14 light duty men to clean huts – others to work on railway immediately. Cpl Johnston (2/29 Btn) died after prolonged illness.

2100 hrs. Pay received. Officers $2305.00 (3 mths including that in respect of 3 offrs who went to WYNYEA on 16 AUG). Medical orderlies $252.00 (adjustment made in respect of 9 men who have NOT got their original Red Cross certificates and who therefore the I.J.A. will NOT recognise as entitled to special allowance), o/rs $417.90 – representing pay due for period 21 JUL – 31 JUL 43 (incl.) It was mentioned, too, that the $1395.30 received on 30 JUL was in respect of period 21 JUN – 20 JUL 43. The reason given that men had received no money for period 18 APR – 20 JUN was that “some men had run away. Therefore no money”. Men worked until 2100 hrs today.

19 AUG Wet. 4 more men reported to Capt Lloyd’s party. Working here on railway 3 offrs 54 o/rs. 1000 hrs. Count of I.J.A. blankets by *(illegible)*. Lt Col Pond & Capt Barnett visited other camp (1500 hrs). Men worked until 2100 hrs today. Rain spoilt easy day.

20 AUG 3 offrs 73 men to work on railway. Capt M & Japs helping remove landslide in cutting “speedo”. Men paid on following basis

Capt & above $25.00 per week Medical orderlies This accounted for

Lieuts $17.50 per week Sgt S/Sgt $10 per week Offrs $1305.00

Cpls $9 per week Working $675.00

L/Cpls $8 per week Med Ords $400.00

Ptes $7 per week

Men NCOS W/Os Men NCOs W/Os Men NCOs W/Os

No Duty $0.25 $0.25 $0.25

Work 1 day .40 .40 .50 Work 4 days $0 .80 $1.00 $1.40 Work 8 days $1.60 $2.00 $2.80

“ 2 days .50 .50 .70 “ 5 “ 1.00 1.25 1.75 “ 9 “ 1.80 2.25 3.15

“ 3 days .60 .75 1.05 “ 6 “ 1.20 1.50 2.10 “: 10 “ 2.00 2.50 3.50

“ 7 “ 1.40 1.75 2.45 “ 11 “ 2.20 2.75 3.85

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Total required to pay men on this basis (covering period 21/7/43 – 31/7/43 incl) 434.40 difference $16.50; & difference in pay for Medical Orderlies $148.00; & pay for Padre Vellacott, $52.50, made up from officers’ contributions to Amenities Fund.

Men back in camp by 2200 hrs today. Rumours still current that we shall return to Changi when railway is through. 15 original “carriers” in cholera isolation returned to No Duty area.

21 AUG For work on railway 3 offrs 66 o/rs. Additional 40 men required by Capt M. Sgt AOKI. Paraded remaining men in camp and picked out 27 who were sent out to work. For the first time some consideration was given to no *(illegible)* & men with bad feet. Today Capt M. pulled them off parade & sent them on a sit down job helping rock blasters. Lt Col Pond & Capt Mills visited other camp - 1100 hrs to 2000 hrs. Work conditions good but track to place of work very bad. Rations – rice (about 30 ozs per day per man), fish, meat, vegetables, sugar & tea.

22 AUG Party here still on cutting (3 offrs 77 o/rs). Capt Barnett visited other camp. Bamboo shoots are popular part of their diet. Capt MARUYAMA informed Capt Barnett this morning it was improbable any more men would move to other camp.

2130 hrs. Information received that it was necessary to send evening meal out to working party as the men would be working until 0300 hrs. “Muchen” *(makan = meal?)* went out, men worked for 10 minutes after meal, then returned to camp, arriving at 0035 hrs. They received “presents’ of hot coffee, condensed milk (as usual, one small tine between two). About 150 *(illegible)* received for working men. 70 to be sent to other camp.

23 AUG Working here 3 offrs 88 o/rs. Additional party of 30 men called for in afternoon to carry rations from barge to Jap store. Information says these stores are milk & cigarettes – to be “presents” to Australians from Japanese Government. Wokers home about 2230 hrs.

24 AUG Fine morning. 3 offrs 80 o/rs to work. Fall of earth in cutting buried Lieut Lilly, half buried Pte *(blank space)* & Pte *(Glossop?)*. None seriously injured. Japs worked feverishly to free men. Men working until about 2400 hrs. Soup issue (from English camp *(illegible)* through Capt Barnett) to 99 men at other camp. Arrangement made by Capt Barnett through Major Pemberson for Sgt Mentilow *(?)* (R.O.C) to be transferred English Hospital.

25 AUG Fine morning. 2 offrs 78 o/rs to work. Capt Barnett spoke to Capt MARUYAMA regarding towgay *(bean sprouts)* & increase in meat ration. Both received today. Capt M. proceeding NICKAYE today. We shall be moved in 8 or 10 days back to TAIMONTA probably - Capt M. will look out good camp site during his trip. Only fit men will move carrying personal gear. Sick men will remain here until transported to BANPONG. Our tents, working gear to be transported by barge.

0845 hrs. Both Capt MARUYAMA & Sgt AOKI approved of Sgt MENTILOW’s *(?)* transfer to English Hospital. Men worked until 2400 hrs. Rain & wind about 2300 hrs blew several tents to ribbons. Railway reached cutting about 2 kilos south of TARKANUN.

26 AUG 2 offrs 26 o/rs to work on railway. Sgt AOKI brought 3 offrs & 31 o/rs down by barge from TARARUMPET. Lieut Anderson & Sigmn Mullins in party. Latter very ill with beri-beri. 1930 hrs. Party of ‘H’ Force passed through. In party were Lieut Mansfield Sigmn Pearce, Struthers, Smith *(space)*, Boughton & several other Sigs. They gave us news that the following personnel of the Unit had died:- S/Sgt Eaton, Sigmn McKinnon, Watkins, Chambers and Martin A.A. – 5 out of their original 35. Destination of partry seems to be KRIE-KRIE or KONKOIDA. 2300 hrs. Sigmn KIRK fell off railway bridge. Dropped about 25 feet & fairly seriously injured.

27 AUG 2 offrs 74 o/rs to work on railway. Permission obtained to take Kirk to English camp. 1400 hrs. Unfit personnel for evacuation down the river inspected by Japanese doctor. 80 selected. Cholera tested (glass rod) in afternoon. 12 Signals included S/Sgt Clempson, Sigmn Engledon, Gould, Dawson, Dent, Harman, Carless, Albert, Hampton. Mullens, Shepherd & Rief. Mullens is dangerously ill.

28 AUG Kirk’s injury bad dislocation of hip. Rectified by Major Pemberton (C.O. English Base Hospital Group 2). 1600 hrs. Sgt Mentilow *(?)*  died at English at English Hospital. Information received to the effect that all fit men will move back to TAIMONTA probably on 3/9/43.

29 AUG 0800 hrs. Surprise kit inspection by I.J.A.. Very thorough. 1030 hrs. Capt Barnett attended Mentilow’s *(?)* funeral at British Cemetery. 1315 hrs. NX2719 SIGMN MULLENS E.G. died at TAKANOON, THAILAND from Beri Beri. Buried in our small cemetery. 1700 hrs. WYNYEA party standing by ready to move.

DATE EVENT

30 AUG 1200 hrs. Sigmn Kirk brought back from English Hospital. He replaces Sigmn Mullens in WYNYEA draft.

Men worked until 2330 hrs tonight.

31 AUG 0545 hrs Reveille for WYNYEA party. 0700 hrs. Party moved to barge. Signals now remaining at TAKANOON 5 offrs (Barnett, Hardacre, May, Anderson, Henderson) and 59 o/rs. Lieut Lillie took down pay for officers who moved in party on 16/8 (3 months pay complete) Indications are that all personnel except 30 will have to move back to KONKOIDA or TAIMONTA on 3 SEP 43.

1 SEP 0830 hrs. Capt Barnett saw Capt MARUYAMA regarding move. Sick & light duties will move first (3 or 4 Sep) and may take 4-6 days. Additional rice required would have to be carried. Fit will move on 5 Sep. Food will be provided at staging camps. Permission was granted for some canteen supplies to be transported by barge with cooking gear and tents. Request was made for Lt. Col Pond to travel by barge (O.K.’d later). All torn tents to be taken down & returned Japanese lines.

2 offrs 66 o/rs to work on railway. Home by 2130 hrs. Quiet day – fine. 2000 hrs. Information received from Korean guard that 60 men could remain here – 30 heavy sick, 12 cholera, 14 light sick, 2 cooks, 2 medical orderlies & they would move to KONKOIDA *(when)* recovered.

2 SEP Fine. A Holiday. Reveille 0745 hrs. Further information received that 60 men remain here, 100 men move on 3 SEP (these will be light sick) & remaining 66 move on 5 SEP. Lt. Col. Pond & 3 o/rs will travel with gear on barge. Mens blankets will also be carried if required. 1830 hrs. Lt. Col. Pond, Capt Mills & Capt Barnett dined with Capt Lord at English camp. 2000 hrs tenko *(roll call)*.

3 SEP Dull but no rain. 0900 hrs 6 offrs 94 o/rs moved off under Capt Curlewis. Movement to be very slow. 2 lbs rice & 2 fish carried as reserve rations. 1 offr 31 o/rs to work on railway. Half holiday at camp 2 kilos away.

4 SEP No work on railway. Packing etc in preparation for move tomorrow. Afternoon transport of goods to barges. 3 cases of milk, 6 tins gula Malacca, 24 tins of biscuits taken as canteen stores.

5 SEP 0600 hrs reveille. Tents struck & taken with personal gear to barge. Lt. Col. Pond and 2 o/rs travelling by barge. 0800 hrs. 3 offrs (Capts Werdersehn *(?)*, Barnett & Graham) and 61 o/rs left by road for TAIMONTA. 5 offrs (Capt Jennings *(?)*, Lieuts Anderson, Henderson, Bradley and Rowe) and 55 o/rs – all light duty or no duty – left at TAKANOON. Included in this party were 9 Signals – 2 offrs 7 o/rs (Lt Henderson, Anderson, L/Cpl Jones, Sigmn Backrie A.W. *(?)*, Backrie G.B. *(?)*, Atkinson, *(illegible)*, Stewart & Easton). Marching party made TAMARUMPET by 1700 hrs & here spent the night. Early part of track fair (only railway route) last 2 kilos very bad. Our party were housed in attap hut, Capt Hardacre’s party, whichhad left their camp about 0900 hrs, wre camped in tents – filthy & inadequate for their 99 men.

6 SEP Moved off from TAMARUMPET at 0900 hrs. Joined in with Capt Hardacre’s party. Made KRIEN KRIE about 1730 hrs (14 kilos). Track very bad – wet & muddy. Billeted by people of D Force. “Weather” good.

7 SEP Moved off from KRIEN KRIE at 0900 hrs. Made KONKOIDA (9 kilos) for lunch. Then TAIMONTA (further 12 kilos) for night. Camped in attap hut, shared by *(illegible)*. Track during the day for the most part shocking, particularly from KONKOIDA onwards. Caught up here with Capt Curlewis’s party. Total party now 14 offrs 272 o/rs. Signals 3 offrs 52 o/rs (Capt Barnett, Hardacre, Lieut May).

8 SEP 0745 hrs Reveille. 0750 Tenko. Men worked on clearing area for new camp site., gathering bamboo & carrying goods from barge (river approx. 1½ kilos away).

Coys strength as at 0750 1 Coy (Sigs & Engrs) 3 offrs 77 o/rs (Sigs 2 offrs 52 o/rs)

2 Coy (A Coy & Bde HQ) 3 offrs 61 o/rs

3 Coy (B & C Coys) 2 offrs 54 o/rs

4 Coy (H.Q. Coy) 5 offrs 62 o/rs (Signals 1 offr)

Medical 2 offrs 18 o/rs

Wet afternoon.

9 SEP 72 o/rs carrying stores etc from river. 76 o/rs clearing site for new camp & carrying bamboo. 1400 hrs. Further cholera test (glass rod), malaria blood test & cholera inoculation. Men finished work by 2030 hrs.

10 SEP 3 parties today - 20 o/rs carrying stores from river, 20 o/rs clearing, 112 o/rs bamboo carrying & hut building. Indication this morning from MARUYAMA that in future all parties etc. will be advised by him, NOT direct by personnel of Capt MARUYAMA’s party. He advised also that Lt. Col. Kappe had moved on from NICKAYE, possibly A.I.F. Hospital Camp. Men in from work by 2030 hrs.

11 Sep Wet morning. Work parties 1 offr 20 o/rs bamboo, 2 offrs 133 o/rs railway. OKAMURA collected reserve ration of rice from personnel remaining in camp. 0900 hrs A/CSM Cunningham left for NICKAYE on canteen buying expedition.

12 SEP 165 men requested by me could only supply 153. Malaria & foot sores & ulcers main illnesses. It looks as if we shall be moving from this double-decker attap hut (which we are sharing with tamils) to our new camp in about 4 or 5 days. Work on railway etc. NOT arduous.

13 SEP 4 offrs 149 men to work on railway & bamboo cutting. 1400 hrs. A/CSM Cunningham returned from NICKAYE. No Signal personnel there. Information that Capt Stahl was in a rest camp in Burma. Lt. Col. Kappe at No. 1 Camp. Canteen supplies dearer than at TAKUNUN and goodly quantity bought. He also brought back gift from I.J.A. – 186 pairs of white shorts, 2179 packets of cigarettes (10 per pkt), 40 tins condensed milk, and 3 tins of margarine. Cigarettes distributed at rate of 7 packets per man. Pay cheque for officers & medical signed today.

14 SEP 4 offrs 151 men to work on railway. Party of 20 (4 offrs , C.S.M. etc) started draining new camp area. Very wet in afternoon. Latter party sent home then recalled by Capt M. Design of huts altered from island platform *(?)* to that of isle down centre. All men in from work by 2015 hrs.

15 SEP 155 to work on railway. 15 offrs & men to new camp area. Bearers of 3 huts erected by Burmese. Lieut Brindley & 6 o/rs arrived from TARKUNUN.

16 SEP 0900 hrs. Working parties as usual. Capt Barnett to NIEKE to collect pay. Track wet & muddy. Railway between TAIMONTA & NIEKE defined & cut in sections. Many “boongs” at work tunnelling *(?)*. Still a lot of work to be done. 1500 hrs. Lt. Col. Kappe arrived at NIEKE from No.1 Camp (21 kilos north). He has received a note from Major Jacobs (A Force). This force has been well treated. Capt Stahl is in Burma as adjutant F Force Rest Camp. The following personnel are also at the rest camp: Sgts Levinsohn, Wold *(?)*, Poole, Seymer *(?)*, Hope, Scully, Sigmn Anderson, Kell, Davis H., Lowe L.L., Love, Welch, Morrison, Williams H., Wrightson, Grundy, Benson, *(illegible)* & several others. *(Annotation -* Capt Stahl TONBAYA Hospital Camp*)*.

The following Signal personnel have died:

L/Cpl McDonald 8/8/43, Cpl Gorey 14/8/43, Sigmn Cole J.H. 27/8/43, Sigmn Ledger 15/8/43, Sigmn Flint 16/8/43, Sigmn Roberts D.A., Sigmn Bedford N., Sigmn Williams R. .W.O II Smith R.J. (A Force).

Major Jacobs is at APPERON. Lieut *(illegible)* & Geddings *(?)* are at “A” Force Rest Camp in Burma. Capt Mann is at TANBAZARAN.

17 SEP Working parties as usual.

18 SEP Capt MARUYAMA inspected sick with view to increasing work figure. Only 7 *(illegible)*.

Capt Barnett received pay as follows:

Officers $850.00 (August) – Rates Capt & above $50.00 (9) Lieuts $40.00 (10)

Med Ords $189.00 (August) Sgts $20.00, Cpls $20.00, L/cpls $10 O/rs $9

O/rs Period 11/5/43 to 20/6/43 $3,021.15

Period 1/8/43 to 31/8/43 $1,659.80

Period 1/9/43 to 10/9/43 $425.70 Grand Total $6,143.65

DATE EVENT

18 SEP “Weather” from NIEKE etc excellent. 1800 hrs Capt Barnett arrived back TAIMONTA.

Party on railway working until midnight in rain.

19 SEP Very wet. Working parties 127 & camp construction 12.

Pay to all ranks as follows:

*(Here follows a detailed breakdown of “pay” for all ranks, for example:*

*Other ranks received $5 for the period 11 May – 20 June = 12.5 cents per day)*

20 SEP 170 men asked for for railway. Could only supply 145. Wet day. All men in from work by 2030 hrs. 3 offrs 4 o/rs working on new campsite in afternoon. 2100 hrs Information received that party would be moving to new campsite tomorrow morning immediately after breakfast.

21 SEP 0830 hrs. Party moved to new area. Huts roofed but no sides. Approx. 100 in each of 3 huts. As only about 120 fit for work, MORIYAMA (guard) paraded sick & sent out additional 30.

1415 hrs. VX45954 L/CPL CHITTY G.N. died at TAIMONTA from *(illegible)*. Wet afternoon.

22 SEP 0750 hrs TENKO *(roll-call)*. 160 men sent to work including 30 heavy sick. C.S.M. Cunningham and Lieut Gillies to NIEKE with Sgt AOKI to purchase canteen supplies. Covering for cook-house completed – the first decent covering (attap) since leaving Changi.

23 SEP During night 22/23 about $30.00 stolen from canteen. No work but working party fell in at 0830 hrs. Some delay whilst Japs endeavoured to make total from 155 (including approx. 40 heavy sick) to 160. Wet afternoon. Notes to Capt Jessup and $579.00 given to I.J.A. guard to take back to TARKUNUN.

DATE EVENT

24 SEP 140 men to work. 4 hospital orderlies & some other heavy sick pulled out to make up party. 1300 hrs. Lieut Gillies & C.S.M. Cunningham returned from NIEKE with $2,300.00 worth canteen supplies. Portion of goods carried from river during afternoon.

25 SEP 141 men to work. Balance of canteen supplies transported from river. All commodities were rationed to enable every man to obtain an equal share.

Moriyama had meeting of C.S.M.s about 2030 hrs and told them we had to supply 170 tomorrow. Capt Barnett saw Moriyama who was adamant (he stated that all medical orderlies except 3 and all officers except C.O., Adjt, Padre & M.O. must work), so Capt Barnett then saw Capt MARUYAMA. He said the same number as today would suffice and allowed us to retain medical orderlies, but he said that work must repeat must be completed in 4 days – implying that this must be done even if men had to work late at night. He also instructed that 2 men be sent to TONKOIDA tomorrow to bring back 15 yaks. Lids must also be made for latrines & drinking water must be passed through the filter. Men must be quieter at night & in early morning. Lights out, therefore, made 2300 hrs – same as I.J.A..

Yaks which were stuck in the mud near Capt Hardacre’s working party, killed. I.J.A. & Burmese took most of the meat.

Capt *(Graham’s ?)* party of 40 men working until 0030 hrs on 26/9.

First completely fine day for some time.

26 SEP 150 men to work. 0900 hrs. Two men left for KONKOIDA to bring back yaks. Returned at 2000 hrs with 15 beasts.

Another fine day.

1830 hrs. Church Parade held in hospital. Hot wash available to workers (2 Coy’s fortnight) on arrival home. Two parties (about 100 men) working until 2300 hrs.

2200 hrs. Capt M. informed Capt Barnett (i) all I.J.A. officers must be saluted by ALL ranks – if working, only i/c party salutes (ii) no noise between lights out (2300 hrs) & reveille (0730 hrs).

27 SEP 140 men to work. Another fine day. Sgt AOKI arrived back from NIEKE & stated definitely we shall be returning to CHANGI as soon as railway is finished.

Last two of three working parties in by 2200 hrs. Eight pneumonia cases in hospital now – NO Signals.

28 SEP 132 men to work today. Still fine. 1500 hrs. Pte Nicholls (2/29) died from pneumoniary *(pulmonary?)* malaria & dysentery. One yak killed today – we receive frame only for 292 men. Men in from work by 2200 hrs. “Back to Changi” very definite, according to our guards, about middle of October.

29 SEP 125 men to work. Capt MILLS *(Medical Officer)* beaten up by Sgt AOKI. Weather fine. I.J.A. started to dig slit trenches.

30 SEP 156 men to work. Improvement due to fine weather and yak. Some canteen supplies (3 tins gula malacca - *palm sugar*) obtained from local kampong. Guards generous – eggs *(illegible)* from HARADA. All workers in by 2130 hrs.

1 OCT Signals strength as follows: TAIMONTA – 3 offrs 51 o/rs.; TARKUNUN – 2 offrs 7 o/rs.;

142 all ranks to work today. Sigmn Hart NOT too well – diarrhoea & beri-beri. Two parties working until 0230 hrs on 2/10 – a wet night too. Sweet coffee put on from amenities for all workers.

2 OCT 130 all ranks to work. News received that NX27045 Sigmn STEWART J.C. had died at TARKANOON on 23 SEP 43 from dysentery & debility *(general exhaustion)* .

Fine day. Sweet coffee for all men. Capt *(Graham?)* & 26 o/rs (sick men) working until 0200 hrs on 3/10/43.

3 OCT 130 all ranks to work. Fine day. All men in by 2100 hrs. Rumours that work will be completed in 2 days.

4 OCT 134 all ranks to work. Pte Barry (2/29) died of pneumonia. Fine day. Work finished 2030 hrs. Rumours are now we move to KAMBURIE & stay there for a period before moving back to CHANGI and – Railway work for our lads finished in 3 days.

5 OCT 131 all ranks to work. Another fine & hot day following cold night. Men in by 2030 hrs.

6 OCT 130 men to work. 0850 Capt Barnett left for NIEKE to collect pay for period 11-30 SEP.

7 OCT Information received that all personnel of our party now at NIEKE and beyond had been paid at their respective camps for period 11 MAY – 20 JUNE 43.

8 OCT 130 men to work. 1915 hrs Capt Barnett returned from NIEKE. Men finished approach to bridge and all in by 2030 hrs.

News that NX60553 Sigmn SOLOMON J.C. died at Lt. Col. Kappe’s camp on *(blank space)* SEP 43 of *(blank space)*.

9 OCT 0830 hrs. Glass rod & blood slide for all men. 0900 hrs. 138 men to work with promise that only fit men – about 100 – would be required from tomorrow onwards. Pay day for all ranks. Amounts received from NIEKE were as follows:- Officers $850.00, Medical Orderlies $177 plus $21.00 in respect of orderlies without Red Cross Certificates (1 Cpl, 1 L/Cpl, 2 Ptes at heavy work rate), O/rs $846.10 (excluding $21.00 in respect of Med Orderlies)

Payments made as follows:-

Officers TAIMONTA 8 Capts & above @ $35.00 $280.00

7 Lieuts @ $30.00 $210.00

Padre (balance) $20.00 $510.00

- do - TARKUNUN 1 Capt @ $50.00 $50.00

3 Lieuts @ $40.00 $120.00 $170.00

$680.00

Balance to amenities (TAIMONTA) $170.00

$850.00

Med Ords TAIMONTA 2 Sgts @ $11.00 $22.00

1 Cpl @ $10.00 $10.00

Padre @ $10 $10.00

1 L/Cpl @ $9.00 $9.00

13 Ptes @ $7.50 $97.50 ­$148.50

- do - TARKUNUN 1 Sgt @ $20.00 $20.00

1 L/Cpl @ $10.00 $10.00 $30.00

$178.50

Balance to amenities (TAIMONTA) $19.50

$198.00

Other Ranks TAIMONTA 1 Coy $218.70

2 Coy $169.10

3 Coy $150.50

4 Coy $188.65 $726.95

\* TARKUNUN $93.50 $93.50

Balance to amenities (TAIMONTA) $25.65 $846.10

\* Forwarded to Capt Jessop 13 OCT 43 (total $293.50 less $2.50 for men now at TAIMONTA)

Total contribution to amenities (TAIMONTA) $215.15

All men finished work at 2000 hrs. Work NOT arduous. Return submitted of all men with serviceable boots (18) shirts (75) and shorts (60).

10 OCT 113 all ranks to work on railway. NO “hurry hurry”.

As all men beyond NIEKE had been paid for period May-June, it was decided to grant a bonus of $0.50 to all men (excl. Med Orderlies) at TAIMONTA (257), TARKUNUN (46) and WYNYEA (206). 1800 hrs Capt Barnett saw Capt M. re meat for men & improvement in rations. Would NOT say whether or not yak was to be killed nor would he give us permission to buy a yak from our own funds. He said we would have to supply 200 men & was told that was impossible. He also said all fit officers would have to work.

11 OCT 164 all ranks (7 offrs) to work. Other sick personnel cleaning up around camp, about one hour morning & afternoon. Railway work finished 2000 hrs.

12 OCT 149 all ranks (7 offrs) to work. 1000-1100 sick grass cutting. 1500-1700 hrs same. Railway personnel widening cutting adjacent to camp. In by 2030 hrs. Food still rice (or gruel) & weak stew of fish & potatoes.

13 OCT 127 all ranks (5 offrs) to work on cutting. 0900 hrs Capt Cohen *(?)* + 9 o/rs to NIEKE to collect “presents” cigarettes. Sick (4 offrs 35 o/rs) grass cutting as usual. 1930 hrs. 2,240 packets of cigarettes (10) and a large supply of toilet paper received. Cigarettes distributed 6½ packets per man (including 52 TARKUNUN personnel). Nips evidently had an issue of whisky today &, with Capt M. away, they celebrated.

14 OCT 153 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. 0835 Report received that Pte *(Ambie?)* & Crawford had NOT slept in their beds. Sgt AOKI organised search & men were found tied to posts at coolie camp 400 yds away. They went there las night to change Burmese rupees for Thai dollars & were “bashed up”. “Presents” cigarettes withdrawn from all men in camp. Information is these will later be distributed to “*(illegible)* men”. Men working until 2030 hrs.

DATE EVENT

15 OCT 144 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. Railway lines passed our camp at 1015 hrs. S/Sgt Stacey, Sigmn Cullen, Sigmn *(Crane?)*, Sigmn Atkinson, Sgt *(Jacoby?)* in “A” Force construction party. Information received that SGT CROOK, CPL MANSON, SIGMN BECKFORD had died. MAJOR JACOBS, SGT GAUL, CPL CLARKE at camp about 15 kilos north of here. 1 offr 43 men of our party breaking stones for ballast today.

4 men *(illegible)*. Sigmn Hunter caught by NIPS taking sweet potatoes outside Q.M. store. Done over. Workers home by 2030 hrs.

16 OCT 148 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. Information received that SIGMN OAKESHOT and SIGMN HUNTER I. (both of A Force) had died. Men finished work at 1930 hrs.

17 OCT 130 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. Most prevalent illnesses malaria (mostly recurring) and diarrhoea. Information received that SIGMN DALE (M *illegible*) had died. 1800 hrs Church Service in hospital. 2130 hrs. Concert being given to hospital patients stopped by Capt MARUYAMA. Five singers “beaten up” and orders received that there must be no music or singing in Unit lines. (On two occasions recently our guards have come over at night and asked Capt Barnett to get Australians to sing).

18 OCT 138 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. 0845 Order re music & singing passed on to troops. Men in by 1930 hrs. No canteen supplies could be purchased today and, as a result, amenities could not supply guala malacca for breakfast as it has been doing for about last 10 days. Sweet coffee at night can be continued for another 6 nights. Food is still bad – rice & weak stew.

19 OCT 135 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. 100 men & 4 offrs to NIEKE – per boat – to collect picks, shunkels, etc. Lunch had to be carried to meet them returning (? Reason for railway). Party arrived back carrying: anvils, box of tools in addition to shovels, axes etc. Carried vegetables on way to NIEKE from UPPER TAIMONTA. Rumours now that this party shall soon be moving to NIEKE as KAMBURIE is overcrowded.

20 OCT 135 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. Another party of 100 men & 4 offrs to NIEKE. Lt. Col. Pond NOT permitted to make trip with party. Lunch carried on man. Party home by 1830 hrs having carried back boxes. Excellent lunch provided at NIEKE by Dutchmen. Canteen supplies very scarce here.

21 OCT 138 all ranks (6 offrs) to work. More than enough volunteers for NIEKE party. Carried back boxes & home by 1900 hrs. Yak killed today – first for about 20 days. Weather – cool nights, hot afternoons. Sgt AOKI ordered all men in camp to make fly swats & kill 10 flies per day.

22 OCT NIEKE party reduced to 2 offrs & 48 o/rs. Balance at work on railway 4 offrs 68 o/rs. NIEKE party loaded goods on train, travelled to UPPER KONKOIDA. Unloaded, walked back. Home by 1800 hrs.

23 OCT 127 (6 offrs) to work. 1 offr 25 o/rs grass cutting. Weather still good. Yak killed today.

24 OCT 120 (6 offrs) to work. Party of 2 offrs 48 o/rs to KONKOIDA carrying gear. 1 offr 20 o/rs grass cutting. KONKOIDA party carried down picks, shovels etc.. Brought back milk, biscuits, peanut *(?)* coffee for I.J.A.. YASTA went to TAMARUMPAT to purchase canteen stores for us.

25 OCT Holiday. Ceremony of linking up railway near KONKOIDA. 1130 hrs. “Presents” 1344 pckts of cigarettes. Distribution 4½ packets per man. “Presents” of *(illegible)* & peanut *(?)* coffee to offrs from Sgt AOKI & HARADA.

26 OCT 129 (6 offrs) to work. Two parties. Easy day.

27 OCT 125 (6 offrs) to work. Two parties. 0600 YASTA arrived back from TAMARUMPET with canteen supplies 54 tins of biscuits, 2 bags of sugar, 96 tins milk, 96 tins fish (prices resp. $3.75 per tin, $165.00 per bag, $2.75 per tin, $2.75 per tin). Allotment made to hospital, coys *(companies)* & officers. One bag of sugar purchased from amenities to provide sweet gruel for men in morning & sweet coffee at night.

*(Illegible)* beaten up by Sgt AOKI for losing 2 yaks. Some rain today.

28 OCT 127 (6 offrs) to work. Two parties. One of 109 (6 offrs) took lunch – carrying party to KONKOIDA, picks, axes, boxes etc.. Other party working in quarry. Fine day.

29 OCT 125 (6 offrs) to work. Carrying party to KONKOIDA. Small party in quarry. 0855 hrs Capt Barnett to NIEKE for pay. Pay received $797.15, overtime $96.55. Total $893.70. Information received that TARKANOON party move to KAMBURIE tomorrow. Nominal roll of all our personnel as at 1 NOV 43 required at NIEKE not later than 5 NOV 43. The following additional Signals have died (F Force personnel) VX57090 Sigmn ALBERT C.H., malaria, 23/9/43; NX70137 Sigmn JOHNSTONE R.M., dysentery *(illegible)*, 11/9/42; NX55686 Sigmn DENEEN W.E., *(blank space)* Oct 43. This makes 29 known deaths of our F FORCE party.

30 OCT 123 (6 offrs) to work. Carrying party for KONKOIDA. Small party in quarry. Pay Day. C.O. approved of bonus of $0.25 for all men at TAIMONTA to be paid out of overtime. Coy claims (incl bonus) were as follows

1 Coy (77) $244.35

2 Coy (64) $186.50

3 Coy (54) $163.00

4 Coy (63) $203.50

TARKANOON $ 66.40

Balance to amenities $ 29.95 $893.70

Rumours that the party will be moving to NIEKE in 6 days time

31 OCT No further road work. All walking personnel at KONKOIDA (116) or NIEKE (4). Movement by train men paraded at 0830 hrs and after waiting an hour were sent back to huts to wait arrival of train. 1030 hrs “Presents” of approx. 4,450 pckts of cigarettes (15 pckts per man) and 13 tins of margarine *(?)*. Party did NOT go to KONKOIDA – only loaded train here with Nips gear. 1700 hrs. Capt MARUYAMA and *(illegible)* Nip soldiers left for KONKOIDA. We are now left with our guards & 12 Nips.

Capt Jessop & TARKANOON party moved down to KAMBURIE.

DATE EVENT

1 NOV Holiday. We thought. At 0930 hrs working party of 96 o/rs & 2 offrs to carry stores. Warm day. Signal personnel at this camp now 3 offrs & 51 o/rs. Hart (beri-beri), Davidson *(illegible)* & *(Togen ?)* (ulcers) in hospital. General health only fair. 32 men with Lt. Col. Kappe at KUNI SONKURAI. Total known deaths of Signal personnel in F Force 29. Others, a further 19.

YASTA arrived back from TARKANOON with canteen supplies.

2 NOV Holiday. Only 4 men to KONKOIDA. Advice received from Sgt AOKI that all men would shortly be returning to CHANGI. Later changed to fit men only with sick remaining at KAMBURI

3 NOV 0900 hrs “Tenko” *(roll-call)* Sick men & med ords broken off. Remainder collecting bamboo for kitchen (under I.J.A. supervision) until 1115 hrs. 1130 hrs. Party of 1 offr & 49 o/rs requested to move immediately after lunch. All gear to be taken. All men to be fit. Indications are that party will move to KONKOIDA as a loading party and we shall pick them up on way through. 1330 hrs. Capt Hardacre & 49 o/rs (incl 8 Sigs) marched out. 1500 hrs. Singing Parade in accordance with I.J.A. order. Other party of 10 blasting fish in river. Only a days supply of quinine left. Repeated requests recently have NOT produced results yet.

4 NOV Holiday. 1000 hrs. 4 men to KONKOIDA. They brought back I.J.A. stores and 48 bottles of quinine. We received 16. Latest information fit men move from here to NIEKE, unfit move straight to KAMBURIE, in about 5 days time. Pte Rose (2/29 Bn) died.

5 NOV Holiday. 1300 hrs. Party started to arrive back from KONKOIDA. 1305 hrs. Sgt AOKI advised all men move to NIEKE tomorrow. Sick men have to be carried. Start time 0900 hrs. 25 stretchers have to be made for unfit. Afternoon & evening spent preparing for move.

6 NOV 0700 hrs Reveille. 0905 hrs Party started to move out. 26 men carried on stretchers. 5 men remained to load Nip gear on train. All ours *(gear)* had to be carried. First men arrived at NIEKE at 1620 hrs. Last stretcher party in by 2245 hrs after receiving additional assistance from NIEKE personnel. On arrival at NIEKE all NIP blankets had to be handed in. They were counted & returned. 2115 hrs. Party of 3 offrs & 99 o/rs – fit men – moved on to No. 2 Camp (11 kilos). Another party of 42 o/rs moved across to Supply Depot. Indications are that the latter party and the rest of us (8 offrs & 132 o/rs) will remain here until we move south. In the party for No.2 Camp were 2 Sig officers (Hardacre & May) and 12 o/rs. Remaining at NIEKE I offr (Barnett) & 39 o/rs.

7 NOV Pte *(illegible)* (2/29 Bn) died. Other sick personnel are not bad considering their trial of yesterday. Our quarters bad. Too close to latrines and smelly “boongs” *(?)*. Rumour that Cpl R. CLARKE (A Force) died recently of dysentery.

2130 hrs. Pay received as follows: Offrs for Oct $630.00. Med Orderlies $157.00, o/rs for period 21.10.43 to 6.11.43 (incl) $572.35.

8 NOV *(Set out here a detailed breakdown of “pay” paid to all ranks)*

1000 hrs. I.J.A. Check Parade. Hours for washing and swimming will be in future 0800 – 0830, 1700 – 1830 daily.

9 NOV General fatigues around camp. 46 men now in hospital. 1100 hrs. Party to WANCO village.

DATE EVENT

9 NOV Passed camp of “A” Force personnel. Saw Maj Jacobs, Sgt Gaul, Sgt Jacoby, Sigmn (contin) Trevalie *(?)*, Harry Mills, Atkinson, Mayberry, Johnstone J., S/Sgt Stacey, Sgt Hillmrick  *(?)*, Death of Cpl Clarke on 35 OCT 43 confirmed. Also died Sigmn McINERNEY R.A. on 16 OCT 43.

10 NOV Men on general camp duties. 1430 hrs. Lt. Col. Pond & Capt Barnett with pay left by truck for No.2 Camp (11 kilos). Personnel of our party there settled in comfortably. Capt Hardacre has malaria. Concert for men at night during which Lt. Col. Dillon announced that 400 men from that camp will start move south on 16 NOV.

11 NOV 1320 hrs Lt. Col. Pond & Capt Barnett left No.2 for NIEKE. 1050 hrs. Armistice Day service at No.2. Information received that NX71321 Sigmn WRIGHTSON D.C. died of dysentery & beri-beri on 24 OCT 43 and NX25775 Sigmn HOBBS J.E. died of beri-beri, dysentery & malaria, on 3 NOV 43 at Burma Hospital (TAMBAYA HOSPITAL).

12 NOV Fine day. 1 offrs & 25 o/rs on hut building. Information that 100 from this camp will move south on 16 NOV 43 as an advance party. Information received that NX35234 Sigmn BRYCE died on 20 OCT of malaria and NX4883 Sigmn NEWBERY F. died on 21 OCT of beri-beri at KAMBURIE HOSPITAL.

13 NOV All available men working. Information that party moving south will be 1000 commanded by Lt. Col. Kappe. Personnel of 2/29 Bn, 2/26 Bn R.A.R. will, where possible, remain behind. Our NIEKE group will supply 1 offr & 31 o/rs and take over camp duties here in place of Lt WING’s personnel, 10 Signals with party moving south from here.

14 NOV Cpl *(illegible)* died after 2 months illness (27 Bde H.Q.) . Pte Arlentknot *(?)* (2/29 Bn) died.

15 NOV 1400 hrs. 15 of 42 personnel at Supply Depot returned to Unit lines. 1600 hrs T.A.B. *(typhoid)* inoculation today. All permanent camp duties taken over by our party or by personnel NOT moving in first party.

16 NOV Warm. Advance party of 23 moved to station about 1030 hrs. Returned to camp 1500 hrs. Move tomorrow. Sigmn Hart seriously ill again.

17 NOV Party of 23 still up & down to station. 1030 hrs. Party of 80 warned to be ready to move at 1300 hrs. Reduced to 50. No movement by 1700 hrs. Party increased to 80 again. 1900 hrs. All move to station. Board train at 0115 hrs. (18 NOV). Leave NIEKE about 0945 hrs. In this party were Padre Vellacott & 10 o/rs Signals.

18 NOV Fine day. 1830 hrs. Informed party of 400 were arriving at station from No.2 Camp & we may have to shelter them from rain. We found we had to house 200 (including 20 officers) and feed 408. 200 remained at station.

19 NOV Party still at station waiting to move all day. Fed from our camp. Left early morning 20 NOV. Other 200 still with us – including Lieut May, Capt Hardacre & *(blank space)* o/rs *(illegible)*. Pte McMullen *(?)* (2/29) died.

20 NOV 0400 hrs. Kamburie party moved to railway station. We were warned party of 50 may be required from here at short notice. 1030 hrs. Party of 1 offr & 50 o/rs detailed to move. Departed from station about 1500 hrs. 1345 hrs. 450 arrived from No.1 Camp. 208 left immediately for station. Remaining 242 remained here until 2300 hrs. Then moved to station to board train due to leave 0700 hrs 21/11.

21 NOV QX4940 Sigmn HART F.H. died at NIEKE of beri-beri, dysentery after long illness. 1330 hrs. Party of 100 arrived from No.2 Camp. Quartered here. 20 transferred to us for permanent duties.. 1900 hrs. First party of 200 arrived from Burma Hospital on way south. Slept at station. Fed by us night & morning. Cold night.

22 NOV Fine day. 1300 hrs. Received advice 400 from No.2 Camp & 200 from Burma Hospital would be passing through at 1900 hrs. We have to prepare evening meal, breakfast & two carrying meals for whole party. 1900 hrs. Meal for 600 taken to station. 2030 hrs. Train will not be in until 2300 hrs by which time ALL meals must be ready. All meals ready by 2330 hrs.

23 NOV 0030 hrs. Party of 400 from No.2 Camp arrived at station. Burma party will arrive at 1000 hrs. 0200 hrs. 124 fit men from No.2 Camp will be left with us. 39 heavy sick of ours to go on train. 0230 hrs. Another 31 light sick left with us. 1530 hrs. Another 41 Med Ords left with us. 0400 hrs. Our men started to serve food after waiting since midnight.

2000 hrs. Capt Lloyd & 37 o/rs moved out. 2330 hrs. Capt Angers *(?)* & 119 o/rs moved out.

24 NOV Party of 30 moved out hurriedly at 1100 hrs. (Still at station next morning). 2030 hrs. Capt Sabin *(?)* & 100 o/rs marched out leaving us with 66 permanent duties (fit men) only.

25 NOV 0030 hrs. Advised 200 from Tanbaya arriving. Med orderlies etc. returned to bed at 0330 hrs. 0600 hrs. Capt Sabin’s party fed. 1530 hrs. Party arrived from Tanbaya. Fed. Then moved on. 2100 hrs. Party of 10 required to move. 2200 hrs. Party recalled as another group of 207 from No.1 Camp unexpectedly arrived at station. 87 men quartered by us. Remaining 120 moved on at 0730 hrs next morning after being fed by us.

Weather. Very cold nights, warm days.

26 NOV Further movement from up north (Tanbaya & Kami Sonkurai). Capt Stahl passed through. Cooks kept busy.

27 NOV Nine men from Kami Sonkuria buried including NX68212 Sigmn HOLLOWAY R.F..

1500 hrs. Information received that NIEKE had to be clear tonight. Subsequently 25 men left behind to clean up. 1930 hrs. Personnel moving marched to station. Boarded train at 2230 hrs. Left NIEKE at 0730 hrs on 28 NOV.

28 NOV On train – 29 to truck.

29 NOV 0400 HRS. Arrived BRENKARLIE. Left about 1930 hrs.

30 NOV 1100 hrs. Arrived TARSO, food. Left about 1700 hrs. Arrived KAMBURIE at 2130. Left sick at Hospital Camp. Remainder marched to fit camp.

DATE EVENT

1 DEC Sorting out.

2 DEC Lt. Col. Kappe & 500 o/rs marched out – destination Singapore – about 1200 hrs approx.. *(Blank space)* Sig personnel in party. Also Capt Hardacre and Lieut May.

Information that NX29700 Sigmn SMITH M.D. and NX56912 Sigmn HUNTER R.M. had died at KAMBURIE HOSPITAL.

3 DEC 0815 hrs. Capt Barnett informed that I.J.A. had ordered he was to remain at KAMBURIE until rear party marched out. Capt Stahl appointed Registrar of Hospital.

*(NOTE: Captain Fred Stahl’s memoirs are available as a PDF file)*

4 DEC 1430 rs. Capt Stahl & Capt Barnett marched out to Hospital as Registrar & Q.M. respectively. At Hospital there are about 30 Signals from 'F' Force‘& ‘H’ Force. Officers there at the moment are Lieuts Stewart, Anderson, Henderson & Gawley. Lieuts Conway, Harrison & Mansfield recently went south.

5 DEC Sigmn Gorey & Sigmn O’Donoghue on dangerously ill list. Food here good particularly when supplemented by canteen supplies (eggs 10 for $1.00, sugar, peanut- coffee, potatoes, etc.)

6 DEC VX53638 Sigmn GOREY T.I. died at KAMBURIE HOSPITAL following long illness.

7 DEC 1800 hrs. H Force personnel warned they would all be moving within next 3 days. Lieut Gawley and 16 o/rs of Signals effected.

14 DEC ‘F’ Force will be moving due next few days. Capt Stahl & Capt Barnett remaining at KAMBURIE. Sigmn O’DONOHUE dangerously ill. Weather – fine days, cool nights.

15 DEC VX68733 Sigmn O’DONOHUE P.C. died of dysentery , ulcers.

‘F’ Force personnel started to move to Singapore.

18 DEC Move to Singapore completed. Move of *(Kamburie)* Hospital to old fit camp started. Padre Vellacott dangerously ill. Total Signals left in Hospital 2 offrs (Stahl & Barnett) and 26 o/rs.

19 DEC Padre Vellacott died.

*APPENDICES:*

*The diary has 2 appendices.*

*The first is a summary of the officers of 8 Divisional Signals and their distribution on the railway (‘A’ Force, ‘F’ Force and ‘H’ Force) for the months of June, July, August, September, October 1943.*

*The second is a hand-written summary prepared by Captain Fred Stahl showing how to identify and treat the main illnesses encountered in Thailand – fever, malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, diphtheria, beri-beri, typhus.*

*ON RETURN TO SINGAPORE Capt Barnett, as adjutant of 8th Division Signals, compiled a detailed ledger of all 8th Div Sigs deaths that occurred on the Thailand railway. This ledger is held by the Signals Museum at McLeod in Melbourne, Victoria.*