

1945**WAR DIARY**

REF MAPS

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I.  
Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

OR  
**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**  
(Erase heading not required)

1/25,000  
TAMU NORTH  
TAMU SOUTH  
84 J/1

(a) ORIGINAL  
~~(b) DUPLICATE~~  
~~(c) TRIPLICATE~~

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
1st JANUARY - TAMU.	General Holiday for New Years Day. C.O. 2i/c & A/Adj visited companies.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
2nd JANUARY - TAMU.	B & D Companies left base camp for 2 days river crossing practice on the YU River approximate reference Square 8176. Capt (Adj) J.R. STEWART returned from 7th Indian Division HQ & resumed appointment of Adjutant. 2 men admitted to hospital today. 2 BORS joined as reinforcements.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
3rd JANUARY - TAMU.	Bn carried out normal training i.e. Open country warfare, & thick jungle warfare, compass & navigation in close country. One man admitted to hospital & seven arrived back in the Bn from hospital. 1 BOR returned from leave.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
4th JANUARY - TAMU.	MAJOR Browning leaves Bn to take new appointment as 2/I/C 1st Queens at Shillong. Companies carried out training as above. Summary of Evidence taken by the Adjutant in the case of No 3316450 Pte Arnott J.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
5th JANUARY - TAMU.	Advance party under command of Captain T.R. Turnbull ie 1 Officer & 9 men left TAMU area map 791776 (TAMU-SOUTH) to proceed to Bn concentration area INTHE - MYITTHA River Valley. M/R 589168 (ref map 84 J/1). B & D Companies returned to Bn Base Camp. Admin instructions issued to Coys for move to Bn concentration area. Two BORS returned from hospital.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
6th JANUARY - TAMU.	After a very wet night, due to "CHRISTMAS MONSOONS", the Bn remained under cover of bivouacs & spent the morning clearing & maintaining weapons. Bn camp area turned into a "quagmire" and water had to be drained into a nearby chaung. A F.G.C.M. was held at Bn HQ in the case of Pte Arnott. Major Rose was President, Capt Stewart - Prosecutor, Capt Calderbank - Defending Officer &	

<p>7th JANUARY - TAMU.</p>	<p>Lieut Geddes as a member of the court. The Bn was inoculated with T.A.B. and anti-Tetanus today.</p> <p>Extremely heavy rain continued throughout the night, but at about 0900 hrs the sun broke through. The remainder of the day was spent in drying clothes, erecting new shelters &amp; cleaning weapons. All roads are closed &amp; the move to the concentration area was indefinitely postponed. 3 BORs were admitted to hospital. Holy Communion &amp; Morning Service was cancelled due to the rain.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>8th JANUARY - TAMU.</p>	<p>Weather is back to normal again &amp; training resumed. B Company went out on a route march to the YU RIVER (TAMU-SOUTH) where zeroing of weapons, river crossing practice &amp; swimming took place. They returned to camp at 1300 hrs. The Padre, Rev AM Campbell, held his usual Padres hour and the subject of repatriation for BORs was widely discussed. One man was admitted to hospital.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>9th JANUARY - TAMU</p>	<p>Transport to move the Bn has still not arrived, due to the roads being closed with the 2 days rain. The Bn was put on a "4 hours notice", &amp; companies marched to the River camp area to continue "Watermanship" training. See YU River (TAMU-SOUTH). Three BORs were admitted to hospital and 1 discharged. 1 BOR rejoined the Bn from leave. Pte Bell (No. 3190416) rejoined us having completed a Motor Mechanics Course at Rawalpindi.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>10th JANUARY - TAMU.</p>	<p>The Commanding Officer held an R+O Group &amp; explained that transport would arrive to move the Bn. Since no exact time was obtainable the Bn was to be ready to move at 0900 hrs. At 1045 hrs, word was received that our transport had been diverted to some other unit, &amp; that there would be no more before the 12th January. The C.O. then gave orders to re-erect bivouacs etc, &amp; put the Bn on 4 hours notice to move. Since it was into the afternoon before the camp was put in order &amp; meals prepared, the remainder of the afternoon was spent in sports &amp; "Housey-Housey". The companies challenged each other at Basketball &amp; provided plenty of amusement to the Bn. Weather has now changed &amp; the roads are now nearly back to normal. 5 men were admitted to hospital.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>

11th JANUARY - TAMU.	<p>Lieut Brazier with 2 jeeps &amp; trailers left at 0700 hrs this morning for TAUKKYAN ( ) taking with him mail which had been held up for 4 days. He was ordered to bring back the mail for the whole Brigade, &amp; to purchase as many cigarettes as possible. Cigarettes have been very short &amp; we have completely exhausted our meagre reserves. Incoming mail for the past 4 days still unlocated. 1 man admitted to hospital.</p>	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
12th JANUARY - TAMU.	<p>Corps transport arrived at 1830 hrs and was allotted to Companies. Trucks loaded up &amp; lined up ready for the move out at 0330 hrs on 13 JAN. Bn then rested or slept until 0200 hrs 13 JAN. Lieut Brazier arrived back to Bn area at 2345 hrs having been unsuccessful in obtaining any incoming mail. This is the 5th day without mail &amp; already there are signs of discontent amongst the men.</p>	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
13th JANUARY - TAMU. - INTHE	<p>Reveille was at 0200 hrs, &amp; the Bn had tea served which was made by the baggage party. At 0330 hrs the Bn moved out in Corps transport for destination at Bde concentration area at INTHE (ref map 84J/1 - 589168). At 0715 hrs the Bn arrived at YAZAGYO - mile 61 (RP 5705 - map 84I (Eastwards) &amp; halted for breakfast. At 0950 hrs the Bn moved on to Stage No.6 TAUKKYAN - 84I (RP 5055 on Quarter inch map) which was to be our destination for that day. On arrival there our Bde L.O. Lieut Thomas informed us that we were to proceed to INTHE (ref map 84J/1 - 589168) by transport. Bn arrived in area INTHE at 1600 hrs &amp; was met by Capt Turnbull and guides who directed companies to their respective areas. The C.O. held an "O" Group at 1700 hrs &amp; informed Coy Commanders as to the Tactical Situation. "Stand-to" was at 1800 hrs, &amp; all lights, fires, smoking &amp; talking were to be restricted to a minimum. 1 man to hospital &amp; 5 men rejoined from hospital, also 4 men from leave.</p>	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
14th JANUARY - INTHE.	<p>2/Lieut Hewitt joined the Bn today &amp; was posted to D Company. Stand-to at 0600 hrs started the day for us &amp; the Bn proceeded to improve positions. Brigade Operation Order No2 received at 0800 hrs. The C.O. held R&amp;O Group, giving orders for onward move of Bn to area 1000x SE of KINYANTAUNG (near MYINTHA 628960 (84J/2). This was on an all pack basis &amp; we received 50 extra mules to lift blankets, mosquito nets &amp; groundsheets. The C.O. &amp; the Adj attended a conference at Bde HQ on future operations. The remainder of the day was spent in rope-loading kit &amp; washing</p>	

<p>15th JANUARY - KINYANTAUNG.</p>	<p>clothes etc. The Bn marched out at 1800 hrs to the skirl of the pipes playing the regimental march past on the following order of march. Bn HQ, HQ, D, C, B &amp; A Coys followed by the mules.</p> <p>The Bn arrived in the Stage No.1 area at (621960 - area MYINTHA (84J/2 one inch) after a gruelling 16 mile night march. Advance parties met the Bn &amp; put people in their respective area. Stand-to was at 0600 hrs &amp; thereafter the day was spent in resting &amp; sleeping. The C.O. held an "O" Group at Bn HQ at 1400 hrs, giving details for the onward march of the Bn to KAN (363240 - 84J/3 one inch map). The Bn moved out at 1800 hrs in the following order of march. Mules, Bn HQ, C, B, HQ, A, D &amp; Admin Coys. Still no sign of incoming mail. 2 men admitted to hospital.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>16th JANUARY - KAN</p>	<p>Bn arrived in the area of KAN, Stage 2 (363240 - 84J/3 1" to 1 mile) at 1245 hrs on 15th January after another very hard 12 mile march. The roads were extremely dusty &amp; very rough with the result a number of sprained ankles to some feet were involved. Since no moon was up it made the march very difficult. Bn rested as on the 16th JAN &amp; the C.O. gave out orders for the move to Stage 3. The Bn moved out at 1800 hrs as follows. Mules, Bn HQ, D, HQ, A, B, C and Admin Coys. We arrived at our destination after 13½ miles of rough marching. Our destination was changed from area KAN to 4½ miles further on. Bn marched out at 1800 hrs &amp; arrived at destination at 2310 hrs. Men received the usual hot tea and haversack rations on arrival.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>17th JANUARY - TEHLAW.</p>	<p>After having had approx 6 hours sleep the Bn "Stood-to" at 0600 hrs. The CO had a conference &amp; informed us that there was a possibility of Japanese Long Range patrols operating in our area. The necessary precautions were taken. At 1200 hrs the C.O. attended a conference at Bde &amp; gave out orders for Column "B" of which he was to command for the forward move of the Bde. The remainder of the day was spent in cutting down kit to a bare minimum &amp; making final arrangements for rear &amp; baggage parties. At 1830 hrs the CO held an "O" Group conference &amp; gave orders for next move forward on the 19th. At 1835 the Adj received a message that 40 reinforcements were at KAN (363240 - 84J/3 1" to 1 mile) airfield. Trucks were despatched &amp; returned with 2 officers &amp; 26 ORs. Remainder of reinforcement were for the 1/11 Sikhs &amp; 4/8 Gurkhas. Captain Ferguson &amp; Lieut Killip were the 2 officers. Capt Ferguson assumed appointment of Mortar Officer. 9 BORS</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>

18th JANUARY - TEHLAW.	admitted to hospital & 2 rejoined Bn from hospital. 1 man returned from a course & 3 from leave.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
19th JANUARY - SAINGDU	Bn still resting & organising for the Column march which is to advance SOUTH to contact Japs who are withdrawing SOUTH. Bn area is TEHLAW (84J/3 - 349155 1" to 1 mile). The C.O. attended a conference at Div HQ near KAN. CO held an R&O Group & gave orders out for the move to area SAINGDU (388980 84J/4). Stand to now changed to 1815 hrs.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
20th JANUARY - SAINGDU	The Bn moved out from TEHLAW & marched 14 miles along a very dusty and rough road to our destination near SAINGDU (388980 - 84J/4). The going was very bad but the troops, although very tired came on in grand form. Guides met the respective groups and the Bn went into Protected Areas. Ten men were evacuated to the Bn base as unfit. COs "O" Group at 1700 hrs gave detail for onward march of Bn. Men engaged in refreshing wash & swim in a nearby river. The C.O., Lieut Radcliffe & the Rev Campbell were ordered to be evacuated by the M.O. on the 20th JAN.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
21st JANUARY - TAZAN	The Bn had "stand-to" at 0600 hrs, breakfasts at 0645 hrs, moved out at 0800 hrs. Bn arrived at LENU (439891 - 84J/4) after a reasonable 12 mile march. We still have managed to bring up 6 Jeeps & trailers with us. Still no mail.	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
22nd JANUARY - KYAW	Bn arrived at TAZAN ( ) after a good 14 mile march. Colonel Conder handed over command of B Column to Colonel Hamilton 1/11 Sikhs. Col Hamilton gave Major Rose orders that our Bn had to do an encircling march on its own. No jeeps & trailers can travel over our route & so we are now on an all pack basis. The men unfit to do the distance have been weeded out & were returned to base. MT under command Capt Stalker travel with Column B. We had an air-drop by Dakotas including 2 days F.S. rations. Kit now reduced to 1 Battledress, F.S.M.O. washing & shaving kit. C.O. gave orders for onward move to KYAW (630643 - 84J/5 1" to 1 mile).	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj
	Bn moved out in 3 groups. At 0600 hrs Major Courtenay-Hood now acting 2/i/c & Lieut Culpin with 1 Pl moved out as a Flying Column to go on ahead to arrange our disps & to get guides & coolies for next days march. C Coy plus R&O Groups under the C.O. left at 0630 hrs & the main body left at 0645 hrs under the Adj.	

	<p>1 BIC bombardier &amp; 1 Burmese guide went with the flying column &amp; the Advance party respectively. Bn arrived at KYAW after a very gruelling march over a 16 mile elephant track &amp; took up a defensive night position near KYAW (630643). C.O. made contact with CO Chin Hill Bn &amp; got latest information on Japanese movements. Our air-drop did NOT materialise so now reduced to 1 days FS rations &amp; emergency rations. Mules in good condition. C.O. gave out orders for onward move.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>23rd JANUARY - TANDAW</p>	<p>Bn moved out as above with guides with A Coy leading &amp; after doing the 17 miles over the elephant track arrived at TANDAW (683465 84K/5 1" to 1 mile) with all the men in good heart. Natives gave us a good welcome &amp; seemed very friendly. Had a successful air-drop today. No mail dropped. CO had R&amp;O groups at 1600 hrs for onward move. Plenty water available from KYAW CHAUNG. No sick except blistered feet &amp; sores.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>24th JANUARY - MAUK-KABAING</p>	<p>Bn "stood-to" at 0600 hrs, had breakfast at 0630 hrs &amp; marched out as the 2 previous with D Coy leading &amp; with B, Bn HQ &amp; HQ Coy, C &amp; A Coy escorting the mules. Travelling along the elephant track the Bn reached the village of MAUK-KABAING (633332 - 84K/6 1" to 1 mile) after an 8 mile march. Original intention had been to go to TAUNG-KABAING (630302 - 84K/6) but contact was made with B Column &amp; the CO had orders to wait here. Air-drop successful &amp; official mail was dropped by 2 AUSTERS on the Paddy field nearby.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>25th JANUARY - NYAUNGBINTHA</p>	<p>At 0700 hrs the main body left MAUK-KABIN with local guides &amp; acted as Advance guard to B Column. At 1030 hrs Bn less D Coy &amp; mules arrived at destination &amp; proceeded to put a road-block across the TILIN-PAUK ROAD at MS 57-57½ (656205). Dispositions were as follows. A Coy - 655208. B Coy - 656212. C Coy 657213. D Coy area 664213 protecting Bn HQ, HQ Coy &amp; Admin Coy. 1 Pl D Coy on high ground (664209), Bn HQ at 661211. Air strip &amp; water points were secured. Bn dug in &amp; settled down for the night. Capt Young &amp; 5 men patrolled to NYAUNGBINTHA (679195 - 84K/6) but no enemy seen. Stand-to at 1815 hrs.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>26th JANUARY - NYAUNGBINTHA</p>	<p>Stand-to started day at 0600 hrs. At 0615 hrs message received to say 30 JAPS arrived NYAUNGBINTHA &amp; about 10 JAPS in area (655200 - 84K/6). CO sent out D Coy plus 1 Pl of A Coy &amp; 1 det Mortars to destroy the enemy. Later report, 20 to 30 JAPS withdrew into area SOUTH and from CHAUNG-U (6916 - 84K/6). D Coy met no opposition &amp;</p>	

<p>27th JANUARY - THAYETTAW</p>	<p>returned to base leaving 1 pl at NYAUNGBINTHA. Patrols to SATHEIN (710210) and PEBINSHIMA (685190) &amp; reported N.E.S. Patrol to CHAUNG-U also saw no enemy.</p> <p>At 0600 hrs this morning firing broke out to the SOUTH of our position on the main road near our Bn positions at NYAUNGBINTHA. It turned out to be about 30 Japs who ran into the Gunners who were harboured on the main road. Fire was returned &amp; the Japs retreated SOUTH towards THAYETTAW (706099 - 84K/7). Bn moved out at 0830 hrs having first sent out a Platoon under Lieut Geddes to clear road to MS 56. He reported N.E.S. but reported plenty of footprints. Bn arrived in area of THAYETTAW at about 1330 hrs after passing through 1/11 Sikhs at PAUK &amp; cleared road to the high ground SOUTH of THAYETTAW. Bn HQ set up in the CHAUNG at (701099 - 84K/7) with COYS disposed of as follows. B Coy on ring contour (695099) to road running along chaung from WEST to EAST &amp; tying in with D Coy at 695094 who were on the high ground &amp; astride the track. A Coy sat astride the track near the village of THAYETTAW at about (705098 - 84J/7) linking up with C Coy on high ground at about (706093) thus forming all round defence. Distance marched was about 12 miles along very dusty earth track. Lt-Colonel Conder, Capt Rev Campbell &amp; 10 men rejoined the Bn. Major Rose assumed 2/i/c and Major Courtenay-Hood took over command of B Coy. - 9 men evacuated sick to ADS today. The Brigadier arrived and gave the CO orders for onward move of Bn. We have 1 Bty (500 Bty of 136 Fd Regt in support who came into our "Box" at (702099). C.O. gave out verbal orders at 1800 hrs. Quiet night &amp; our patrols &amp; ambushes reported N.E.S.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>28th JANUARY - TANGEDAW.</p>	<p>Bn stand-to at 1600 hrs &amp; moved out at 0730 hrs in the following order of march. A Coy, Tac HQ, "O" Group, Bty of 136 Fd Regt, REs, C Coy, Bn HQ, HQ Coy, RAP, mules and D Coy. B Coy remained behind to protect a troop of guns which were in support, &amp; followed on behind on being relieved by 4/8 GR. The objective was to be the high ground on the EAST bank of the YAW-CHAUNG in square (8705). Failing to make the high ground, the Bn was to establish itself near the area of THANBYA-AING (8504 - 84K/11). The Bn after crossing the YAW CHAUNG twice &amp; clearing the high ground and villages eventually arrived at square (8404) without opposition. A Coy reported that enemy seen on high ground area (8705). The C.O. ordered the gunners &amp; the Mortar Officer to tickle this up, &amp; whilst this was going on A Coy crossed the</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>

	<p>chaung &amp; eventually secured objective. Bn took up a defended locality roughly as follows. A Coy on hill feature (862053) connecting up with C who were on high ground (873056). C Coy connected up with D Coy who established themselves on high ground at (876052) &amp; in turn linked up with B Coy whose area was from 876048 to chaung then along chaung to connect up with A Coy. Brigadier arrived &amp; gave the C.O. his orders for next days move which were passed on by the CO at R&amp;O groups conference at 1745 hrs. Patrols reported N.E.S. but had information of Jap activities around the villages of YEBYADAW (8803) and THAMADAW (8903). Verrey-lights presumably fired by Jap isolated parties seen at 2359 hrs to our NORTH &amp; SOUTH. Rest of night very quiet. B Coy plus the Mortar Pl &amp; 1 Gunner FOO moved out at midnight to secure our next days objective of Pt 997 near the village of YOZAYAT (024003 - 84K/11). Men are in good heart &amp; morale is very high. Rations were brought up in our jeeps who now return to Bn command. The sick-rate is very low &amp; is mostly due to blistered feet. Boots are getting in a bad state &amp; we hope to get an air-drop of boots in a day or two.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
<p>29th JANUARY - YOZAYAT</p>	<p>Bn arrived at YOZAYAT (024003) after an uneventful but gruelling &amp; dusty 11 miles march. A Recce patrol through the village under Sgt Kennedy was fired on by 5 or 6 JAPS. B Coy put a road block on the road 3 miles to the EAST and encircled to the SOUTH, but met with no success. The Bn disposed themselves as follows on this the most tactical position in the area. Bn HQ area (025002) C Coy (025006 to astride road (028003) A Coy - 028003 to 025000. B Coy 025000 to &amp; incl road 023003. D Coy 023003 to link up &amp; complete defended locality at 025006. Standing patrols at pt 1127 square 0201. Track junction 029035. Track junction 018982. Patrols fighting to village of MAGYITHONBIN (045002) and via pt 1127 to track junction 029035 thence to village of HNAWBAUK (012043) thence by track back to pt 1127. Gunners with 1 Bty (500 Bty) are in our perimeter at 024002. Water shown on map at 022007 non-existent but 2 large pools of water in the Bn area suitable for washing &amp; drinking. CO had orders group &amp; informed us that we would likely stay in the position for 2 or 3 days to let other elements catch up with us. Washing of clothes, kit checks etc were to be put into force immediately. Some of our heavy baggage arrived at about 1700 hrs &amp; we were able to make ourselves more comfortable for the night. Remainder of the night quiet &amp; nothing to report.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>



30th JANUARY - YOZAYAT	<p>Stand-to at 0600 hrs started the day. Then our ambush &amp; standing patrols started returning to camp. They had been most unfortunate &amp; just missed catching some Japs in each case. With a bottle of beer at stake for the first "dead" Nippon, presented by Col Conder, the rivalry is terrific, &amp; the keenness shown by all ranks is worthy of the Regiment. At about 0915 hrs 2 signallers from Bde HQ on their DRLS run to us were shot up by a Jap ambush party with an LMG 2 miles to the WEST and our rear at approx 875 (square 9999). One signaller came on &amp; reported this to us whilst the other returned to Bde. A patrol from B Coy circled to the SOUTH under Lieut Brazier to try &amp; cut the Japs retreat. They were very unfortunate &amp; missed bagging any, but saw plenty of footprints which they tracked for several miles. Evidence of cooking was abundant but they still had no success in meeting any Japs. Colonel Conder ordered Major Russell of C Coy to send out 20 men in jeeps to hare down the road to PYITAING (147965 - 84K/15) with the object of catching some Nippons unawares. This mobile jeep patrol under Lieut Scott dressed up as Burmans &amp; armed to the teeth set out at 0910 hrs on their mission. They too had no luck &amp; only missed a party of Japs by 10 minutes. The dust must have given the show away because the Japs hared out of it as fast as they could. Other patrols had N.T.R. &amp; N.E.S. Remainder of the jeep patrol brought in 9 Burmans, 9 Bullock-carts &amp; 18 Bullocks which we will use in lieu of mules to fetch water, carry rations etc, &amp; save our petrol. It will also prevent the Jap procuring same for use on his "Whirlwind Retreat". Bn up to date has marched 168 miles, &amp; the mule-leaders under Lieut McNish have traversed between 400 &amp; 500 miles on foot since we left Kohima &amp; still going strong. 4 men evacuated sick &amp; Mr Munro admitted to hospital. The CO made some new NCO promotions to fill existing vacancies. Outgoing mail for the 1st time was taken to Bde. Mail is being received alright now. Rations are improving &amp; are collected from the air-dropping zone at SIN THE (9201 - 84K/11) daily. Remainder of the day spent on interior economy. A very quiet night &amp; nothing to report.</p>	
31st JANUARY - YOZAYAT	<p>After an uneventful night with the exception of fires burning 12 to 15 miles from our positions, to the SOUTH &amp; to the EAST in the proximity of the IRRIWADDY RIVER (which we can see on a clear day from here), there was nothing else to report throughout the night. After stand-down Lieut Hewitt with 3 men went out on a 24 hrs patrol to observe movement of the enemy in the area of the</p>	J.R. Stewart Capt & Adj

	<p>oilwells (squares 0683, 0682 &amp; 0681 - 84K/15). Our standing patrols from point 1127 (0201), track junction 029035 and track junction at 018982 had nothing to report. The CO Colonel Conder decided that there was a possibility that the Bn may be called upon to take the oilwells &amp; since we were the best placed troops for the job, he sent out recce patrols to report on the track as far as pt 1003 (square 0394 - 84K/11). Patrol reported track unsuitable, so the CO ordered out HQ Coy &amp; D Coy, lock stock &amp; barrel to make it jeepable. The CO being very keen to take the oilwells was preparing his plans well ahead, &amp; by 1700 hrs HQ &amp; D Coys returned reporting the track jeepable up to &amp; beyond pt 547 (square 0591 - 84K/15). The remainder of the track was OK down to the plain. The Coys certainly did a marvellous job of work &amp; spared no efforts to get the job done. Lieut Arnott of C Coy &amp; 10 men left in 2 groups to go to KANDAW (2493 - 84K/15) &amp; create a spot of trouble, also to find out whether there were any JAPS in that area as previously reported by Tac R. He left his jeeps in a hide-out in the area of YELA-ALE (1698 - 84K/15) &amp; cut across to the high ground NORTH of KANDAW. Villagers reported 25 JAPS in the village &amp; that 1 JAP had gone NORTH just before arrival of patrol. Investigation found no Nippons &amp; the patrol returned to the jeeps by bounds along the main road, keeping it under observation, thence back to camp. Boots have been issued by the QM, so we are now equipped for our onward march to TOKYO. Cigarettes are more plentiful &amp; mail is both going &amp; coming alright. Men are eager to be at the Jap &amp; we hope that Colonel Conder can persuade the higher-up to let us have our crack at the oil wells.</p>	<p>J.R. Stewart Capt &amp; Adj</p>
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