

# THE STORY OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IN QUEENSLAND SEPTEMBER 1939 - SEPTEMBER 1945

## 1943 - RE-ALLOCATION OF FUNCTIONS

The three outstanding events of Intelligence interest during 1943 were the re-allocation of functions of Queensland Line of Communication Area in relation to First Aust Army, the re-organisation of the Intelligence staff consequent thereon, and the imposition of Field Censorship in North Queensland.

### Re-allocation of Functions

In the re-allotment of functions of First Aust Army and Queensland Line of Communication Area, the functions of General Staff Intelligence, Headquarters Queensland Line of Communication Area were set out as being:-

- (a) Maintenance of Military Directory of Queensland (see Pt 3)
- (b) Intelligence relating to Prisoners of War and Detainees (see Pt 6)
- (c) All matters relating to National Security Regulations in respect of which a delegation was held by GOC, Queensland Line of Communication Area (see Pt 4)
- (d) Censorship (see Pt 5)
- (e) Local security (see Pt 7)
- (f) MRO Organisation (see Pt 8)
- (g) Issue of a Weekly Intelligence Summary

General Staff Intelligence, First Aust Army was given the responsibility over all operational Intelligence and security of Field Formations.

As a result of this re-allocation of duties, the War Establishment of General Staff Intelligence, Headquarters Queensland Line of Communication Area was reduced by three officers and two other ranks, which brought the Establishment to 17 officers and 25 other ranks, 4 civilian typistes and 1 civilian messenger.

Among the officers, this allowed for one GSO 1 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, on GSO 11 with the rank of Major, one GSO 111 with the rank of Captain, and 14 Intelligence Officers, 9 with the rank of Captain and 5 with the rank of Lieutenant.

The re-allotment of responsibilities and the re-organisation of Intelligence staff became effective in April 1943.

### Censorship Imposed in North Queensland

All Field Censorship Sections were merged into 1 Australian Field Censorship Company in June 1943, the establishment of the Company providing for 140 all ranks. General Staff Intelligence Headquarters Queensland Line of Communications Area was charged with the responsibility for effecting the necessary transfers and securing such additional personnel as were necessary to establish the Company.

About the same time the question of imposing censorship upon all communications in North Queensland was discussed, and as a result authority was given by War Cabinet on 17th July 1943, for the following:-

1. The Postmaster-General to make an order prohibiting all trunk line telephone calls in and out of the area.
2. 100% censorship on all mail and telegrams, military and civilian, outward from the area.
3. Gazettal of a National Security Regulation prohibiting civilians from posting letters or lodging telegrams for members of the forces, Prisoners of War, or Internees in the area.
4. Gazettal of a regulation conferring power on the Army to interrogate persons regarding their movements in to or out of the area.

The area referred to was that area of Queensland north of the northern boundaries of the Shires of Barkly Tableland, Cloncurry, McKinley, Wyangarie, Flinders, Dalrymple and Thuringowa.

For the purpose of implementing censorship in North Queensland, authority was granted for the raising of a detachment supernumerary to establishment of 1 Australian Field Censorship Company, comprising 15 officers and 45 NCOs. This detachment under command of Capt J.D. Brown, who had previously been GSO 111 (lbc) Headquarters Queensland Line of Communication Area, moved into the Cairns area on 11th August 1943, after having undergone a course of training with the District Censor, Brisbane.

The detachment was to operate for a period of six months, after which a decision was to be made as to its continuance or otherwise. At the end of the period it was considered advisable to continue the censorship restrictions in that area, and the supernumerary detachment was absorbed by 1 Australian Field Censorship Company on 10th February, 1944, and comprised a total of 200 all ranks.

### **New Officers Appointed**

During 1943, three officers joined the Section, Capt W.J. Tanner who transferred from LHQ and took over duty in charge I(b) Sub-Section, had served with the AIF during the 1914-1918 war and had been mentioned in despatches. Subsequently Capt Tanner assumed duty as Ix, and in May 1944, he was transferred to LHQ as Military Intelligence Supervisor of Prisoner of War and Internment Camps.

Lieut D.M. Gunn was transferred from 12 Australian Field Censorship Section in June 1943, and assumed duty in I(c) Sub-Section. Lieut Gunn had been a member of Field Security Wing. In August 1943, he was transferred to 1 Australian Field Censorship Company.

Lieut J.B. Selman, who was transferred from 11 Australian Field Censorship Section in July 1943, had seen service during the Great War. He was attached to I(c) Sub-Section for duty and in November, 1943, was transferred to the Darwin Detachment of 1 Australian Field Censorship Company.