

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

## 1945 - YEAR OF VICTORY

1945 saw the successful conclusion of the war, Germany capitulating on 7 May 1945, and Japan surrendering unconditionally on 15 August 1945. The rapid development of events in Europe and in the Pacific which resulted in Allied victory was reflected in the activities of GS (Int), HQ Qld L of C Area. From the beginning of the year there was a steady speeding up of the tempo until September when the climax was reached. With the attainment of victory, there were no sudden or very marked relaxations of pressure, as this Headquarters immediately set about the task of preparation for demobilisation and the change-over to peacetime conditions.

### Censorship Activities

At the beginning of 1944 the detachments of 1 Aust Field Censorship Company stationed at Cairns, Innisfail and Atherton came under command of this Headquarters. While this added to the work of I(c) Sub-Section, it had the great advantage of ensuring unified control of censorship throughout the State.

The work of I(c) Sub-Section was further complicated by the issue by First Aust Army of an instruction that troops overseas would be allowed to mention their location, provided that their unit had been in the area for a period of one month or had been in action. The policing of this instruction entailed a very considerable amount of work to ensure that only those troops entitled to the concession availed themselves to it.

The issue of Standing Orders for 1 Aust Field Censorship Company in February, 1945, did much to ensure uniformity in the general operation of Field Censorship (see Pt 5).

With the cessation of hostilities the use of Unit Censor Stamps was discontinued and instructions were issued for the withdrawal of stamps. Instructions were also received for the closing down of the office of the District Censor, the disbandment of the North Queensland and Brisbane Detachments of 1 Aust Field Censorship Company and the discontinuance of censorship of outgoing mail of Prisoners of War.

### Field Security Sections

In January, 1945, LHQ ordered the disbandment of "G" Aust FS Section stationed at Strathpine and 2 Aust FS Section stationed at Cairns, the administrative work in connection with these disbandments devolving upon this Headquarters. In the same month "O" Aust FS Section was placed under command of HQ, Qld L of C Area.

In February, 1945, "L" Aust FS Sect which was stationed at Cairns was also disbanded, while in the following month 29 Aust FS Section took over security duties at this Headquarters, "O" Aust FS Section being placed under Warning Order for movement and instructions being received for the disbandment of 30 Aust FS Section.

In September, 1945, "R" Aust FS Section was disbanded and instructions were received for the disbandment of "F" Aust FS Section and "T" Aust FS Section attached to 4 Aust Armoured Brigade. The disbandment of "K" Aust FS Section was also ordered.

## **Issue of Passes**

At the end of 1944 GS (Int) HQ Qld L of C Area assumed control of the issue on behalf of HQ Northern Territory Force of permits to civilians to enter the Northern Territory, and at the same time took over on behalf of First Aust Army the issue of permits to civilians to enter the Torres Straits area. A month later, by direction of this Headquarters, GS (Int) became responsible for the issue of all passes to Military establishments in Qld L of C Area. The issue of passes in respect to civilians entering the Northern Territory and the Torres Strait area continued until the end of 1945, by which time GS (Int) HQ Qld L of C Area had issued approximately 1,100 permits to civilians to enter the Northern Territory. Some idea of the magnitude of this work alone can be gauged from the fact that each application involved carrying out a security check of the applicant.

Following the cessation of hostilities National Security (General) Regulation 7A, covering the control of entry to wharves and ships was rescinded and the delegations of authority made by the Deputy Director of Navigation and Lighthouses to the GSO 2 (Int) and I(x) at this Headquarters were withdrawn. In view of the fact that there was still considerable movement of troops and military cargoes through the Port of Brisbane, the GOC directed that the Army should control the wharves during the arrival or departure of vessels carrying troops or military cargoes. Special passes covering admission to wharves and ships during such periods as the Army was in control were printed and issued by GS (Int). No person, whether civilian or a member of the AMF, was allowed to enter a wharf or board a ship which was being operated by the Army unless in the possession of such pass.

## **Activities of I(a) Sub-Section**

In May, 1945, GS (Int) took over from LHQ the co-ordination of requests from First Aust Army and Formations on the mainland for aerial photographs, and their submission to RAAF Photographic Section, together with subsequent dispatch to the formations concerned. This work was done by I(a) Sub-Section.

On the closing of the offices of the local Intelligence Officers, I(a) Sub-Section examined all reports and documents taken over, and any material of value so found was incorporated into the records of I(a) at this Headquarters. The closing of the offices of the local Intelligence Officers also necessitated bringing the whole of the MRO organisation (see Pt 8) under the direct control of this Headquarters, and to this end it was necessary to issue a new set of instructions to each MRO.

Two other undertakings carried out by I(a) Sub-Section immediately after the conclusion of hostilities were the compilation of new atlases of Queensland, 1 mile to 1 inch and 4 miles to 1 inch, and the production of a water map tracing showing all sources of water supply in Queensland.

## **Security Duties**

The move of 1 Aust Corps from Atherton Tableland to New Guinea very materially increased the security activities of GS (Int), and in March, 1945, by direction of LHQ, Major G. Morton proceeded to North Queensland to effect co-ordination with 1 Aust Corps and other formations of security measures associated with the move of 1 Aust Corps. Although it was a move of major proportions, it was carried out under conditions of such secrecy that the public was quite unaware of the move until an announcement was made by the Minister for the Army some time after the arrival of 1 Aust Corps in New Guinea.

## Changes in Organisation

A reorganisation of HQ Qld L of C Area was carried out in January, 1945, subsequent to the promulgation of a new War Establishment based on recommendations of the War Establishment Investigation Committee. As a result, Qld L of C Area Section, Aust Int Corps was absorbed into GS (Int) HQ Qld L of C Area, although there were no reductions in personnel. In February, 1945, a reorganisation was completed of the areas controlled by local Intelligence Officers. The appointment of IO, Maryborough was abolished, part of the area formerly controlled by that officer coming directly under I(a) at this Headquarters, and the other part of the area coming under IO, Rockhampton.

In September, 1945, the offices of the Intelligence Officers at Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton were closed and their records were forwarded to this Headquarters. The Intelligence Officers either marched out for demobilisation or were attached for duty with other branches.

## Movement of Officers

In January, 1945, Capt. L. Peterson was demobilised to enable him to return to industry and Lieut. A.C.S. Clarke, who had been IO, Maryborough, took over the appointment of I(a).

Capt. G.E. Carrier was posted as IO, Mackay, in March, 1945, and in September, 1945, he, together with Capt. C.W. Johnstone and Lieut. H.V. Greenfield were attached to "A" Branch for duty as Liaison Officers in connection with the Fourth Victory Loan. Capt. J. Rooney was marched out for demobilisation in September, 1945, subsequent to the closing of the office of IO Cairns. A month later, Capt. E.L. Edwards was seconded for duty as Staff Captain ("A") HQ Qld L of C Area.

In August, 1945, Major G. Morton was temporarily attached to GHQ Manila for special duty and returned to this Headquarters in October, 1945.

## The Rear Party

So rapidly did demobilisation denude the ranks of GS (Int) that by the end of December, 1945, only the following small section was left to place Military Intelligence in Queensland on a peacetime footing:-

GSO 1 (Int)	Lt-Col L.F. Wilkinson
GSO 2 (Int)	Major G. Morton
Typist	Miss K. Casey
I(x)	Capt W.F. Nixon-Smith
Registry	WO2 Coghill J.
Typist	CPL Dwyer M.D.
I(a)	Lieut A.C.S. Clarke
Clerks	WO1 Stevens I.F. S/Sgt Coghill, T.W. SGT Gordon L.F.
Draughtsmen	S/Sgt Hockaday L. SGT Robertson A.
Typist	Miss B. Smith
I(b), I(c)	Lieut D.B. Casos
Clerk	Sgt Walsh J.W.
Typist	Miss A. Wall

## Years of Achievement

During the six years from September, 1939 to September, 1945, much was achieved by Military Intelligence in Queensland. Many exacting demands were made upon the organisation and upon the personnel, and not only were demands met with alacrity, but in all cases, wherever it was possible to foresee these demands, they were anticipated.

At the outbreak of war, Intelligence in Queensland went on a 24 hours-a-day basis, and at all times, day or night, during the subsequent six years the Intelligence Headquarters were manned. For the first 18 months it was not possible to grant leave to any of the Intelligence personnel, and all ranks work seven days a week from 0830 hours until 2300 hours. For the next twelve months, members of Intelligence worked till 2300 hours, and 1800 hours on alternate days, provided that the exigencies of the situation permitted the earlier cessation of duty. Fewer hours were worked as routine during the last two years of hostilities, but it was always a cardinal principle of Intelligence in Queensland that duty only ceased when work was completed, and that nothing which could be done to-day might be left till tomorrow.

In the period under review, 60 officers and approximately 400 other-ranks were associated with Intelligence at the Queensland Headquarters. They came from all walks of life. Lawyers, journalists, school-masters, pearl-shellmen, clergymen, farmers, graziers, public servants, miners, accountants, salesmen, storekeepers, island traders, business executives, bank managers and clerks have all been numbered among them. Each gave his best, and to each was due some modicum of the success which attended the efforts of Intelligence as a whole.

Enthusiasm, loyalty, comradeship, a refusal to be beaten, a high esprit de corps, and a never-failing sense of humour, carried the Intelligence organisation in Queensland through difficult times, and on till final victory was achieved. A reflection of these attributes crept into the doggerel Latin motto long adopted by Intelligence in Queensland, "Nil Bastardo Carborundum."