

History of Intelligence Activities in Queensland from September 1939 to September 1945

PART III MILITARY DIRECTORY

AHQ Intelligence Instruction No. 1 (SM1567 of 30 Apr 40) directed that the collation of I(a) Sub-Sections in the various Commands of information required for Military Intelligence reports and appreciations should be collated on a uniform basis throughout Australia. The Instruction specified the files and other media in which such information was to be collated in Commands, forming the Military Directory of the Command.

This Instruction was modified from time to time, and was finally revised and brought up to date by GHQ; AMF (as it was then) Intelligence Instruction No. 12 (SM9630 of 2 Jun 42) which also directed the distribution of the Chapters to specified holders, and the manner in which amendments were to be circulated as additional information came to hand.

The Directory was divided into two parts as follows:-

Part 1

Chapter 1 - Reconnaissance reports

Chapter 2 - Climate and meteorology

Chapter 3 - Sources of information

Part 2

Divided into chapters corresponding to the areas covered by the Strat Maps produced in accordance with the mapping programme. Eventually 118 Chapters were produced in Queensland. Each of such Chapters was divided into paragraphs as follows:-

Para 1 - Roads:

- (i) Classification
- (ii) Cover from air on main strategic roads
- (iii) Defiles on main strategic roads
- (iv) Other data relevant to movement by road of motorised forces up to one Division

Para 2 - Vegetation:

- (i) Timbered areas,
- (ii) Areas in vicinity of main roads, and important cross-roads where cover accessible to mechanised transport was available.

Para 3 - Obstacles to Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Para 4 - Supplies

- (i) Normal petrol supplies,
- (ii) Normal foodstuff - Butchers, Bakers, Butter Factories, Vegetable Production, Sugar, etc.,
- (iii) Normal repair facilities - Garages, Workshops and Equipment,
- (iv) Water Supplies.

Para 5 - Important towns (over 200 inhabitants).

Population, occupied dwellings, railway and postal facilities, power facilities, assembly halls, hospitals, and local reports.

Each of such Chapters contained the appropriate Strat map for the area covered, on which the information set out in the respective paragraphs was indicated by special conventional signs as directed by AHQ.

As the outset, very few Strat map of this area were in existence, but all information, whether Strat Maps were actually in print or not, was collated into Chapters according to the area which would be covered eventually by the appropriate Strat map. Where no Strat map existed, the information was plotted on to a larger scale map, and eventually transferred to the Strat Map when the latter became available.

The distribution list varied from time to time, and, by the end of 1942, copies were made available to the following holders:-

LHQ	5 copies
HQ First Aust Army	12 copies
HQ NSW L of C Area	1 copy
CDH, Brisbane	1 copy
GSI, HQ 2 L of C Sub Area	1 copy
CI, LHQ School of MI	1 copy
GSO 1, HQ Qld L of C Area	1 copy
AQMG, HQ Qld L of C Area	1 copy
AQMG, (Movement Control)	1 copy

In addition to the above, each of the detached Intelligence Officers on the mainland held the Chapters of Part II covering his area, and was furnished with all amendments and additions to same.

Prior to 1942, information for the Directory was obtained mainly from Governmental and other official sources, supplemented by reports and sketch maps received from Military Reporting Officers (see Pt 8). When the Field units commanded by First Aust Army arrived in the area considerable information of military importance was obtained through such units by means of road reconnaissance reports, long range patrols and also from VDC units and coast observation posts located in isolated areas.

The work of collating this mass of information was supervised by a Lieutenant I(t) assisted by a staff of four draughtsmen. It will be noted from the above distribution list that a total of over 3,500 maps had to be marked for copy holders, and all additional topographical information requiring amendments or other alterations to strat maps had to be produced by the draughtsmen and distributed as amendments to the various chapters.

In addition to the information set out above, I(a) maintained two file copies of the Directory which contained information additional to that set out above, which was considered of military importance to Field units and to the staff and services at this Headquarters. One of such copies was available for perusal at any time, and, in fact, was used throughout 1942-1943 by units stationed in, and passing through the area.

In order to further assist our own units and also the Allied forces, I(a) compiled and had printed a report on the main roads in the area, together with a key map, and a Directory of Queensland towns showing every inhabited locality together with its appropriate reference on the Strat map. So great was the demand for these publications that they were re-printed twice and a total of over 2,000 copies of each were distributed. In addition, from information collated by I(a) a gazetteer of the South-West Pacific area was printed, and a large number of copies distributed. This subsequently formed a basis of a similar publication produced by Adv LHQ and the assistance rendered by General Staff (Intelligence) was acknowledged.

By the end of 1943, it was decided by LHQ that the probability of enemy operations in Australia was remote, and for this reason instructions were issued that work on the Directory was to cease except in relation to items of major topographical importance. In consequence of this direction it was found that the services of two draughtsmen could be dispensed with. However, heavy demands were still made upon I(a) for topographical information, particularly in regard to movement of road convoys to Darwin and the North Queensland area, and this continued until the end of 1944 when the services of I(t) were found to be no longer required and his duties were taken over by the senior draughtsman under the supervision of I(a).