

Report by Lt Fraser
8 Troop

1st PARTY
2nd PARTY

"B" Section, No. 8 Troop

"B" Section landed at 0420 hrs and followed No. 7 Troop along the beach, with "A" Section in reserve. After four hundred yds in this direction, we headed east, as in the original plan.

No. 7 Troop met some resistance from the road. "B" Section supported from the right flank, and when the resistance had been overcome, pushed eastwards into the hills, gaining the crest with no opposition. During the action on the road, contact was lost with "A" Section and Troop H.Q. but it was expected that contact would be again be made in the hills.

On reaching the hills, resistance was met from the French cave who were dismounted and in position among the trees. About thirty prisoners were taken, and several killed. Here a sub-section of No. 4 Troop were met and joined "B" section.

A southerly direction was now taken along the hills, and no resistance was met until the crest overlooking the river was reached. Here, fire was opened on the section, apparently from the south side of the river. The Australian artillery opened on the ridge, and the section withdrew behind the hill, where contact was made with Lt Richards.

Heavy fire was being directed on the bridge area from the hill to the right, so working as a troop, "B" Section - No. 8 Troop and Lt Richards' section of No. 4 Troop attacked from the rear. "B" section dealt with three M.G. posts on the forward (southern) slope. The enemy infantry were in some strength in the woods on the ridge, and many prisoners were taken in addition to killed and wounded.

Lt Richards and I had previously decided that after the hill had been cleared we should strike towards Capt More, as were puzzled at the lack of our own troops in that area. I had handed over the section to Sgt Cheyne, as I was suffering from concussion from a graze on the head.

Contact was made with Capt More at 1730 hrs. Slight resistance was met on the way.

The section took up a position on the right of the position. was ordered to withdraw at 2000 hrs, and withdrew accordingly to the hills on the east with no casualties. A south easterly direction was taken, to cross the river on the left of the French positions. Lt McCunn and his section were met just above the river and the river was reached at 0030 hrs. The section then rested until 0330 hrs. Sgts Cheyne and Nicol swam the river and located a suitable crossing place. A line was strung across the river and a chain formed, and the river was forded successfully.

A south westerly direction was now taken, towards TYUS, and an Australian artillery battery met at 1130 hrs.

Three men had been left with the prisoners, and contact had been lost, but I afterwards learned that they had crossed the river lower down.

During the whole action, US73369 Sgt Nicol, C, and 2870188 Sgt Cheyne behaved with extreme coolness under fire, and reportedly went alone into the woods to search for snipers. In addition, Sgt Cheyne had been hit, they carried on with their sub-sections, and organized the withdrawal across the river, which was completed successfully.

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(Sd) W. Fraser, Lt
Gordon Highlanders.

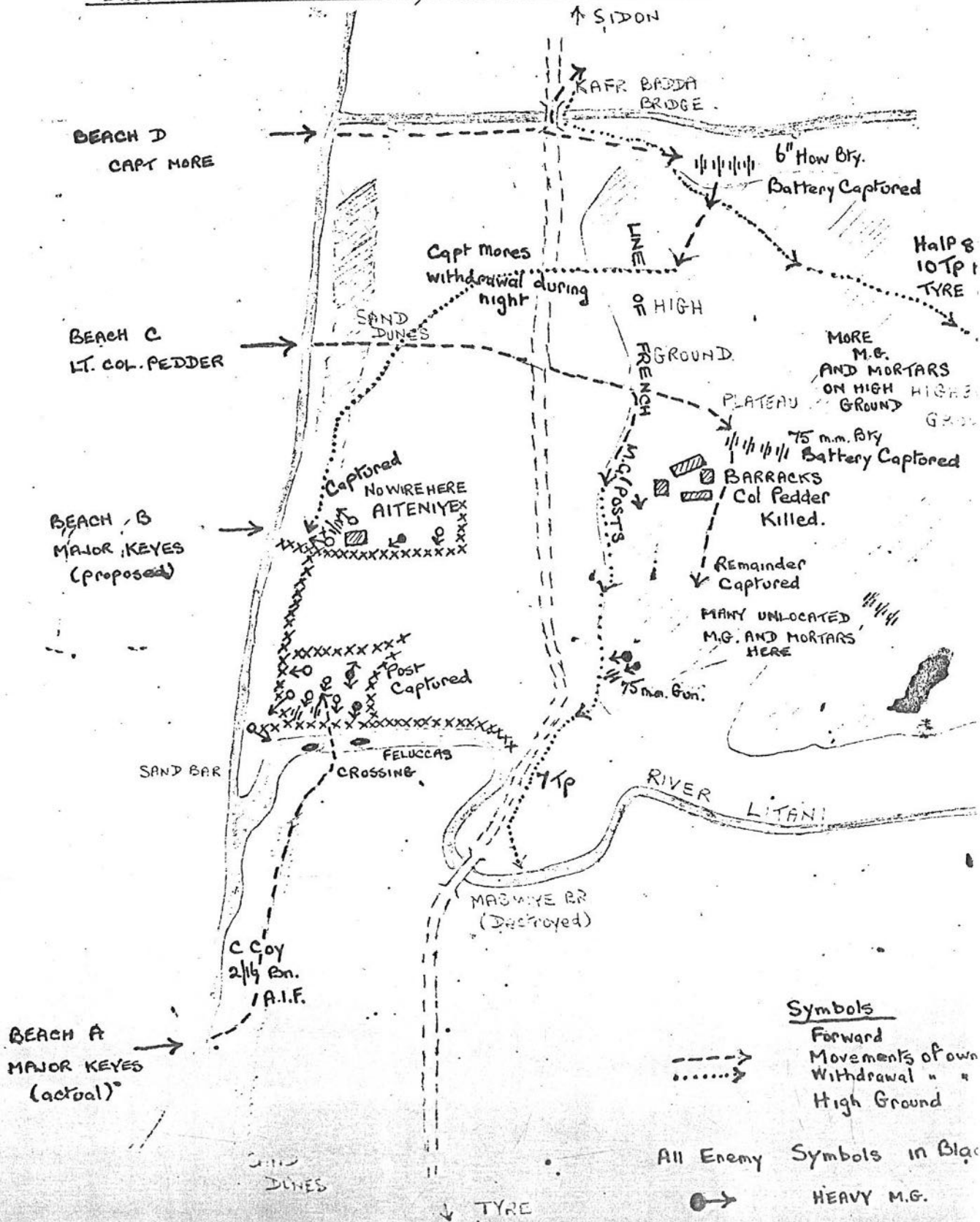
This officer received a flesh wound on the side of the head from a bullet which struck his steel helmet chinstrap. This gave him slight concussion but he was able to come back with his section.

ROUGH SKETCH OF AREA OF LITANI

RIVER SYRIA

(Not to Scale).

SHOWING APROX. DEFENCES, AND ROUTES OF DIFFERENT PARTIES



Symbols

- > Forward Movements of own
-> Withdrawal " "
- High Ground

All Enemy Symbols in Black

- > HEAVY M.G.
- > LIGHT M.G.
- == GUN (Art or Pack)
- ≡ 75m.m. 6" How as shown.
- xxxxxxx Barbed Wire.

Not drawn to Scale.
Scale Approx 1000' to 1 inch.

