

H.Q. 5 NZ Inf Bde
I/10
19 Aug. 42.

H.Q.
21 NZ Bn.
23 "
28 "
33 NZ ATK Bty
4 Coy 27 NZ MG Bn.

The following details were disclosed at interrogations of the Italian PW taken night 18/19 Aug. 42.

1. PW - deserted to A Coy 28 NZ (Maori) Bn approx 0530 hrs 19 Aug.
2. Nationality - Slav.
3. Unit: - 10 Coy 3 Bn 39 Regt Bologna Div.
4. Disposition of troops facing 28 Bn:
 - (a) High ground 876276 occupied by 10, 11, 12 Coys 2 Bn.
 - (b) Second Bn of 39 Regt located approx Pt. 57. 87152773.
 - (c) One coy of 81 mm mortars located approx 100 meters behind 10 Coy.
 - (d) Wire: 2 Bn protected by two rows of wire.
 - (i) Triple danneret 40-50 metres fwd of FDLs.
 - (ii) Single danneret 10 metres fwd of FDLs.
 - (e) Minefields was not aware of any fwd of wire but know of two fields between FDLs & res Bn.
 - (f) Arty spoke of few gun mot.
 - (g) 88 mm Guns had not seen any but thought possibly 6-8 in Area. About 560 rpg only.
 - (h) ATK Army
 - (i) Weapon pits: mostly built up. Manned only at night. Sentries posted by day. No trenches between weapon pits and bivouac areas. Pits all located on high ground with guns in posn peeping over.
5. Enemy Moral: 2 Bn moral low. Five other slaves in his Coy and 50 in Bn all desirous of deserting. Had previously discussed deserting with slaves and seven Italians in his Coy. Only restraint to deserting was fear of what might be done to their families. Considers desertions would be numerous if opportunity occurred and that his fellow tps would surrender if in any way threatened.

Signed (McKibrother)
Major,
Bn. 5 NZ INF BDE.