

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCE

2/3 Aust Inf Bn

Ref 725/45

Subject - ORIGIN OF PLACE NAMES

6 Mil Hist Field team,
HQ 6 Aust Div

Ref Maps BUT WEST 1"
 BUT EAST 1"

1. Reference 6 Mil Hist team memo 15/BH of 31 May 45.
2. Following are the stories relating to places named by the unit in the current campaign.
3. (a) CORY SPUR Ref sq 6824.

On 1 Feb 45 two pls, No 13 and 16, under comd NX7864 Lt G E CORY of URALLA NSW were given the task of patrolling this area. On the spur named strong enemy defensive positions were located. Nearing dusk the force was deployed within ten yards of the enemy and a surprise attack was launched capturing the spur and killing thirty three enemy. Many valuable documents and much equipment were also captured.

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- (b) POPES HILL Ref 683243

This was the first important hill on CORY SPUR. During the action described above NX59156 Lt K R POPE of ROSE BAY NSW, in comd of 16 pl was seriously wounded while coolly directing his pl in the face of intense enemy fire and later died of his wounds.

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- (c) SCOTT'S SADDLE Ref 683246

This was the line of approach to POPES HILL. NX39032 L/Cpl L E SCOTT of LISMORE NSW was in charge of the forward section during the attack over this portion of the ground. He was killed during the attack whilst leading his sec against an enemy machine gun post. Two actions were fought in the saddle before Cpl SCOTT's body was recovered. This action was the first large scale attack launched against the enemy by the unit in the present campaign.

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- (d) GIBBINS KNOLL Ref 683250

This was the second hill on CORY SPUR. On 10 Feb 45 enemy were contacted holding this feature and two pls of "A" Coy under comd of NX12474 Capt G GIBBINS of GUYRA NSW were given the task of clearing out the enemy. In a spirited attack the enemy were routed leaving six dead. A bren LMG and TSMG were captured as well as much equipment.

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- (e) DORANS CREEK Ref 679249

During the attack on GIBBINS KNOLL, NX22373 Pte W DORAN of CROWE NEST NSW was killed in action. The creek running from the knoll was so named because it was the only line of withdrawal for the force and was the way Pte DORAN's body was carried out.

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- (f) THE KIDNEY Ref sq 7025

The feature was so named on account of its distinctive shape. On 24 Feb 45 "A" Coy was moving to take up a position on this

feature which was previously reported to be clear. The forward recon party was fired on from the feature. A pl under NX148640 Lt S P WEIR of RICHMOND NSW cleared the feature killing four enemy.

(g) THE TOOTH Ref 722246

Again named because of its close resemblance to a tooth. On 26 Feb 45 two actions were fought before clearing enemy from the feature. 14 Pl under cmd NX50683 Lt A A SCALLY of WOOLSTONECRAFT NSW attacked first killing five enemy including two offrs. Later the same day NX40047 Lt A E McLEOD of MIDDLE BRIGHTON VIC with 11 pl attacked and cleared the feature killing seven enemy. During the two actions NX72787 Cpl J A RYALL of GLEN INNES NSW and NX153902 Pte C FRENCH of SCOTSDALE TAS were killed.

(h) GULLEN CORNER Ref 113183

During the advance of "C" Coy on BOIKEN PLANTATION to KOAN-UMBO on 2 May 45 much heavy fighting had taken place. 13 pl had the task of clearing the enemy from a track junction. During the attack against enemy heavy and light automatic fire NX40656 Sjt F GULLEN of TENTERFIELD NSW, an old identity of the unit was killed whilst leading a charge.

(i) MOUNT HUTCHISON Ref sq 7022

This feature was named when the unit moved into action on 28 Jan 45. It is a 3,500 feature dominating the whole of the Bn area. It was considered that as the mountain dominated the area it would be appropriate to name it after the commanding officer NX100 Lt col I HUTCHISON of MOSMAN NSW.

(j) PREECE SPUR Ref sq Y123 - 7223

Is named after NX39901 Cpl A G PREECE of BELMORE NSW a member of the Bn Int sec. He was responsible for checking the maps of a patrol which had to move over this spur. He did a great deal of valuable work in this area checking and verifying topographical data.

27 Jun 45

Ian Hutchison Lt col
(Ian Hutchison)
Cmd 2/3 Aust Inf Bn