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2601/005

3rd March, 1954.

Col. L. J. Bruton,  
Director of Signals,  
A.M.F.

You will recall that, at the request of this Branch, a party of A.R.A. personnel from your detachment made a reconnaissance in the area of Malaya for about two months from May, 1952. A second reconnaissance of six weeks duration was made in the area in August-September, 1952, and a third - which is still in progress - commenced in the area in mid-August, 1953.

2. The organisation of these operations has involved members of your detachment in detailed liaison and co-operation with many Service and civilian authorities. I know that the work of the parties has been carried out under difficult and trying conditions; good use has been made of the experience gained and each reconnaissance has been an improvement on the previous one. I am sure you would agree that those concerned have received very useful tactical training, of a kind unobtainable in this country.

3. We have followed the work of the detachments with close interest, and are convinced that it is no reflection on their efficiency that they have returned only negative information on their primary target. In fact, we feel that this negative information is sound and confirms that, for practical purposes, the target is at present non-existent. On the other hand, results obtained on secondary targets have been excellent.

4. Without in any way detracting from the work of earlier detachments, I feel I should mention specifically our appreciation of the work of Captain J. Williamson, in establishing the party at and attending to the complex organisational problems, and of Staff-Sergeant R. Turner, whose technical skill and leadership in conducting the day-to-day operations I understand contributed greatly to the efficiency of the detachment. These members were undoubtedly well served by a keen and proficient team of operators.

The work of the detachment has also come under the notice of

the Director of that Headquarters has asked to be associated with me in this statement of our appreciation.

R. N. THOMPSON

(R. N. THOMPSON)  
DIRECTOR, D.S.B.

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