4/13/7-//

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
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SEPTEMBER 1943

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ORIGINAL

52 COMPOSITE
ANTI AIRCRAFT REGIMENT

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

29 SEP 1943

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 1004 2/42

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment Date and Time.—From 1 Aug 43 To 3 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	1 Aug 43		For the purposes of record the period 1 Aug 43 - 10 Aug 43 will embrace the activities of 9 Aust Hy AA Bty. This unit came under command on 10 Aug 43 when the Regiment was re-organised ~~to form 52 Aust AA Regiment.~~	
			9 Aust Hy AA Bty: The removal and stacking of ammunition in dump areas at both stations carried out. Normal limbering & training carried out.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: Heavy rain revealed that some of the Bofors sites were inaccessible. Three guns were moved a short distance to higher ground.	
			Combat Efficiency Report	Appendix "A"
			Anti/Aircraft Technical Efficiency Report - Amend. No 2	Appendix "B"
Merauke	2 Aug 43		9 Aust Hy AA Bty: ~~Lt-Col England,(AADC),Maj Swinbourne (OC, 154 Aust Lt AA Bty)~~ and Maj Cunningham (OC, 9 Aust Hy AA Bty) to ~~383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station to discuss the arrangements for a~~ reverse shoot to be held on 3 Aug 43. Construction of bridges and roads at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station proceeded. The draining of the GL site at this station continued.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: Heavy rain filled swamp areas and at the BHQ site a ~~drainage~~ canal was dug to drain the area. Drains were dug on all gun sites affected by water.	
			Routine Orders Part 1, No 30 issued	Appendix "C"
Merauke	3 Aug 43		The medical standard of the unit is fairly good. The most prevalent sickness is tinea of the feet. This has been aggravated by the excessive wet weather, and 21 cases were	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/2

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment Date and Time.—From 3 Aug 43 To 4 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	3 Aug 43 (cont)		recorded. A foot inspection carried out at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station revealed 19 men not wearing socks. Of these 17 had tinea.	
			9 Aust Hy AA Bty: Arrangements were made with 86 Squadron to fly a selected course at approx 22000 feet for the reverse shoot at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station. The gun station was to engage the target with ~~the sights lined up~~ guns lined up 180 degrees out of true. Co-operation with the Air Force was excellent but unfortunately the guns could not engage owing to a ship being in the arc of fire. The training programme of the RAAF embraces bi-weekly flights to approx 25000 feet. Excellent co-operation was obtained by the GL sets and use was made to improve the standard of plotting at both gun station plotting rooms and GOR.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: Work on construction of gun pits and revetments was continued. Rapid progress is being made.	
			Lt-Col Anderson (DDOS First Aust Army) conferred with Capt Samuelson (QM 110 Aust Lt AA Regt) and Lieut Cairns (Bty Capt, 9 Aust Hy AA Bty) on the deficiencies in gun stores and spare parts of 9 Aust Hy AA Bty. The Bty provided him with a requisition for the most urgent requirements. These will be forwarded by air freight.	
			AA Defences Weekly Report No 12 issued	J68 Appendix "D"
Merauke	4 Aug 43		9 Aust Hy AA Bty: A further attempt to carry out the reverse shoot was unsuccessful. The examination of ammunition at both Hy AA Gun Stations revealed that 20% of the luting was faulty. All ammunition was examined and reluted with a substitute preparation - RD 1154. A new elevating arc for No 3 gun, 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station was received and fitted. The old arc was cracked in transit.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42 *Unit* 52 Aust AA Regiment *Date and Time.—From* 4 Aug 43 *To* 6 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	4 Aug 43 (cont)		The HC was fitted to the Predictor at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta. Difficulty was experienced with the spindle which was slightly "off true" resulting in the mechanical pointer on the Range Scale Dial being out of co-incidence with range setting marks on Height Drum by 2400 yards. This was rectified and the ~~Computer is working satisfactorily.~~	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: General camp improvements carried out at T.H.Q. and B.H.Q.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF): Searchlights exposed and carried out following practice on a master beam. ~~A 100-megohm 3-watt resistor was blown in an 150 cm S.L.C. No~~ replacement for this part is carried. The part is being obtained from the mainland.	
			Work is proceeding on the construction of pits and revetments. JGS	
Merauke	5 Aug 43		9 Aust Hy AA Bty: Camouflaging of both Hy AA Gun sites continuing. Grass, vines and creepers have been planted on revetments to ~~break the outline and blend with the surrounding terrain.~~	
			Work is progressing slowly on the construction of the Gun Operations Room. The concrete floor has been laid and roof partially completed.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF): Searchlights exposed and carried out following practice.	
			~~AA Defences Location Statement No 2 issued.~~ JGS	Appendix "E"
~~Merauke~~	6 Aug 43		~~Brig E.M. Neylan MC (BAA & CA First Aust Army)~~ accompanied by Maj McLoughlin (Engrs Branch First Aust Army) arrived in area. He commenced to inspect AA Defences in the area with Lt-Col England.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 100M 2/43

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment *Date and Time.—From* 6 Aug 43 *To* 7 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	6 Aug 43 (cont)		Advice was received from Force HQ to implement change over to new organization. No W.E. has been received. Designation to be 52 Aust ~~Composite~~ AA Regt ~~(L.E.)~~ (COMPOSITE (LE).	
			9 Aust Hy AA Bty: Water-filled holes adjacent to camp areas being drained as an anti-malarial precaution.	
			At 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station intensive training carried out on Height Computer drill. It is the first time many of the personnel have seen a H.C.	
			Authority was given by Force Comd for the removal of certain ~~trees and concrete tanks from the G.L. site at 382 Aust Hy AA~~ Gun Station.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: All Bofors guns are now sited on ridges with a dry area in the immediate vicinity of the guns. A causeway has been constructed on some sites to enable personnel to move to and from guns quickly, and remain dry.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF): Settling into camp areas, building up of pits and maintenance of equipment carried out	JGJ
Merauke	7 Aug 43		A conference held at HQ's, attended by Brig E.M. Neylan MC, Lt-Col Bendall (DME Branch LHQ), Lt-Col England, Capt Urquhart AEME, and Lieut F. Henley-Smith (O.C. 110 Aust Lt AA Regt W/shop) ~~to discuss the Workshop set-up in the re-organization of the~~ Regiment.	
			~~Brig Neylan continued his inspection of AA Defences.~~	
			W.E. for a Composite AA Regt (LE) arrived. It was decided to make the transfer effective from 10 Aug 43.	
			W3008 and W3009 attached	JGJ Appendix "F"

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 1COM 2/42

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment Date and Time.—From 10 Aug 43 To 11 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	10 Aug 43 (cont)		No direction was received on the disposal of AA Operations Room (Type C). It appears that WE 111/25A/3 that the Ops Room is included in HQ of Hy AA Bty. A direction has been sought. Authority was given to raise two six-gun troops only in 154 Aust Lt AA Bty.	
			Hereinafter the War Diary will embrace HQ 52 Aust AA Regt, 139 Aust Hy AA Bty and 154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Relevant operational extracts will be included from 76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF), 52 Aust AA Regt Workshop AEME, and 52 Aust AA Regt Signal Section. These units will submit separate War Diaries	
			~~An unidentified plot was picked up by RAAF RDF station at 1203~~ hrs, 24 miles in a S.E. direction along the coast. The bearing was on the usual path of "P" patrol and time approximated with the Beaufort on patrol. An aircraft was heard flying very high and this was the first indication that it was possibly an enemy aircraft. Guns and GL stood to and first height cut by GL was 24000 feet. Aircraft was out of gun range at all times. Four ~~P40M's were airborne - no interception made. Cloud density was~~ 9/10ths. It is considered the plane was a recce aircraft.	
			AA Defences Weekly Report No 13 issued	Appendix "G"
			52 Aust Composite AA Regt Routine Order No 1 Part 1 issued	Appendix "H"
~~Merauke~~	~~11 Aug 43~~		~~Lt-Col Bendall inspected guns at both Hy AA Gun Sites.~~ He expressed satisfaction at their condition. ~~Communications for linking up a new GOR well in hand.~~ Rough condition of roads and heavy work imposed by swamp areas resulted in the front universal of two 3-ton GS 4 x 4 trucks breaking.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted,)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment Date and Time.—From 8 Aug 43 To 10 Aug 43.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	8 Aug 43		Brig Neylan still in area on inspection.	
			9 Aust Hy AA Bty: GL sets at both gun stations performing satisfactorily. Occasional faults on set at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station due to perished insullation. Some of this is being replaced by insulation tape. A complete set of rubber couplings for fitting between motor driven switch and drive was received from 10 R.M.S. and fitted.	
			Areas around GL sets at G 1 being cleared. Lecture on V.D. given to troops by M.O. - Capt Lee Tet	
Merauke	9 Aug 43		Brig Neylan left area by plane for Horn Is.	
			9 Aust Hy AA Bty: NCO's class on fire control instruments and a/c identification commenced at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station. Ammunition segregated into batch lots and FF correction lots.	
Merauke	10 Aug 43		The re-organization of the AA Defences in Merauke were instituted. At a conference held by Lt-Col England and attended by Bty and sub-unit comds the re-organization was as follows:-	
			HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regt to be HQ 52 Aust AA Regt (L.E.)	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty to be 154 Aust Lt AA Bty	
			9 Aust Hy AA Bty to be 139 Aust Hy AA Bty	
			The above components are to form the 52 Aust AA Regt (L.E.) together with the following attachments:-	
			52 Aust AA Regt Workshops AEME (formerly 9 Aust Hy AA Bty W/shop Sec and HQ & Det 110 Aust Lt AA Regt W/shop Sec) and 52 Aust AA Regt Sig Sec (formerly HQ & Det 110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF) and 76 Aust AASL Bty W/shop Sec come under command for operations only.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 1004 2/42 — Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment — Date and Time.—From 11 Aug 43 To 14 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	11 Aug 43 (cont)		139 Aust Hy AA Bty: Trouble is being experienced with time rings on fuzes becoming affected by moisture. General construction work carried out and rifle exercises and Gas training instituted at both gun stations. 154 Aust Lt AA Bty: Camouflage carried out on gun sites. Revetments progressing satisfactorily; some have been completed.	
Merauke	12 Aug 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty: Section personnel commenced removal of trees on GL site at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station. The guns at both stations are being repainted. Hygiene facilities were re-organized at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta. This was brought about by a noticeable increase in flies in that area. Levelling work and the spreading of sand carried out on the GL site at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta.	
Merauke	13 Aug 43		The re-organization of the Regiment was proceeded with. In 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, A & D Troops have been combined to form "B" Troop and B & C Troops to form "A" Troop. All personnel have been transferred to the strength of 52 Aust ~~Composite~~ AA Regt. 139 Aust Hy AA Bty: A commencement was made on the reducing of the size of the gun pits at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta. The muzzle of the guns will project over the lip, approximately 12 inches, when the work is completed. A Jap recconnaissance plane was over the area. Full report - see Appendix "A" to Weekly Report No 14.	
Merauke	14 Aug 43		Training and co-operation were carried out by Searchlights and	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 1604 2/42

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment Date and Time.—From 14 Aug 43 To 17 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	14 Aug 43		Hy AA Gun Stations on a P40M. The course flown was at 6000 ft later increased to 12000 feet. Good runs at both seen and unseen methods of engagement were obtained. Searchlights were a little unsteady in their following. Three beams on the target were regarded as sufficient by the Hy AA Gun Stations for engagement by visual methods. At times illumination from a 150 cm beam only was sufficient.	
			The change from temporary to permanent GOR was accomplished from 1830 hrs to 1945 hrs. All signal communications were tested and found to be at full strength. Fifteen minutes after the change over an excellent test was carried out on a P40M which was airborne for searchlight co-operation. It was noticed that signal communications faded during the night. Hurricane lamps placed behind the switchboard lessened condensation of moisture and gave improved results.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty: Lieut A.J.Peck posted to GOR from B Troop and Lieut J.G. Struthers posted to B Troop from A Troop. Lieut A. Frew resumed duties at B Troop from GOR.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF): Co-operation carried out on a P40M	
Merauke	16 Aug 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty: Ammunition recesses at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta being improved and made waterproof. Work commenced on construction of mens' mess hut at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station.	
Merauke	17 Aug 43		The percentage of sick for period 10-17 Aug was 1.15% which is a similar percentage to other units throughout the area. There were no epidemics.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 1COM 2772

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment Date and Time.—From 17 Aug 43 To 20 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	17 Aug 43		AA Defences Weekly Report No 14 issued	Appendix "I"
Merauke	(cont) 19 Aug 43		The completion of the wharf at Independent Knoll by 55 US Naval Engrs Bn necessitated a redistribution of Bofors to cover the river VP. A reconnaissance was carried out by Lt-Col England and Maj Swinbourne of the area. The mangrove swamp made it very difficult to get the necessary displacement from the wharf, and to obtain an arc of fire several acres of mangroves would have to be cleared. It was decided to erect a 30 ft tower 200 yards east of the wharf. The work was immediately put in hand by 55 US Naval Engrs Bn who had piled left over from the wharf construction.	
			Maj Swinbourne (OC 154 Aust Lt AA Bty) to RHQ as 2 i/c.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: Capt Samuelson to 154 Aust Lt AA Bty as B.C. Lieut L.E. Fathers from 154 Aust Lt AA Bty to HQ as acting QM.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF): Orientation of searchlights carried out.	
Merauke	20 Aug 43		A recce of Paddy field area on the other side of the river, approx 3700 yards upstream was carried out by Lt-Col England, Maj Barrett (OC 76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF)), Maj Swinbourne and Lieut Zenner (IO) for the possible siting of 150 cm S.L.C. Searchlight. Highest ground was on river bank - inland ground appeared as if it would become very boggy in wet weather.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty: Small arms and Gas training carried out at both Hy AA Gun Stations.	
			Alterations made to revetments at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station to enable gantry to be placed in position for the pulling back of the barrel.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment *Date and Time.—From* 20 Aug 43 *To* 22 Aug 43.

St 7455

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	20 Aug 43 (cont)		The spread of flies is being controlled at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station by the spraying of Malariol on the ground in the precincts of the kitchen and refuse pits. A definite improvement has been noticed.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: Reserve ammunition was issued to each 40 mm gun on the scale of 120 rounds per gun. Gun crews practised laying on targets illuminated by SL.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF): Work proceeding on the construction of pits and revetments at all sites. Preparations being made for the move of 150 cm SLC across the river.	
			Routine Orders Part 1 No 2 issued	Appendix "J"
Merauke	21 Aug 43		154 Aust Lt AA Bty: [illegible] Work was commenced by US Engrs on the erection of the tower at Independent Knoll. Nine piles are to be driven in to form the support for the staging which is to be 22 feet square, and it is estimated it will carry 40 tons.	
Merauke	22 Aug 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty: Work on the reduction of the size of the gun pits at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta is progressing. The performance of both the Diesels used for power for the GL sets require overhaul. Temporary adjustments were carried out by 102 Aust Bde Workshop.	
			Clearing and filling of holes is continuing on the GL site at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: S.A.A. issued to troops for Bren, Rifle and Owen gun on new scale. Dummy guns have been sited adjacent to four Bofors sites.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment *Date and Time.—From* 23 Aug 43 *To*

St 7455

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	23 Aug 43		Advice was received from First Aust Army that Maj Swinbourne had been posted as 2 i/c, 52 Aust AA Regt and ~~that~~ Capt L.C.R. Dale posted as OC 154 Aust Lt AA Bty.	
			An unidentified plot was picked up at 0830 hrs at a bearing of 20 degrees, followed past Merauke out to sea, circled and returned along same route. The plot was lost in the vicinity of Boepal. It was considered it was a Jap recconnaissance aircraft. At any time the aircraft did not come nearer than nine miles.	
			Amendment No 1 to Location Statement No 3 issued	Appendix "K"
Merauke	24 Aug 43		Advice was received from First Aust Army that the postings of officers for 52 Aust AA Regt Workshop would be as under:- OC - T/Capt W.A. Whiting; EME - Lieut L.T. Wilson (to fill vacancy for Captain); and Lieuts F.Henley-Smith and K.Thompson as Lieuts. At the moment Lieut Henley-Smith is acting OC of the Workshops.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF): In co-operation with 2 Aust Water Transport Coy 150 cm SLC components, detachment and stores were moved by barge to a selected site upstream on the other side of the river. Considerable difficulty was experienced loading and unloading the barge. This was facilitated by the use of the Workshop breakdown truck. The Light was placed in psoition at 1045 hrs. No communication has been established. It is intended to install wireless communication with SOR. Advice has been received that a submarine cable will be laid across the river and that a pair will be allocated to S 12.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment *Date and Time.—From* 24 Aug 43 *To* 25 Aug 43

St 7455

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	24 Aug 43 (cont)		AA Defences Weekly Report No 15 issued	Appendix "L"
			Routine Orders Part 1 No 3 issued	Appendix "M"
Merauke	25 Aug 43		A lecture was given to 86 Fighter Squadron by Lt-Col England on anti-aircraft employment.	
			Maj A.F. Swinbourne, 2 i/c, departed to attend LHQ School of Arty (AA Wing) Course No 40 in Hy AA Tactical Control for Senior Officers.	
			Capt K.W. Pawley, Capt A.B. Samuelson, and Lieut J.C. Zenner to attend a Junior Officers' Staff Course conducted by HQ Merauke Force.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty: The pulling back of the guns was completed at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station. Their condition was good. A little moisture had accumulated in the jackets but no pitting or rusting had occurred.	
			A check of ammunition at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station was carried out by an inspecting Ordnance NCO. Four rounds were condemned out of approximately 3000 inspected. at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta	
			Electric light was installed in Command Post. Power is supplied by the GL Generator.	
			Painting of the GL sets at both gun stations commenced.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty: Reconnaissance carried out to organize a ground defence plan. Bofors to co-operate with the Air Force for the protection of the air strip in a dual role.	
			Work on the tower at Independent Knoll is proceeding.	
			Capt L.C.R. Dale arrived to take over comd 154 Aust Lt AA Bty.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment *Date and Time.—From* 25 Aug 43 *To* 30 Aug 43

St 7455

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	25 Aug 43 (cont)		AA Defences Intelligence Summary No 3 issued	Appendix "N"
Merauke	26 Aug 43		Capt A.B. Samuelson, who was OC 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, returned to duties as QM. Lieut L.E. Fathers resumed duties of Bty Capt 154 Aust Lt AA Bty.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty: The breastwork reducing the size of the gun pits at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station has been completed, and a commencement has been made on the filling in of earth behind.	
Merauke	28 Aug 43		154 Aust Lt AA Bty: 40 mm Bofors ammunition and associated stores and filled in sandbags for revetments placed in position on the tower at Independent Knoll by US Engrs. The height of the decking is 27 feet making the height of the trunnions approximately 31 feet from ground level. This gives a field of view down to 1½ degrees excepting one small arc. The gun will be used at F.A.S. Extract from MGRA letter 134822 received re no. of steel towers required.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty(AIF): Moisture in the wireless sets has caused a delay in installation of communications with S 12.	
Merauke	29 Aug 43		For the period 18 Aug - 25 Aug average daily sick rate was 1.9%. There was an increase of tinea of the feet to 40 cases. This is the highest rate of individual ailment.	
Merauke	30 Aug 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty: Work is being carried out on the camouflaging of both gun stations. Maintenance has been carried out on dummy sites. Modifications are required to give a more realistic appearance.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust AA Regiment *Date and Time.—From* 30 Aug 43 *To* 31 Aug 43.

St 7455

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	30 Aug 43 (cont)		Amendment No 2 to Location Statement No 3.	Appendix "O"
Merauke	31 Aug 43		Routine Orders Part 1 No 4 issued	Appendix "P"
			AA Defences Weekly Report No 16 issued	Appendix "Q"
			APPENDICES.	
			Appendix A Combat Efficiency Report	
			" B AA Technical Efficiency Report No 1, Amendment No 2.	
			" C Routine Orders Part 1, No 30.	
			" D AA Defences Weekly Report No 12	
			" E Location Statement No 2	
			" F W3008 and W3009	
			" G AA Defences Weekly Report No 13	
			" H Routine Orders Part 1, No 1.	
			" I AA Defences Weekly Report No 14.	
			" J Routine Order Part 1, No 2.	
			" K Amendment No 1 to Location Statement No 3	
			" L AA Defences Weekly Report No 15	
			" M Routine Orders Part 1, No 3.	
			" N AA Defences Intelligence Summary No 3.	
			" O Amendment No 2 to Location Statement No 3.	
			" P Routine Orders Part1, No 4.	
			" Q AA Defences Weekly Report No 16.	
			J.A. ENGLAND, Lt Col. C.O. 52 Aust AA Regt.	

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Serial No.	Role	Present Employment	General standard of officers and NCOs.	Phase of tng covered during month	Type of operations considered capable of	Remarks
	R	S	T	U	V	W
1	Administrative and operational control of AA Defences in Area	As in column "R"			As in column "R"	
2	AA Def. of VPs against low-flying a/c	As in column "R"	Sound technically in Lt A Arty but require more experience to become really efficient. Most of the officers recd initial tng as Infantry & subsequently changed over to AA.	Construction & camouflage of gun positions, gun drill & practice laying on Fighter A/c at FAS and Predictor Control	Semi-static AA role	Additional practice shooting is required to give Instrument Operators & layers more experience. Bty tpt is sufficient only for semi-static role
3	AA Defence of area	As in column "R"	Fair; showing improvement	Complete Hy AA tng according to Pams laid down. Plotting for engagement against unseen targets is being proceeded with. SA practice carried out with .50 MG	As in column "R"	
4	AA S/L role	As in column "R"	Officers good; NCOs 50% good, 50% fair	AASL Manning drill	As in column "R"	
5	1st and 2nd Echelon repairs to MT & Ord.	As in column "R"		Normal work	As in column "R"	
6	ditto	ditto		Normal Work	ditto	
7	Inst., maint & partial op of sig comm. for AAD	As in column "R"		Normal Work	As in column "R"	

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APPENDIX "A"

MOST SECRET

Combat Efficiency Report of AA Defences, Merauke

for month ending 31 Jul 43

Serial No	Unit	Approx percentage against WE or TEO available in unit															
		Rifles	SMG Owen	LMG	MMG	.50 MG	Boys T/A	Pistols .38		Searchlights	Ordnance 40mm	Ordnance 3.7in	M.T.			Strength of Personnel	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	
1	HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regt	100%	100%	100%	-	-	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	100%Z	-	-	98%	PTO
2	154 Aust Lt AA Bty	93%	100%	100%	-	100%I	-	100%	-	-	100%	-	100%Z	-	-	88%	"
3	139 Aust Hy AA Bty	91%	(Y)	100%	-	-	-	84%	-	-	-	100%	100%Z	-	-	72%ø	"
4	76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF)	100%	100%	112%	-	100%I	100%	100%	-	89%X	-	-	100%Z	-	-	92%	"
5	52 Aust Composite AA Regt W'shop	100%	-	100%	-	-	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	100%Z	-	-	41%ø	"
6	76 Aust AASL Bty W'shop Sec	100%	-	100%	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	100%Z	-	-	100%	"
7	52 Aust Composite AA Regt Sig Section	100%	-	-	-	-	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	100%Z	-	-	43%ø	"

(I) American .50 taken over under orders from Force Comd
(X) 1 150cm SLC spare, not received
(Y) 1 Owen SMG on charge, entitlement NIL
(Z) As per staff tables, Moultrie plan
(ø) Small percentage due to re-organisation - increased WE

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Appendix "B"

SECRET

ANTI-AIRCRAFT TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY REPORT - MERAUKE

AMENDMENT No 2. - 1 AUG 43

PART 1. - LOCATION.-

(a) Attached Trace plots the change in positions of AA guns in area since last report (MERA Branch only)

(b) Co-ordinates - Ref Map 1" : 1 m:-

40mm Befors		Searchlights		Type
L 2	324479	S 1	267518	150 cm
L 3	322492	S 2	283494	150 cm
L 4	320496	S 3	323458	150 cm
L 5	317506	S 4	382435	150 SLC
L 7	314501	S 5	325484	90 cm
L 9	305496	S 6	317490	90 cm
L 10	316492	S 7	322501	90 cm
L 11	328482	S 8	311506	90 cm
L 15	293533	S 9	314511	90 cm
L 16	284534	S 10	317538	150 cm
L 18	297542	S 12	293535	90 S.L.C.
L 22	318489	S 12	228556	150 S.L.C. (not in position)

.50 MG

M 1	324479
M 2	320497
M 3	305496
M 4	328482
M 5	284534
M 6	382435 (Two sited with S4 pending S12 going into position over
M 7	river). One in Workshops.

PART 11. - WORKS.-

1. My AA Gun Emplacements

(a) M 1 - Additional sandbagging of CP and plotting room carried out. Bren Gun pits and coast S/L Generator sandbagged.
Three ammunition dumps have been completed and ammunition stored therein. Camp improvements were carried out, kitchen being fly-proofed and floor laid in Q Store.
Following the heavy rain draining of camp area was carried out.

(b) M 2 - Extensive camouflage work carried out on gun station by personnel working to a scheme prepared by Maj Tadgell, G 11 Camouflage, First Aust Army.
During the month the camp area was moved as the new position for the air strip was too close to the old site, and to enable greater dispersal of tents. This necessitated the construction of a road through a swampy area Heavy rain filled the depression between the gun pit and CP, and tents were surrounded by water. Extensive draining has been carried out and tent areas are being built up.

2. AA Operations Room

Work on the building is proceeding very slowly. A concrete floor has been laid.. Roof has been partially completed and the building partially lined. Work has commenced on the construction of interior fittings.

3. Magazines.

M 1 - Three magazines have been completed. A fourth is under construction.
M 2 - Two only completed. Priority has been given to camouflaging and draining works.

4. G.L.

(a) G 2 - Rain flooded the site to a depth of several inches. Draining work was carried out. Condition of this site is satisfactory and improving
(b) G 1 - Extensive work has been carried out on this site. Surface debris has been cleared and depressions filled. To make it an A1 site it will be necessary to remove several big trees and a number of concrete water tanks.

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PART III. - EQUIPMENT.-

1. 3.7in AA Guns
(a) No change.

(b) Deficiencies in gun stores: No deficiencies have come to hand. It is anticipated that a quantity of gun stores will be available from 123 FOD by 4 Aug 43.

(c) Faulty Equipment and Maintenance Difficulties: ~~Trouble was experienced with both gun stations~~ The trunnion bearing and cap squares have been bruised on one 3.7" AA Gun with the result that the trunnion is being scored. To be rectified by Workshop personnel.

(d) Spare parts position: A new elevating arc for No 3 gun, 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station, has come to hand and will be fitted immediately. The general position for spare parts has not improved.

2. Fire Control Instruments.
(a) MC has been fitted to Predictor at 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station (see PART III, EQUIPMENT, para 4).

(b) Faulty Equipment and Maintenance Difficulties: Trouble was experienced at both gun stations by the constant blowing of fuzes in the rotary converter of the Predictor. Repairs have been effected by Workshops. The cause of these faults has not been pin-pointed.

(c) Spare Parts: No change.

3. G.L. Sets.
(a) G 1 - Considering the nature of the site this set has performed very satisfactorily. During the action on 27 Jul 43 enemy plots were picked up at 45000 yards. Discrimination between enemy and friendly aircraft proved difficult at times. The crew handled the situation satisfactorily and will improve with more experience. It was noticed that estimation of heights converted from slant range were erratic at times. It is considered that this was caused by trees near Rx on the bearing enemy plots were picked up.
G 2 - This set continues to give good results. The enemy plots on 27 Jul 43 were picked up at a range of 40000 yards and information fed to Predictor and Height Computor proved very accurate, the Predictor telescopes being right on target. The plots were followed out to 47000 yards.
Despite difficulties caused by intercepting aircraft the enemy target was followed fairly consistently on the screen.
Modifications incorporating the anti-jamming device were carried out on the panels of this set.

(b) Unchange.

(c) Faulty Equipment and Maintenance Difficulties:
G 1 - A resistor burnt out in Cathode Ray power supply. It was replaced. A fault located in one of the cicuits in the panels was blowing fuzes continually. Radio mechanics worked throughout the night rectifying the fault. Performance since has been satisfactory.
G 2 - No mechanical faults.
Maintenance Difficulties: It is necessary to keep the heaters burning nightly in each set and the sets are turned on at regular intervals throughout the day to dry out accumulated moisture.
No other maintenance difficulties have been met with.

(d) Spare Parts: Spare parts are coming to hand slowly through 10 RNS.

4. Height Computers.-
With the arrival of 9 Aust Hy AA Bty Workshop's equipment the bent spindles on the HC for H 1 have been straightened out and the Computer fitted to the Predictor. No tests have been carried out. This will be done on 2, 3, and 4 Aug 43.

5. Searchlights.
(a) Personnel and equipment, 76 Aust AA S/L Bty (AIF), arrived on "SS Yoo Chow" on 18 Jul 43. Heavy rain retarded the installation of the lights as roads were practically impassable. Eleven lights were in position by 1800 hours 22 Jul 43 at independent control in the absence of signal communications. The twelfth light, 150 cm SLC, is to be sited 5300 yards across the river in a westerly direction.
One "Master" light has been linked up by telephone to GOR.

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Part III. (cont) - Lights have exposed for three consecutive nights and the OC, Maj J.Barrett, considers the result was effective a good cone of light being provided.

(b) Faulty Equipment and Maintenance Difficulties: A 100 Megohm 3 watt resistor was blown in a 150 cm SLC. As no replacement for this part is carried the part is being obtained from the mainland. The SLC to be sited across the river has been moved in temporarily.

(c) Spare Parts Position: 90% of W.E.T. carried. Only minor deficiencies. Main deficiency is one spare 150 cm SLC which was not available when unit moved forward.

6. 40 mm Bofors.
(a) The arrival of 154 Aust Lt AA Bty on 5 Jul 43 and the siting of their twelve Bofors by 9 Jul 43 gave a 19 Lt AA gun cover to the VPs as under:-

Wharf area	6
Air Strip	9
Connecting guns over VPs (LDH, RAAF Ops, Force HQ along Main Street)	4

Orders were received from Force HQ for D Bty, 104 Sep (CA & AA) Bn to withdraw their Bofors preparatory to movement. This was accomplished by 14 Jul 43, and Bofors of 154 Aust Lt AA Bty were redistributed as under:-

Wharf Area	3
Air Strip	8
Connecting gun along Main Street	1

(b) Faulty Equipment and Maintenance Difficulties: During a shoot from an Australian made Bofor of 154 Aust Lt AA Bty to test American ammunition several stoppages occurred. The artificer reported:-
"that the damage to the round was caused by the left hand extractor being worn in its recess which allowed it to toe in at the top of the vertical slot in the face of the barrel, the heel being jammed against the left hand side of its slot causing the extractor to remain in a slightly forward position which in turn checked the round and allowed it to protrude slightly out of the chamber. When the breech closed it clipped the base of the round forcing it home and in turn shearing a piece off the rim of the round". This has been rectified.
This set of extractors had fired 24 rounds only before this occurred.
Wet weather has necessitated extra maintenance. Liberal supplies of oils, greases and mineral jelly are being used. There is an ample supply in the area.

(c) Spare Parts Position: 90 % W.E.T. in tools; 75% in gun spares.

7. .50 Calibre Machine Guns
(a) Fourteen of these guns were taken over from D Bty, 104 Sep (CA & AA) Bn. The allocation has been made by the Force Comd as follows:-

AA Defences	8
RAAF, protection of RDF	2
Water Transport	4

Five guns are being manned by 154 Aust Lt AA Bty personnel in support of Bofors guns.
Three guns are to be manned by S/L personnel for the protection of certain perimeter S/Lc. Two have already been sited.

(b) Faulty Equipment and Maintenance Difficulties: The condition of the guns was not good and they are being withdrawn singly and serviced by 110 Aust Lt AA Regt Workshop Section.

(c) Spare Parts: Spares taken over from D Bty, 104 Sep (CA & AA) Bn included eight new barrels and subsidiary parts sufficient for present requirements.

8. AA Operations Room Plotting Equipment.
With the arrival of AA Operations Room personnel work was commenced immediately on the setting up of plotting boards, converters and equipment for installation in the new GOR when completed.

9. Gun Station Plotting Room Equipment.
Plotting boards have been prepared by AA Operation Room personnel and installed in plotting rooms at both Hy AA gun stations.

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Part III. (cont) 10. Signal Equipment and Communication

The warning gun, L 9, has been hooked up to GOR, the other eight guns to a switchboard in 154 Aust L& AA Bty operations room.
Priority in signals communications has been given to the searchlights. A master light has been linked up with GOR and lines to other lights are progressing slowly.
The Signal Section's present strength is one officer and eleven ORs. That is the full number allotted to the Regiment. Unfortunately, in this respect, the arrival of the majority of personnel, including RMO, Lt AA and Searchlights, has coincided with the construction of the new GOR, thus throwing heavy work on this section.
The building of signal communications will consequently hold up the completion of the operational set-up. Unskilled working parties are being provided for the limited number of tasks in which they can be employed.
Daily work by the line section in the swamps has resulted in 50% of section getting tinea through constantly wet feet. All lines have to be pulled out by hand.

11. Transport.

Heavy rains and heavy traffic have cut the roads up badly over the last week and this has been a heavy strain on vehicles which were continually becoming bogged. Only minor mechanical faults have occurred but it is anticipated that the heavy roads will have a detrimental effect on transmission parts.

PART IV. - PERSONNEL.-

1. Fighting Strength.

All AA Troops allotted to this area have arrived.

HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment - - -	5	Officers	45 ORs
154 Aust Lt AA Bty - - - -	6	"	199 "
9 Aust My AA Bty - - - -	10	"	218 "
76 Aust AA S/L Bty(AIF) - - -	8	"	227 "
HQ & Det 110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec - -	1	"	12 "
HQ & Det 110 Aust Lt AA Regt W/shop Sec -	1	"	11 "
9 Aust My AA Bty W/shop Sec - - -	1	"	17 "
76 Aust AA S/L Bty W/shop Sec - - -	1	"	24 "
AA Operations Room (Type C) - - -	1	"	24 "
	34	"	777 "

2. Morale.

Morale of troops is excellent, and is very high as a result of action against enemy aircraft on 27 Jul 43.

3. Medical.

Sickness rate has been remarkably low. Report of RMO, 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment, attached - Appendix A.

4. Amenities.

Canteen supplies, including cigarettes and tobacco, are available. A picture show is in the area and a chess tournament has been organised.

PART V. - GENERAL.-

(a) Ammunition - During the engagement of the enemy on 27 Jul 43 two rounds of 3.7in ammunition jammed when setting the fuses. All ammunition on the station was examined and it was found that the luting had crystallised, allowing the moisture to swell the felt washer thus the time ring seized when the fuse setter commenced to turn it.
All ammunition was examined by F.A.D. and it was decided that with re-luting the rounds would be satisfactory
(b) Calibration Shoot: With no Memos of Examination available it was decided to calibrate the guns with the aid of stopwatch and GL.
Mr Smith (Operations Research Group) was in charge of the GL side.
Calibration was commenced at H 2 and was a failure as all bursts were missed. This set is working on a higher frequency than G 1 from which bursts were observed, and that fact has been advanced as a reason for this failure.

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Part V. (cont) - Calibration from H 1 was satisfactory and bursts gave a distinct indication on the screen. With one exception all bursts were consistent and all guns are now working on a B.C. of 5.4% and F.F of .992 as a basis.

(c) Bofors Shoot with American Ammunition: An experimental shoot was carried out on 16 Jul 43 from one 40 mm gun to test the American ammunition in Australian guns. Meteorological baloons were used as targets.
The shoot confirmed the fact that American and Australian ammunition is interchangeable. Trouble occurred with the extractors of the gun with the result that after firing 24 rounds only, a new set of extractors became badly burred causing faulty feeding (see PART III, para 6, sub-para (h)).
It is considered that the damage is in no way attributable to the ammunition. The following facts were established:
(i) Tracer in American ammunition is not nearly as bright as that in Australian rounds;
(ii) Propellant charges in American ammunition produced much more smoke from muzzle and breech than Australian rounds;
(iii) American tracer appeared slow in showing after leaving the muzzle whereas Australian tracer appeared practically at the muzzle.

Firing against a cloud background the accumulated effects of the above factors resulted in layers completely missing a large proportion of American tracer. This was the same from the point of view of personnel in the rear of the gun pit.
It is realised that this all may be caused by the fact that American ammunition has been through a wet season in the tropics and the Australian ammunition is straight from a southern climate.
Before the practice the external limits of two American and two Australian rounds were measured. The only discrepancies were a difference of .003 inches in the diameter of the round itself, the American rounds both being smaller by this amount. Driving bands and all other external measurements were identical. Rounds fired:-

American - 46 (Numerous batch lots)
Australian - 12 (Batch No 554 c)

(d) .50 MG Shoot: At the same time as the Bofors shoot a .50 MG at H 1 engaged the target. The shoot was arranged to familiarise this unit's personnel with the performance of the gun. Accuracy was difficult in the early stages as ammunition was not showing satisfactory tracer. Efficiency will not be attained without a lot more training and firing.

(e) Meteorological Information: Up to date the US Meteor Section has given the following information three times daily:-

Ground Temperature;
Ground Pressure;
Ground Humidity;
Wind directions and speeds at 1000 feet intervals up to cloud base (seldom over 4000 feet)

Their OC, Lieut Wilson, states that they can give us no further information with the apparatus at hand. Tests are being carried out to determine the lapse rate for varying heights under three different pressure influences, and this will enable sites to get an approximation of ballistic temperature at expected height of attack, which would give better results than the present method of using ground temperature for all heights.

(f) Weather Conditions: 945 points of rain were recorded for the month of July. Roads were turned into quagmires and some camp areas were under water. It is reported that conditions are comparable with those of the wet season. Rainfall for the past three months is as under:-

May - 956 points
June - 243 "
July - 945 "

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Part V. (cont)

(g) Staining of Breech Ring and Breech Block, and Mechanism by NCT Cordite: At a calibration shoot carried out at 383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station staining of the breech ring, breech block face and mechanism by NCT Cordite was noticed. (Full report by AEME attached - Appendix B)

(h) Enemy Activity: AA Defences had their first engagement with the enemy when 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station fired twelve rounds at a Jap aircraft, type "Dinah", on 27 Jul 43. (Full report - Appendix C)

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

Distribution:

MRA Branch LHQ	(1)
NRA First Aust Army	(1)
HQ Merauke Force	(1)
War Diary	(2)
File	(1)

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APPENDIX A

Copy

R.A.F.
110 Aust Lt AA Regiment

STATE OF DAILY SICK PARADE FOR PERIOD 5 JUL TO 28 JUL 43

Diseases	Light Duties	Treatment & Duty	No Duty Unit Lines	Evacuations
U.R.T.I.	-	5	-	3
Diarrhoea	-	1	-	-
Clinical Dysentery	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-
Acute Abdomen	-	-	-	2
Rheumatism	-	-	1	2
Dyspepsia	-	3	-	-
Headache (severe)	-	1	-	1
Tinea (feet, hands, ears, etc)	-	6	-	-
Urticaria	-	-	-	1
Bites (insect)	-	50 (mosquito)	2	2
Furunculosis	-	2	-	-
Impetigo	-	1	-	-
Heat Rash	-	10	-	-
Pediculi	-	1	-	-
Conjunctivitis	-	3	-	-
Sprains	-	3	-	-
Acute Haemorrhoids	-	-	-	1
Fracture (metatarsal)	-	-	-	1
Petit Mal	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	-	86	3	14

Returned from ADS, MDS, MRS	
URTI	3
Rheumatism	1
Acute Abdomen	1
Headache	1
Urticaria	1
Insect Bite	1
Haemorrhoids	1

REPORT ON MEDICAL STATE AND HYGIENE FOR PERIOD 5 JUL to 28 JUL 43.

Preliminary hygiene instructions given to troop commanders before disembarkation. On 6 Jul 43 both the RAP and BAP in charge of Cpl Pullen AAMC were ready to work.

Comment on sickness to date.- Mild headache was common in the first week. Salt tablets when taken four days after arrival decreased the feeling of fatigue common to all ranks.
Atebrin, 1 tablet (0.1 gram) has been given six nights a week (excluding Sunday) after the evening meal. No cases of idiocyncracy have occurred.

Diarrhoea.- The only case cleared up in three days.

P.U.O.- Two cases evacuated with high temperature developed upper respiratory infections and settled down.

Acute Abdomen.- Of two cases queried appendicitis one settled down in hospital and one had a successful appendicectomy performed at MRS.

Insect Bites.- Four cases of scorpion bites occurred with swelling and pain at the site of infection and a painful swelling of the regional lymph glands in about two hours. All settled down quickly.

Petit Mal.- An apparent hysterical fit occurred after trivial neck injury sustained during wrestling. He is still under observation in MRS.

Acute Rheumatism.- Two cases occurred in 110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec who had been working in marshy ground for three weeks. Continual wet clothes and long hours appeared to be the exciting factors.

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First Aid Kits.- Were issued to the twelve 40 mm Gun Sites, and five others to each of the four Troop HQ, and BHQ.

Hygiene.- All gun sites and unit camps have been inspected and the following rules have been adhered to in all cases:-

1. Deep pit latrines (flyproof) have been used throughout;
2. Latrines have been flamed once per week;
3. All food refuse and empty tins have been incinerated;
4. Waste water from kitchens, ablutions, and washing clothes is run into waste water disposal points;
5. Tents are sprayed twice daily with mosquito spray;
6. Mosquito nets are inspected daily for holes.

Other orders not directly concerned with health and hygiene have appeared in Unit Routine Orders.

(Sgd) R.B. Kendall, Capt AAMC
RMO 110 Aust Lt AA Regt.

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APPENDIX B

REPORT ON STAINING OF BREECH RING AND BREECH BLOCK FACE AND MECHANISM

BY N.C.T. CORDITE

On 18 Jul 43 a calibration shoot was carried out at 383 Aust Fy AA Gun Site of the 9 Aust Fy AA Bty stationed at Morauke. On the completion of this calibration staining was found in the chamber, on the face of the breech block, on the catch retaining breech block open, and paint had become solvent on the breech ring. There were also marks on the heads of four brass screws in the well of the counter weight on the recoil indicator slide, and on the inter-locking gear guide. The cartridge cases were also found to be badly corroded on the following day although these had been thoroughly boiled and greased. It was also noticed that coppering was present in the barrel. The writer has had previous experience of this staining, coppering and corrosion on a Sydney gun site when N.C.T. Cordite had been used. A specimen of the deposit was collected from the breech block face and was submitted for analysis to DADE, Victoria Barracks. The result of this analysis has not been made known to the writer. The substance thus collected had the appearance of being Linseed Oil and was found to be insoluble on application of Oil A. The DDME at the time recommended that a few rounds of ammunition containing Cordite W be fired to clear the barrel of coppering. The writer left Sydney before this recommendation was carried out. It is advised that there is at the present time none of this ammunition held in the Morauke area. Experiments carried out locally show that Methylated Spirits and Duco thinners will remove this stain from brass fittings but will not remove the stain from steel surfaces.

(Sgd) F. Moulay-Smith,
OC 110 Aust Lt AA Regt W/shop Sec.

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ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MORAUKE - AIR RAID REPORT No 1. APPENDIX C

HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment
In the Field.
27 Jul 43.

No of Air Raid.	-	21st in area.
Meteorological Information.	-	8/10ths cloud.
Number, Type, Formation.	-	1 Dinah, 2 Zekes. Zekes flying 5000/6000 feet above Dinah as cover.
Height.	-	Dinah 17/18000 feet. Zekes 23/24000 feet.
Speed.	-	Estimated speed 240 m. p. h.
Course.	-	West to East, between bearings 296° to 320°
Bombs dropped.	-	Nil
Damage and Casualties.	-	Nil
Fighter Intercention.	-	Sixteen P40M's in the air. Enemy sighted at 24000 feet. Closed to half-mile when sighted by Zekes which dropped belly tanks and headed for home. No contact.
Warning System	-	First warning received at 0908 hours from O.P. (Kombies) 100 miles west, "Three Jap planes headed S.E."

R.D.F. plots:

0910 hours	280°	52 miles
0921 hours	296°	18 miles
0940 hours	320°	12 miles
0941 hours	320°	10 miles

Picked up by GL when within range.

Last report: 0955 hours from Okaba, "Jap planes EAST-WEST unseen EAST-WEST."

Air Raid Red - 0918 hours
All Clear - 0951 hours

AA Engagement. - 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station engaged at seen target at 18000 ft - 12 rounds. HE fired. Commenced at fuze 17 and continued until target out of range. Only three bursts observed, remainder burst behind cloud. RAAF pilots report bursts appeared to be above.

383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station followed target with Predictor using Height Computer drill. Range Finder directed onto target which cut height at 17000 feet. This station did not engage.

Both gun stations saw one plane only and described it as twin-engined low wing monoplane. Subsequently identified by RAAF pilots as "Dinah".

General. - RAAF pilots reported that enemy aircraft did not approach nearer than river.

(Sgd) J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Morauke.

Distribution:
HQ Morauke Force
NGRA Branch
BAA First Aust Army
War Diary
File.

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APPENDIX. 'C'

For official use only
AMR & O 1587

Australian Military Forces
110 Aust Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Routine Orders by Lt-Col J.A. England
Officer Commanding
Part 1, No 30 Monday, 2 Aug 43

1 Maintenance Of Mechanical Vehicles:- Attention is drawn to GRO 339/43 and Meraukе Force RO 45/43. A Group Maintenance Sheet will be maintained for each vehicle and entries recorded after supervision by Transport Officer or N.C.O. Supplies of this sheet have been forwarded to each sub-unit.

2 Designation Of Tradesmen:- Attention is drawn to GRO 290/43, sub-para 3, which reads: "All tradesmen below NCO rank in the AEME will be designated as 'Craftsmen' (abbreviation Cftn). Non-tradesmen will be 'Privates' or 'Drivers' according to the duties they perform." Members of AACC will be designated as 'Privates' or 'Corporals.'

3 Fire Precautions:- Attention is drawn to Appendix N of Meraukе Force Standing Orders For War, paras 7 and 8 which read: "No naked lights will be permitted in tents. No lights are to be left unattended in any tent under any circumstances."

4 Recording Of Leave:- Attention is drawn to GRO 249/43. Sub-units will render a certificate by 1800 hrs, 9 Aug 43, that records of leave have been prepared for all members on strength. Where full details of leave granted since 1 Jul 42 by other units are not known, immediate action will be taken to obtain such details from members' previous units.

5 Wills:- Attention is drawn to AMR & O 1410A (as amended, Oct 42), requiring each member of the AIF to make a will on AAF A130 (to be contained in AAF A131) or to certify on AAF A120 that he has made a valid will and specify where it is lodged. Such wills or certificates are to be lodged with D.R.O. All sub-units will render a certificate by 1800 hrs, 18 Aug 43, that wills or certificates of wills have been lodged for all members. Where wills have not been completed, necessary action will be taken forthwith and wills forwarded to this HQ by 1800 hrs, 18 Aug 43.

Attention of all members who have married since enlistment is drawn to AMR & O 1410A (4) which reads: "Each member to whom this regulation applies who marries or otherwise revokes a will executed, deposited or the whereabouts of which has been notified in accordance with sub-regulation (2) or (3) of this regulation shall, within one month after the marriage or other mode of revocation, make a will, or certify as to the whereabouts of a will, in accordance with the provisions of sub-regulation (2) of this regulation."

Notwithstanding the notes on AAF A130, a will should be written in ink, appoint an executor, and be witnessed by two witnesses not beneficiaries under the will.

6 Change In Nomenclature:- GRO 297/43 (repeated in this unit's RO 22/43/5) is cancelled by GRO 509/43. The term "anti-gas" will be used as heretofore.

7 Enlistment In AIF:- The following have volunteered for service in AIF and have been allotted new Army numbers as shown. Action will be taken by Btys to amend all records. Pay book alterations will be made only by the unit Pay Staff:

N153612	Gnr	Cole, C.C.	now NX	53248
N290477	L/Bdr	Fishor, A.C.	" NX	53249
N319166	Gnr	Lyford, R.S.	" NX	53250
N353995	Gnr	Richardson, A.V.	" NX	53251
N242279	Gnr	Knowles, T.M.	" NX	53252

8 Promotions And Appointments:- The following promotions and appointments have been approved:

NX135140	L/Sgt	Mawkes, R.	to be Sgt	as from 28 Jul 43	(154)
NX135167	Bdr	Iverach, I.J.	" L/Sgt	" 28 Jul 43	(154)
NX135164	Gnr	Chandler, A.L.	" L/Bdr	" 25 Jul 43	(154)
NX135142	Gnr	Skerrett, B.	" Spec Grp III (Gun Layer)	as from 25 Jul 43	(154)

9 Malaria Control:- Attention is drawn to "Extracts Of Report On Malaria At Milne Bay" which has been distributed to Bty HQs. Sleeves will be rolled down and gaiters worn by 1730 hrs each day. All shorts will be withdrawn forthwith and a kit inspection held to ensure that no personnel are in possession of shorts. A certificate to this effect, signed by the OC of each sub-unit, will be rendered to this HQ by 1800 hrs, 9 Aug 43.

10 Removal Of Building Material:- Owing to the demands of civil reconstruction in this area, NO unit or member will henceforth remove or purchase any privately owned material of a durable nature from any place or person in this area. This instruction is to be rigidly policed by OCs. (MF14/43/108)

11 Postal Business:- All postal business with Aust Fd Post Office will be conducted by [illegible] orderlies or personnel specifically detailed to carry out these duties. The practice of unauthorised individuals visiting this Post Office is to cease forthwith. (MF14/43/107)

Distribution: List 110/1

K. W. Pawley, Capt,
Adjt, 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Appendix "D"

SECRET

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - REPORT No 12.

HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment
In the Field.
3 Aug 43.

M 1 382 AUST MY AA GUN STATION - Draining of camp area continued.
Ammunition dump filled with water as result of rain. It is being drained and precautions taken to prevent a repetition.
Construction of fourth ammunition dump commenced in a concrete tank on site.
Maintenance carried out on dummy gun site.
Ammunition recesses in gun pits proved not waterproof. Recesses being reconstructed.
Luting on 20% of ammunition found to be faulty. All ammunition examined and re-luted with a substitute preparation - RD 1154.

M 2 383 AUS MY AA GUN STATION - Draining of camp area continued and bridges constructed on camp road.
Construction of new dummy site commenced.
Rain, making track impassable, has held up work.
All uncased ammunition checked. Luting on small percentage had crystallised; moisture penetrated and tightened the time ring.
Ammunition re-luted with RD 1154.
New elevating arc for No 3 gun arrived in area and will be fitted immediately.
Camouflaging of gun sites continuing. Grass, vines, creepers and ferns have been planted on revetments to break the outline and to blend with the surrounding terrain.

G O R - Work is progressing slowly. A concrete floor has been laid. Roof partially completed and building partially lined. Interior fittings are being constructed. F.S. advised that it is their intention to move in on or about 9 Aug 43. Preparations are being made for GOR to move in at the same time.

HEIGHT COMPUTER - M.C was fitted to Predictor at M 1. Trouble was experienced with the spindle which was slightly "off true", resulting in the mechanical pointer on Range Scale Dial being out of coincidence with Range Setting Marks on Height Drum by 2400 yards. This was rectified and computer is now working satisfactorily. Accurate tests on friendly F/A have not been carried out.

G L - G 1 & G 2: Both sets have performed well and good co-operation on friendly a/c has been obtained throughout the week.

SEARCHLIGHTS - Searchlights have exposed on three consecutive nights, and steadiness in following has been satisfactory.
A 100-megohm 3-watt resistor was blown in 150 cm SLC sited at S4. As no replacement for this part is carried the part is being obtained from the mainland. 150 cm SLC to be sited across the river, ultimately, has been moved into this position.

40 mm BOFORS - Heavy rain for a week revealed that the sites selected for some Bofors guns were inaccessible. It was decided that three of these guns, L 3, L 10, and L 18, be moved a short distance. L 10 has been moved 150 yards to a new site. Others will be moved when new pits are constructed.

AIR CO-OPERATION PRACTICE SHOOT - Arrangements were made with 86 Squadron to fly a selected course at approximately 22000 feet on 3 Aug 43. 383 Aust My AA Gun Station were to engage the target with guns lined up 180° out of true.
Co-operation from the Air Force was excellent, but, unfortunately, the guns could not engage owing to a ship being in the arc of fire.
The training programme of the RAAF embraces daily flights, and twice a week they go to 25000 feet, approximately. Excellent

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Air Co-operation Practice Shoot (cont) - co-operation is obtained by GL and use is being made of this to improve the standard of plotting in both gun station plotting rooms and GOR.

SHORTAGES 9 AUST HY AA BTY - The shortages previously referred to are still largely unfulfilled. The matter was taken up with Lt-Col Anderson, DDOS, First Aust Army, on his visit to the area this week. He will investigate the position on his return. In addition the Bty provided him with a requisition for the most urgent requirements, and these will be forwarded by air freight.

PERSONNEL. - Posted strength is 34 officers and 774 ORs.

MEDICAL - Attached are weekly reports from RMO, 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment, and monthly report from RMO, 9 Aust Hy AA Bty, covering all AA troops in the area.

MORALE - Good.

ENEMY ACTIVITY - Nil.

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

Distribution:

MGRA Branch LHQ
BAA & FD First Aust Army
HQ Merauke Force
War Diary
File.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

COPY

STATE OF SICK PARADE FOR THE PERIOD
29 JUL to 4 AUG 43.

R.A.F.,
110 Aust Lt AA Regiment
Australia.

AA UNITS TREATED: - RHQ, 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment
154 Aust Lt AA Bty
AA Operations Room (Type "C")
110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec
76 Aust AA S/L Bty (AIF) (Excluding Bty HQ)

Diseases	Light Duties	Treatment and Duty	No Duty Unit Lines	Evacuations
U.R.TI.	-	2	1	1 (? Measles)
Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-
Clinical Dysentery	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-
Rheumatism	1	1	1	-
Tinea (feet)	-	19	-	-
Tinea (ears)	-	3	-	-
Centipede Bites	-	-	3	-
Furunculosis	-	6	-	-
Infected Fingers	2	-	-	-
Impetigo	-	5	-	-
Heat Rash	-	6	-	-
Other Skin	-	1	-	-
Other Ears	-	-	-	1
Conjunctivitis	-	1	-	-
Sprains	-	2	1	-
Enucreosis	-	-	-	1
Paraplegia	-	-	-	1
Synovitis	-	2	-	-
Infected Wounds	-	4	-	-
? Scabies	-	-	-	4
Urticaria	-	-	-	1
? Dengue	-	-	-	1
Left Inguinal Hernia	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	3	52	6	11

Returned from A.D.S., M.D.S., M.R.S.

? Petit Mal	1
U.R.T.I. (? Measles)	1
Infected ear	1

REPORT ON SICK PARADE.

The only cases of importance were three instances of centipede bites (authenticated), and previous bites thought to be due to scorpions, almost certainly due to centipedes. Early incision under local anaesthesia seemed to be beneficial in reducing the degree of pain and swelling though other cases responded well to moist heat. One case developed painful inguinal adenitis from a bite on the knee. The latter subsequently suppurated and was incised. Inguinal adenitis settled down.

Sergeant Jones, 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, was evacuated to MDS with paraplegia. All signs disappeared in a few days, but glycosuria has persisted. He will be probably evacuated to the mainland for further investigation.

A case of nervous enuresis, 76 AA S/L, was evacuated to MDS, awaiting medical board.

REPORT ON HYGIENE.

The following sites were inspected and found to have a good general standard of hygiene:-

RHQ, 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment
154 Aust Lt AA Bty, and all Troop HQs.
AA Operations Room (Type "C")
110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

110 Aust Lt AA Regt, etc. State of Sick Parade and Report on Sick Parade and Hygiene for the period 29 Jul to 4 Aug 43.

Report on Hygiene (cont)

Incineration of all wet refuse is being carried out and all kitchens are equipped with waste water disposal points.
All latrines were changed during the last week and previous heavy rain created difficulties with the digging of pit latrines. In all cases the ground was built up to give a height above water level of at least three feet. Most gun sites have now constructed wells, ablution points, including showers, and in some cases, facilities for boiling water for ablutions and washing clothes. Suitable mess-huts or tents have been erected at all eating points. All anti-malarial measures have been faithfully observed. There was some difficulty during three days of rain in the distribution of centrally-cooked food to "D", "G" and "O" Troops, 154 Aust Lt AA Pty.

(Sgd) R.S. Kendall, Capt, AAMC,
RMO 110 Aust Lt AA Regt.

6 Aug 43
I concur
(sgd) P.W.Hopkins, Lt-Col,
S.M.O.

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COPY

MEDICAL REPORT - JULY 1943

Daily Sick Parade for 9 Aust Hy AA Bty (including W/shop Sec), 76 AA S/L Bty (AIF) HQ, and 76 Aust AA S/L Bty W/shop Sec.

Diseases	9 Aust Hy AA Bty		76 Aust AA S/L Bty HQ		76 Aust AA S/L Bty W/shop Sec	
	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.
U.R.T.I.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	1	-	-	-	-	-
Furunculosis	7	-	-	-	1	-
Dermatitis	4	2	1	-	-	-
Other Skin	14	2	-	-	-	-
Piles	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hernia	1	1	1	1	-	-
Bites	3	-	-	-	-	-
Tinea	2	-	-	-	-	-
Ears	4	-	-	-	-	-
Eyes	18	-	1	-	-	-
Sinuses	2	-	-	-	-	-
Teeth	19	-	1x	1	-	-
Feet	3	1	-	-	-	-
Injuries - at work	2	-	-	-	-	-
at play	13	4	-	-	-	-
Muscular Rheumatism	4	-	-	-	-	-
Psychopathic types	7	2	-	-	-	-
N.Y.D.	2	1	-	-	-	-
N.A.D.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sandworms	3	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	108	14	4	2	1	-

A. Number reporting sick
B. Number evacuated to hospital.
x ? Vincent's angina

MEDICAL REPORT - JULY 1943

1. 9 Hy AA Bty and 9 Hy AA Bty W/shop Sec - 120 cases paraded sick. These were classified as follows:-
14 were marched out to hospital
9 have marched in from hospital
1 (Gnr Gemmell) was evacuated to mainland. Gnr Gemmell had had hospital treatment for schizophrenia immediately before joining the services. He will probably be classified "D".
Despite the low figure (2) ref. Tines, a foot inspection at "D" Section revealed 31 cases (33%) mostly an early chronic stage. These men were paraded daily in the section for treatment. 19 men were found without socks, 17 of these had tinea.
Short-arm inspection was carried out at the same time - no cases.
18 men require refraction, and I have requested consultation specialist from the mainland through S.M.O.
3 cases of "sandworm" are dog hookworm infection which localises in the skin and is not dangerous to health.
Psychopathic types are those including early neurotics, hypochondriacs and one early D.A.H. syndrome. All responded to simple psychotherapy.

2. The Sections and Workshops were inspected three times weekly with Sgt Abbott, (Hygiene). Owing to inability to obtain building materials none has a general mess with the result that tents have been made small individual mess-huts. These are unsatisfactory from the point of view of hygiene. Steps taken to prevent their use for messing purposes. (Deferred)

3. The incidence of sickness, 2% daily, compares favourably to other units.

4. Lectures on V.D. were given to the troops.

5. AA S/L W/shop Sec, one case of furunculosis. This unit was inspected once and recommendations made.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Medical Report - July 1943.

Daily Sick Parade for 9 Bty (inc W/shops), 76 AA S/L Bty HQ, and 76 AA S/L W/shops

Medical Report, July 1943 (cont'd)

6. AA S/L Bty HQ - four cases, two evacuated to hospital.

7. Standing Orders, Hygiene, 9 Aust My AA Bty, were compiled and introduced, and copy is attached hereto.

(Sgd) N. Lee-Tet, Capt,
RMO 9 Aust My AA Bty.

6 Aug 43
Approved
(sgd) P.W.Hopkins, Lt-Col,
S.M.O.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

W.D.

AA DEFENCES, [illegible]. - LOCATION STATEMENT No. 2.

SECRET

AS AT 1200 HRS 5 AUG 43

Appendix E.

Ref Map: Horsuke Special - 1:25000

Line No	Unit Serial No.	Unit	Code Symbol	Location	Map Ref	Proj Moves	Comms	EQUIPMENT 3.7	40mm	.5MG	GL	AAMG	SL	Remarks
1	46683 (363)	HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regt (Lt-Col J.A.England)	Y1	500 yds along 4 Ave, 250 yds N-WEST	42763170	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	2	-	
2	46683 (363)	HQ 154 Aust Lt AA Bty (Maj A.F.Swinbourne)		200 yds EAST of Base-ball pitch	44853191	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	1	-	
3		A Troop HQ (Lieut J.Petrie)		S-EAST Cnr 9 Ave-B St.	42573441	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	1	-	
			L15	480 yds SOUTH of wharf 100 yds EAST B Street	42603433	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L16	700 yds S-WEST wharf, on River Bank.	41903441	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L18	600 yds N-EAST wharf, 300 yds EAST from river bank	42953508	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
4		B Troop HQ (Lieut K.E.Walsh)		200 yds SOUTH of end of air strip on EAST side Main Street	45752910	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	-	
			L2	240 yds S-WEST of end of air strip	45372095	Nil	DRLS	-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L3	200 yds SOUTH Alert area 100 yds EAST of strip	45243015	Nil		-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L11	250 yds S-EAST from end of strip	45712915	Nil	DRLS	-	1	-	-	1	-	

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Line No	Unit Serial No.		Code Symbol	Location	Map Ref	Proj Moves	Comms	EQUIPMENT 3.7	40mm	.5MG	GL	AAMG	SL	Remarks
5	46683	C Troop Hq (Sgt H. Barden)		190 yds EAST D Street 1400 yds NORTH 13 Ave	44873155	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	1	-	
			L4	1400 yds NORTH 13 Ave 100 yds EAST of strip	45083065	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L5	190 yds EAST D Street 1400 NORTH 13 Ave	44803159	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L7	1000 yds NORTH 13 Ave between C Street and emergency strip.	44563107	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
6		D Troop Hq (Lieut D.E. Egan)		1100 yds SOUTH 4 Ave WEST side Main Street	43903073	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	1	-	
			L9	1000 yds SOUTH 4 Ave 200 yds WEST Main St.	43633079	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L21	150 yds NORTH 13 Ave On edge of C Street	44713045	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
			L22	200 yds prolongation C St. south 13 Ave.	44902998	Nil	'Phone	-	1	-	-	1	-	
7	46693	Hq & Det 110 Aust Lt AA Regt W/shop Sec. (Lieut F. Henley-Smith)		700 yds along 3 Ave from Main St. 150 yds NORTH of 3 Ave	42203948	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	1	-	
8	46688	Hq & Det 110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec (Lieut C. Stratford)		900 yds S-WEST along 4 Ave from Main St. 600 yds NORTH.	42603188	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	-	-	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Line No	Unit Serial No.	Unit	Code Symbol	Location	Map Ref	Proj Moves	Comms	EQUIPMENT 3.7	40mm	.50	GL	AAMG	GL	Remarks
9	46772 (295)	HQ 9 Aust Hy AA Bty (Maj A. Cunningham)	X1	500 yds from Main St on SOUTH side 3 Ave	42423250	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		382 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta (Lieut S.A. Pitt) GL Set	H1) G1)	500 yds S-WEST of wharf on river bank	42023448	Nil	'Phone	4 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	1 / -	- / -	
		383 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta (Lieut F. Erickson) GL Set	H2)) G2)	400 yds WEST of strip 50 yds SOUTH Main St	45072945	Nil	'Phone	4	-	-	1	1	-	
10	47113	9 Aust Hy AA Bty S/shop (Lieut K. Thomson) Soc		900 yds from Main St along 3 Ave; 150 yds NORTH 3 Ave	41953245	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	-	
11	47592 (544)	HQ 76 Aust AA S/L Bty (AIF) (Maj J. Barrett)		500 yds from Main St on NORTH side 3 Ave	42403270	Nil	DRLS	-	-	1	-	3	-	
12		192 Troop HQ (Lieut R. Johnson)	S5	At S9. 200 yds EAST of ~~[illegible]~~ strip prolongation of Main St	45502933	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(c)	SR.
			S6	300 yds EAST Main St 100 yds SOUTH 13 Ave.	44832993	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(c)	
			S7	1000 yds N-EAST from Cnr 13 Ave & C St.	45283110	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(c)	
			S8	1700 yds NORTH along C St. 120 yds WEST	44303163	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(c)	
			S9	Centre of Baseball Pitch	44793185	Nil	'Phone	-	-	-	-	1	1(c)	
			S11	400 yds S-EAST wharf	42593445	Nil	DRLS 'Phone	-	-	-	-	1	1(d)	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Line No	Unit Serial No	Unit	Code Symbol	Location	Map Ref	Proj Moves	Comms	EQUIPMENT 3.7	40mm	.5MG	CL	AAMG	SL	Remarks
13	47592 (544)	193 Troop HQ (Lieut E.R.Otto)		At S1										
			S1	SOUTHERN Cnr of A St & 2 Ave	40023300	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(e)	
			S2	900 yds SOUTH Boeti	41463063	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(e)	
14		130 Troop HQ (Lieut A.Davis)		At S3 S10										
			S3	On coast 300 yds S-WEST from June 5 Ave and A Street	45252715	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(e)	
			S10	3250 yds N-EAST from June 12 Ave & Main St. 100 yds NORTH Chauncey Boulevards	45003465	Nil	DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	1(e)	
15		133 Troop HQ (Lieut E.A.Nelson)		At S4										
			S4	2640 yds SOUTH of 5 Ave on EAST side of Main Street	48402680			-	-	-	-	1	1(f)	
			S12	Not in position yet To be sited across river.				-	-	-	-	1	1(f)	
16	42837	76 Aust AA R/L W/shop (Lieut K.Cameron)		900 yds from Main St [illegible] along 3 Ave; 250 yds NORTH 3 Ave	42103220 [illegible]	To new site when building completed. -	~~Phone~~ DRLS	-	-	-	-	1	-	
17	48267	AA Operations Room Type C (Lieut F.Newell)	S1	NORTH WEST cnr Main St. and first track SOUTH of 4 Ave	43983118	To new site when building completed....	Phone	-	-	-	-	-	-	

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Line No	Unit Serial No.	Unit	Code Symbol	Location	Map Ref	Proj Movee	Comms	EQUIPMENT 3.7	40mm	.5MG	GL	AAMG	SL	Remarks
18		River Defence S/L (Manned by 9 Aust Hy AA Dty personnel)		200 yds S-WEST wharf on Levee.	42253466	N11	'Phone	-	-	-	-	-	1(a)	
19		American .5 MG manned by 154 Aust Lt AA Dty personnel	M1	20 yds WEST L16	41883442	N11	'Phone	-	-	1	-	-	-	
			M2	20 yds SOUTH L9	43663077	N11	'Phone	-	-	1	-	-	-	
			M3	80 yds SOUTH L2	45372887	N11	DRLS	-	-	1	-	-	-	
			M4	60 yds NORTH L11	45722921	N11	DRLS	-	-	1	-	-	-	
			M5	300 yds N-EAST L4	45283086	N11	'Phone	-	-	1	-	-	-	
		Manned by AA S/L personnel	M6) M7)	Adjacent to S4	48302680 48502680		DRLS DRLS			2				
							EQUIPMENT TOTALS	8	12	8	2	42(b)	13	

(a) NSI 90 cm Searchlight
(b) Bren Guns
(c) 90 cm Searchlights
(d) 90 cm S.L.C.
(e) Sperry 150 cm
(f) S.L.C. 150 cm

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Morauke.

Distribution.
MHRA Branch LHQ
DAA First Aust Army
HQ Morauke Force
War Diary
File

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

110 Aust Lt AA Regt 32/43 (Serial No.)
(less 2 Btys) (Unit)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 7/8/194 3

Hdq W.E. 111/21/2 OFFRS 5 O.Rs 28 OFFRS 1 O.Rs 17 ATT BY W.E.
1 Bty W.E. 111 27a 1 OFFRS. 7/12 O.R's. 153/229 OFFRS. —/1 O.R's. 19/29 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

W.E. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.					ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.	Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required W.E.
W.E.				*					
				*					
1			1	Lieut.-Colonels					
2	1		1	Majors					
2	1		1	Captains	A.A.M.C.	1			1
6			6	Lieutenants					
1			1	Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
12	2		10			1			1

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).	DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL
	A.		11									11
	E.(1)											
	E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED, .../...../194.....

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

APPENDIX F.

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

10 Aust Lt AA Regt (less 2 Btys) Unit

32 43 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 7 8 /194 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1 Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	2 Army Number.	3 Surname.	4 Initials.	5 Posting.	6 Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	7 If not present with Unit, state how employed.	8 Date of Detachment.
T/Lt-Col	NX113486	England	J.A.	O.C.	yes		
T/Major	NX12505	Swinbourne	A.J.	154 Bty	yes		
T/Capt	NX113489	Pawley	E.W.	Adjt	yes		
T/Capt	NX113487	Samuelson	A.E.	Q.M.	yes		
Lieut	NX119492	Egan	E.E.	154 Bty	yes		
Lieut	NX119494	Walsh	K.E.	154 Bty	yes		
Lieut	NX119496	Petrie	J.C.	154 Bty	yes		
Lieut	NX166427	Mollard	A.J.	154 Hdq	yes		
Lieut	VX22104	Zanner	J.C.	L.O.	yes		
Lieut	NX113656	Fathers	L.E.	154 Bty Capt	yes		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Captain	NX149558	Kendall R.B.	AAHQ	1.2.43.	R.M.O.

E. W. Pawley Capt.

7 Aug 43
Date of Despatch

E. W. PAWLEY
Adjt 110 A.A. Regt
Signature of Commander

2,000 Pads BH59 3/43 W.P.Co.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Army Form W.3009 (Adapted)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1942.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

32 / 43 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 7 / 8 /1943 . 110 Aust Lt AA Regt (less 2 Btys) (Unit)

1 Bty W.E. 111/27 / 2 OFFRS. 5 O.Rs. 36 + OFFRS. 1 O.Rs. 10 ATT BY W.E.
W.E. 111/27a / 1 . OFFRS. 7 O.R's. 193 + OFFRS. = O.R's. 19 ATT. BY W.E.
12 229 1 29

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.					ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
W.E. Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.	Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
1 NRR	1			W.Os. Class I.					
1 NR	1			W.Os. Class II.	AACC	1			1
1			1	Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
				Staff Sergeants	AAMC(1)				
19 NR	2		17	Sergeants	Post(1) AATC(1) AEME(1)	2		2	4
18		2	20	Corporals	AACC(1) AEME(1) AAMC(1)	11	3		8
189 13	10		179	Troopers, Privates, etc.	AEME(6) AACC(7)				
				Civilians counting as O.R.	AACC(9)	12		4	NR 16
229 13 *	14	2	217 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2		26 *	3	6	29 *

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail	A.I.F.	C.M.F. Under 19 Years.	C.M.F. 19 Years and over.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A	176		67				[redacted]	[redacted]		243
B(1)										
B(2)						[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	Q,land L of C Area "ecords office		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To ..... (Unit) is Particularly Requested. ... / ...194...

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

110 Aust Lt AA Regt (less 2 Btys) Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

32 / 43 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 7 / 8 /1943 .

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, E.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computors								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	1	1	
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors	2	2	
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				Gen Duties	181	178	12
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers							
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	7	7					
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator	8	4	NR	Clerks, Technical							
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concreters							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				Fitters	5	5	
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				Mechanic MT	6	5	NR
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics	5	8		Inst Mech	1	-	NR
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant				Shoemaker	1	1	
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.				Mod Orderlies	3	3	
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	-	1	Postal	1	1	
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers				Pay Sgt	1	1	
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates				Cooks	10	9	NR
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers	24	17	NR	Caterer	1	1	
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD	8	4		CARRIED FORWARD	45	36	1	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	258 *	243 *	13 *

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

(see over)

7 Aug 43
Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander
Capt.
Adjt. 110 Aust. Lt. AA Regt.

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Requests for reinforcements anticipate arrival of one Mech MT ex 1 Aust Adv Reinf Depot (ref authority QW/519) and one instrument mechanic ex 5 Aust Adv W,Shop (ref Q,land L of C records memo 64912 of 22 Jun 43

Surplus of Gen Duties includes personnel being trained as instrument operators and gun layers. Requests for reinforcements includes request for unskilled personnel to be trained in unit to fill specialist appointments.

It is understood that reinforcements to have been drafted to unit(ref Q,land L of C Records memos 58697 and 58699) will not now be received and consequently this return includes requests for these personnel.

Appendix "G"

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - REPORT No 13

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
10 Aug 43.

H 1
382 AUST MY AA GUN STATION - Water-filled holes adjacent to camp area being drained as anti-malarial precautions.
NCOs class on Fire Control Instruments and course on A/C identification concluded.
Intensive drill on Height Computer carried out. Very little air activity by friendly aircraft restricted training on actual aircraft as targets.
Fourth ammunition dump nearing completion.
Three revetments covered with soil, and vines and grasses planted for camouflage purposes.

H 2
383 AUST MY AA GUN STATION - Draining of camp site and gun pit area continued with good results.
Bridges being constructed on road to camp area.
Constant limbering of guns carried out. Lt-Col Bendall (DME, LHQ) in area expressed satisfaction at their condition.
Ammunition segregated into Batch No's and FF correction lots.
Work on dummy site suspended owing to impassable condition of the road.
New elevating arc fitted to No.3 gun.
Gunners' mess under construction.

G O R - Good progress has been made with interior fittings and it is anticipated GOR will be ready for occupation by 1700 hours, 14 Aug 43.
Communications are well in hand and will be finished ready for Gun Operations Room. Searchlight Operations Room will be supervised from G.O.R. until signal communications are finished.
Two lights are at present connected.
F.S. will move at the same time as G.O.R.

G L - G 1 - Authority has been given by Force Comd to remove certain trees and concrete tanks on the site at 382 Aust My AA Gun Station. Work will be commenced immediately.
Set has functioned fairly satisfactorily. One resistor burnt out during the week. Replaced.
Complete set of rubber couplings for fitting between motor driven switch and drive received from 10 RMS.

G 2 - Set performed very satisfactorily throughout the week.
Sgt Miller, 10 RMS, arrived in area to carry out radio mechanics duties during the absence of Cpl Mills at a School.

SEARCHLIGHTS - The week was spent in building up pits, settling into camp areas, and setting up and maintenance of equipment.

40 mm BOFORS - L 10 moved to a new site on high ground renumbered L 23. L 18 moved to a more accessible site and renumbered L 24. All Bofors guns are now sited on ridges with dry area in immediate vicinity of the guns. A causeway has been constructed on some sites to enable personnel to move to and from guns quickly and remain dry.
The wiring of a Predictor controlled 40 mm Gun was found to be faulty. Rectified by Workshops.

RE-ORGANIZATION - An instruction was received from Force Comd to institute re-organization of AA Defences immediately. The set up of the new Regiment is as under: (to date, 10 Aug 43)

HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regt	to be	HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
154 Aust Lt AA Bty	" "	154 Aust Lt AA Bty
9 Aust My AA Bty	" "	139 Aust My AA Bty
9 Aust My AA Bty W/shop Sec)		
HQ & Det 110 Aust Lt AA Regt W/shop Sec	" "	52 Aust Composite AA Regt W/shop

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Re-organization (cont) - HQ & Det 110 Aust Lt AA) Regt Sig Sec) to be 52 Aust Composite Regiment Signal Section

No direction was received on the disposal of AA Operations Room (Type C). It appears from the WE 111/25A/3 that the Ops Room is included in HQ of Hy AA Bty. A direction has been sought.
Authority was given to raise two six-gun troops only in 154 Aust Lt AA Bty.
76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF) and 76 Aust AASL Bty W/shop Sec are attached.

TRANSPORT - During the past week workshops reported breakages of the universal in the front axle of two 3-ton G.S. 4 x 4 Trucks. The reason advanced by Lieut Henley-Smith is, that in a bog with four-wheel drive in operation the pressure on the universal with the wheels at an angle of 29° is excessive. The tendency is for the front wheels to be forced through mud at this angle, and the modification suggested by Lieut Henley-Smithis for the stops to be adjusted to give a lock of 26°. This will relieve considerable pressure on the universal.

VISITORS - Brig. E.M. Weylan, MC, BAA & FD, First Aust Army, visited the area and inspected AA Defences.
Lt-Col Bendall (DME Branch, L.H.Q.) inspected the Workshop layout and 3.7" AA Guns and Bofors in the area.

PERSONNEL - Posted strength is 34 officers and 771 ORs.

MEDICAL - Relevant extracts of reports submitted by Capt Kendall (RMO, 52 Aust Composite AA Regt) and Capt Lee Tet (M.O., 139 Aust Hy AA Bty) attached.

ENEMY ACTIVITY - On 10 Aug 43 and unidentified plot was picked up by RAAF RDF station at 1203 hours, 24 miles in a south-easterly direction along the coast. This was lost at 21 miles, and picked up again at 1220 hours bearing 308° 36 miles in a north-westerly direction from Merauke. The bearing was on the usual path of "P" patrol and time approximated with position of Beaufort on patrol. Plot was followed to 8 miles at 1236 hours.
An aircraft was heard flying very high and this was the first indication that it was possibly an enemy aircraft. Guns and G L were immediately stood to, and first plots from G 1 were given showing height of 24000 feet. Four P40Ms were immediately sent off. No interception was made. Enemy aircraft was not within gun range.
Many personnel in area reported hearing the plane, which it is considered was an enemy recce aircraft.
Cloud density was 9/10ths. Air Force reported clear sky above 10000 feet.
G 1 plotted it out to a range of 60000 yards and lost target at bearing 30° which is in the direction of Boepal.

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

Distribution:

MGRA Branch LHQ (1)
BAA & GA First Aust Army (1)
HQ Merauke Force (1)
War Diary (1)
File (1)

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52 AUST COMPOSITE AA REGIMENT

EXTRACT OF SICK PARADE OF AA PERSONNEL - 5 AUG TO 10 AUG 43

Disease	Light Duties	Treatment and Duty	No Duty Unit Lines	Evacuations
U R T I	-	4	2	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-
Tinea	-	14	-	1
Furuncolisis	-	7	-	-
Conjunctivitis	-	4	-	-
Hordeolum	-	1	-	-
Otitis Externa	-	5	-	1
Otitis Media	-	-	-	1
Other Ears	-	3	-	-
Infected Wounds	-	4	-	-
Heat Rash	-	9	-	-
Severe Headache	1	-	-	-
Dyspepsia	-	4	-	-
Other Skin	-	10	-	1
Impetigo	-	2	-	-
Lepoma (arm)	-	-	1	1
Pleuritic Pain	-	-	-	-
Sandworm	-	1	-	-
Scabies	-	17	-	-
Dermatitis	-	-	-	2
Urticaria	-	-	-	1
Varicose Eczema	-	-	-	1
Diarrhoea	-	-	-	1
Haemorrhoids	-	-	-	1
Neurosis	-	2	-	-
Migraine	-	1	-	-
Insomnia	-	1	-	-
Feet	-	3	-	1
P U O	-	-	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-	1
Injuries - work	-	-	-	1
play	-	1	-	5
Chest	-	-	-	3
TOTALS	1	93	3	23

SCABIES: 17 treated in lines 76 Aust AASL Bty responded to treatment.

Returned from Hospital: 3.

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APPENDIX "H"

For official use only
AMR W O 1587

Australian Military Forces
52 Aust Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Routine Orders by Lt-Col J. A. England
Officer Commanding
Part 1, No 1 Tuesday, 10 Aug 43

1 Changes In Unit Names:- The following changes in unit names are effective forthwith:

HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment	NOW	HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
154 Aust Lt AA Bty, 110 Aust Lt AA Regt	"	154 Aust Lt AA Bty, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
9 Aust Hy AA Bty	"	139 Aust Hy AA Bty, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Sec	"	52 Aust Composite AA Regt Sig Sec
110 Aust Lt AA Regt Workshop, AEME	"	52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop, AEME
9 Aust Hy AA Bty W'shop Sec, AEME	"	52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop, AEME

Changes of address as above, with the addition of the respective troop (i.e. "A" Troop and "B" Troop for 139 Bty; "A" Troop and "B" Troop for 154 Bty) will be notified by all members to their correspondents.

2 Routine Orders:- Last Routine Part 1 Order issued by 110 Aust Lt AA Regt was No 30 of 2 Aug 43. Routine Orders, Administrative Instructions, etc., issued by 110 Aust Lt AA Regiment remain applicable to 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment and associated sub-units. When reference is made to such orders and instructions, the reference will be prefixed by the figures "110".

3 Returns:- 110 RO 29/43/1 is cancelled. Unless otherwise stated, returns called for in this unit's ROs will be rendered by the following sub-units:- 76 Aust AASL Bty AIF, 76 Aust AASL Bty W'shop Sec, 139 Aust Hy AA Bty, 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, 52 Aust Composite AA Regt W'shop, 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Sig Sec, AA Operations Room.

4 Personnel For Air Crew, RAAF:- NO releases for aircrew to RAAF are now authorised from units other than Recruit Reception Depots and Lines of Communication Areas. (MF15/43/111)

5 Paillasses:- Sub-units will submit a return to this HQ by 1800 hrs, 15 Aug 43, setting out the following: (a) stocks of paillasses held in store; (b) stocks on issue. (MF 15/43/118)

6 Submission Of Indents For Ordnance Stores:- When submitting indents for Ordnance Stores, sub-units will ensure that columns 1, 2 and 3, on the AF G997, are completely filled in with accurate information. (MF15/43/119)

7 Stationary Engines:- A return will be submitted by all sub-units to reach this HQ by 0900 hrs, 12 Aug 43, showing all Stationary Engines (excluding Gen Sets) used for lighting, battery charging, pumping, or any other purposes. Returns will be set out:

Make	Model	Type	Diesel or Petrol	H.P.

8 Care Of Hurricane Lamps:- Particular attention is to be paid by all personnel to the care of hurricane lamps and globes. These items are in very short supply owing to the number of breakages during shipment of stocks to this area.

9 Movement Orders:- When movement orders are forwarded by this HQ to sub-units, they are intended to be handed to the soldier(s) travelling, and NOT to be retained in sub-unit files. (MF15/43/122)

10 POL Return:- AAF G6 and pro forma POL statement will be forwarded to reach this HQ by 1200 on the second day of each month. 110 Admin Instruction 20/43 is amended accordingly. (MF15/43/116)

11 Reserve Rations:- A return stating number and condition of Iron Rations held is to be submitted to this HQ by the 29th of each month. (MF15/43/116)

12 Breaking Down Of Service Or Enemy Ammunition:- GRO 341/43 is repeated herewith: "The breaking-down of service or enemy ammunition in any way, other than that authorised by training publications, hand books, regulations in existence or instructions issued from LHQ, is strictly forbidden. The breaking-down of any service or enemy ammunition by unauthorised persons is prohibited. If information is required on the internal construction of any type of service ammunition, reference can be made to inspecting Ordnance Officers posted to HQ of Corps or L of C Areas. Enemy ammunition will normally be broken down or demolished by ME units (preferably bomb disposal units) under instructions from formation etc. headquarters."

It has been reported that considerable quantities of ammunition, particularly QF 25 pr cartridge cases, have been removed from their boxes for "souvenir purposes." In other cases the ammunition has been taken from the boxes and the boxes only removed. These practices will cease forthwith. Reports have also been received of unauthorised personnel attempting to break down shell and fuzes containing high explosives. This practice is dangerous and will cease forthwith. (MF15/43/114)

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13 Loss Of Stores:- Sub-units (excl AA Operations Room and 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Sig Soc) will render a return to this HQ by 1800 hrs, 12 Aug 43, in the terms of Notices of Lost Stores and Equipment in Merauke Force ROs Serial 15.

14 Promiscuous Firing Of Weapons:- (1) Although promiscuous firing of weapons has decreased, the position is still not all that could be desired. Officers of all sub-units are to make the utmost endeavour to suppress this dangerous practice, and are held personally responsible for any further offences.

(2) Guards and picquets will NOT load rounds in the chambers of their weapons unless this appears justified in the execution of their duty. Immediately after being relieved, guards and picquets will remove magazines, examine weapons to ensure that there are no rounds in the chambers, and, in the case of rifles, remove rounds from magazines.

15 Mineral Jelly In Lieu Of Dubbin:- Attention is drawn to GRO 138/43.

16 Stores Lost In Transit:- Any outstanding lists of stores, etc., lost in transit to this area, (excluding all stores, etc., subsequently recovered), will be submitted to this HQ by 1200 hrs, 12 Aug 43. Reports received after that hour will not be accepted.

17 Disposal Of Arms, etc., of Personnel Evacuated To Mainland:- Merauke Force RO 6/43/36 has been amended (vide MFRO Serial 15). Arms, etc., of personnel evacuated to the mainland will NOT be returned to 123 F.O.D. by M.D.S. but to the soldier's unit. Should reinforcements bring holdings above entitlement, units will return surplus to Ordnance.

18 Ammunition - Tensioning Tests:- GRO 566/43 directs ref fuzes Nos. 199, 207, 208 and 223: "None of the abovementioned fuzes will in any circumstances be set until it becomes operationally necessary. Ready for use rounds, the fuzes of which have to be pre-set, will be kept to a minimum and will be segregated. Unit tests for fuze tensioning will cease forthwith."

19 Tidying Of Tents:- (applicable to RHQ, Sigs Soc, AA Operations Room only) All tents will be tidied and in inspection order by 0830 hrs each day.

20 Hygiene:- (applicable to RHQ, Sigs Soc, AA Operations Room only) To enable hygiene duties to be carried out expeditiously, personnel will not remain in the mess hut after they have finished their meals. Use of mess hut as recreation hut is not permitted until after hygiene duties are completed.

K.W.Pawley, Capt,
Adjt, 52 Aust Composite AA Regt

Distribution: List 1

Appendix to Routine Part 1 Orders, No 1 of 10 Aug 43

110 Aust Lt AA Regt - Regimental Trust Fund
Statement for period 3 Mar 43 to 31 Jul 43

		£		
	RECEIPTS			
	Balance brought forward from last statement (see appendix to 110 RO 11/43)			336. 2. 9
23 Apr 43	Canteen allocation, Jan 43		45.15. 3	
20 May 43	do do Feb 43		33.14. 7	
7 Jun 43	do do Mar 43		54. 6. 5	
19 Jul 43	do do Apr 43		57. 5.10	191. 2. 1
				527. 4.10
	EXPENDITURE			
26 Mar 43	4½ doz frying pans		9. 6. 0	
30 Mar 43	2 cases apples		1. 6. 0	
31 Mar 43	2 doz water bags (£5/8/-), Jam jars (4/9), Primus stoves (£11/14/-), Cutlet pans (£2/5/-), Billy cans (17/11), Tea towels (£1/1/-)		21.10. 8	
2 Apr 43	2 cases pears		2.16. 0	
	2 cases apples		1.14. 0	
3 Apr 43	Billy cans		2. 8. 2	
	24 stoves, 10 wicks, 5 cones		13.10.10	
8 Apr 43	18 "Thermil" stoves		9.13. 1	
16 Apr 43	Allocation to 153 Bty (£112/17/4) 155 (£30/19/7)		143.16.11	
21 Apr 43	Allocation of funds to 153 Bty		10. 0. 0	
21 Apr 43	Pans and boilers(£15/2/6) Sauce (11/-)		15.13. 6	
22 Apr 43	Sewing machine		16. 2. 6	
26 Apr 43	Medical comforts		1. 7. 6	
13 Jul and 26 Jul 43	Advances to unit canteen		113. 2. 0	362. 7. 2
31 Jul 43	BALANCE as per Trust Account Book			164.17. 8

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110 Aust Lt AA Regt Sig Soc - Section Trust Fund - Statement for period Jul 42-31 Jul 43

	RECEIPTS		
24 Nov 42	Canteen allocation, Jul 42	£ 1.12. 9	
27 Nov 42	do do Aug 42	3. 0. 9	
31 Dec 42	do do Sep 42	3. 4. 1	
	do do Oct 42	3.15. 1	
15 Feb 43	do do Nov 42	10.10	
7 Mar 43	do do Dec 42	1. 3. 0	
24 Jul 43	do do Jan 43	17. 3	
	do do Feb 43	12.11	
	do do Mar 43	1. 3. 2	
	do do Apr 43	2.13. 4	18.13. 2
	EXPENDITURE		
19 Apr 43	4 Primus Stoves at 26/-	5. 4. 0	
	4 water bags at 3/6	14. 0	5.18. 0
31 Jul 43	BALANCE as per Trust Account Book		12.15. 2

76 Aust AASL Workshops Sec - Section Trust Fund - Statement for period Feb 43-31 Jul 43

	RECEIPTS		
5 Aug 43	Canteen allocation, Feb 43	£ 1.18.10	
	do do Mar 43	2.15. 7	
	do do Apr 43	2. 9. 2	
	do do May 43	2. 9.10	9.13. 5
5 Aug 43	BALANCE as per Trust Account Book		9.13. 5

110 Aust Lt AA Regt Workshop - Section Trust Fund - Statement for period Aug 42-31 Jul 43

	RECEIPTS		
30 Apr 43	Canteen allocation, Aug 42	£ 13.11	
	do do Sep 42	12. 6	
	do do Oct 42	13.10	
25 May 43	do do Nov 42	9. 0	
30 Apr 43	do do Dec 42	13. 9	
12 May 43	do do Jan 43	11. 6	
25 May 43	do do Feb 43	7. 2	
3 Jun 43	do do Mar 43	18. 6	
24 Jul 43	do do Apr 43	2. 7. 2	7. 7. 4
31 Jul 43	BALANCE as per Trust Account Book		7. 7. 4

76 Aust AASL Bty, AIF - Battery Trust Fund - Statement for period Nov 42-31 Jul 43

	RECEIPTS		
20 Jan 43	Canteen allocation, Nov 42	£ 10. 1. 9	
27 Feb 43	do do Dec 42	15.10. 1	
28 Apr 43	do do Jan 43	12.17. 2	
18 May 43	do do Feb 43	9. 8. 5	
31 May 43	Proceeds from finalisation of unit canteen	14.17. 2	62.14. 7
	EXPENDITURE		
5 Apr 43	Sporting gear	14. 5. 0	14. 5. 0
31 Jul 43	BALANCE as per Trust Account Book		48. 9. 7

2 Aust Hy AA Bty - Battery Trust Fund - Statement for period 1 Jul - 31 Jul 43

			30 Jun 43	By balance £	245. 3. 1
31 Jul 43	To balance at credit	275.17. 2	30 Jul 43	By canteen allocation, Apr 43	22.15. 1
				By cash repaid from cash in hand	7.19. 0
		275.17. 2			275.17. 2

BALANCE SHEET OF CANTEEN AND BATTERY TRUST FUND

Liabilities			Assets	
Debtor: Bracoys Ltd.		88.14. 1	Cash in hand	20. 0. 0
Accumulated funds, 1/7/43	413.18. 3		Trust A/c	275.17. 2
Add Canteen allocation, Apr 43	22.15. 1		Advance to "A" Sec Canteen	134. 5. 8
Profit "A" Sec Canteen	12.18.11		Advance to "B" Sec Canteen	113.19. 4
Profit "B" Sec Canteen	5.15.10	455. 8. 1		
		544. 2. 2		544. 2. 2

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SECRET

APPENDIX I.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - REPORT No 14

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
17 Aug 43.

H 1
382 AUST HY AA
GUN STATION

- The construction of ammunition dumps is continuing.
The trees on GL site are being removed by section personnel.
Training has been carried out at night on a P40M in co-operation with Searchlights.
The camouflage of revetments by planting natural foliage is proceeding.
Maintenance was carried out on dummy site.
The guns are being repainted.

H 2
383 AUST HY AA
GUN STATION

- Hygiene facilities at this gun station were considered very unsatisfactory. This has resulted in a re-organization of kitchens, mess and latrines. A kitchen and flyproof preparation room is under construction and a men's mess will be completed in two days. New latrines have been sited and precautions taken to make them flyproof.
The increase of flies has been more noticeable at this gun station than elsewhere. The medical officer states that this is partly due to the unhygienic conditions which previously existed.
A commencement has been made on the reducing of the size of the gun pits. The muzzle of the gun will project over the lip approximately 12 inches when the work is completed.
Training has been carried out by seen and unseen methods on P40M co-operating with Searchlights.
Natural foliage has been planted on revetments for camouflage.

G L

- The performance of both G1 and G2 has been satisfactory throughout the week.
Improvement work is being carried out on both sites.
At G1 permission has been received to remove some of the obstructing trees. This work has progressed and several trees have been grubbed out.
At G2 further levelling is being carried out in the immediate vicinity of the Rx. The surface is being coated with a layer of sandy earth. It is intended to roll this when it has been evenly spread.
The constant blowing of fuzes and resistors in G1 has been traced to perished insullation on the electrical wiring. Faulty portions are being temporally insullated with tape.
Reports from other areas of the danger risk occasioned by the use of kerosene heaters to dry out the Rx has resulted in closer supervision and the issuing of Standing Orders covering their use, and the education of personnel in exercising the maximum of care.

G O R

- The change from temporary to permanent GOR was accomplished on 14 Aug 43 from 1830 hrs to 1945 hrs. All signal communications were tested and found to be at full strength.
Fifteen minutes after the change over an excellent test was carried out on a P40M which was airborne for Searchlight co-operation. GL's "stood to" and plotted its course.
It was found that the noise from R/T and W/T in FS was excessive, and it was decided to put in hand at once a scheme for partial sound-proofing. In the absence of glass or other transparent material a really effective job cannot be done. A caneite partition is to be hung from the ceiling, and the GDO's dias to be closed in in front. A two-foot gap, through which the GDO and dais personnel can observe the FSC men and intercept tables, will be left.
A full report by Lieut Newell, OC AA Operations Room, is attached - Appendix "A".

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SEARCHLIGHTS - The 150 cm SLC which was out of action through unavailability of a 100-Megohm 3-watt resistor was placed in action by using the part from 90 cm SLC. This light was sited in a temporary position EAST of the wharf area.
During the first night's co-operation the resistor was again blown, and as the spares have arrived the set is now being completely overhauled and will be in operation within 24 hours.
Tentative arrangements have been made for the transportation of the 150 cm SLC across the river to a site at map ref, Merauke (special) 1:25000, 37713622. It is anticipated that the light will be in position by 24 Aug 43.
The only mechanical fault experienced was trouble with the condenser on the 150 cm Sperry lights, which caused the clutch to slip. This has been rectified.

TRAINING AND CO-OPERATION - Training and co-operation was carried out by Searchlights and Hy AA Gun Stations on three nights on a P40M for the first time in this area.
On the first night the plane flew a course at 6000 feet, later going to 12000 feet. The lights picked up the target very quickly and good co-operation was obtained over a wide field as the sky was cloudless.
Gun stations obtained good runs at both seen and unseen target methods of engagement.
Different conditions prevailed on the second night when there was a heavy cloud ceiling at 1000 feet with occasional breaks. The aircraft flew at 15000 feet and very little contact was made by searchlight. Unseen target drill on instruments only, was carried out at both Hy AA Gun Stations.
On the third occasion 4/10ths cloud gave good conditions. Trouble was experienced with the only S.L.C. in operation as the set was found to be four degrees out of alignment. Manning crews had to revert to listening methods. Evasive tactics taken by the aircraft were unsuccessful. The aircraft was held with a dispersed beam.
Maj Barrett, OC 76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF) considered that the following was unsteady but improved by the third night.
The drill of operators on the SLC light was very weak when the light had to be operated without the SLC. Excellent benefit was obtained from the co-operation.
Both Hy AA Gun Stations reported that the co-operation gave personnel the first opportunity of using the seen and unseen method at night time. The change over from the Height Computer to visual was ragged for a start. A big improvement was made over the three nights. It was considered that three beams on the target was sufficient illumination to use visual methods.
383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station reported that on some occasions illumination by 150 cm only was sufficient.
On the third night both instrument and gun crews manned the equipment.
Co-operation for three more nights has been arranged with the Air Force.
At the conclusion of the second night of co-operation the pilot of the plane flying above cloud reported a very interesting fact which may be useful in other areas. He said that the searchlights did not penetrate the cloud but cast a dispersed glow covering a wide area. He considered that this glow would make it much more difficult for him to spot enemy aircraft above the clouds as it prevented the eyes from becoming accustomed to the moonlight and also prevented the enemy aircraft from being silhouetted on the cloud bank by the moon.
The penetrative powers of the ray could not be gauged as the depth of the cloud bank could not be ascertained.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS - When hooked up with permanent GOR the signal communications were tested and found to be strength 5. During the night they faded to strength 3. It was considered that the condensation of moisture in the switchboard caused this decrease in strength.

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Signal Communications (cont) - Arrangements are being made to procure an electric light bulb for rear of each switchboard to dry it out.
Two searchlights, including one SLC, are connected to GOR. SOR is not yet in operation.

METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION - Ref Report No 11, no progress has been made in obtaining the information referred to therein.
A new building is under construction to house the Meteorological Section. The building will be completed in a fortnight. Advice has been received by the Section that the apparatus for obtaining the data will arrive in the area about that time.

RE-ORGANIZATION - The re-organization of the Regiment has proceeded throughout the week.
In 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, "A" and "D" Troops have been combined to form "A" Troop, and "B" and "C" Troops to form "B" Troop.
All personnel have been transferred to the strength of 52 Aust Composite RA Regiment.
139 Aust Hy AA Bty personnel have also been transferred.
Promotions and appointments of Officers, NCO's and Specialists are under consideration.

PERSONNEL - Posted Strength - 34 officers, 770 OR's.

MEDICAL - A consolidated extract of reports submitted by Capts Kendall and Lee Tet is attached as Appendix "B".

ENEMY ACTIVITY - For the second time in three days a Jap reconnaissance aircraft was over the area on 13 Aug 43. A full report is attached as Appendix "C".

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

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A.A. OPERATIONS

REPORT ON CHANGE-OVER FROM OLD G.O.R. TO NEW G.O.R./FIGHTER SECTOR

Prior to the change over to the new GOR, which commenced at 1830 hrs 14 Aug 43, the wiring of the new room was carried out by the 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment Signal Section and all communications from AA Defences in the Area were "teed in" to the new switchboards. These communications were tested and found to be R5 Signal Strength in all cases.

At 1830 hrs, personnel from AA Operations Room (Type "C") commenced duty in the new GOR and at that stage the Signal Section began to discontinue the lines to the old GOR. By 1945 hrs the complete change-over was finalized and all communications were found to be very satisfactory.

The personnel on shift consisted of G.D.O., G.D.O.A., two Height Converters, Two Plotters, Recorder and Switchboard Operator, a total of eight personnel, and it was found that they became accustomed to the "set-up" very readily.

AIR CO-OPERATION (SEARCHLIGHT)

Fifteen minutes after completion of the change over by Signal Section, one P40M was sent off for Searchlight Co-operation over the area for approximately one hour, and this co-operation was used by the new GOR to test all communications, especially G.L./Height Converter/Plotting Board circuits, under action conditions. The exercise included the use of G2, which plotted the P40M through most part of its flight. Heights compared very ~~favourably~~ accurately with those reported from the aircraft during its flight. After flying over the area, the aircraft flew NW along the coast and made an approach over the area from that direction. G2 were able to pick up the aircraft at 45000 yards, height 15000 feet. G.L. information was passed through to the Height Converters very satisfactorily under the conditions existing at the sets at the moment. Owing to the lack of head and breast sets at the G.L. Receiver, it is necessary for the No 1 to repeat all the bearing, angle of sight and slant range readings reported by the operators, over one head and breast set. In the very near future extra head and breast sets will be made available to the bearing, angle of sight and slant range operators and this will eliminate all the present time lag.

The above co-operation demonstrated very well the efficiency of the Signal Communications that have been installed in the new G.O.R.

Summing up, the change over was executed quickly and without any confusion either in the new GOR or at the gun site end.

NOISE.

It was found that during the co-operation, the noise from R.T. and W.T. was very great and this will prove to decrease efficiency to a great extent. It is strongly recommended that a scheme of sound-proofing be carried out within the GOR and between GOR and Fighter Sector. Owing to the fact that glass or other transparent material is unobtainable in the area, the sound-proofing could not be made complete, but a scheme could be followed that would greatly reduce the noise. This could be done by the use of "canoite" sheeting as a ceiling and partition between GOR and Fighter Sector. This material would have to be requisitioned from a Southern area, but is an urgent requirement.

(Sgd) P.C. Newell, Lieut
OC, AA Operations.

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AA DEFENCES, MERAUKE - WEEKLY MEDICAL REPORT

for the Period 10 Aug to 18 Aug 43

1. Strength	805	
2. Reinforcements during period	8	returned from hospital.
3. Attached for Medical Service	2	RMO's, 1 Sgt AAMC, 4 Corporals AAMC
4. Total new sick	95	
5. Total evacuations from R.A.P.	11	
6. Total "No Duty" Personnel	5	
7. Total "Light Duty" Personnel	8	
8. Percentage	1.15%	

9. Details of New Sick	Treatment and Duty	Light Duties	No Duties	Evacuations
Wounded	-	-	-	-
Accidentally wounded	-	-	-	-
Malaria - Primary	-	-	-	-
Malaria - recurrent	-	-	-	-
Clinical Dysentery	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	-	-	1	-
URTI	4	-	-	-
Scabies	1	-	-	-
Tinea - feet	6	-	-	-
Tinea - groin	1	-	-	-
Tinea - ears	3	-	-	-
Foot Ailments	-	-	-	-
P.U.O.	-	-	-	-
SKIN				
Furunculosis	12	-	1	-
Insect Bites & Urticaria	15	1	-	-
Dermatitis	1	-	1	-
Infected wounds	5	-	-	-
Other skin	2	-	1	-
Pediculi Puris	1	-	-	-
EYES				
Infections	3	-	-	-
Refraction Errors	-	-	-	-
Otitis Media	-	-	-	1
Other diseases	4	2	-	4
Lacerations	8	1	-	-
Ent	1	-	-	1
Fibrositis	2	-	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-	2
Injuries - at work	2	4	1	2
at play	-	-	-	-
	71	8	5	11

Returned from Hospital	8
Evacuated to Mainland	1

(Sgd) N. Lee Tet, Capt AAMC,
R.B. Kendall, Capt AAMC
52 Aust Composite AA Regiment.

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ANTI-AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS - MERAUKE

REPORT ON NIGHT RECONNAISSANCE

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia
13 Aug 43.

NATURE OF RAID - Reconnaissance.

METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION - Clear Sky

NUMBER, TYPE, FORMATION - One "Dinah"

HEIGHT - 24000 feet

SPEED - Estimated speed 240 m.p.h.

COURSE - In on bearing 244° over area and out on bearing 60°

BOMBS DROPPED - Nil

CASUALTIES - Nil

FIGHTER INTERCEPTION - Four P40N's in air. No interception

WARNING SYSTEM - Zombies reported at 1400 hrs, "One Jap SE, possible 2"

R D F Plots:	1420 hrs	240°	30 miles
	1421 hrs	240°	28 miles
	1422 hrs	244°	24 miles
	1423 hrs	244°	19 miles

Target lost.

Both Hy AA Gun Stations reported one aircraft flying at 24000 feet. Type Dinah. Lost target at bearing 60°.

BREAKTHROUGH - Target cut by H and RF and followed but was out of range at all times.

GENERAL - Early warning was insufficient, i.e. seven minutes, to enable P40N's to reach 24000 feet for interception.

(Sgd) J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AAIC Merauke.

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Diary

Appendix "J"

For official use only
AMR & O 1587

Australian Military Forces
52 Aust Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Routine Orders by Lt-Col J. A. England
Officer Commanding
Part 1, No 2 Friday, 20 Aug 43

21 Maintenance Of Roads:- The use of chains in any portion of Main Street is strictly prohibited at all times and on all vehicles. This order will be rigidly observed and allows NO discretionary variations. (MF 16/43/127)

22 Razor Blades:- It has been advised that stocks of razor blades are exhausted and that NO further supplies can be anticipated for t o months. Accordingly all ranks will be warned of the necessity for their careful conservation and preservation. (MF 16/43/130)

23 Cafe Out Of Bounds:- The cafe run by Choa Diang Long, commonly known as Pie, has been placed out of bounds to all ranks. (MF 16/43)

24 Lodgment Of Income Tax Returns:- Any member of the forces whose total income from both military and private sources exceeds £250 for the year ending 30 Jun 43, must lodge a return to the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation in the State in which the member enlisted. It should be noted that taxable military income includes pay at the active rate before deducting allotment or tax deductions, field allowance, any amount paid to the member for subsistence whilst not rationed and quartered, and an amount of 2/5 per day for the period when the member is rationed and quartered by the Army, but does not include deferred pay and dependants allowance. Income tax return forms are now available from the unit Pay Sergeant.

25 Mail - Times and Rates of Postage:- Air mail letter cards require only 1d postage. 110 RO 26/43/2 is amended as follows: Outward air mail closes at RHQ at 1330 (if franked) and 1200 (if unfranked) each day. Urgent telegram rates are 1/- for 14 words and 1d for each additional word.

26 O Administration:- 110 Administrative Instruction 20/43, under the heading "Census of Warlike Stores" is amended by deleting "BRA" and substituting "BAA & CA".

27 Pilfering Of ARC Mesh:- ARC Mesh located in dump at intersection of C Street and 13 Avenue is the property of US Engineers and is required for work on air strip. Mesh for unit requirements will be requisitioned through 16 Aust Fd Coy, and acquisition by other means will result in disciplinary action.

28 Removal Of Boxes:- It has been reported that boxes have been taken from 123 FOD without authority. This is a serious offence as many types of boxes are in short supply. Sub-units requiring boxes either for use as boxes or for material, will address enquiries to the RQM who will endeavour to arrange supply on a strength basis among all sub-units.

29 Casualties Affecting Pay:- By direction of GRO 27/43, no action can be taken to amend pay book rates consequent upon promotions, remissions of fines or remission of forfeitures, until receipt of the relevant Routine Part II Order from Records Office. Publication of promotions and appointments in Routine Part 1 Orders is for information only, but may be taken as authority for the wearing of badges of rank.

30 Promotions And Appointments:- The following promotions and appointments have been approved:

NX135148	Sgt	Searl, R.F.	to be A/WO II (BSM)	as from 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX135177	Sgt	Barden, E.D.	" A/WO II (TSM)	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX135143	Sgt	Duggan, J.B.	" A/WO II (TSM)	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX166099	A/Cpl	Austin, E.D.	" Cpl and A/Sgt	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX135167	L/Sgt	Iverach, I.J.	" A/Sgt	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX144176	A/Bdr	Miller, D.L.	" A/Sgt	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX144173	A/Bdr	Ogden, C.G.	" A/Sgt	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX132561	Cpl	Wilson, J.P.	" A/Sgt	" 16 Aug 43	(RHQ)
NX129667	Cpl	Zavod, E.	" A/Sgt	" 17 Aug 43	(RHQ)
NX135155	Bdr	Brandt, J.N.	" L/Sgt	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX122126	A/Bdr	Dick, H.S.	" Bdr and L/Sgt	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX97278	A/Bdr	Blum, J.A.	" Bdr	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX166109	A/Bdr	Price, I.	" Bdr	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX129690	L/Bdr	Mannes, H.E.	" A/Bdr	" 26 Apr 43	(RHQ)
NX163751	Pte	O'Donnell, J.S.	" A/Cpl	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX167206	Pte	Brady, J.J.	" A/Cpl	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX116169	L/Bdr	Campbell, W.	" A/Bdr	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
N215638	Pte	Semple, E.J.	" A/Cpl	" 18 Aug 43	(139)
N290294	Gnr	Noonan, E.R.	" A/Bdr	" 19 Aug 43	(RHQ)
NX149014	Gnr	Calnan, G.G.	" L/Bdr	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX145533	Gnr	Pringle, J.A.	" L/Bdr	" 13 Aug 43	(154)
NX135142	Gnr	Skerrett, B.	" L/Bdr	" 13 Aug 43	(154)

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(RO Part 1 No 2/43)

SX21217	Gnr	Hambour, H.G.	to be	L/Bdr	as from	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX170117	Gnr	Garner, W.M.	"	L/Bdr	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX114927	Gnr	Griffiths, O.	"	L/Bdr	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX119828	Gnr	McPherson, J.B.	"	L/Bdr	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX149081	Gnr	Toshack, T.W.	"	L/Bdr	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX108841	Gnr	Watt, J.	"	L/Bdr	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX143728	Gnr	Drinkwater, J.L.	"	L/Bdr	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX141006	Gnr	Munn, L.L.	"	L/Bdr	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX149043	Gnr	Schmalbeck, S.J.M.	"	TG 11 (Cook) and tfd to AACC	"	13 Aug 43	(139)
NX149484	Gnr	Fawcett, A.J.	"	TG 11 (IO - Predictor)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX166410	Gnr	McKenzie, A.S.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX78360	Gnr	McManus, J.M.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX140749	Gnr	Schonell, B.J.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX141155	Gnr	Silk, N.V.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX140736	Gnr	McDonnell, R.F.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX[illegible]15	Gnr	Allan, K.J.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
N[illegible]599	L/Bdr	Harris, J.L.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX138602	L/Bdr	Swinson, R.J.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX140751	L/Bdr	Gow, B.	"	TG 11 (IO - HT)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX138612	Gnr	Tavener, R.W.	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX[illegible]6468	Gnr	Wilson, N.W.	"	TG 11 (IO - TI)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
N203467	Gnr	Whalen, B.	"	TG 11 (IO - FCO)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
N166125	Gnr	Chapman, [illegible]	"	TG 11 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX139430	L/Bdr	Oakman, E.R.	"	TG 111 (Tech Storeman)	"	13 Aug 43	(154)
NX149046	Gnr	Winslett, A.G.	"	TG 111 (Dvr Mech)	"	13 Aug 43	(154)
NX[illegible]3251	Gnr	Richardson, A.V.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	13 Aug 43	(154)
NX[illegible]122	Gnr	Dixon, N.C.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	13 Aug 43	(154)
NX166299	Gnr	Dunn, A.W.J.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	13 Aug 43	(154)
N[illegible]558	Gnr	Shoemark, C.F.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	15 Aug 43	(RHQ)
NX[illegible]8728	L/Bdr	Drinkwater, J.L.	"	TG 111 (Gunlayer)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
N203408	Gnr	Brill, W.R.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX108849	Gnr	Komp, H.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX138603	Gnr	Burke, K.F.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
N162532	Gnr	Eshman, S.H.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX114927	L/Bdr	Griffiths, O.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX118188	Gnr	McAlister, J.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX104837	Gnr	Rudd, G.E.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)
NX149081	L/Bdr	Toshack, T.W.	"	TG 111 (do)	"	18 Aug 43	(139)

K.W.Parsley, Capt,
Adjt, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

Distribution: List 1

NOTICES

Map Cases: Any sub-unit desiring map cases, large or small, please notify RQM of requirements.

Army Education Service: Particulars of correspondence courses available to personnel can be obtained from RHQ. Uniform fee for all courses is 15/-.

Owen SMG: Any sub-unit having on charge Owen SMG Serial No 19544 will advise this HQ immediately. Nil returns not required.

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Appendix K.

SECRET

AA DEFENCES - MORESBY - AMENDMENT No 1

to

LOCATION STATEMENT No 3

Ref Maps Moresby Special 1:25,000

(as at 1200 hrs, 23 Aug 43)

Insert Line 3 (a)

Unit	-	Gun Operations Room
Code Symbol	-	Z1
Location	-	At end of first track S of 4th Ave on W side of Main St
Map Ref	-	43163082
Communications	-	'Phone

Line No 5

Delete all reference to L 9.

Insert after L 23 -

Code symbol	-	L 25
Location	-	40 yds NE of wharf at Independent Knoll on River Bank
Map Ref	-	42663602
Communications	-	DRLS
Equipment	-	40 mm - 1; AAMG - 1.

Line No 7

Delete "A Troop HQ" and substitute "B Troop HQ"

Line No 6

Delete "B Troop HQ" and substitute "A Troop HQ"

Line No 11

S 12 - delete location and substitute 1200 yds NE of wharf in King Field.

Line No 14

N 2 - delete location and substitute 1000 yds S 4th Avenue, 200 yds W Main St.

J.A.Rupland, Lt-Col,
AAHQ, Moresby.

Distribution:

MGRA Branch, LHQ
HAA & CA, First Aust Army
Force HQ, Moresby
Gun Operations Room
War Diary
File

APPENDIX "L"

SECRET

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - REPORT No 15

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regt
Australia.
24 Aug 43.

H 1
382 AUST HY AA GUN STATION - Alterations were made to the revetments of one gun pit to enable the gantry to be placed in position for the pulling back of the barrel. Turfing and planting of natural foliage on the revetments continued. Small Arms and Gas Training were carried out during the week.

H 2
383 AUST HY AA GUN STATION - Considerable camp improvements have been carried out. Flies are still plentiful, but they are rapidly being controlled by the spraying of malariol on the ground in the precincts of kitchen, storeroom, mess hut and refuse pits.
Work on the reduction in size of the gun pits is progressing. It is anticipated that this work will be completed within a week.
Turfing of revetments is continuing.

G 1 - The performance of both G 1 and G 2 has been very satisfactory throughput the week. Running hours were not as great as usual. The Diesel generators at both sites will receive a complete overhaul before the next moon period. Minor adjustments have been made, improving their performance. Work on these will be commenced in three days by 102 Aust Bde Workshop, which will necessitate throwing one set at a time out of action for 18 to 24 hours.
Further clearing was carried out at G 1, holes from tree stumps were filled in and the site improved considerably.
The spreading of sand on G 2 site is improving the surface.
A noteworthy feature during the week was a reading given by G 2 at 34000 yards which placed the P 40 's at a height of 28000 feet. This was checked by F.C. and the aircraft altimeter gave the reading as 27500 feet.

G O R - Communications and operation of the G O R were tested when an unidentified plot was picked up on 23 Aug 43. As a result, only minor alterations will be necessary.

40 mm BOFORS - The completion of the wharf at Independent Knoll by U.S. Engrs necessitated a redistribution of Bofors to cover the river V.P. L 9, previously located along Main Street, was moved 40 yards North of wharf to temporary position.
The protection of this V.P. is difficult owing to swamp covered with mangroves growing to a height of 30 ft. To obtain an arc of fire it would be necessary to clear several acres.
It was decided to erect a 30 ft tower approximately 200 yds east of the wharf at tree-top level. The work was immediately put in hand by 55 US Naval Engrs Bn. Nine poles have been driven to form the support for the staging. It is anticipated that the Bofor will be in position and ready for action on 27 Aug 43. Engrs calculate the carrying capacity of the tower at 40 tons. Blueprints of the construction are in process of preparation and will be forwarded with further comment in a subsequent report.

SEARCHLIGHTS - On 23/24 Aug 43 one 150 cm SLC which was temporarily in position at 43653365 was moved to a new position on the NW side of the river at 41333862. The light, generator set, troop stores and personnel, together with the 6-wheeled breakdown lorry from 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop, were loaded onto a wooden barge at the pontoon wharf on the night 23/24 Aug 43. One of the pontoons had filled with water which caused a lift of five feet to the next pontoon. All the above heavy gear was raised to the high pontoon by use of heavy hardwood decking used as runners. This same decking was used to off-load the equipment at the destination. All gear was loaded and left the wharf at 0700 hrs on 24 Aug 43 and was towed up river on the making tide by a launch from Water Transport Group. The barge arrived at destination at slack water on full tide at 0745 hrs, was made fast, and unloading commenced. In the absence of solid trees in the area, a holdfast for use in winching operations was placed in position on the afternoon previous to move. Runners were placed in position from barge to shore and the generator set was winched off. For this purpose the breakdown vehicle had been placed on the rear of the barge. The vehicle was

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Searchlights (cont) anchored to bollards on the barge and the wire run through three snatch blocks and the holdfast. The first holdfast showed signs of pulling out of the soft ground and another was built. The ground on the bank at this point is free of timber, is covered with kunai grass and proved soft underneath. The heavy units were run onto heavy wire mesh. The generator set and light were unloaded without accident. The breakdown vehicle was driven off and an attempt made to tow the units into position. Owing to the heavy nature of the ground the towing vehicle commenced to dig in before the selected sites were reached and both the light and the generator set finished up ten yards short of the positions selected. The towing vehicle was driven onto the barge and returned. The work was carried out under the control of Maj J.C. Barrett with help and advice from 16 Fd Coy Engrs, Lieut F. Henley-Smith and personnel from 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop. The detachment worked efficiently throughout the night without a break. The light, S12, is now ready for action at independent control but S1C is not as yet working. From the operational aspect the site is an excellent one but it will be an uncomfortable wet one for the detachment.
Several photographs of the operation were taken by the I.O. but are not developed and printed yet.
During the week positioning of SL's was carried out by exposure of beams. No night co-operation took place as aircraft were not airborne. Further co-operation is arranged for next moon period.

COMMUNICATIONS - No communications have been established with S12. It is intended to install wireless communication with S.O.R. Advice has been received from Area Signals that a submarine cable will shortly be laid across the river.

POSTING OF OFFICERS - Following on the re-organization of the Regiment new postings have been made recently. These included inter alia the posting of Major A.F. Swinbourne to 2 i/c, Capt A.B. Samuelson to OC 154 Bty, and Lieut F. Henley-Smith to OC 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop. Directions from First Aust Army received since then result in the posting of Capt L.C.R. Dale to OC 154 Bty, and T/Capt W.A. Whiting and Lieut L.T. Wilson to fill the vacancies of Captains in 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop with Lieuts F. Henley-Smith and J.F. Thompson to fill the vacancies for Lieutenants in that unit. Postings will be reconsidered and forwarded when completed.

PERSONNEL - Posted strength, 34 officers and 771 OR's.

MEDICAL - The weekly report of sick parades by Capts Kendall and Lee Tet is attached. Appendix "A".

ENEMY ACTIVITY - An unidentified plot was picked up at 0830 hrs on 23 Aug 43 at bearing 20°, followed in by RDF past Merauke out to sea, circled and out along same bearing - it was lost in the vicinity of Booyal. Considering the speed of the aircraft it was probably a Dinah on reconnaissance. Cloud cover at 5000 feet was 10/10ths. Eight P40K's were airborne but no interception was made. Enemy aircraft did not come nearer than nine miles to Merauke.

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

Distribution:
NGRA Branch LHQ
BAA & CA First Aust Army
HQ Merauke Force
War Diary
File.

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SECRET "APPENDIX "A"

AA DEFENCES, MERAUKE - WEEKLY MEDICAL REPORT

FOR PERIOD ENDING 24 AUG 43

1. Location:
2. Strength - - - - - - 800
3. Total new sick - - - - - 86
4. Total evacuations from R.A.F. - - - 35
5. Total "No Duty" personnel - - - - 7
6. Total "Light Duty" personnel - - - - 4
7. Average Daily Sick Rate - - - - 1.5%

8. Details of New Sick	Treatment & Duty	Light Duties	No Duties	Evacuations
Wounded	-	-	-	-
Accidentally Wounded	-	-	-	-
Malaria - primary	-	-	-	-
Malaria - recurrent	-	-	-	-
Clinical Dysentery	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-
U R T I	5	-	1	1
Scabies	-	-	-	1
Tinea - feet	4	-	-	-
Tinea - groin	2	-	-	-
Tinea - ears	1	1	-	-
P U O	-	-	-	1
Sprains	4	3	3	3
Chronic Catarrh	1	-	-	-
Heat Stroke	-	-	-	1
Asthma	-	-	-	1
Hysteria	-	-	-	1
Threadworm	-	-	-	1
Fibrositis	4	-	-	1
Chronic prostatitis	-	-	-	1
SKIN				
Furunculosis	16	-	1	-
Insect Bites and Urticaria	11	-	1	-
Dermatitis	-	-	-	1
Infected wounds	5	-	-	-
Other skin	2	-	-	-
EYES				
Infections	4	-	-	-
Injuries at play	1	-	1	2
Totals	60	4	7	15

Returned from Hospital - - 7

Appendix M.

For official use only
A R & O 1587

Australian Military Forces
52 Aust Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Routine Orders by Lt-Col J. A. England
Officer Commanding
Part 1, No 3 Tuesday, 24 Aug 43

31 Public Statements By Members Of The Forces:- GRO 582/43 is reprinted herewith:
"Members are forbidden to communicate with the press or to give interviews for broadcasting or other media of publicity on military matters, whether by correspondence, personal interviews with press representatives or by any other means except in accordance with the next paragraph of this order.
"Members who have been on active service may give interviews on first hand experiences in battle to uniformed accredited war correspondents, provided that every proposed statement of the nature referred to in this paragraph will be submitted before publication for the approval of an officer of the Directorate of Public Relations. The publication of names of members above the rank of lieutenant is prohibited unless specifically authorised.
"No restriction is placed on members in regard to articles, stories or poems for publication in the press, in periodicals or other publications, provided that these do not deal with military matters and that no indication is given of the military rank or unit of the contributor."

32 Loss Of Or Damage To Government Property By Fire:- Attention is drawn to GRO 586/43. COs sub-units and detachments will take immediate steps to overhaul fire precautions within their own establishments on the lines laid down in Standing Orders for Army Fire Services (Aust). Particular attention will be paid to the following:
(a) In buildings, etc., in which smoking is prohibited, notices to that effect will be displayed prominently and the prohibition will be rigidly enforced.
(b) In no circumstances will authority be given for smoking in garages, in the vicinity of petrol or oil stores or in any other buildings in which inflammable materials are stored.
(c) Special arrangements will always be made for the storage of POL. Tins of sand will be kept available in such places, in addition to tins for oily waste, etc.
(d) No naked lights will be permitted in tents. No lights are to be left unattended in any tent under any circumstances.
(e) Great care will be exercised when the tanks of vehicles are being replenished. Engines will be stopped and any petrol spilled will be wiped up immediately or liberally sprinkled with sand.
(f) Naked lights or hurricane type lamps will on no account be taken into or used in the vicinity of an inflammable liquid or material store, nor will the use of such lamps be permitted when filling petrol tanks of vehicles at night.
(g) Existing and future heating facilities will comply with Standing Orders for Army Fire Services, Sections IV and XI. Particular attention will be paid to the proximity of all heating facilities to such materials as sisalkraft, fibreen, etc.
(h) All ranks will co-operate to prevent the careless throwing away of cigarette ends, pipe ashes or glowing matches from moving vehicles or in the vicinity of tents or in any place where there is a danger of fire.
(i) Fires will not be lit for any purpose whatsoever in proximity of tents or huts except with the authority of a commissioned officer. That officer will ensure that such fires are subsequently extinguished. The possibility of change of wind and wind borne sparks will not be overlooked.
(j) All fire appliances will be properly maintained.

33 Water Supplies In The Field:- Attention is drawn to GRO 573/43.

34 Field General Courts Martial:- N211323 Gnr Fear, R. (139 Aust Hy AA Bty), on 5 Aug 43, was charged with desertion, in that he absented himself without leave from 2130 hrs 24 Apr 43 until 1700 hrs 2 Jul 43. He was found not guilty of desertion but guilty of AWL from 2130 hrs 24 Apr 43 until 1700 hrs 2 Jul 43. Sentenced to suffer field punishment for 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 90 days.

N290300 Gnr Stanford, L. (139 Aust Hy AA Bty), on 5 Aug 43, was charged with desertion, in that he absented himself without leave from 0630 hrs 25 Feb 43 until 1700 hrs on 2 Jul 43. He was found not guilty of desertion but guilty of AWL from 0630 hrs 25 Feb 43 until 2300 hrs 31 May 43. Sentenced to suffer field punishment for 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 90 days.

N211282 Gnr Wiles, R. (139 Aust Hy AA Bty), on 5 Aug 43, was charged with desertion, in that he absented himself without leave from 2130 hrs 24 Apr 43 until 1700 hrs 2 Jul 43. He was found not guilty of desertion but guilty of AWL from 2130 hrs 24 Apr 43 until 1700 hrs 2 Jul 43. Sentenced to suffer field punishment for 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 90 days.

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35 Security Of Airstrip:- Force RO 17/43/133 is reprinted herewith: "To maintain security of the airstrip, it is essential that unauthorised personnel are kept clear of the strip. It is impossible at this stage, owing to the bad state of certain roads, to divert all traffic around the drome. This will be done as soon as practicable. The only persons authorised to be on the strip when a 'plane has landed are Movement Control, Field Security, Provost, and those holding special strip passes. Any additional personnel required will approach only when directed to do so by the Movement Control Officer. No vehicle, other than RAAF service waggon, will approach the 'plane unless directed to do so by the Movement Control Officer. All vehicles must park the 'plane will park in the car park."

36 Army Pigeons:- Pigeons are now being used on service in this area. Any person found harming, detaining, or shooting pigeons will be severely dealt with. (MF 17/43/136)

37 Missing Equipment:- Units will check stores and equipment and report by 1000 hrs 26 [illegible] whether any of the following are in their possession:
Missing 15 Picks 9 Shovels RE and 5 Shovels GS (Aust); also 20 Picks and 42 Shovels (American).
Missing battery 6 volts 15 plate Exide Hy - Cap (Squat)
Binoculars No 5 Mk 1, No 18809
SMG Owen 19544 (report whether on charge to sub-unit).
NIL returns are required in all cases.

38 APO Addresses:- APO addresses are on no account to be used, and where such a practice is now in operation immediate steps will be taken to have it discontinued.

39 Missing Pistols:- The undermentioned S & W pistols have been lost: (MF 17/43/144)
.32 calibre No 71412
.38 calibre 784412 and V14188.
All sub-units will take a physical check of pistols and report possession of any bearing the above numbers to this HQ by 1000 hrs 26 Aug 43. NIL returns required.

40 Returns:- Attention is drawn to Administrative Instruction 1/43, provisions of which will be observed forthwith, and, in particular, attention is drawn to serial 11.

42 Hygiene:- Attention is drawn to Administrative Instruction 2/43, which has been forwarded to sub-unit HQs for distribution to ALL Officers and NCOs i/c detachments. Signatures for copies distributed will be filed at sub-unit HQ for inspection by RMO. Additional copies, if required, may be obtained from this HQ.

43 Promotions and Appointments:- The following promotions and appointments have been approved:

NX163746	Gnr	Burtonshaw, C.G.	to be	TG 11	(Inst. Op. Predictor)	as from 19 Aug 43 (154)
N275981	Gnr	Whyte, G.F.	"	TG 11	"	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
N268877	Gnr	Casey, R.	"	TG 111	(Gunlayer)	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
NX167915	Gnr	McKenzie, T.B.	"	TG 111	(do)	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
N351628	Gnr	Ovington, R.W.	"	TG 111	(do)	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
NX163140	Gnr	Slater, F.L.P.	"	TG 111	(do)	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
NX163755	Gnr	Walker, R.G.	"	TG 111	(do)	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
NX149816	Gnr	Zaichenko, G.A.	"	TG 111	(do)	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
SX30550	Gnr	Appenzeller, L.R.	"	TG 111	(Dvr Mech)	" 19 Aug 43 (154)
NX97471	Gnr	Butler, [illegible].S.	"	TG 111	(Gunlayer)	" 23 Aug 43 (154)
NX153249	L/Bdr	Fisher, A.C.	"	TG 111	(Equipment Repairer)	and to cease duties as Dvr Mech as from 23 Aug 43 (154)

44 Missing Stores:- Sub-units will render returns to this HQ in accordance with Force memos AQ10522 of 24 Aug 43, to reach here by 1200 hrs 27 Aug 43. 76 W'shops will inspect memo at 52 W'shops; AA Ops and 52 Sig Sec will inspect memo at RHQ.

K.W.Pawley, Capt

K.W.Pawley, Capt,
Adjt, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

Distribution: List 1

NOTICE: Sub-units will forward by 29 Aug 43 number of copies required of this unit's ROs and I Summaries, and proposed distribution of such orders.

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by or on behalf of the Army until their interrogation by or on behalf of the Allied Air Force has been completed. Enemy Army personnel and enemy Air Force personnel may, however, be briefly interrogated in fwd areas on behalf of the Allied Air Force or on behalf of the Army as the case may be provided that -

(i) The interrogation is confined in the case of enemy Army personnel interrogated on behalf of the Allied Air Force, to purely Air Force matters and in the case of enemy Air Force personnel interrogated on behalf of the Army, to purely military matters.

(ii) The interrogation is confined to questions of immediate operational importance to the Service conducting it. In determining what questions are of immediate operational importance it must be remembered that all prisoners of war are interrogated in detail on behalf of all three Services at Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centres and that the results of such interrogations in so far as they are likely to affect operations are immediately communicated to all commanders concerned. Only those questions should therefore be asked that are likely to affect military or air operations as the case may be which are intended or anticipated to take place before advice of the results of the detailed interrogation can reasonably be expected.

(iii) In order to give Prisoners of War, who have given information, a measure of protection, all officers concerned with interrogations must ensure that the name of a POW, in no case, appears in association with any report of his examination or interrogation.

(5)All crashed or enemy aircraft, aircraft parts, and enemy Air Force installations, equipment and documents are the property of the Allied Air Force and are to be delivered as soon as possible to the nearest Allied Air Force unit or where that is not immediately possible are to be dealt with according to the procedure laid down by the Allied Air Force. All other enemy material or equipment captured on land is the property of the Army and is to be delivered to the nearest Army unit.

(6) It is an offence to steal, tamper with, fail to report possession of, or being in unauthorised possession of captured or crashed enemy material. The term "enemy material" covers any and every store or article of equipment including documents and food known to have been in possession of the enemy at any time and includes recaptured Allied material. Disciplinary action is to be taken against any person contravening this instruction.

(7) Unit Censors at Army unit HQ and Allied Air Force establishments, are to remove from letters censored by them all articles which they have reason to believe are being sent through the post or otherwise in contravention of this instruction, and are to forward the same together with such particulars about them as are contained in any accompanying correspondence, to the IO at the nearest Army or Allied Air Force Headquarters according as the articles in question are Army or Allied Air Force property in accordance with para 5 above. In case of doubt the onus of establishing that any article is not being sent in contravention of the above paragraph is on the sender of the article.

(8) The Allied Air Force is anxious to reward any person directly concerned with the bringing down of enemy aircraft and will accordingly consider any recommendation made by an Army or Allied Air Force unit commander that some particular part of an enemy aircraft be donated to some specified person directly concerned with its capture. Any such recommendation is to be noted on a label to be attached to the article in question and is to be brought to the attention of the nearest Allied Air Force Intelligence Officer.

(9) The Director of Air Intelligence is the only authority empowered to donate or authorize the retention by any person of any part of an enemy aircraft or enemy Air Force equipment, and the Director of Military Intelligence is the only authority empowered to donate or authorize the retention by any person of any part of enemy military equipment by way of souvenir or personal or unit souvenir or memento.

(LHQ Intelligence Instruction No 21)

3. Things to Avoid.-

Leeches: Found in the scrubs and are extremely active in wet weather. Not dangerous but very unpleasant. Can cause trouble if they get into ears, nose or other openings of the body. If unfortunate enough to get a leech on the eyeball it should be cut and not PULLED away. The leech injects a substance to prevent the blood coagulating so that when the engorged leech drops off the wound continues to bleed freely. Unless explained this fact may worry some people. Soap rubbed freely on to the socks will keep the leeches away.

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APPENDIX 22 W.

AA DEFENCES - INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 3 Copy No... .....

SECRET

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regt
Australia
25 Aug 43.

PART 1 - OWN TROOPS

1. Prisoners of War.-
Custody and disposal of P.O.W. - GENERAL (Ref also FSR 1 1930 Sec 126)
(a) Captured offrs and NCOs will be immediately separated from their men, otherwise the latter may be cautioned against talking.
(b) All documents (excepting paybooks and identity discs) will then be taken from offrs and NCOs to prevent their destruction (ref also paras 3 and 4 of GSI No 1, Part 1, P.O.W.). All weapons will be collected and a careful search made for concealed weapons.
(c) Also as soon as possible, IO's will segregate from the rest of the PW any Japs who can speak English. These may then be questioned by IO's of Bdes (or Bns in circumstances of dispersion or detachment) in order to secure infm of immediate value to the local comd.
(d) PW will then be conducted under escort to the Unit collecting point, whence they will be moved (in batches if necessary) to the rear areas.
(e) Escorts to the rear will not normally exceed 10% of the PW in each batch; our walking wounded may be used for this purpose; empty MT may be used for speedy evacuation and to reduce strength of escort. Unwounded PW may be used to carry wounded of either force to rear.
(f) If the number of prisoners is too large to move together they will be sent back in batches. The important thing is to get them back as quickly as possible. Each batch should contain PW of as many different units and arms as possible.
(g) At the Rear Collecting Point (normally Div) PW will be handed over to the Provost Corps who then remain responsible for their safe custody until they pass to the PW cages at the Base
(h) Div Collecting Pts or cages should be situated close to MDSs, so that IO's can examine wounded and other prisoners with as little waste of labour as possible.
(i) Aviator prisoners will be specially dealt with. The unit controlling an area in which an enemy a/c falls is responsible for safeguarding the a/c, its occupants and contents. An immediate report will be made to Div HQ or similar authority, and such authority will take control as early as possible. Should an enemy a/c come down in the L of C area, our nearest RAAF HQ will be informed at once. Air prisoners will not be examined except by Army or Air Intelligence personnel, and where possible, both will be present at the examination.
(j) Whenever PW are handed over, a receipt will be obtained for the number delivered. (Part 1, para 1, GSI No 1, P.O.W)

2. Responsibility of Field Forces in the Handling of Prisoners of War and Crashed Enemy Aircraft.-
(1) It is the responsibility of Allied Air Force establishments to provide a guard over enemy aircraft and aircrews crashed or captured near such establishments. In the case of enemy aircraft or aircrews crashed or captured elsewhere, the duty of supplying a guard devolves upon Army units, and failing a military guard being available, upon civil authorities.
(2) The primary duties of the guard are to ensure:-
(a) That the enemy aircrew does not set fire to, or otherwise destroy the aircraft or any equipment or documents from it.
(b) That there is no unauthorised pilfering or search of the aircraft or the area of the crash.
(c) That enemy aircrew does not escape or throw away or destroy any part of their equipment.
(d) That the enemy aircrew is disarmed
(e) That there is no fraternization with enemy aircrews.
(3) The authority providing a guard over enemy aircrew or aircraft is to notify the nearest Allied Air Force unit of the fact by telegram if necessary and is to maintain the guard pending further instns from the Allied Air Force unit notified.
(4) Prisoners of War are to be dealt with in accordance with the following procedure:-
(a) Enemy army personnel captured or held by an Allied Air Force unit are to be handed over as soon as possible after capture to the nearest army unit, and enemy air force personnel captured by or held by Army units are to be handed over as soon as possible after capture to the nearest Allied Air Force unit.
(b) Enemy Army personnel will not normally be interrogated by or on behalf of the Allied Air Force until their interrogation by or on behalf of the Army has been completed, and enemy Air Force personnel will not normally be interrogated

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Stone Fish: (Synanceja trachynis). A salt water fish found amoungst stones and on the coral patches of the Reef. Resembles very closely a rough piece of stone or dirty coral both in its rough outline and dirty-brown colour. Swellings on its side and back exude a whitish fluid if touched. Its dorsal spines, if they penetrate the skin, inject a poison which causes intense pain or even death. Average size is about 15 inches but they have been found up to two feet long. Treatment has usually been to place the patient in hospital and inject morphia for a day or two and apply hot foments to the wound. A report has been received at these Headquarters that a native woman treated a stone fish sting with a poultice made of the crushed pulpy roots of the polypodium fern.(NSW L of C Area IS No 18)

4. Personal lost in New Britain - New Guinea Area.-

The jungle in New Guinea and New Britain is easier to traverse than the name "jungle" would lead one to expect. Residents always refer to it as "the bush", "jungle" being reserved for the extremely dense vegetation so often shown on the films. Vegetation which gets direct sunlight is dense and difficult to penetrate but this condition only applies to the tree tops and jungle walls facing a clearing or beside a wide river. Beneath the treetops and inside the walls there is no sunlight and little undergrowth. Except in swamps a man can walk through without having to cut a path, merely pushing aside occasional branches or vines and skirting tangled patches. New Guinea jungle is easier to penetrate than the mountain bush of S.E. Australia. Near villages there are sometimes areas of old gardens, where the big trees have been cleared and a dense secondary vegetation has sprung up, but native tracks lead through them to the villages.
Except near enemy bases, the best course for a man lost in the jungle after being shot or forced down or isolated from a ground party is to find natives. There are villages, only a few hours walk apart, all along the coast, and travel along the beach is easier and quicker than inland. In the mountains many of the valleys carry large native populations, the villages being on the ridge tops.

Camping in the Jungle: There are many plants, such as wild bananas, with large leaves, which can be used to make a lean-to shelter. A parachute, if available, can be made into a tent, and part of it can be rolled around the body for warmth or to keep off mosquitoes. (During the day mosquitoes are seldom bad if one keeps moving) Rain falls almost daily and two hours spent in making a good shelter would use less energy than having a sleepless night. Ordinary safety matches rapidly become unserviceable due to the prevailing dampness and must be dried out before a fire, so that wax matches, or safety matches in an airtight container, are essential. At villages the natives provide a house for the night, and have their own means of making a fire.

Finding the Way: Because of the rugged mountain terrain of most of New Guinea and New Britain, it is hopeless to try to follow a straight-line compass course. If there is a track, it is best to follow it until natives are found and then travel with native guides and on tracks towards the coast. Where there are neither guide, nor tracks, the best course is to follow ridges or streams. This method saves a great deal of ardous ascending and descending necessary if one cuts across the country at right angles to the river system. Ridges are easier walking and give views showing, perhaps, native gardens or smoke fires, and usually lead down to a stream junction. Small streams can be followed along the sides or in the water keeping a good lookout for tracks leading to hidden habitations or gardens on the hillsides. Native hunting tracks in the jungle run along ridge tops and are marked by knife and axe marks on the vegetation. If one knife cut is found on a shoot or a branch it is worth spending some time searching for more and trying to locate the line of the trail; there may be a turnoff down the side of the ridge to a hamlet a thousand feet below. A track sometimes runs through a garden, leaving it at a point hard to find. By climbing a tree or on the uphill edge of the garden, a village or other garden clearings may be discovered and their general direction noted. Also, by scouting completely round the garden in the bush ten or twenty yards from the edge of the garden the track may be located. If this is unsuccessful, going back along the track will probably lead to a village in the direction from which you came.

Crossing Rivers: Fords are usually at the lower end of a smooth slow flowing reach, just above where the river shallows and runs fast over stones. If the water is too deep or too fast, it may be possible to swim across, starting at the head of a slow reach, with a log or bamboo pole for support. Along the coast there is little danger from crocodiles except in a few river mouths, where they

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can be scared by shouting and splashing. The natives know where this is necessary. In general crocodiles need cause no more anxiety than snakes do to a walker in the Australian bush.

Food and Water in the Jungle: In the mountains there are innumerable springs and small streams with good, clear, water. Near a village there is usually a spring reserved for drinking water, which is reasonably free from pollution, and, in fact, before the war, was used without boiling by travelling administrative officers.

Native foods in the village are good. In the jungle it is worth while looking for sweet potato vines or bananas at any clearing or hut encountered. The natives sometimes plant these foods at hunting camps, without making a regular garden. Green bananas can be cooked in their skins over a fire - when the skins are charred nearly through, they are done. Sweet potato leaves can be cooked in a short length of bamboo tube blocked at one end. It is desirable to learn to recognise some of the more common sources of food in the jungle before the time comes to rely on them. Native gardens near most of our forces in New Guinea contain sweet potatoes, yams and taro, and natives, or people with local knowledge, can point out the bush limbong palm, the heart of which is edible, as well as other emergency foods.

Treatment of Natives: There need be no fear of head-hunters or cannibals. In the few remaining areas where the natives have not seen whites a man forced down is more likely to be regarded as a supernatural being than as a meal. As a result of war conditions some tribes who had given up inter-tribal fighting years ago may now have occasional scraps to settle old scores, but a white man is quite safe from attack unless he provokes it. Even if the natives do not appear friendly the best line to adopt is to behave as if they are friendly and that good treatment is expected as a matter of course. Natives resent interference with their customs, their pigs and their women.

Rewards and Payments: A man isolated in the jungle will not have the goods to pay for all the food and services supplied by the natives, and should not attempt to do so. Where a special service has been rendered, a chit (the village mission teacher has pencil and paper)giving particulars will result in payment being made sometime, and natives are quick to appreciate this system. Where trade goods, such as old razorblades, are carried, they are best used as gifts instead of as money, being presented to the chief in each village on leaving.

Near the Enemy Bases: The natives in Japanese controlled areas have been threatened with drastic punishment if they assist our forces, but many of them will not betray a man forced down unless they are compromised. An enemy patrol would have difficulty in finding a man who moved half a mile away from where he parachuted, hid himself and remained motionless. If care is taken not to kick moss off logs or break branches, or otherwise leave signs the trail would be difficult to follow. Natives go to their gardens daily in the early morning and return about the middle of the afternoon; accordingly the middle of the day and the evening are the best times to travel on the tracks without being seen.

(SWPA I.S. No 52)

PART II - ENEMY TROOPS

5. Enemy Aircraft Casualties.-
Estimates of Japanese casualties, in all theatres, resulting from Allied operations from 30 Jul to 6 Aug 43 (inclusive):-

Location	Destroyed	Probable	Damaged
SWPA	15	1	-
Solomons	36	-	-
China, Burma, India	14	19	2
	65	20	2
Previously estimated to 29 Jul 43	5016	1019	1105
	5081	1039	1107

(First Aust Army I.S. No 66)

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Medium Bombers			Remarks
TYPE 97	M/B	SALLY	Mark 1 and Mark 2
TYPE 100	M/B	HELEN	Unconfirmed, but probably operational

Transports		
TYPE 97 Transport	THORA	NAKAJIMA A.T.
TYPE 0 Transport	THELMA	LOCKHEED
TYPE 100 Transport	TOPSY	MC 20
TYPE 1 Transport	TERESA	TK 3

Obsolescent			
TYPE 97	SSF	NATE	
TYPE 97	L/B	BABS	Mark 2
TYPE 98	L/B	MARY	
TYPE 99	L/B	IDA	

Naval Air Service:

Fighters		
TYPE 0	Mk 1 SSF	ZEKE
TYPE 0	Mk 2 SSF	HAP
TYPE 0	SSF F/P	RUFE

Single-engined Bombers and Reconnaissance			
TYPE 97	T/B	KATE	
TYPE 98	R/P	BABS	Mark 3
TYPE 99	D/B	VAL	Mark 1 and Mark 2

Medium Bombers		
TYPE 96	M/B	NELL
TYPE 1	M/B	BETTY

Floatplanes		
TYPE 0	OF/P	PETE
TYPE 0	RF/P	JAKE
TYPE 0	RF/P	GLEN

Flying Boats		
TYPE 97	4EF/B	MAVIS
TYPE 99	2EF/B	CHERRY
TYPE 2	4EF/B	EMILY

Transports	
TYPE (DC2)	TESS

Several operational H/B and F/B used at times as transports.

Obsolescent		
TYPE 96	SSF	CLAUDE
TYPE 95	RF/P	DAVE
TYPE 96	RF/P	SLIM

(Appendix 'D' to HQ First Aust Army Weekly I.S. No 65)

PART III. GENERAL

8. Merauke River: Bar 4' LWS. Tidal range 12'-15'. Navigable by 100-ton vessel with 12' draft to Boepal, where depth varies 16'-20' with season. Upper reaches navigable by craft drawing 4'.

J Zenner

J Zenner, Lieut.,
10,52 Aust Composite AA Regt.

Distribution:

As for Summary No.2.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

6. Japanese Operational Aircraft in S.W.P.A.-

For some time there has been considerable difference of opinion in the various Services, theatres and commands, as to the types and designations of Japanese aircraft actually still in operation in the Naval Air Service and the Army Air Service.

There is now sufficient information available to establish quite satisfactorily what types have recently been identified in use, and a list of these is attached as Appendix "A" to this Summary. However, it is highly improbable that any of the other types reported from various quarters in 1941/42 will now be seen in service and it is recommended that all recognition training in SWPA be confined to the "Known operational" types listed.

The importance of correct recognition, both by air and ground personnel, cannot be too highly stressed, particularly now when both Japanese Air Arms are operating in this theatre and assessment of enemy strength at particular bases depends to such a marked degree on correct identification.

While there have been over a long period, several indications of the use by the Army Air Service of Naval Aircraft and vice versa, there is still no positive evidence that this is in any way a regular practice.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the Army Air Service, while assisting in the NE Area in operations from NEW BRITAIN against the SOLOMONS, is primarily concerned with support for the ground forces in eastern NEW GUINEA. It is, therefore, most probable that any single-engined bombers operating in this area will be "IDA" or "SONIA", and not "VAL", and that fighters will be "OSCAR" or the new type 3 SSF and not "ZEKE" or "HAP".

So far as the Army Air Service is concerned, the three new types recently identified (Type 2 SSF, Type 3 SSF and Type 100 H/B "HELEN") are included in the list of "known operational" types, as there is fairly good evidence available of their actual use in this theatre. There is no other information of value to enable us to make any listing of other expectations.

In the case of the Naval Air Service, information from various sources makes it possible to list seven types which are probably in service or coming into service. These are:-

TYPE 0	Mk 3 SSF	Probably improved "ZEKE"
Type 1	Fighter	
Type 1	D/B	Carrier Borne. Retractable undercarriage
Type 1	Transport	
Type 2	R/P	Carrier Borne
Type 2	Land Reconnaissance	Possibly twin-engined L/B
Type 2	Fighter F/P	

It is likely that any sightings of aircraft which cannot be identified amongst those listed below as "known operational" types will have to be identified from our somewhat limited details of new and experimental types.

As a further guide, details are listed of six known experimental operational aircraft. This information is not particularly up to date and it is likely that, while some of the type may be identical with aircraft listed earlier in this article, some of them have never reached the production stage. There is, in fact, fairly good evidence to show that the "HEINKEL" and "JUNKERS" types in particular come within this latter category.

Type 13 2/E Fighter	Two Sakae radials
Type 13 Dive Bomber	DB600 engine
Type 13 H/B	Four radials
HEINKEL He 100 SSF	DB601A engine
HEINKEL He 119 H/B	Two DB606 engines
JUNKERS Ju88	Two Jumo 211G engines

(AAF Summary No.122) (First Aust Army Weekly I.S. No 65)

7. Japanese Aircraft Types recently identified in Use.-

Army Air Service:

		Remarks
Fighters		
TYPE 1 SSF	OSCAR	Mark 1 and Mark 2
TYPE 2 SSF	-	Twin-engined. Similar to DINAH
TYPE 3 SSF	-	Liquid cooled engine
Light Bomber and Reconnaissance		
TYPE 99 SE L/B	SONIA	
TYPE 99 2E L/B	LILY	
TYPE 100 R/P	DINAH	

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Appendix "C"

SECRET

AA Defences Wernuke - Amendment No 2

to Location Statement No 5

Ref Map - Wernuke (Special) 1:25,000

As at 1600 hrs, 30 Aug 43

Line 5 - Delete all reference to L15 and substitute after L 25:

Code Symbol - L26
Location - 200 yds E of wharf at INDEPENDENT KNOLL
Map ref - 42933605
Comm. - DRLS
Equipment - 40mm 1; AAMG 1.

Line11 - S12, delete location and map reference and communications, and substitute:

Location - 3,200 yds NW of wharf at INDEPENDENT KNOLL on far river bank.
Map ref - 41133878
Comm. - Launch

Line 14 - Delete detail for M6 and substitute:

Code Symbol - M6
Location - 50 yds S of S12
Map ref - 41133873
Comm. - Launch

Delete detail for M7 and substitute:

Code Symbol - M7
Location - 50 yds N on S12
Map ref - 41133883
Comm. - Launch

J.A. England, Lt-Col.
AADC, Wernuke.

Distribution:

DAA & QA, First Aust Army
Hq Wernuke Force
Gun Operations Room
War Diary
File

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of the service station is the servicing and checking of all MT every 30 days. As vehicles require this service, they will be called forward by W'shop HQ. Details of work to be carried out are as follow:

(i) check valve tappet clearance
(ii) check make and break points
(iii) check distributor
(iv) check all wiring and battery, generator and starter
(v) check spark plugs
(vi) check and clean fuel system
(vii) check voltage regulator
(viii) check steering
(ix) check and bleed brakes
(x) remove wheels, clean brake drums
(xi) flush radiator and check for leaks
(xii) check lubrication of engines and transmission in accordance with DME Technical Instruction MV Maintenance No C 13-7
(xiii) power grease chassis
(xiv) tighten all body nuts and bolts

This service will begin on 1 Sep 43, and vehicles will be called for in the order: 154 Bty, 52 Sig Sec, 139 Bty, RHQ.

(d) Units will submit requests for both six-monthly inspections and examination of ordnance when they fall due. This work will be done by Workshop.

(e) Fitters gun will include number of rounds fired during the month in their monthly reports. This information will be kept by Workshop and, in addition, Btys will complete AAF F62 after each shoot (one copy to Workshop).

(f) Workshop will arrange for the monthly inspection of instruments by an AA Fitter (instrument) and all normal tests to be applied. Predictors will go through the workshop once every six months for cleaning and lubricating.

(g) Workshops will regularly inspect SL equipment. No period is laid down but it will be as frequently as possible and at least once every eight weeks.

(h) Inspections of small arms will be made once every three months. Repairs and adjustments will be carried out immediately by the workshop concerned.

53 Detector Papers, Type "A", Mk 1 and Mk 11:- GRO 618/43 is reprinted herewith - "Detector papers, type "A", Mk 1 and Mk 11, are no longer an item of issue of anti-gas equipment and will not be included in future METs. All units which are in possession of such papers will return immediately all stocks held to the appropriate returned stores depot."

54 Promotions and Appointments:- The following promotions and appointments have been approved:

NX106162	A/S/Sgt	Lawrence, B.D.	to be	S/Sgt	as from	21 Aug 43 (139)
NX44239	A/Sgt	Shnukal, P.	"	Sgt	"	21 Aug 43 (139)
NX166415	A/Sgt	Voysey, R.T.	"	Sgt	"	21 Aug 43 (139)
N176504	A/Cpl	Booth, G.A.	"	Cpl and L/Sgt	"	21 Aug 43 (139)
NX140758	A/Bdr	East, H.J.	"	Bdr	"	21 Aug 43 (139)
NX44200	A/Bdr	King, J.D.	"	Bdr	"	21 Aug 43 (139)
NX132118	A/Bdr	McIntyre, P.J.	"	Bdr	"	21 Aug 43 (139)
NX143865	A/Bdr	Ottey, G.W.	"	Bdr	"	21 Aug 43 (139)
NX106057	A/Bdr	Henry, R.G.	"	Bdr	"	23 Aug 43 (139)
NX149080	Pto	Knott, R.W.	"	Spec Grp 11 (Cook) and A/Cpl	"	23 Aug 43 (139)
NX89390	Gnr	Collis, W.S.	"	TG 11 (Predictor)	"	23 Aug 43 (139)
N215189	Gnr	Tansley, E.J.	"	TG 11 (Gun Layer)	"	23 Aug 43 (139)
NX144177	Gnr	White, M.A.	"	L/Bdr	"	10 Aug 43 (RHQ)

K.W.Pawley, Capt,
Adjt, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

Distribution:
List No 1

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

War Diary

Appendix P.

For official use only
AFR & O 1527

Australian Military Forces
52 Aust Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Routine Orders by Lt.Col J. A. England
Officer Commanding
Part 1, No 4 Tuesday, 31 Aug 43

45 Possession Of Firearms Brought Back From Overseas:- GRO 609/43 directs: "The possession of unregistered firearms is a serious civil offence. Firearms and other weapons captured from the enemy are the property of the Commonwealth and their unauthorised possession by members of the forces is unlawful Attention is directed in this regard to GRO 473/43. Ordnance and salvage depots are authorised to receive such weapons or firearms from members of the forces. Such weapons and firearms will be handed in immediately."

46 Rifles No 1:- Sub-units will advise by 1800 hrs, 5 Sep 43, whether any rifles are on charge from among the following groups of serial numbers: D47000 to D50200
D50401 to D51600
D53601 to D54800
D55001 to D56200
D58201 to D60600
(GRO 531/43)

47 Terne Plate Linings For Ammunition Packages:- Attention is drawn to GRO 532/43. In view of the high lead content of terne plate, containers made of this material will not be used in any way in connection with the cooking, storage or transport of food or drinking water. Any disregard of this prohibition may involve extremely serious consequences.

48 Census Of Warlike Stores:- Attention is drawn to GRO 534/43. Sub-units will include all actual "usage" of all items shown on Master Cards (AAF E5-1 to E5-8) for the month on Unit Return Slips (AAF E5-1a to E5-8a), using the Remarks column for this purpose. The term "usage" means that the item has been: (a) destroyed by the enemy; (b) rendered unserviceable from any cause and disposed of to workshops under terms of GRO 288/43; of (c) lost. In general it means any item struck off unit charge with the exception of any item transferred serviceable to another unit.

49 Boots - Prevention Of Excessive Waste:- To prevent excessive wastage of boots, sub-unit commanders will ensure (a) that regular inspections of boots are conducted; (b) that prompt steps are taken to have boots repaired as soon as the necessity for such action is apparent; (c) that when boots are sent for repair, pairs are matched and securely tied together; and (d) that, where the ground is sodden, boots are regularly treated with dubbin. (GRO 613/43)

50 Returns:- Administrative Instruction 1/43 is amended as follows: Serial 13, delete "Reserved," insert in the respective columns "B2069 - 1200 Sat - Offence Report - A - 2 RHQ 1 File - To be serially numbered; nil returns required; B2069 for cases dealt with by CO will be prepared by RHQ." Serial 18, delete all details and insert "Reserved." Serial 40, delete "Reserved" and insert in the respective columns "pro forma - 1430 20th each month - Tentage Return - A - 1 RHQ 1 File - Reference First Aust Army RO 181/43." Serial 28: Extra copy of G6 required for W'shop information. Copies of the pro forma "Tentage Return" will be distributed by this HQ.

51 Traffic Control:- As from 29 Aug 43, no traffic other than that authorised by RAAF Wing HQ will be permitted on the air strip or on the side tracks thereof. Drivers of vehicles engaged in work on the side tracks and bays will ensure that vehicles do not infringe on the strip. All North-South traffic will use either 13 Av and Main St on the West side or the Fighter Taxi-way on the East. Hospital traffic using the existing MDS Rd will turn North or South on reaching the Taxi-way and will not cross the strip. Traffic on the taxi-way will be reduced to a minimum. Vehicles supplying AA and SL positions within the strip area will stop when reaching the strip area at the nearest accessible road, and will make deliveries by hand. Vehicles will NOT be driven to gun or SL sites. Speed on taxi-way will not exceed 15 mph. (WFAI 11/43)

52 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop - Organisation and Procedure:- The following extracts from Workshop Organisation and Procedure Instruction No 1 are republished for information of all concerned, and action will be taken by all sub-units to follow the procedure set out:
(a) Organisation: The workshop section will be organised into the following sub-sections - (i) General Engineering; (ii) Armament; (iii) Instruments; (iv) MT; (v) Electrical (including Battery Charging); (vi) Radio (to be administered by E/E Radio); (vii) Recovery; (viii) Administration; (ix) Store; (x) Drivers and General Duties.
(b) Records of jobs: All sub-units will submit requests for repairs on AAF F3a in duplicate. One copy will be signed and returned to the unit as a receipt. It is important that the mileage of all MT be shown on both copies of the F3a, and also the amount of petrol in MT and/or Generator sets.
(c MT Sub-section: A service station for MT has been instituted, consisting of a Lorry garage and a ramp. A detachment will be extracted from the MT section consisting of a L/Cpl Mechanic MV, Dvr Mechanic and the driver of the vehicle to be serviced. Duty

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APPENDIX Q.

SECRET

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - WEEKLY REPORT No 16

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
31 Aug 43.

H 1
382 AUST HY AA
GUN STATION

- Three guns at this station were pulled back during the week. To enable the gantry to be placed in position the baffle entrances had to be demolished and the entrances widened.
The condition of the guns is reported by 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop to be satisfactory. Moisture was discovered inside the jackets but no rust or pitting had occurred.
It is intended to pull the guns back every three months.
Turfing and planting of natural foliage on revetments was continued. It has been found that a suitable quick growing plant is the pumpkin vine which gives a cover whilst the other grass is growing.
Ammunition dumps have been completed and all ammunition is under cover.
A check of ammunition on the station was made by an inspecting Ordnance NCO. Of the 3000 rounds on the station four were condemned. The balance is in good condition.
Maintenance is being carried out on the dummy gun site. Aerial photographs taken from 2000 feet show the dummy site too prominently and much clearer than the gun station. Modifications are required to give it a more realistic appearance.

H 2
383 AUST HY AA
GUN STATION

- The main work carried out at this gun station was the reduction in size of the gun pits. The breastwork has been constructed and earth is being filled in behind it.
Ammunition dumps are still under construction and ammunition is being tested by inspecting Ordnance NCO.
Hygiene has shown improvement.
The kitchen has been completed and recreation room and mess hut is nearing completion.
Gardens have been planted in the gun pit areas, part of a camouflage scheme and an adjunct to rations.
Electric light has been installed in the Command Post for use during operations. The line has been run from the GL Generator set.

G L

- The performance of G 1 and G 2 continues to be satisfactory.
Opportunities for co-operation were few as there was very little movement of friendly aircraft.
Work on the removal of trees at G 1 is proceeding slowly.
Sand has been spread evenly over the surface surrounding the Rx at G 2.
There were no technical or mechanical faults during the week.
The Deisel power units at both sites were temporarily adjusted by 102 Aust Bde Workshop AEME and improved.
Both Rx and Tx at G 1 and G 2 have been painted.

40 mm BOFORS

- Work on the tower in the vicinity of Independent Knoll was completed by 55 U.S. Naval Engrs Bn on the night of 27 Aug 43.
The Bofors was placed in position by their crane on the morning of 28 Aug 43 and ammunition associated stores and filled sandbags for the revetments were raised to the platform. Work was immediately commenced on the camouflage.
Blueprints and photographs are not yet ready. The gun has not been fired. The general appearance of the tower is satisfactory Nine piles driven ten feet into the ground hold the platform. Piles vary from 13 inches to 18 inches in diamter at the small end. Caps are 15 inches by 8 inches hardwood. Bearers are 10 inch by 4 inch. Decking is 12 inch by 4 inch. The platform is 22 feet square. The height to the decking is 27 feet, making the height of the trunnions approx. 31 feet from ground level. This gives a field of view down to 1½ degrees excepting one small arc. The platform is very solidly built and rigidly stayed. The gun will be used at F.A.S. Extract from MGRA letter 134822 of 9 Aug 43 re Steel Towers arrived two hours after the gun was bolted down.

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40 mm Bofors (cont)

The Bofors cover in the area is as under:-

Air Strip	-	8 guns
Cover for old jetty and Independent Knoll Wharf	-	4 guns

SEARCHLIGHTS - A breakdown of the Voltage Regulator Type E 2.6 in the 150 cm English SLC leaves only one SLC in operation. The mainland has been signalled for a replacement of the part. Certain SL's exposed to check readings taken during the positioning last week.
S 12: This light is out of communication by line, W/T and R/T for operations and administration. An emergency signal by rifle shots has been arranged in case of sickness, accident or unexpected emergency. For operations the usual independent control signals from a Master light apply. Moisture has caused breakdown in wireless sets. This method of communication will be established on3 Sep 43. Line communication necessitates laying approximately 7000 yards of cable, half of which will be through mangrove swamp. The submarine cable has been laid across the river by Force Signals. Line communication will not be established with S 12 under three weeks. A launch visits the site every day.

POSTING OF OFFICERS - Capt L.C.R. Dale arrived on 25 Aug 43 and took over command of 154 Aust Lt AA Bty as directed by First Aust Army.
Lieut L.T. Wilson, EME (Radio), arrived in the area on 30 Aug 43 and is posted to 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop AEME.

SCHOOLS AND COURSES - Major A.F. Swinbourne departed on 25 Aug 43 to attend LHQ School of Arty - Course No 40 - in Hy AA Tactical Control for Senior Officers.
Capt K.W. Pawley, Capt A.B. Samuelson and Lieut J.C. Zenner are attending a Junior Staff Officers' Course conducted by HQ Merauke Force. The course is of ten weeks duration of two nights per week.

PERSONNEL - Posted Strength - 36 Officers and 771 OR's.

MEDICAL - The weekly report of sick parades by Capt Kendall is attached (Appendix "A").

ENEMY ACTIVITY - Nil.

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

DISTRIBUTION:
MGRA Branch LHQ
BAA & QA First Aust Army
HQ Merauke Force (3)
War Diary (2)
File

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APPENDIX "A"

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - WEEKLY MEDICAL REPORT

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
25 Aug 43.

1. Location - - - -	Nos
2. Strength - - - -	804
3. Reinforcements during week - -	
4. Attached for Medical Services -	52 Aust Composite AA Regt & Associated Troops.
5. Total new sick - - -	108
6. Total evacuations from R.A.P. -	2
7. Total "No Duty" personnel -	6
8. Total "Light Duty" personnel -	6
9. Average Daily Sick Rate - -	1.9%

10. Details of New Sick	Treatment and Duty	Light Duties	No Duties	Evacuations
Diarrhoea	3	-	-	-
U R T I	2	-	4	-
Tinea - feet	40	-	-	-
Tinea - groin	8	-	-	-
Tinea - ears	6	-	-	-
Foot Ailments	2	-	-	-
SKIN				
Furunculosis	5	-	1	-
Insect bites and Urticaria	2	-	-	-
Dermatitis	3	-	-	-
Other Skin	6	-	-	-
EYES				
Infections	6	-	-	-
Refraction errors	2	-	-	-
Injuries at play	6	6	-	-
Acute Tonsillitis	1	-	1	-
Haemorrhoids	1	-	-	-
Sandworm	1	-	-	-
Concussion	-	-	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-	1
Totals	94	6	6	2

Returned from Hospital - - 1 (Concussion)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt *Date and Time.—From* 1-SEP 1943 *To* 3-SEP 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke.	1 Sep 43		A conference was called at G.O.R. by AADC - of O.C. 139 Aust Hy AA Bty and Hy AA Gun Stations officers to discuss engagement of targets by night and day with friendly F/A in the air.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty - Work continued on the reducing of Gun Pits at H2 - Barrel of No. 2 Gun at H1 pulled back and examined, condition good- Work commenced on the construction of a men's mess at H.2. - ~~Lecture on Security given by F.S.S.~~	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Lieut Mollard took over duties of Tp comd. B.Troop. Compass traverse taken of B.H.Q. Area to initiate a ground defence plan - Work on the construction of Bren pits and ~~incinerators carried out - Gun shelter, mess hut and~~ predictor pit completed at L.25.	
			76 Aust AA S/L Bty - Work continued on the construction of revetments. Three lights have been linked to G.O.R. by telephonic communication.	
	2 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty.- 16 Aust Fld Coy commenced the removal of concrete tanks on G.L. Site at H.1. The tanks are detrimental to the performance of the site. Barbed wire ~~procured from 16 Aust Fld Coy for the waring of H.2. Area.~~	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. An alternative position was sited for L.2. The camouflage of L.16. and surroundings commenced - Ammunition pits for reserve ammunition under construction at Bty, Hq.	
	3 Sep 43		A quantity of spare parts for 139 Aust Hy AA Bty came to hand by Air Freight - Spare parts position is regarded as safe.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Rifle drill and visual trg carried out at H.1. At H.2. the barrel was removed from No. 3 Gun -	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted)

H. 100M 2/42 Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Date and Time.—From 3-SEP1943 To 5-SEP1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke.	3 Sep 43		- Condition good, Construction of mess tables and seats completed at H.2.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Work continued on construction of revetments and improvement of the camp area.	JBS
	4 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Gun Stn personnel commenced grubbing out trees on G.L. site at H.1. - Barrel of No.4 Gun H.2. removed - Condition fair - AADC, Lt/Col Brock and Maj Thomas (DCRE) visited H.2. and inspected camouflage of site. Suggested, restriction of tracks and painting of tents.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Camouflage work on gunsites continued.	
			52 Aust Composite AA Regt W'shop - All AEME personnel attached to 52 Aust Composite AA Regt were transferred to the Regiment Workshop. W3008 and W3009 attached	Appendix A JBS
	5 Sep 43		As there is no .303 tracer ammunition available for practice with a Bren Gun attached to a Bofors, practice using a limited amount of 40mm will be carried out . Meteorological balloons will be used as targets. Lieut L.T. Wilson (E.M.E. RADIO) marched in to 52 Aust Composite AA Regt W/shop AEME. Heavy rain daily which recorded 230 points in five days, suspended work on occasions as camp areas became wet and boggy - Extensive drainage schemes were carried out.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. - proofing shoot was carried out at L.26. "The tower Gun" to test the stability of the tower. 60 rounds were fired at single shot and automatic fire. Only a slight shimmer was noticed, and at no time were the layers inconvenienced. Two meteorlogical balloons were engaged after test rounds had been fired. It is considered	JBS

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted)

H. 100M 2/42 Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Date and Time.—From 5-SEP 1943 To 7-SEP 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	5 Sep 43		that from the result of the shoot the erection of the tower was fully justified.	
	6 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Eleven cases of conjunctivitis amongst 13 G.L. personnel at G.1. has brought to notice again, the strain occasioned by long periods in operation. personnel are ~~having their eyes tested for any refracted~~ errors by the R.M.O. and are being kept under close observation. The removal of concrete tanks and the felling of trees on G.L. Site at H.1. is continuing. The barrel of No.1. gun H.2. ~~XXX~~ was removed Condition good.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty Alternative sites selected for L.24. Road ~~Building being carried out - General camp improvements carried~~ out.	
	7 Sep 43		Searchlight co-operation was arranged with RAAF - One a/c to be used as a bomber and the other as a intercepting fighter - ~~a/c to fly at 6000 ft then at 15,000 ft - Co/operation arranged~~ for next eight days during the full moon period.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty Both Hy AA Gun Stns and G.L. sets manned during S/L co-operation for practice in visual and unseen ~~targets drills , using the Height Computer and plotting drill~~ - Each site had opportunities to engage using line barrage, but on each occasion visual engagements were being made - Full advantage of the co-operation on succeeding nights is to be taken by Gun and instrument crews.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty The co-operation from the point of view S/Ls ~~was not satisfactory, as only three lights are at present~~ connected to G.O.R. - Difficulty was experienced in controlling	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt *Date and Time.—From* 7 - SEP 1943 *To* 9 - SEP 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	7 Sep 43		the lights from a master beam - Signal communications for S/Ls have been given priority and will be speeded up - Following ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and holding was satisfactory, but early pick up must be improved.	
			Weekly AA Defences Report No.17 issued -	Appendix B
	8 Sept43		Average daily sick rate for the seven days period was 1.75%. 25 cases of tinea were recorded for the	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Stocks of firewood collected for use in wet weather - Gun pit entrances at H.1. reconstructed to allow gantry to be placed in pits for the removal of barrels - Inspection of guns at H.2. carried out by Lt Henley-Smith and Lieut Thompson - of workshops to ascertain what modification were required. - Removal of concrete tanks at H.1. continued - Sprays and paint obtained from Camouflage section for camouflage work.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty Camp improvements and road construction carried out - Sgt J.E. Palmer left to attend LHQ School of Arty (Lt AA), No. 41 Course.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty S/L co-operation was continued with two P40m One as a bomber and the other as a fighter interceptor - Height was varied from 6,000ft to 15,000 ft.	
	9 Sep 43		Enemy Activity. 16 bombers and 15 fighters aircraft attacked Merauke - 91 bombs were dropped in the Air Strip Area - One Boomerang fighter and a small quantity of army gear was damaged - 10 rounds were fired by H.L. (full report see AA Def. Weekly Summary No. 18) - attached as appendix D.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Date and Time.—From 9 - SEP 1943 To 10 SEP 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	9 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty. The clearing of the GL Site is continuing Difficulty is being experienced with the Reinforced steel bars and the bottoms of concrete tanks which are sunk several feet in the ground.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Camouflage being carried out on all Gun Sites.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. S/L co-operation carried out on two P40ms	JBZ
	10 Sep 43		81.89% of the posted strength of the unit are AIF and 62.8% of the W.E. It is anticipated that the additional personnel required to make the unit AIF will not be long in coming forth Major S. Fletcher, MGRA Branch arrived in the area to inspect AA Defences.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Lieut G Wells returned from LHQ School of Military Intelligence - Photo wing, War Course No. 10, Serial 3, at which he qualified. The Traversing gear on one gun at H.1. became stiff. The cause was traced to sand and grit in the roller bearings of the mounting. Cleaned and rectified by Workshops.	JBZ
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. The necessity of constructing substantial gun pits for the protection of men and equipment was justified during the enemy action. L.21 and L.22 which were in the V.A. received 33 and 20 bombs respectively with a 200 yds radius of the gun pits - No men injured or equipment lost or damaged.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. The loan of two tip trucks from the American Engrs., has considerably speeded up the construction of revetments. - Considerable improvement was noticed during the S/L co/operation.	JBZ

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Date and Time.—From 11 SEP 1943 To 12 SEP 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	11 Sep 43		There has been a noticeable increase in the area of anopholene mosquitoes (Malaria Carriers) during the dry spell. Surveys of the swamp area in each locality are being carried out by personnel trained at a local school of anti-malarial control No cases of malaria have occurred in the regiment.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Training at seen and unseen targets was carried out by both Hy AA Gun Stations during S/L co-operation - Both GL Sets are operating well.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Work commenced on new Ops room at BHQ ammunition pit completed and camouflaged.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. S/L co-operation was carried out. Routine Orders Ptl. No. 6 was issued	Appendix C
	12 Sep 43		Aircraft Recognition Signals were issued and in use for the first time in this area.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. G.L. Personnel are experiencing eye strain. Treatment has been given by the RMO resulting in partial relief. A requisition has been submitted for 30 pairs of sun glasses to break down the sun glare which has been giving these personnel headaches when they are relieved from operations. - Normal maintenance carried out.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty Small arms and gas training carried out	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. S/L co-operation carried out.	
	13 Sep 43		Ten S/L Stations are connected to GOR and S.12. is in W/T and	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Date and Time.—From 13 SEP 1943 To 1 SEP 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	13 Sep 43		R/T communication - R/T fades during the XXX night. This is attributed to Atmospheric conditions - The Signal sect comprises of 1 Officer and 14 O/Rs - Advice has been received of the forward movement of 14 O/Rs to raise the section to WE strength.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty Mess hut completed and gravel floor laid at H.1. - Clearing of GL site at H.1. continued - Work on reducing the gun pits at H.2. continued - Revetments being turfed for camouflage purposes.	
	14 SEP 43		Merauke Force. C.O. addressed Junior Officers Staff School on anti aircraft.	MERAUKE FORCE.
	13 SEP 43		76 Aust AASL Bty Excellent S/L co-operation with P 40 ms - Target Illuminated on all runs.	JBJ
	14 Sep 43		The dailysick rate averaged for 7 days was .95%. The decrease was caused by the drop in tinea cases. The sick rate is considered to be at a satisfactory level. Maj S.A. Fletcher MGRA Branch concluded his inspection of the area and left by plane.	
	14 SEP 43.		139 Aust Hy AA Bty Faults in the QE dials on two guns developed at H.2. Investigation revealed that pins had sheered in the Oldham couplings - Condensation of moisture in all dials is bad.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Alternative Site for L.25 commenced	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. S/L co-operation was interrupted by an unidentified plot - P.40's investigated - nothing reported. SLC at S.4. picked up 1 FF at range of 19,000 yds - This is the first occasion in the area of LFF recording on SLC.	
			A.A. Defences Weekly Report No. 18 issued.	JBJ Appendix D

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt *Date and Time.—From* 15SEP1943 *To* 20SEP1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	15 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty The wiring of the gun station area at H.2 is being completed - Two gun pits at H.2 have been reduced in size	
			The demolition and removal of concrete tanks at H.1. was completed.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty Camp improvements, road and revetment construction was carried out on all sites.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty Arrangements were made with RAAF to carry out nightly measurements of cloud base and cloud density.	
			Routine Orders ptl. No. 7 were issued	Appendix E
	17 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty Soil was carted for the top dressing of revetment at H.1 to stimulate the growth of grass for camouflage purposes - A Faulty 1 meg ohm resister in the bearing focus network was replaced and loose contact in the motor driven Switch rectified in the GL set at H.1.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Tents further dispersed on L.21 and L.22 gun sites.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. Camp improvement and construction of revetments carried out.	
	18 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty. It was noticed that some of the components were weakening on the set at H.2, particularly the resistance controlling the focus on the bearing and range tubes - These were checked and faulty parts replaced.	
			The large trees on west side of GL site at H.1. were felled and removed.	
	20 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty Oil SAE 60 is now in use in GL Power Units The heavier oil is considered more suitable for tropical conditions.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted,)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt *Date and Time.—From* 20SEP1943 *To* 21SEP1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	20 Sep 43		154 Aust Lt AA Bty A series of practice s has been arranged for each of the 12 detachments, to fire from L.26 the "Tower Gun" - Targets used are meteorological balloons- Practices ~~commenced with L.2 detachment firing - The drill was fair and~~ observation of fire was made difficult for the layers by smoke caused by excessive lubricationof the recoil spring. L. 25 detachment fired in the afternoon. Drill was good. Laying good and corrections quickly made, Difficulty was again experienced with smoke. At times the layer for ~~lateral~~ LINE could not hear the corrections. ~~The drill of touching him on the left or right shoulder will~~ be experimented with.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. Camp improvements carried out.	
	21 Sep 43		Lt/Col MAINWARING GI Arty - BAA&CA, First Aust Army, arrived in area to inspect AA Defences.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. A Hy AA Practice was held at H.2 with guns laid on a reciprocal bearing to the predictor - P 40ms ~~were used flying a straight course at 15,000 ft approx 5000 yds~~ NW of the Gun station. 59 rounds of HE were fired - One XXXX short fuse observed and two blinds reported. The cause was probably faulty handling of M.F.S. - The shoot was the initial ex experience of 94% of the troop - Salvoes were very XXXX ragged Faults in equipment as aresult of the shoot were :- No.1 Gun - The Pin retaining safe and fuse lever moved out of ~~position causing the breech block to jam. No. 3 gun - The~~ pin through the clutch lever shaft of M.F.S. sheered off - No. 4 Gun - The bronze handle of firing lever was broken-	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Woll Searle left to attend No. 6 OCTU at	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt

Date and Time.—From 21SEP1943 To 23SEP1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	21 Sep 43		at Woodside, South Australia.	
			AA Defences Weekly Report No. 19 issued	Appendix F
	22 Sep 43		Rapid Progress has been made by the signals in the laying of the line to S.12 - This necessitates the laying of 1½ miles of line on each side of the river to link up with the submarine cable. The daily sick rate average for the seven days period was 1.36%. Tinea and Furunculosis are the two most prevelant ailments	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. Capt Gribben - Bty Capt, left under instructions from First Aust Army to raise and command 72 Aust Mobile SL Bty.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty A Musketry shoot was carried out by personnel from H.1. - Workshop personnel examined equipment at H.2.	
			A Regimental Sports Meeting was held on the beach - The aggregate was won by 139 Aust Hy AA Bty, 435/6 points, 154 Aust Lt AA Bty 33 4/6 points - 76 AASL Bty 25 points.	
	23 Sep 43		Lt/Col MAINWARING completed his inspection and departed by plane.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. A "throw off" shoot was held at H.1. - 115 rounds of HE were fired - Six blinds were reported - The cause is open to doubt but a careful watch will be kept on this phase in future practices. - During the practice the rate of fire was increased from 6 rounds per minute to 9 rounds per minute. The longest period of engagement was 55 secs. The only fault occuring was on No. 4 Gun, where the pin locking the clutch lever of M.F.S. was sheered off- There was a larger movement in the Gun mountings than was expected. Valuable experience was obtained by Gun and Instrument crews from the Practice.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted).

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 52 Aust Com osite AA Regt

Date and Time.—From 23SEP1943 To 25SEP1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	23 Sep 43		During one run the engagement was changed from unseen to seen targets. There was only a slight apparent lag in bearing. Measurement of the angle of sight appeared good.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Dummy gun placed in position at L.21 - General camp improvements carried out.	
	24 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty Trouble was experienced with the focus on the RX of the GL at H.2. A Faulty valve was replaced. This has considerably improved the performance. The TX is also apparently susceptible to vibration set up by the firing of the guns - This will be further tested at the next practice shoot. The reduction of the gun pits at H.2 is completed	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. L 24 detachment fired 46 rounds at a practice shoot - Laying and drill was good - No. 4 failed to appreciate rate of fire ~~xxxxxxxx~~ at automatic - Loading was slow - L.23 detachment fired 58 rounds - No 10's use of voice was weak - laying was fair. More practice is required - Trouble was experienced with loose charges catching in the firing pedal ~~and firing rod. The gun in use had a Mk III platform.~~ A modification which has been put on by workshops will be tested by the next shoot.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty - Lieut Johnson left to attend a Senior Officers Course at SME, Middle Head, Sydney.	
	25 Sep 43		At 1000 hrs plots of an unidentified a/c were picked up on a bearing of 70° - 55 miles - P40ms were airborne but no interception was made. The RAAF are of the opinion that it was a reconnaissance ~~xxxxx~~ aircraft. The plot approached no nearer than 32 Miles Troops in the area received their first pay in Dutch Currency	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Date and Time.—From 25 SEP 1943 To 28 SEP 1943

St 7455

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	25 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty - A Guard room is under construction at H.1 Maintenance carried out on the dummy site at H.1 Two guns were reconstructed. The ~~further~~ turfing of the GL site at H.2. in the ~~immediate~~ vicinity of the RX is being continued.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. Camouflage of L.16 is completed. Dummy Gun site at L. 11 moved . Mosquito ~~proofing of mess huts~~ carried out.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. S. 12 was linked to S.O.R by telephone All searchlight locations are now in communication with SOR.	JGJ
	26 Sep 43		A standing patrol was instituted by RAAF To attempt an interception of ~~reconnaisance aircraft~~.	JGJ
	27 Sep 43		At 1045 an unidentified plot was picked up by RDF bearing 35° 70 miles - Reports of an aircraft flying high came from Boepal and Okaba - The aircraft did not approach Merauke. From speed and height the aircraft could have been a "Dinah"	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Levelling and filling of GL sites at H.1 continued- The scrub is being cleared away on the river side of H.1. and a barbed wire fence is being erected.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. General camp improvements carried out - Work on construction of revetments and roads continued.	JGJ
	28 Sep 43		139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Junior N.C.Os refresher course commenced at H.2 with special attention to voice control training - Discussion Groups and Hobbies groups formed.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty L.11 detachment fired 49 rounds - Weakness in loading drill - Laying fair. L.16 detachment fired 67 rounds. This detachment had the distinction of being the	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt *Date and Time.—From* 28 SEP 1943 *To* 30 SEP 1943

St 7455

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke	28 Sep 43		first detachment to burst the balloon (range of about 800 yds) - Laying however was very erratic - No 1 did not appreciate the necessity for " Stop Fire " and the ordering of new deflections - No.4 was slow in loading.	
			76 Aust AASL Bty. The SL Bty was reorganised as directed in LHQ SM/21849, and implemented as from this day - The Bty was regrouped on a three troop baisis on WE 111/24c/1 and its title changed to 76 Aust Mobile SL Bty (AIF)	
			AA Defences Weekly Report No. 20 issued.	Appendix G
			Routine Orders ptl. No.8 Issued	Appendix H
	29 Sep 43		During the night 29/30 Sep 43 - 519 points of rain were recorded- Camp areas, gun sites and roads were flooded- Most areas drained fairly well within 36 hrs by drains which had been dug in the dry period- Extensive road work was carried out by Engrs.	
			The average daily sick rate for the seven days period was 1.1%	
			Capt W.A. Whiting and 12 reinforcements arrived for the 52 Aust Composite AA Regt W'shop.	
			139 Aust Hy AA Bty. Normal Camp routine carried out.	
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty. "A" Troop manned their ground defences in practice - Alternative site at L.15 prepared for occupation.	
	30 Sept 43		Rainfall for the month was 960 points. and Conditions were generally fine with 21 rainless days.	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 52 Aust Composite AA Regt *Date and Time.—From* *To*

23494 5.42 St. 1621

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Merauke.			APPENDICES :	
			Appendix A. W3008 and W3009	
			" B. AA Defences Weekly Report No. 17	
			" C. Routine Orders Pt. 1 No. 6	
			" D. AA Defences Weekly Report No. 18	
			" E Routine Orders Pt. 1 No. 7	
			" F AA Defences Weekly Report No. 19	
			" G AA Defences Weekly Report No. 20.	
			" H Routine Orders Ptl no 8.	

J.A. ENGLAND, Lt-Col.,
Comd, 52 Aust Composite AA Regt

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Army Form W.3009 (Adapted) (Page 1) (Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

36 / 43 (Serial No.)

52 Aust Composite AA Regiment (less one LtAA Troop) (Unit)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 4 / 9 / 1943.

W.E. 111/25a/3. OFFRS. 25 O.R's. 548 + OFFRS. 2 O.R's. 30 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.					ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
W.E. Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.	Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required W.E.
1 NR	1			W.Os. Class I.					
4			4	W.Os. Class II.	AACC	1			1
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
3 NR	1		2	Staff Sergeants AAMC(2) Postal(1)					
36 NR	6		30	Sergeants AACC(2) AAPC (1)		5		1	6
44 NR	8		36	Corporals AAMC (2) AACC(1) AACC(4)		8	12		7
460 111	115		345	Troopers, Privates, etc. AAMC(8) AACC(16)		11		5	16
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
548 111	1131		417 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		25 *	1	6	30

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 16 N.Z. Forces.

Detail		A.I.F.	C.M.F. Under 19 Years.	C.M.F. 19 Years and over.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A		354	[redacted]	88				[redacted]	[redacted]		442
B(1)											
B(2)							[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong
1	10 ARMS (AEME)		
1	11 Aust Infantry Brigade		

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	Q'land L of C Area records office		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To ..... (Unit) is Particularly Requested. ... / ... /194...

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

a.w. 6m bks 3/43

52 Aust Composite AA Regiment (less one Lt AA Troop) Unit

Army Form W.3009 (Adapted) (Page 2) (Revised Jan., 1943)

36 / 43 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 4 / 9 / 1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E. 38	Posted Strength. 27	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E. 202	Posted Strength. 99	Reinfts. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants	2	-	NR
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predicter Numbers	56	16		Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	3	2	NR
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors	2	2	NR
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers	8	1	NR	Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Tonographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics				Height Comp	6	-	NR	NON SPECIALISTS			
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)				Plotters	6	-	NR	Batman	14	14	
Fitters				Driver-Operator								Batman Drivers	14	14	
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers								Drivers M T	59	59	
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians								Gun Numbers	148	132	111
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)								Gun Off F Asst	3	3	
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators	26	23	NR	GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors	1	-	NR	Hygiene Duty	3	3	
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers	1	-	NR	Motor Cycle			
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker	12	4	NR	Clerks	11	8	NR	Orderlies	17	17	
Grinder, Precision				Hello Operator				Clerks, Supply				Recorders	6	6	
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				Storeman	3	3	
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers				Telephonists	29	29	
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors				Waber Dutyman	2	2	
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks				N.C.Os	41	32	NR
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				Shoemaker	1	1	
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				AAMC Sgts	2	2	
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics	33	13	NR	Med Orderlies	2	3	
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant				Postal	1	2	
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.				Pay Sgt	1	1	
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	2	1	NR	Cooks	22	15	NR
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers				Caterer	1	1	
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers	40	33	NR				
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD	38	27		CARRIED FORWARD	202	99		Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	578 *	442 *	111 *

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required".
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

(see over)

4 Sep 43
Date of Despatch

Capt.
Signature of Commander
Adjt. 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

Acting on the assumption that authority will be issued for AA Operations Room Type C to be absorbed in 139 Aust Hy AA Bty, strength of AA Ops (25) has been deducted from request for reinforcements.

Request for reinforcements includes request for unskilled personnel to be trained within the unit.

APPENDIX "A"

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

36 / 43 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 4 / 9 /194 3 . 52 Aust Composite AA Regt (less one Lt AA Troop) (Unit)

W.E. 111/25a/ 3 . OFFRS. 25 O.R's. 548 + OFFRS. 2 O.R's. 30 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.					ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.	Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required W.E.
				*					
				*					
1			1	Lieut.-Colonels					
3		1	2	Majors					
7	5		2	Captains	A.A.M.C. Chaplain 4th class	2	1		1
13		1	14	Lieutenants				1	1
1			1	Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
						2	1	1	2

25 3 6 1 20

DETAIL.	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	PMF	TOTAL
A.	21								1	22
E.(1)										
E.(2)										

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / /194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

52 Aust Composite AA Regt (less one Lt AA Troop) Unit

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

36 / 43 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 4 /9 /193 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1 Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	2 Army Number.	3 Surname.	4 Initials.	5 Posting.	6 Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	7 If not present with Unit, state how employed.	8 Date of Detachment.
T/Lt-Col	NX113486	England	J.A.	C.O.	yes		
T/Major	NX12505	Swinbourne	A.F.	2 i/c	no	Detached School of Arty No 40	
T/Major	NX145009	Cunningham	A.	139 Bty	yes	course Hy AA Tactical control	
T/Capt	NX52229	Dale	L.G.D.	154 Bty	yes		
T/Capt	NX113489	Pauley	K.W.	Adjt	yes		
T/Capt	NX113487	Samuelson	A.W.	O.M.	yes		
Lieut	NX9847	Cairns	A.C.	139 Bty Capt	yes		
Lieut	NX119770	Pitt	S.A.	139 HQ	yes		
Lieut	NX139242	Moloney	L.G.	139 Tp officer	yes		
Lieut	NX108615	Erickson	P.	139 HQ	yes		
Lieut	NX119492	Egan	B.R.	154 Tp officer	yes		
Lieut	NX140278	Wells	G.	139 HQ	no	Detached to IHQ School of Mil Intell (14 days)	
Lieut	NX119494	Walsh	K.E.	154 HQ	yes		
Lieut	NX119496	Petrie	J.C.	154 HQ	yes		
Lieut	NX104228	Drew	A.B.	139 Tp officer	yes		
Lieut	NX166427	Mollard	A.J.	154 HQ	yes		
Lieut	VX22104	Zenner	F.C.	M.O.	yes		
Lieut	NX142639	Struthers	J.G.	139 Tp officer	yes		
Lieut	NX105985	Peck	A.J.	139 HQ	yes		
Lieut	NX113658	Fathers	L.N.	154 Bty Capt	yes		
		ATTACHED WITHIN W.E.					
Capt	NX149558	Kendall	R.B.	R.M.O.	yes		
Capt	VX133227	Lee Tet	H.C.	M.O. 139 Bty	yes		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
~~Chr~~ Captain (Chaplain)	QX69065	Brill E.A.	11 Aust Inf Bde	31.8.43	

4 Sep 43
Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander Capt.
Adjt. 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

2,000 Pads BH59 3/43 W.P.Co.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

APPENDIX "B"

SECRET

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - WEEKLY REPORT No 17

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
7 Sep 43.

H 1 382 AUST HY AA GUN STATION - The clearing of the GL site is continuing. Large trees to the west of the Rx have been grubbed out and four concrete tanks partially demolished by 16 Aust Fd Coy. Work is proceeding on the removal of three others.
A commencement has been made on the construction of a guard house and mess room.
General camp improvements were carried out.

H 2 383 AUST HY AA GUN STATION - The work of reducing the gun pits is continuing. One pit has been completed.
Ammunition has been segregated into fuze factor lots and cleaned.
The four guns at this station were pulled back during the week by 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop AEME personnel. There were slight traces of rust on the barrels. The condition was fair.

G.L. - The performance of G 1 and G 2 was satisfactory. There were no technical or mechanical faults.

SEARCHLIGHTS - Work is steadily progressing on the construction of protective pits for the SL's. Three lights have been linked to GOR by telephonic communication. S 12, situated across the river, was in W/T communication on 6 Sep 43.

40 mm BOFORS SHOOT - On 5 Sep 43 a shoot was held from the Bofor sited on the tower to test the stability of the tower.
Only a minor movement, calculated by Lieut Spalding, 55 US Naval Engrs Bn, to be one inch, was noticed. The movement was noticeable by a slight shimmer at single shot. It was expected that this movement would build up and develop into a definite sway at automatic fire. This sway did not develop and at no time were layers inconvenienced.
Two meteorological balloons were engaged after test rounds had been fired. Laying was good. It is considered that from the result of the shoot the erection of the tower was fully justified.
The shoot was conducted as under: Total No of rounds fired - 60.

Serial 1 - 4 rounds single shot QE 30°
Levels checked - all correct
Recoil - 203

Serial 2 - 5 rounds at four-second intervals QE 30°
Levels checked - all correct
Recoil 202

Serial 3 - 5 rounds automatic fire - QE 30°
Levels checked - all correct
Recoil - 202

Serial 4 - 7 rounds automatic fire QE 30° - Slow traverse
Levels checked - all correct
Recoil - 202

Serial 5 - Engaged meteorological balloon
10 rounds single shot, 6 automatic fire
Recoil - 202.5
Levels checked + all correct

Serial 6 - Engaged meteorological balloon
23 rounds at automatic
Levels checked - all correct
Recoil - 203

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PRACTICE AMMUNITION - As there is no .303 tracer ammunition available for a practice with a Bren Gun attached to a Bofors, practice using a limited amountof 40 mm ammunition will be carried out for each detachment. Meteorological balloons will be used as targets.

SEARCHLIGHT CO-OPERATION AND TRAINING - Co-operation was carried out on two P40M's on the night of 7 Sep 43 at 6000 feet and 15000 feet. One a/c was used as a bomber and the other as an intercepting fighter. Owing to lack of communications - three SL's only are connected by telephone to GOR - and the short notice given by the RAAF the co-operation was not entirely successful from their point of view.
Both Hy AA Gun Stations and GL set were manned for practice in visual and unseen target drills using the Height Computer and Plotting drill.
Each site had opportunities to engage using Line Barrage, but on each occasion visual engagements were being made.
Results obtained from the GL sets were good and heights were consistent. Each set was used on a separate aircraft.
The co-operation will continue for the next eight nights and full advantage by gun and GL crews to practice.
Heavy Guns, Instruments, and SL crews obtained good value from the exercise. Less hurried arrangements should give better results on subsequent nights. Following and holding of SL's is satisfactory. Early pick-up must be improved.

EYESTRAIN GL PERSONNEL - Eleven cases of chronic conjunctivitis amongst the 13 GL personnel at G 1 has brought to notice again the strain on the eyes occasioned by long periods in operation.
G 2, which was the first set in operation, had similar occurrences. Experiments were made by changing the crews every half hour. This has resulted in almost total disappearance of conjunctivitis at this site. One case only is on record at the moment. A similar practice is to be carried out at G 1 under close observation.

DEFICIENCIES SPARE PARTS 139 AUST HY AA BTY - As a result of representations to DDOS First Aust Army on his recent visit here, requisitions for these deficiencies were submitted in two parts: (a) Urgent requirements to be forwarded by air freight; and (b) Remainder of deficiencies. The former came to hand on 2 Sep 43. The only exception was 6 cells Lecy. port. 2V-25AH. The position in this regard now is safe.

MEDICAL - Weekly medical table prepared by Capt R.B. Kendall, RMO 52 Aust Composite AA Regt is attached. Appendix "A"

ENEMY ACTIVITY - Nil.

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

DISTRIBUTION:
MGRA Branch LHQ (1)
BAA & CA First Aust Army (1)
HQ Merauke Force
War Diary
File

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

APPENDIX "A"

WEEKLY SICK REPORT UP TO 7 SEP 43

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regt
Australia.

Location	-	
Strength	-	804
Reinforcements during the week	-	
Attached for Medical Services	-	52 Aust Composite AA Regt
Total New Sick	-	98 (98)
Total evacuated from R.A.P.	-	3
Total "No Duty" personnel	-	4
Total "Light Duty" personnel	-	2
Average Daily Sick Rate	-	1.75

Details of New Sick	Treatment and Duty	Light Duties	No Duties	Evacuations
Diarrhoea	5	-	-	-
U R T I	5	-	1	-
Tinea - feet	19	-	-	-
Tinea - groin	3	-	-	-
Tinea - ears	3	-	-	-
Footailments	5	-	-	-
SKIN				
Furunculosis	6	-	-	-
Insect bites and Urticaria	5	-	-	-
Dermatitis	2	-	-	1
Infected wounds	7	-	1	-
Other skin	6	-	-	-
EYES				
Infections	4	-	-	-
Injuries at work	8	-	-	-
Injuries at play	3	2	1	1
Herpes gasher	-	-	1	-
Infected finger	-	-	-	1
Dental	4	-	-	-
Sandworm	1	-	-	-
Fibrositis	3	-	-	-
[illegible] Totals	89	2	4	3

Returned from Hospital - 1 (Infected finger)

(SGD) R.B. Kendall, Capt AAMC
RMO 52 Aust Composite AA Regt.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

War Book

APPENDIX "C"

Not to be published AFR 6 Q 1588B

Australian Military Forces
52 Aust Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Routine Orders by Lt-Col J. A. England
Officer Commanding

Nos 58-67

Part 1, No 6 ..... Saturday, 11 Sep 43

58 Tentage Returns:- (Reference Administrative Instruction 1/43, Serial 40) The usual type of I.P. tents held by this unit are known as 180 lb I.P. These are the 3 upright pole, oblong type and will be returned as such in the Tentage Return on the 20th of each month. The 160 lb I.P. is a smaller version of the 180 lb I.F. For information it is added that the E.P.I.F. is a pyramidial type with two uprights, wall poles and fly. 123 FOD advises that the term E.P.I. is no longer in use.

59 Cooks:- Vacancies exist for Specialist Group 11 cooks in this unit. Personnel wishing to be trained or trade-tested for this trade grouping will submit applications through the usual channels to this HQ.

60 Deposits To Pay Books And Cash Remittances:- GRO 628/43 is reprinted herewith "The attention of all members is drawn to the necessity for obtaining official receipts for all moneys paid to members of the AAFC. The official receipts issued by AAFC personnel are of two kinds, viz.:-

(i) Pay Sergeants' Receipts (AF176) - issued by pay sergeants and personnel carrying out pay duties within units;

(ii) Commonwealth of Australia Official Receipts (as used in all Commonwealth Govt depts) - issued by paymasters of formations and depot cash officers.

Credits arising from cash deposits appearing in members' pay books are only accepted as bona fide in cash offices if one of the above receipts for the amount of the credit is affixed to the back of the pay book. Unless this credit entry is so supported, no portion thereof can be drawn until confirmation is obtained.

Upon completion of a Cash Remittance (Form AF131A), the remitter must receive from the member of the AAFC concerned one of the above receipts for the amount paid by him, the number of which should be quoted in any inquiry relative to same. It is the responsibility of all members to obtain receipts for all moneys paid to members of the AAFC."

61 Injuries To Members Of The Forces:- GRO 392/43, Part IV, has been amended by GRO 624/43. In future - "Whenever a member of the forces is injured (except by wounds or injuries received in action) and unless the injuries have immediately proved fatal, the OC of the sub-unit to which the member belongs will ensure that AAF D11 is completed without delay." The AAF D11 will be forwarded to this HQ in triplicate, and the sub-unit will then be advised whether an Investigating Officer's report is required.

62 Conservation Of Mosquito Spray:- Attention is drawn to GRO 625/43.

63 Hospital Patients - Canteen Supplies:- It is the responsibility of the sub-unit to ensure that members evacuated to hospital are provided with rationed ADCS goods, such as cigarettes and tobacco, while absent from the unit. (MF RO 19/43/163)

64 Illegal Use Of Army Clothing:- The sale and/or exchange of army clothing to/with civilians is strictly prohibited. (MF RO 19/43/159)

65 Traffic - Vicinity Of Picture Shows:- No traffic is allowed to park in 8th Avenue during the hours 1800-2200 daily. (19/43/158)

66 Signal Communications:- Force RO 19/43/156 is repeated herewith - "Cases have been reported of signal lines being cut and used for domestic purposes. All such wire will be returned immediately to the DCSO Force, and breaches of this order will involve disciplinary action. Telephone operators will report at once to DCSO all cases of unit 'phones left unattended."

67 Army Pigeons:- During training and "breaking in" of the Carrier Pigeons in this area it is anticipated that a number of birds will fail to return to the lofts and may possibly alight in unit areas. Should this obtain, sub-units will immediately advise Force Signal Office and arrangements will be made to pick up the birds. (MF RO 18/43/14[illegible]

K.V.Pawley, Capt,
Adjt, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

NOTICES - Church parades: Protestant, Sunday 12 Sep 43, Force HQ at 0815
YMCA at 1920 hrs
Roman Catholic, Sunday 12 Sep 43, RHQ at 0830, Central Mission at 0730
Friday, 17 Sep 43, 154 A Tp HQ at 0900 hrs

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

APPENDIX "D"

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - WEEKLY REPORT No 18 SECRET

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
14 Sep 43.

H 1
382 AUST HY AA GUN STATION - The clearing of the GL site is continuing.
Difficulty is being experienced with the removal of reinforced steel bars and the bottoms of the concrete tanks which are sunk several feet in the ground.
The traversing gear of one gun became stiff, the cause being traced to sand and grit in the roller bearings of the mounting. Cleaned and rectified.

H 2
383 AUST HY AA GUN STATION - The work of reducing the gun pits is proceeding slowly. The filling work has been held up through unavailability of transport. Two pits have been completed.
Faults in the QE dials developed on two guns. Investigation by the Workshop revealed that pins had sheered off in the Oldham couplings. A further inspection is being made to determine the reason for excessive pressure being thrown onto the pins to cause them to sheer. Condensation of moisture in all dials on the guns is very bad.

G L - G L.- Performance of this set has been good technically. The accuracy, operationally, is still not ideal, but this will improve as the site is cleared. The performance of the set was satisfactory during the action on 9 Sep 43 and the enemy targets were followed throughout.
A faulty output valve (AMP 20) in the IF unit of the Rx was replaced. One of the spare AMP 33's (Cathode Follower) in the Rx was found to be faulty when tested. Valves on hand are sufficient for immediate requirements. An urgent indent has been submitted for replacements.

G 2.- This set has been operating well. It was put out of action for a period during air co-operation as the distorted echoes and the multiple time base indicated a fault. An examination of the transmitter pulse showed that the fault lay there. It appears that the concussion of the bombs on 9 Sep 43 dislodged the cap from one of the VT 1906. Performance during the "action" was satisfactory.

G O R - The G O R functioned well during the action on 9 Sep 43 and was in close liaison with FS throughout.

40 mm BOFORS - The necessity of constructing substantial gun pits for the protection of men and equipment was borne out during the enemy action on 9 Sep 43. L 21 and L 22 were in the vulnerable area and the gun sites received 33 and 20 bombs respectively within 200 yards radius of the gun pits. It speaks well that no men were injured or equipment damaged. The gun pits were constructed with coconut logs as an inside wall, and earth revetting. The impression gained from the gun crews, after their first experience under fire, (although they did not get the opportunity to engage), was confidence in the protection provided them by gun pits which in turn will give them added confidence during future enemy activity.

SEARCHLIGHTS - Work on the construction of revetments has been speeded up. The help of the American Engrs machinery was sought, but bulldozers and scoops were employed on other work. The loan of four tip trucks helped considerably. Camp areas at most sites have been made comfortable.

COMMUNICATIONS - Rapid progress has been made with the installation of lines to Searchlight stations - Ten stations are connected to S O R and S 12 is in W/T and R/T communication.
One officer and eight OR's are concentrated on the laying of a line to S 12, each end connecting with the submarine cable. R/T has not been entirely satisfactory as it fades during the night. The cause is attributed to atmospheric conditions.
Advice has been received of the forward movement of 14 OR's to raise the Signal Section to W.E. strength.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

SEARCHLIGHT CO-OPERATION AND TRAINING. - The rapid installation of communications between SL stations and GOR improved the co-operation from 8 Sep 43 to 14 Sep 43. Two P40M's were airborne nightly and the plan of using one as a bomber and the other as a fighter interceptor was continued. To distinguish the interceptor this a/c flew with navigation lights on. The general course selected was a figure eight over the area, with a/c occasionally flying out of area to enable a fresh pick-up. The height was usually determined by the cloud base. This varied from 6000 feet to 15000 feet.

Co-operation from 9 Sep 43 to 11 Sep 43 was fairly successful. Faults noticed were:
(1) Flick overs - spotters not alert.
(2) SL's searching behind the target.

On the night of 12 Sep 43 the SLC at S 12 was in operation for the first time and illuminated target 8200 yards ground range from G 1. The following with Sperry's was slightly erratic. This was caused by moisture in condensors in remote control.

On 13 Sep 43 the cloud base was at 5000 feet. SL's illuminated the target on all runs and good interception was made by the fighter a/c.

Co-operation on 14 Sep 43 was interrupted by an unidentified aircraft in the area. P40M's were sent to investigate. S 4 was searching with SLC and reported that they had picked up IFF at a range of 19000 yards. This is the first occasion in the area of IFF recording on SLC.

On each night both Hy AA Gun Stations carried out training at seen and unseen targets. Training periods during the day have been reduced and syllabus extended at night. Valuable experience has resulted from the co-operation.

In conclusion the co-operation was of great value to SL's, Hy Gun Sites and GL, GOR personnel and fighter pilots. The improvement in standard of SL's was apparent from night to night. Holding and following is good. Early pick-up from approaches other than over SLC's needs improvement.

A.I.F. CLASSIFICATION - It is hoped that before long application can be made for the unit to be classified as an AIF unit. At present 81.89% of the posted strength are AIF, and 62.8% of the W.E. It requires only 34 men to transfer to raise AIF figures to 65% of the W.E. and it is considered these men will not be long in coming forward.

EYE STRAIN - Treatment of eyes of GL personnel has brought partial relief. The R.M.O. intends to test all personnel engaged in this work and he has made arrangements to procure a report and recommendations made by the RAAF on personnel who work under similar conditions. A requisition has been submitted to the S.M.O. for 30 pairs of coloured glasses to break down the sun glare which has been troubling these personnel and giving them headaches when they are relieved from operations.

SCHOOLS AND COURSES - Lieut G. Wells has returned from LHQ Aust School of Military Intelligence - Phot Wing, War Course No 10, Serial 3, at which he qualified.

Sgt J.E. Palmer, 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, left to attend LHQ School of Arty (Lt AA) - No 41 Course.

MALARIA CONTROL - There has been a noticeable increase in the area of Anapholene mosquitoes (malaria carriers) during the dry spell. Personnel from the Regiment who have been trained at a local anti-malarial school are carrying out a weekly survey of their respective areas for breeding places. These places are to be treated every seven days.

MEDICAL - The weekly medical table prepared by Capt R.B. Kendall, RMO 52 Aust Composite AA Regt, is attached - Appendix "A".

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

ENEMY ACTIVITY - AA Defences experienced their first hostile air activity since arriving in the area. On 9 Sep 43 AA Fire had little effect. This was due to:-

(1) My order to gun sites not to engage unseen targets and use of cloud cover by enemy formation.

(2) Lack of initiative and failure to handle the situation by the G.P.O. at H 2.

The fact that friendly fighter aircraft had missed their interception on enemy bombers but had intercepted enemy F/A at a higher altitude was not known at G.O.R. until the bombers completed their run. Consequently it was assumed by both F.S. and G.O.R. that the engagement heard over R/T from our fighters was against the bombers. As cloud was 6/10ths at 12000 feet and the indications were close to gun range, the order preventing engagement of unseen targets was given.

H 1 performed as satisfactorily as possible.

H 2, despite cloud interference, fall of bomb splinters in the pits and C.P., penetration of GL Transmitter and fouling of the Height Computer cable, should have done better. Steps taken to prevent recurrence are:-

(a) After conference with Group Capt Walters a gun zone has been detailed to fighters and co-operation between friendly F/A and AA Arty has been placed on a more effective footing.

(b) Re-posting of two 139 Aust Hy AA Bty officers has been effected.

Bursts from H 1 were not observed from the ground but independent fighter pilots report that they were right in the middle of the formation. Pilots observed the fifth bomber drop out of the formation, losing height over the sea and smoking. It was not observed to crash. No friendly fighter engaged the bombers at any time. Full report attached - Appendix "B".

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

Distribution:

MGRA Branch LHQ
BAA & CA First Aust Army
HQ Merauke Force (3)
War Diary (2)
File.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

APPENDIX "A"

WEEKLY SICK REPORT 8 SEP 43 to 14 SEP 43 Inc

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
14 Sep 43.

Location - - - -		
Strength - - - - -	805	
Reinforcements during week - -		
Attached for Medical Service -	52 Aust Composite AA Regt & Assoc Tps	
Total New Sick - - -	54	
Total evacuations from R.A.P. -	3	
Total "No Duty" personnel - -	2	
Total "Light Duty" personnel -	-	
Average Daily Sick Rate - -	0.95	

Details of New Sick	Treatment & Duty	Light Duties	No Duties	Evacuations
Wounded	-	-	-	1
Diarrhoea	8	-	-	-
U R T I	5	-	1	-
Tinea - feet	8	-	-	-
Tinea - groin	2	-	-	-
Tinea - ears	3	-	-	-
SKIN - Furunculosis	10	-	-	-
Insect Bites & Urticaria	-	-	-	-
Dermatitis	1	-	-	-
Infected wounds	2	-	-	-
EYES - Refractive errors	1	-	-	-
Injuries - at play	4	-	-	-
Perf. drum - L. Ear	1	-	-	-
Facial Paralysis	-	-	-	1
Dyspepsia	-	-	1	-
Headache	1	-	-	-
Sandworm	1	-	-	-
? Hernia	1	-	-	-
Fracture	-	-	-	1
Pediculi pubis	1	-	-	-
Totals	49	-	2	3

Returned from hospital - -	Injury to Acromio-Clavicular Joint		1
	Appendicectomy	-	1
	Injury Elbow	-	1
	Fibrositis	-	1

REPORT ON SICK PARADE.

Of the eighty cases of diarrhoea which occurred, six were from 154 Aust Lt AA Bty (RHQ), where no cause for the epidemic could be found, and two from 76 Aust AASL Bty Workshop Section. A hygiene inspection at both sites yielded no results. All cases were dramatic in onset, 50% showing a low grade fever, and all cleared up completely in 24 hours.

One casualty was evacuated to the MDS as a result of enemy action - a skin laceration of the hip, exposing muscle. No retained foreign body, and he is doing well. The wound was caused by shrapnel from an A.P. bomb.

R.B. Kendall, Capt, AAMC
RMO 52 Aust Comp AA Regiment.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

A.A.D.C's. BATTLE REPORT

52 Aust Composite AA Regt
Moruka.
Raid No 22
Date: 9 Sep 43

Equipment Deployed
8 - 3.7" AA Guns
12 - 40 mm Guns (Bofors)
8 - .5 Browning MGs
12 - SL's
2 - GL's

Cloud
12000 feet
6/10ths.

Visibility: good

DURATION OF RAID

1. Time Stand To: 1030 hrs
2. Time Stand Down: 1148 hrs
3. First warning was received at 1025 hrs from RDF Moruka, bearing 281°, 118 miles.

   O.P. Kembies - 1040 hrs: "Jap planes, 15000 feet, 26, Course N. 20 look like bombers"

   Plots followed in by RDF and picked up by G2, bearing 220°, range 26500 yards. G 1, bearing 280°, range 25500 yards.

   Last reports: O.P. Kembies "Jap planes heading N, 343°, 16 miles" 1115 hrs.

   RDF Moruka lost plot at 287°, range 117 miles, 1141 hrs.

   RDF plots attached.

NATURE OF ATTACK

4. No & Type of A/C: 16 (probably) Sallys - approx 15 Fighters, probably Zekes, Oscars, Haps.
5. Formation: Bombers - Line abreast. Fighter cover, at 21000 ft.
6. Type of Attack: High Level. Approx speed 200 m.p.h.
7. Method of Approach: Direct line - no evasive action.
8. Height of Attack: 15000 feet - obtained by H & RF, GL.
9. Was Raid Preceded by Recce?: Recce plane over area 13 Aug 43.
10. Any Special Tactics?: No.

PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT

11. First Indication: G L indication - 25000 yards - at 1050 hrs.
12. First Illumination: Not applicable.
13. First Gun: } M 1 engaged 10 rounds - 1059 hrs - fuze set 19
14. Last Gun: }
15. Last Illumination: Not applicable.
16. Target Lost: 1108 hours.
17. Time Attackers under Observation: 1058 hrs to 1104 hrs

METHOD OF ENGAGEMENT

18. Guns or Fighters?: Guns and Fighters.
19. Seen or Unseen: Seen
20. No of Gun Sites Continuous Following: Both (2) at unseen.
21. No of Gun Sites Plotting Controlled: None

21(a). Concentrations Fired: With fighter aircraft airborne orders were given from G O R to engage only at seen targets.

382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station: Engaged at seen target at 15000 feet. Ten rounds HE fired. Two salvos. Results were not observed as bursts and targets were in cloud. Cloud prevented further engagement.

383 Aust Hy AA Gun Station: Enemy targets were not in view long enough to cut a height and engage at seen targets.

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22. Ammn Expended: 10 rounds HE - Fuze 199

23. GL Illuminations: Not applicable.

24. No of Fighters Airborne: 14 P40M's, 4 Boomerangs.

25. No of Fighter Interceptions: Fighters engaged enemy fighter cover approx 20 miles out. No passes made at Bomber formation.

EFFECT OF ENGAGEMENT

26. Action of E/A: One run made NE-SE over Air Strip. Results of AA engagement unobserved as bursts and targets were in cloud. Formation of bombers was not broken.

27. Casualties of E/A by AA: Nil

28. Casualties of E/A by Fighters: Cat. 1 - 3; Cat. 2 - 1.

EFFECT OF RAID

29. Areas Bombed: Strip Area.

30. No of Bombs Dropped and Type: Approx 91 - HE and AP. Plan of bombs dropped on AA areas attached.

31. Casualties to Personnel AA:) H 2 - HE burst 50 yards from HAP. Shrapnel holed
32. Casualties to Equipment AA:) tent and pierced a box of 3.7" ammunition - one round damaged. An A.P. bomb burst 70 yards from GL Transmitter. Cabin pierced in three places. Shrapnel struck panels but no damage resulted. One 3-ton truck radiator damaged.

L 22 HE - Two tents, personal gear, clothing and equipment on issue to ten men, one Owen Gun, five rifles, 750 rounds S.A.A.; 200 rounds 9 mm. 24 Grenades, destroyed by fire. Auto loader cover holed by shrapnel. Some tools and accomodation s teres damaged.

L 4 - Two personnel scratched by shrapnel from A.P. bomb, 100 yards away.

L 24 - Direct hit by HE bomb on tent. Tent and personal gear of four men destroyed.

S 5 - Projector front glass broken by bomb splinter. Cable from generator cut and control arm broken. One Gnr wounded on hip. Admitted to Hospital. Not serious damage

S 6 - Projector holed by bomb splinter. No serious damage.

33. Casualties to Personnel, other: Five injured - none fatal.

34. Casualties to Equipment, other: Army, Nil. One Boomerang destroyed on ground. Four P40M's damaged whilst loading.

35. A.A.D.C's. assessment of effectiveness of AA Defences:

AA Defences were of little effect. This aspect is covered in more detail in Weekly Report No 18.

J.A.England, Lt-Col,
AADC, Moruroa.

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APPENDIX "E"

For official use only
AMR & O 1588B

Australian Military Forces
52 Aust Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Routine Orders by Lt-Col J. A. England
Officer Commanding

Nos 68-74

Part 1, No 7 Wednesday, 15 Sep 43

68 Bomb Disposal:- Force RO 20/43/165 is reprinted herewith:

"Following the Air Raid on 9 Sep 43, the following points are to be brought to the notice of all ranks:

(a) Troops must NOT interfere with craters and surroundings of exploded and unexploded bombs. The portions of bombs found in craters, the shape and size of craters, are most valuable in determining the type of bomb used, thus greatly assisting the disposal of UXB's.

(b) The practice of troops souveniring portions of nose caps, fuses, tail pins, etc., which are also of value in determining type of bomb and fuse, must be strictly forbidden.

(c) Troops who dig or poke about in small craters which may be doubtful UXB are exposing themselves to danger.

(d) Many cases of dermatitis have been known to be contracted by men handling pieces of Japanese bombs recently exploded."

69 Identity Discs, Field Dressings:- Force RO 20/43/173 is reprinted herewith:

"Personnel are reminded that identity discs and field dressings must be carried at all times. Certain recent casualties were not in possession of field dressings but were fortunate in being attended by others who used their own dressings. The absence of field dressings might have very serious consequences in many wound cases."

70 Royal Military College Of Australia - Vacancies For Staff Cadets:- Applications are invited for admission by way of normal entry to the Royal Military College, Duntroon (25 vacancies). Successful candidates will enter the College early in 1944 and, on graduation, will be appointed to the Australian Staff Corps. Applicants must be: (a) medically fit; (b) unmarried; (c) a British subject permanently resident in Australia; (d) under 20 years of age on 26 Feb 43; (e) and must have the following minimum educational qualifications - a pass or higher certificate at the Leaving (or Senior) or Intermediate (or Junior) in: English, Maths, Physics or Chemistry, one other language and any one of Geography, Chemistry or Physics, Bookkeeping, Economics, etc., in accordance with RMC Regulations. Applications will be submitted through normal channels to this HQ forthwith, and NOT later than 20 Sep 43.

71 Malaria Control:- Mosquito surveys have shown a recent sharp rise in the number of malaria carrying mosquitoes. All malaria control measures will be rigidly enforced and strict disciplinary action taken in cases of breaches of dress regulations. (MF RO 20/43/167)

72 Emergency (Dehydrated) Rations:- These rations must be turned over every six months (vide First Aust Army RO 36/43, para 3). Emergency rations in lieu of those consumed will be demanded and will be issued as part of the normal ration.

Many sub-units hold tins of emergency rations which have now been on issue for approximately six months. It is advised, therefore, that sub-units now withdraw emergency rations from all personnel and consume same over a reasonably short period, ensuring that replacements are promptly obtained and held in Ration Stores. Care should be taken that "old" and "new" tins are kept separate.

The Regimental WO Caterer is available for discussion on the best methods of using the emergency (dehydrated) rations.

73 Wearing Of Gaiters:- Gaiters (web or American or cloth) will be worn by all personnel after 1730 hrs each day. Wearing of gaiters prior to that hour is at the discretion of sub-unit Comds. The practice of wearing slacks tucked into sock tops will cease forthwith.

74 Promotions And Appointments:- The following appointments have been approved:

NX166419	L/Bdr	Mortlock, R.A.	to be	A/Bdr	as from	11.9.43 (139)
NX166414	Gnr	Johnston, G.J.	"	L/Bdr	"	11.9.43 (139)
NX149074	Gnr	Gannon, F.J.	"	L/Bdr	"	11.9.43 (139)
NX104837	Gnr	Rudd, G.E.	"	L/Bdr	"	11.9.43 (139)
NX141894	Gnr	Adams, J.H.D.	"	[illegible] (cook)	"	9.9.43 (139)
NX153821	Gnr	Nolan, P.M.	"	TG11 (cook)	"	9.9.43 (139)
NX153947	Gnr	Hulin, W.A.	"	TG 111 (Dvr Mechanic)	"	11.9.43 (154)
S51477	Gnr	Stiller, R.E.	"	TG 111 (Dvr Mechanic)	"	11.9.43 (154)

K.W.Pawley, Capt,
Adjt, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

Distribution: List No 1

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

APPENDIX "F"

SECRET

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
21 Sep 43.

H 1 382 AUST HY AA GUN STATION -

Work on the clearing of the GL site continued. The large trees on the west side have been removed and holes partially filled in.
The demolition and removal of the concrete tanks was completed.
Soil is being carted to topdress the revetments to stimulate the growth of vines and grass for camouflage purposes.
Tables and forms for mess huts are being constructed.
General camp improvements carried out.

H 2 383 AUST HY AA GUN STATION -

The wiring of the gun station area with barbed wire is being completed.
Two gun pits have been reduced in size and the two remaining pits are nearly completed.

G.L. -

G 1.- This set continues to perform satisfactorily. Two faults occurred during the week - a faulty 1-megohm resistor in the bearing focus network was replaced, and loose contact in the motor driven switch rectified.
Oil SAE 60 is now in use in the power unit. The heavier oil is considered more suitable for tropical conditions.

G 2.- The performance of this set has been satisfactory. Although there was no breakdown it was noticed that some of the components were weakening, particularly the resistance controlling the focus on the bearing and range tubes. These were checked and faulty parts replaced.
Turfing of the site has been commenced. It may have the effect of stabilizing soil conductivity and make it less variable with the weather.

Both sets carried out co-operation on P40M's during the week.

40 mm BOFORS PRACTICE -

A series of practices have been arranged for each of the twelve detachments.
All firing is from the tower gun, L 26, and targets are meteorological balloons. 30 rounds have been allotted to each detachment. The detachment firing bring the barrel from their own gun.
The first of these practices was held on 20 Sep 43 when an A Troop detachment from L 2 shot. The drill was fair and observation was made difficult for the layers by smoke caused by excessive lubricant on the recoil spring.
In the afternoon B Troop detachment from L 25 fired. Drill was good, laying good and corrections made quickly.
At automatic fire difficulty in laying was experienced on the first run with smoke from the recoil spring again. The lesson should be learned now.
20% of the shots were line of sight shots. At times the layer for lateral could not hear the corrections. The drill of touching him on the left or right shoulder will be experimented with.

3.7" AA PRACTICE -

A Hy AA practice was held at H 2 (383 Aust Hy AA Gun Sta) on 21 Sep 43. Owing to the unavailability of a drogue target, aircraft co-operation was used with the guns laid on a reciprocal bearing to the predictor.
The aircraft followed a straight course of five miles at 15000 ft and approx 5000 yds NE of the gun station.
Fifty-nine rounds of HE were fired. One short fuze was observed, and two blinds reported. It is difficult to say whether the cause was: (1) Faulty Fuzes; or (2) Faulty handling of MFS. The latter cause is more probable.
The following faults occurred in equipment:-
No 1 Gun: The pin retaining safe and fire lever moved out of position causing the breech block to jam;

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3.7" AA Practice (cont)

No 3 Gun: The pin through clutch lever shaft of MFS sheered off.
No 4 Gun: The bronze handle of firing lever broken.

All faults were rectified by 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop by 0300 hrs 22 Sep 43.
This shoot was the initial experience of firing for 94% of the troop. Despite the fact that personnel understood and were practised in the drill of salvoes bad errors occurred and salves were very bad. Records of salvos were taken and are being compared with plots of the path of the a/c. The Regt has not produced any system of recording normal Height Control bursts but several ideas have arisen and are being considered. The regularity of bursts in the sky was fair. I consider the expenditure of the ammunition was justified in these particular circumstances and there is no doubt that even this makeshift practice will materially effect the performance of this station in its first engagement which is yet to come. I will include further remarks on the standard of training of this unit in next weekly report.

SEARCHLIGHTS - Arrangements have been made between 76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF) and the RAAF for the former to carry out nightly, at 2000 hrs, measurement of cloud base and cloud density.
RAAF do not now require 30 minutes information as laid down in AA Procedure Instn (Aust) No 12, but will ask for the information whenever otherwise required.

COMMUNICATIONS - Eleven searchlight stations are connected to S.O.R., with S 12 at W/T and R/T communication.
Rapid progress has been made with the laying of the line to S 12 and it is anticipated that this will be through within two days.

SCHOOLS AND COURSES. - WO 11 R.F.Searl, 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, left to attend No 6 OCTU at Woodside, South Australia.

VISITORS - Lt-Col Mainwaring, GI Arty, BAA & CA, First Aust Army, arrived in area to inspect the AA Defences.

MEDICAL - The weekly medical table prepared by Capt R.B.Kendall, RMO 52 Aust Composite AA Regt, is attached - Appendix "A".

ENEMY ACTIVITY - Nil.

J.A. England, Lt-Col.,
AADC Merauke.

Distribution:
MGRA Branch LHQ
BAA & CA First Aust Army
HQ Merauke Force (3)
War Diary (2)
File

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WEEKLY SICK REPORT 15 Sep 43 to 21 Sep 43, Inc.

HQ 52 Aust AA Regiment
Australia.
24 Sep 43.

Location	-	
Strength	805	
Reinforcements during week	-	
Attached for Medical Services	52	Aust AA Regt & Assoc. Troops.
Total new sick	76	
Total evacuated from R.A.P.	2	
Total "No Duty" personnel	1	
Total "Light Duty" personnel	3	
Average daily sick rate	1.36	

Details of new sick	Treatment & Duty	Light Duties	No Duties	Evacuations
Diarrhoea	1	-	-	-
U R T I	5	-	1	-
Tinea - feet	10	-	-	-
Tinea - groin	4	-	-	-
Tinea - ears	5	-	-	-
Foot Ailments	4	-	-	-
SKIN - Furunculosis	10	2	-	-
Insect Bites & Urticaria	2	-	-	-
Dermatitis	2	-	-	-
Infected Wounds	4	-	-	-
Other Skin	1	-	-	-
Scabies	1	-	-	-
EYES - Infections	1	-	-	-
Refractive Error	2	-	-	-
Injuries - at play	5	-	-	-
at work	2	1	-	-
Alvcolar Abscess	-	-	-	1
Sandworm	2	-	-	-
Severe Headache	2	-	-	-
Infected Sebaccaus Cyst	1	-	-	-
Insomnia	1	-	-	-
Varicococli	1	-	-	-
Cbr epidi dymitis	1	-	-	-
Perforated Ear Drum	1	-	-	-
Fract. Metacarpal	-	-	-	1
Dypepsia	2	-	-	-
Totals	70	3	1	2

REPORT ON SICK PARADE

There is a rise in the sick rate from last week's figure of 0.9% due to no definite cause. There is a definite increase in the number of men reporting with chronic ailments and minor complaints as shown by the large proportion of individuals in the "treatment and duty" column.

R.B. Kendall, Capt, AAMC,
RMO, 52 Aust AA Regiment.

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APPENDIX "G"

SECRET

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES, MERAUKE - WEEKLY REPORT No 20

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
28 Sep 43.

H 1 382 AUST HY AA GUN STATION -

The scrub is being cleared away on the river side of the gun site and a barbed wire fence is being erected.
Maintenance was carried out on the dummy gun site and two of the guns were reconstructed.
A guard room is under construction.
The dry weather has reduced the water levels in the wells. These are being deepened.
Levelling and filling of the GL site is being continued. Breaking down the re-inforced concrete tanks is a slow hard job. It is not considered advisable to use explosives owing to the proximity of Rx.

H 2 383 AUST HY AA GUN STATION -

Personnel were concentrated on completing the reduction of the gun pits. Three pits are finished.
The barbed wiring of the area was continued.
The GL personnel continued the turfing of the area in the immediate vicinity of the Rx.
General camp improvements were carried out.

G L -

G1 This set co-operated with 382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station for their throw-off shoot on 28th Sep 43 and results obtained were satisfactory. The Gun Station engaged on one run at unseen drill and then switched to seen drill. There was only a slight apparent lag in bearing. This is being corrected. Measurement of the angle of sight appeared good. Results should be further improved when the clearing and levelling of the site is completed. No faults occurred.

G2 Further trouble has been experienced with the focus on the Rx and the set was out of action for fairly long periods in an attempt to locate the fault. The replacement of a faulty valve has considerably improved the performance. The Tx is also apparently susceptible to vibration set up by the firing of the guns. This will be further tested at a practice shoot during the week and Tx may be further displaced from the guns.

3.7 in AA Practice -

A Hy AA throw-off practice shoot was held from H1 (382 Aust Hy AA Gun Station) on 23 Sep 43. Guns were laid on a reciprocal bearing to the predictor. Two P40M's were used as targets. The target flew at a minimum ground range of 5000 yards at a height of 15,000 feet.
115 rounds of HE were fired. Six blinds were reported. I consider that this is subject to doubt but a careful watch will be kept on this phase in future practices, with particular attention to M's.F.S. and drill thereon.
The target was engaged on six runs and 55 secs was the longest period of engagement. The rate of fire was increased from 6 rounds per minute to 9 rounds per minute at the last run but gun crews were particularly impressed beforehand with the necessity for accurate drill and correct rounds rather than high rate of fire.
The only fault occurred at No 4 Gun where the pin locking the clutch lever of the MFS sheered off. The fault was identical with that occurring at H2 at the shoot on 21 Sep 43. A full report will be submitted in the Monthly Technical Efficiency Report.
There was also a larger movement in the gun mountings than was expected. This will be commented on in the Monthly Technical Efficiency report.
The personnel engaged in this shoot had some previous experience and, as a consequence, the performance was satisfactory. It is considered that this type of shooting is valuable in the absence of a towed target as it enables the gun detachments to test their drill under some semblance of action conditions and the Fire

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Control specialists to obtain good training on a fast moving target. Better methods of recording are necessary and an endeavour will be made to have this on the next practice.

40mm BOFORS PRACTICE - During the week four more detachments carried out their practice shoot.
L24 detachment - Fired 46 rounds. Laying and drill was good. No 10 was slow in correcting deflections. No 4 failed to appreciate the rate of fire of the gun at automatic, and was slow at loading.
L23 detachment - Fired 58 rounds. No 10's use of voice and control was weak. Drill and laying were fair. More training is required.
L11 detachment - Fired 49 rounds. Weakness in loading; drill and laying were fair.
L16 detachment - Fired 67 rounds. This detachment had the distinction of being the first detachment to burst the balloon (about 800 yards range) however). Laying was very erratic. No 10 did not appreciate the necessity for "stop fire" when off the target and the ordering of new deflections. No 4 was slow in loading.

In all cases No 4 did not appreciate the rate of fire of the guns and was slow in loading. Excessive drill in cocking of mechanism has caused certain parts to wear. Gun crews now only make the actions when training and once a week practice loading with dummy rounds. Classes are being conducted in the tendencies of deflections and observation of tracer.
Trouble was experienced with the loose chargers catching in the firing pedal and firing rod. The gun in use had a Mk III platform. This will be dealt with in the Monthly Technical Efficiency Report.

SEARCHLIGHTS - The extensive work of revetting the pits is being carried out. On eleven locations the breastwork has been completed; the work being carried out by each detachment. The pits are very big owing to the length of the control arm and will require many tons of earth to give the protection considered necessary to safeguard men and equipment. This work, and camouflage, are more than 50% completed.

COMMUNICATIONS - S12 has been linked to SOR by line communication and all SL locations are now in communication with SOR. Signals personnel are building up the lines.

POSTING OF OFFICERS - On instructions from First Aust Army, Capt K.A.Gribben, Bty Capt, 76 Aust Mobile SL Bty, AIF, left on 22 Sep 43 to raise and comd 72 Aust Mobile SL Bty.

SCHOOLS AND COURSES - Lieut E. Johnson, 76 Aust MobRe SL Bty, AIF, left to attend a Senior Officers Course at SME, Middle Head, Sydney, NSW.

MEDICAL - The weekly medical table prepared by Capt R.B.Kendall, RMO 52 Aust Composite AA Regt, is attached, Appendix A.

ENEMY ACTIVITY - At 1000 hrs on 25 Sep 43, plots of an unidentified aircraft were picked up on a bearing of 70° - 55 miles. The plots were lost and again picked up 32 miles E of Merauke returning along the same course. P40M's were airborne but no interception was made. The RAAF are of the opinion that a reconnaissance plane was in the area. The plane did not come any nearer than 32 miles. Estimated speed was 240 mph, cloud density 10/10.
At 1045 hrs on 27 Sep 43 at 70 miles bearing 35° and unidentified plot was picked up by RDF. Boepal reported hearing an unidentified aircraft overhead, very high, and similar information was later received from Okaba. Plots linking up with this course were picked up by RDF at Boepal; course was NE. From speed and height the aircraft could have been a "Dinah." It did not approach Merauke. The RAAF instituted a standing patrol on 26 Sep 43 between 0900 hrs and 1100 hrs to attempt an interception of these reconnaissance a/c.

VISITORS - Lt-Col Mainwaring, G1 Arty, BAA & CA Branch, completed his inspection of AA Defences and left on 23 Sep 43.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS - The first Regimental Sports meeting was held on the beach on 22 Sep 43. It was a very successful gathering and the aggregate was keenly contested. Results were:

139 Aust Hy AA Bty	43 5/6 points
154 Aust Lt AA Bty	33 4/6 points
76 Aust Mobile SL Bty	25 points

On this day the Regimenta had a stand-down day and only manning crews,

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spares, skeleton HQ staffs and guards were on duty with a result that 250 (approx) out of 800 AA personnel were present on the bench. Personnel from all sub-units mixed well during the events and lunch and afternoon tea from saved up "interesting" rations, and it was apparent that the objective was attained. The special dispensation allowing personnel to strip except for trousers or trunks while on the bench was appreciated by all. There were some excellent performances put up.

J.A.England, Lt-Col,
AADC MERAUKN.

Distribution:
MCRA
BAA & CA (First Aust Army)
HQ Merauke Force
Diary
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APPENDIX "H"

RESTRICTED

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
Routine Orders, Part 1, by
Lt-Col J. A. England
Comd 52 Aust Composite AA Regt

SERIAL NO 8
Nos 75 - 81
28 Sep 43

75 Proficiency Pay:- Approval has been given (vide GRO 660/43) for the payment of proficiency pay of sixpence a day to every male member of the AMF holding the appointment of L/Bdr or L/Cpl, or the rank of Gnr or its equivalent, who is not in receipt of tradesman or specialist pay, subject to the following conditions:

Proficiency pay will be paid as from 1 Jul 43 to a soldier who -

(a) at that date had completed at least six months continuous full time war service;

(b) for six months immediately prior to that date had been of good conduct (i.e. had not been awarded a punishment higher than seven days CB or a fine of £1 or more);

(c) on the first occasion subsequent to that date on which he is examined, passes the prescribed examination.

A soldier who complied with (a) and (b) above, but who fails to pass the prescribed examination on the first occasion will be entitled to proficiency pay from the day on which he passes the examination, provided he has been of good conduct for the preceding six months.

A soldier who is debarred from qualifying for proficiency pay by breach of good conduct will, providing he has passed the prescribed examination, become entitled to proficiency pay from the day he completes six months' service with good conduct.

If a soldier who is in receipt of proficiency pay commits a breach of good conduct he shall automatically forfeit his proficiency pay from the date of the award, and on completion of six months' service with good conduct will again be entitled to proficiency pay without the necessity for further examination. Any period spent in detent civil gaol or undergoing field punishment will not be taken into account when calculating the required period of six months.

Proficiency pay may, at any time, be withdrawn by the CO if he considers that there has been a falling off in the efficiency of a soldier, and the soldier will be required to qualify again by examination before proficiency pay can be restored.

A L/Cpl or L/Bdr or Gnr or equivalent will cease to be entitled to proficiency pay on his promotion to acting or substantive NCO rank (Bdr or Cpl or higher), or on trade grouping.

A soldier will not forfeit his proficiency pay by reason only of his admission to hospital.

No entry of proficiency pay can be made in the soldier's pay book until receipt by the unit of Routine Part 11 Orders.

NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN by this unit to initiate proficiency pay until receipt of details of the prescribed examinations, which have not yet been announced. These details will be published as soon as received.

76 Increase Of Pay - Lance Corporal and Lance Bombardier:- Approval has been given (vide GRO 659/43) for an increase of sixpence a day in the daily rate of pay for L/Cpls and L/Bdrs who are not in receipt of tradesman or specialist pay. This is independent of and additional to proficiency pay notified above.

Detailed instructions for carrying out this increase have not yet been received.

77 Carrying Of Arms:- Personnel when leaving gun, SL or camp sites, whether on duty or recreation, will carry arms and equipment at all times.

78 Inspection Of Rifles:- As from Wednesday, 29 Sep 43, Rifles No 1, Mk 111, will be sent to 52 Aust Composite AA Regt Workshop in batches of 12 for general overhaul and tropical maintenance. Workshop will advise when each batch of 12 is completed. The batch will then be collected and another batch delivered. Sub-units will forward rifles in the following order - RHQ, Sig Sec, AA Operations Room, 139 Bty, 154 Bty.

79 Promotions And Appointments:- The following promotions and appointments have been approved:

NX122126	L/Sgt	Dick, H.S.	to be	A/Sgt	as from	16 Sep 43	(154)
NX166109	Bdr	Price, I.	"	A/Sgt	"	22 Sep 43	(154)
NX135165	Bdr	Connelly, S.G.	"	L/Sgt	"	22 Sep 43	(154)
NX135164	L/Bdr	Chandler, A.L.	"	A/Bdr	"	22 Sep 43	(154)
NX166100	L/Bdr	Bagshaw, F.A.	"	A/Bdr	"	22 Sep 43	(154)
NX145533	L/Bdr	Pringle, J.A.	"	A/Bdr	"	22 Sep 43	(154)
SX39146	Pte	Nankervis, J.	"	A/Cpl	"	17 Sep 43	(RHQ)
VX144245	Gnr	O'Shea, L.J.	"	TG 111 (Tailor)	"	10 Aug 43	(RHQ)

80 Speed Limits:- Road surfaces are being damaged by vehicles travelling at excessive speeds. The following speed limits apply within the area: Trucks ¼-ton (Jeep) 25 mph; Motor Cycles 25 mph; all other wheeled vehicles 20 mph; tracked vehicles 10 mph. Except that NO vehicles will exceed 10 mph in Main St from ¼mile NW to ¼mile SE of 4th Avenue.

Maximum Speed after 1800 hrs is 20 mph. (Force RO 21/43/176)

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81 Powers Of Sentries And Guards:- GRO 648/43 is reprinted herewith:

"1 Regulation 8A of the National Security (General) Regulations (Statutory Rules 1942 No 374) provides that, without derogating from or restricting the existing powers or rights of sentries and guards, a military sentry or guard stationed or posted at, on, in, or in the neighbourhood or vicinity of, any prohibited place, protected area, controlled area, or any premises used by the Commonwealth, or used for defence purposes or for essential services, or any vehicle, vessel or aircraft used by the Commonwealth, or any enclosed wharf or picking-up place, or any merchant vessel lying in port, or any road, pathway or waterway, specified in an order by the Minister, which passes through or near a prohibited place or work of defence, may be armed, and may

(i) use his weapons against, or otherwise attack, any person who, in disregard of a warning given by a sentry or guard, approaches, enters, leaves, or passes over or in the vicinity or neighbourhood of, or attempts to approach, enter, leave or pass over or in the vicinity or neighbourhood of, that place, area, premises, vehicle, vessel, aircraft, wharf, picking up place, road, pathway, or waterway, or who, after being arrested for so doing, escapes; and

(ii) use his weapons against, or otherwise attack, any person attacking him or who is reasonably suspected of being about to attack him.

2 There are, however, certain principles which must guide all sentries and guards in the execution of their duty as such, and in the exercise of the right to resort to arms.

3 These principles are:-

(a) Sentries and guards will be ordered to take any action required to ensure the safety of their posts or to defeat the activities of enemy, or suspected enemy, agents.

(b) If necessary, they will fire upon or otherwise attack any persons threatening the safety of their posts or engaging in hostile actions.

(c) Before firing upon any person, the sentry or guard will, except in an urgent case of self-defence, challenge that person to "Halt". If that person does not halt, the sentry should challenge him again with "Halt or I fire". If he does not halt, and no other means are available for stopping him - as for example, by calling on the rest of the guard - it is the duty of the sentry to shoot.

(d) The sentry will use his intelligence and sense of responsibility in choosing whether he will shoot or not, and he must be careful not to allow any suspected person to approach so close that he can be rushed and overpowered.

(e) Guards of enemy prisoners of war. An enemy prisoner of war attempting to escape may be fired upon, but a previous summons to surrender will be given if possible.

(f) Guards of members of the forces in custody.

(i) An escort or guard is not justified in using his weapons merely for the purpose of preventing another member from escaping from custody and if he so uses his weapons he may render himself, as well as any officer or NCO under whose orders he acted, liable to be charged with murder, manslaughter or incitement to murder.

(ii) If a member in custody attempts to escape, the escort or sentry will immediately raise the alarm and give chase. He may call upon any passer-by to assist him in apprehending the escapee.

(iii) An escort or guard may be justified in using his weapons when a member in custody resorts to violence. In such circumstances an escort or guard may meet force with force, but care must be taken to use no more force than is necessary to overcome the violence offered. Hence, even when violence is offered to an escort or guard, it will only be as a last resort that the use of weapons will be justified.

4 Orders for guards and sentries will be framed in conformity with the above and guards and sentries will be suitably instructed as to their powers and duties.

5 GRO 682/42 is cancelled."

110 RO 64/42/3 is cancelled.

K.W.Pawley Capt

K.W.Pawley, Capt,
Adjt, 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment

NOTICE

Army Education Service - Personnel interested in obtaining a Technical Training guide book for study, covering Radio-Electrical Theory and Morse, prepared and published by The Institution of Radio Engineers (Australia) should contact the Unit Education Officer. The cost of the complete scheme, one booklet and three bulletins, is 8/9.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2019.366.1869

WEEKLY STATE OF SICK 22 Sep 43 to 28 Sep 43

HQ 52 Aust Composite AA Regiment
Australia.
29 Sep 43.

Attached for Medical Service	-	52 Aust Comp AA Regt & Assoc Troops
Total New Sick - - -	-	60
Total evacuations from R.A.P.	-	5
Total "No Duty" personnel	- -	2
Total "Light Duty personnel	- -	2
Average daily sick rate	- -	1.1%

Details of new sick	Treatment & Duty	Light Duty	No Duty	Evacuations
Diarrhoea	3	-	1	1
U R T I	2	-	-	-
Tinea - feet	4	-	-	-
Tinea - groin	2	-	-	1
Tinea - ears	3	-	-	-
Foot Ailments	4	-	-	-
SKIN - Furunculosis	6	-	-	-
Insect Bites & Urticaria	4	-	-	-
Dermatitis	-	-	-	1
Infected Wounds	-	-	1	-
Other skin	2	-	-	-
EYES - Infections	2	-	-	-
Refractive Error	1	-	-	-
Injuries at Work	2	-	-	-
Injuries at Play	4	-	-	-
Hydrocoele	-	2	-	-
Ulcer of Palate	-	-	-	1
Sandworm	1	-	-	-
Chronic Sinusitis	2	-	-	-
Dyspepsia	2	-	-	-
Severe Headache	2	-	-	-
Epididymitis	-	-	-	1
Varicocoele	2	-	-	-
NYD Nerves	2	-	-	-
Fibrositis	1	-	-	-
	51	2	2	5

Returned from Hospital	- -	Bell's Palsy	1
		Appendicitis	1
		Herniorraphy	1
		Alveolar Abscess	1

R.B. Kendall, Capt, AAMC
RMO 52 Aust Comp AA Regiment

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