

4/19/15/2

ORIGINAL

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL  
ACCESS STATUS  
OPEN

I FIRE COMMAND  
CORRESPONDENCE DEALING  
WITH FORMATION OF UNIT

TELEPHONE

Australian



Military Forces

From: 3 Aust Fire Comd HQ  
La Perouse  
7 Mar 45

Address your reply as above and not  
to an individual.

SUBJECT: WAR DIARY

Please quote Number hereunder.

S11	600 5	45
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STAFF DUTIES  
MILITARY HISTORY SECTION

1. Enclosed please find original of War Diary for Feb 45, and duplicate for January.
2. A certain amount of 1 Aust Fire Command HQ correspondence was retained when ~~that~~ unit handed over to 3 Aust Fire Command HQ. Of this, a file on the raising of 1 Aust Fire Command HQ is considered to be of interest and value and is forwarded for safe keeping.

*W. J. Davies*  
.....Maj  
Adm Comd 3 Aust Fire Comd HQ

24 MAR 1945



*Full  
detached*



1 Aust. Fire Command H.Q.  
Stephens Road,  
South Brisbane.  
February, 1943.

H.Q.,  
Old. L. of C. Area.

A FIRE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS.

1. On authority SN 3629 the raising of a Fire Command Headquarters for forward operational area has been authorised.
2. The War Establishment (Provisional) has been founded on VI/11/1 carrying 4 Officers and 6 other ranks.
3. A War Equipment Table for this unit has not been received so far.
4. A W.E.T. extract R.2 (a) has been compiled by this unit of stores considered necessary and A.A.F.F. 200s. are herewith attached with R.2 (a) for these stores.
5. We now await proper authority from you to enable us to draw these stores also approval for the the W.E. Table.

*9/7/43*

Would you please deal with this matter immediately as the circumstances are of extreme urgency and we ask for priority so that the move to the forward area will be expedited.

*Handwritten signature*

Lt. Col.

(L.M. Mainwaring)

Adm. Command, Fixed Defences Old. L. of C. Area.

Distribution:

- H.Q. 2 for information.  
F.A.D.O.S. Fixed Defences for action.

*Handwritten signature*

4/7/43

Stephens Road, Sth. Brisbane.  
Sth. March, 1943.

H.Q.,  
Q. L. of C. Area,  
Victoria Barracks.

1. Aust. Fire Command H.Q. for  
Application Transfer to A.I.F. GRO.344/42.

1. As 80% of the members of this Unit have enlisted in the A.I.F. we ask that 1 Aust. Fire Command H.Q., be transferred to A.I.F.
2. The Unit is about to move to a forward operational area at any moment, therefore, would you treat this request as urgent.

*W. Jones* Capt. for  
C.C. 1 Aust. Fire Command H.Q.

JVC/EJR

F33

Q.C.R. 174/5/111

25436

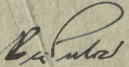
H.Q. Q'ld. L.of C. Area,  
Victoria Barracks, Brisbane.

18 MAR 1943

Allied Land Forces H.Q.

C.M.F. UNITS - CLASSIFICATION AS A.I.F. UNITS  
1 AUST. FIRE COMD. H.Q.

As 80% of posted strength of abovenamed Unit are members of the A.I.F., it is requested, in accordance with G.R.O. A170/1943, that it be classified as an A.I.F. Unit.

  
Brigadier,  
Brigadier i/c Administration,  
H.Q. Q'ld. L. of C. Area.

1 Aust. Fire Comd - (For information)



2/7/43

EM/LW


1st Aust. Fire Command.  
C/- "G" Aust. Hvy. Bty. RAA.  
30 March 1943.

W/E VI/12/43  
155 MM BATTERIES.

H.Q.,  
R.A.A.,  
5 AUST. DIV.

It is requested that

- (1). An official copy of the above War Establishment complete, be made available to H.Q., 1st Aust. Fire Command for reference.
- (2). Copy of order forming H.Q., 1st. Aust. Fire Cmd.
- (3). Copy of Appointment Order of Fire Commander, H.Q., 1st Aust. Fire Command.

  
Major,  
Fire Commander, Milne Bay.



Subject: W. E. 1 AUST FIRE COMMAND.

RAA 5 Aust Div.  
2 Apr 43.  
A.415.

HQ 1 Aust Fire Comd MILNE BAY.

1. Ref your memo of 30 Mar 43 forwarded herewith are the following:-

- (a) Copy of W. E. VI/II/1.
- (b) Copy of signal advising formation of HQ 1 Aust Fire Comd.
- (c) Copy of signal advising appointment of Fire Commander 1 Aust Fire Command.

*W. E. 1*  
*W. E. 1* Capt.  
S.C.R.A. 5 Aust Div.

VI/II/1

( 2 pages)

SECURITY

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Issued  
16th Jan '43.

A FIRE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

(Designed for the tactical control of two or more  
155-MM. Batteries, R.A.A. in forward operational  
Areas)

WAR ESTABLISHMENT  
(Provisional)

(1) Summary of ranks

Detail	Number
Lieutenant-colonel (fire commander)	1
Captain, R.A.A.E.	1
Lieutenant (fire commander's assistant)	1
Lieutenant (fire control instructor and intelligence officer)	1
Total, officers	4
Sergeant, R.A.A.E.	1
Total, sergeants	1
Gunnery -	
Batman	1
Batman-driver	1
Cook	1
Telephonists	2
Total, rank and file	5
Total, other ranks.	6
Total, all ranks	10

A FIRE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

VI/II/1  
WAR ESTABLISHMENT  
(Provisional)(ii) TransportMotor cycle (a) 1 (b) 1  
Truck,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton 1(iii) Table of weapons and ammunition

Detail	Number	Ammunition - rounds		
		On man or with gun	Reserve	Total
Pistols, .38-inch	4	12	24	72
Rifles, .303-inch	5	50	-	250
Sub-machine gun	1	200	400	600

(a) For fire control instructor and intelligence officer.

(COPY)

(Received at RAA 6/2/42)

TO : 5 AUST DIV

FROM : N. G. F.

RAO 136

4

FOLLOWING	MESSAGE	ADDRESSED	NGF	RPTD	LANDOPS
FROM	LAND FORCES (.)		ONE	AUST	FIRE
COULD	HQ	ON	W.E.	VI/II/1	IS
BEING	RAISED	AT	ONCE	AID	WILL
BE	DESPATCHED	AS	EARLY	AS	POSSIBLE
(.)	CONSIDER	AIM	HQ	UNNECESSARY	AS
EACH	BTY	SELF	CONTAINED	(.)	MESSAGE
ENDS	(.)	COPY	OF	ESTABLISHMENT	
FORWARDED	BY	AIR			

TOO 1602  
THI 1655  
TOR 1703

COPIES TO RAA 5 AUST DIV }  
AQ } From G, 6 Feb



(COPY)

RECEIVED AT RAA 10/3/43

MESSAGE FORM.

TO : 5 DIV HQ R.A.A.

FROM : N. G. F.

APPROVAL	GIVEN	APPOINTMENT	N.73395	T/MAJ.	E. F. M.
MAGEE	AS	FIRE	COMDR	1	AUST
FIRE	COND	HVY	ARTY	MILNE	BAY
FIXED	DEFENCES	DATE	22	FEB	43.

Signature: ?????????

TIME OF ORIGIN 1730/9

TIME HANDED IN 0530

TIME OF RECEIPT 1820/10

*Establishment*

Subject: H. Q. 1 Aust Fire Comd MILNE BAY.

RAW 5 Aust Div.

27 Apr 43.

A. 109.

H. Q. 1 Aust Fire Comd MILNE BAY.

1. It is advised that the only authority held by H. Q. 5 Aust Div for the formation of the above-named unit is NGF Signal RA0.136 of 4 Feb 43, a copy of which was handed by this H. Q. to Fire Comd.

2. Dates and authorities for Posting of Officers are as follows:-

NX 106343 - T/Lt-Col. E.F.M. MAGEE - Appt Fire Comd 22 Feb 43;  
Auth NGF Appt & Promotions  
List 20 Page 414.

NX 109595 - T/Capt T.H. LINES - Seconded from NSW L of C  
A rea Fnt & AASL Engns  
to H. Q. 1 Aust Fire Comd  
20 Feb 43; Auth LHC Appt  
& Promotions List 44 of  
11 Mar 43.

QX 42357 - L. ient S.C. TROTT } - Remain seconded in A.A.  
QX 36571 - L. ient M.W. BATES } - (Hv) Q'land L of C Area  
and posted from 1 Hy Reg  
Bty to H. Q. 1 Aust Fire  
Comd 26 Feb 43; Auth  
NGF Appt & Promotions  
List 23 Page 167.

*File*

*S. C. R. A. 5* Lieut.  
S. C. R. A. 5 Aust Div.

*g*

—TELEPHONE—

Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_



7

7

43

7/1/43

1 Aust. Fire Command H.Q. H.I.F.

5/5/43.

H.Q.

N.G.F.

N.G. Records Office.

Name of Unit	W.E. Ref.	W.E. Figures	Strength as at date of return
1 Aust Fire Command H.Q. H.I.F.	VI/11/1	4 Off. 6 O/R's.	4 Off. 6 O/R's.

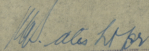
Date of Detachment	Designation of sections of unit rendering separate returns	W.E. Ref. or if above give details of number & trades	W.E. Figures applicable to each portion.

No detached

Nil.

No Tradesman

Ref N.G.F. Order No 9. republished in 5 Aust Lin R.O's  
 Part 1. 28/2/43. It is advised that the authority for the formation of this unit was dated 4/2/43.  
 The unit was actually formed on the 26/2/43 when the first return was rendered.



11.11.1

1 Aust Fire Command H.Q.

7/7/43



TELEPHONES—

# Australian Military Forces.

Please quote this Number when replying.

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Address

Date

Detail

1 Aust. F.C. H.Q.

Lieut. Colonel.	F.C.	— NX106393	Major E. F. Magee.
Captain	R.A.E.	— NX109595	Capt. T. H. Innes
Lieut	F.C. Ass	— QX92357	Lieut S. C. Trott
Lieut	F. Control.		
	+ I.D.	— QX36571.	Lieut M. V. Bales.
Sgt.	R.A.E.	— QX34785	Sgt. R. Mortison
Gunnery.			
Barman.	—	Q143992	Gnr. Brown W.
Barman Driver	—	N297387	.. Cook A.E.
Cook.		QX39533	.. Drew R.H.
Telephonist	—	N297032	.. Frizell J.G.
"	—	Q145539	.. Helms. J.K.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

SECRET.

1 Aust Fire Comd. H Q AIF  
20/3/43

20/7/43.

✓ Qld 1 of C Area Records Office  
WARWICK.

Copy to N G Records.  
Copy to H Q Brisbane Fortress.

Reference your 88125 of 18/8/43.  
Apparently records of this unit are incomplete. Detailed hereunder are particulars, as far as they can be traced.

MX100543 T /lt-Col E F MAGEE.

4/12/42	Transf. from R.A.A.M.S.W.I. of C. Area to ) Qld. 1. of C. Area Hvy. Arty. )	O.C. 4/18
	Apptd. C.F.D. & F.C. T'ville Fixed Def. )	<del>XXXXXXXX</del>
22/2/43	Relinquished Appt. and is transferred to ) RAA (Hvy) N G 1 of C Area )	O.C. 4/30
22/2/43	Apptd Fire Comm. 1 Aust Fire Comd ) (Hvy Arty) Milne Bay Defences )	O.C. 4/30

MX100595 T /CAPT T H LINES.

Capt Lines was O/C of a CASI Section (Number unknown) attached to Lytton Hvy Bty for training. He was later marched out of Lytton to Brisbane Fixed Defences H Q for duty (date unknown). He was subsequently seconded to 1 Aust Fire Comd H Q as O C S I from NSW 1 of C Area Art and AA S1 Eng. Authority HQ Appt and promotions list No 44 of 11/5/43.

OX30571 1LT LT M V BATES.

H Q S1 list No 25 Appt and Promotions of 19/4/43 shows this officer, in charges of allotment for duty, to 1 Aust Fire Comd H Q 20/2/43 (from 1 Hvy Trg Bty) remains seconded. This is incorrect because Lieut Bates was appointed as F C I and I O to this unit from 1st Hvy Bty, which was then stationed at Morim Friable Island.

Since then this officer has been transferred to "E" Aust Hvy Bty AIF on the 23/7/43 as per Milne Bay Fortress Comd letter 43/252/140 substantiating a memo from DALS H G Force.

OX42357 1LT LT R O TROTT.

H Q S1 list No 25 Appt and Promotions of 19/4/43 shows this officer, in charges of allotment for duty to H Q 1 Aust Fire Comd 20/2/43 (from 1 Hvy Trg Bty) remains seconded. This is incorrect as this officer was appointed as F C A to this unit from Lytton Hvy Bty Brisbane Fixed Defences. This officer has had the following transfers:-

Transf. from Townsville Hvy Bty 19/6/41 to 1 Hvy Trg Bty.  
Transf. from 1 Hvy Trg Bty to Lytton Hvy Bty approx end of May 1942.

Lytton Hvy Bty submitted a Casualty return in Feb'y 1943 marching him out from Lytton Hvy Bty and then marched him in to H Q 1 Aust Fire Comd attached to Lytton Hvy Bty for duty. This officer was then marched out on movement apparently either by Lytton Hvy Bty or Brisbane Fixed Defences. It is suggested that further information regarding Casualty returns may be obtained from H Q Brisbane Fortress and Lytton Hvy Bty.

O/Rs.

OX34785 A/Sgt R C MORTISON

OX39933 1/BDR R H DREW Promoted 1/BDR 3011 No 9 25/5/43

MX151090 Gnr J G FRIESEN

OX31710 Gnr J K NEILS

MX151095 (Jld No 297567) GNR A E COOK

Q146992 Gnr W BROWN (X No Not yet received.)

The aforementioned were marched in to 1 Aust Fire Comd H Q

10/7/43.



(2)

old 1 of C Area Records Office (Cont)

attached Lytton Hvy Bty for duty during Feb and March 1943.

The first return of this unit was not submitted until 20/2/43. All the aforementioned with the exception of Lt-Col E F Magee (who went direct from Townsville on 7/3/43) left Brisbane 25/3/43 and arrived at NGFARD Seilheim 27/3/43. left Seilheim 4/4/43 and arrived at Milne Bay 7/4/43.

It is requested please that this unit be shown as marched in to RAA (Hvy) N G 1 of C Area.

Ref QX42357 1LTUT S C TROTT

It is requested please that a recommendation be submitted to HQ for the ~~above~~ named officer to cease to be seconded to 1 Hvy Trg Bty and be transferred to RAA (Hvy) N G 1 of C Area with posting to 1 Aust Fire Comd H Q as F C A with seniority in accordance with army seniority.

NOMINAL ROLL.

NX100345 Lt-Col E F Magee

QX42357 1ltut S C Trott

NX109595 Capt T H Innes

QX34785 Sgt Mortison R C

NX15109 Gnr Cook AE

NX151896 Gnr Frizell J G

QX39533 1/Bdr Drew R H

QX51716 Gnr Neims J K

Q143992 Gnr Brown W

NX110204 Gnr Salmon N V

NX103498 Gnr Wells K A

F.C.

F C A

OCS1 and Cpl/O Milne Bay Fortress Comd

Ass t. to OCS1

Batman-Driver

Telephonist

(Cook) X list 3011 No 16 16/3/43

Evacuated to mainland.

Telephonist

Batman

Telephonist M/I 3011 No 14 4/8/43

from "G" Aust Hvy Bty AIF

Driver M/I 3011 No 14 4/8/43

from "G" Aust Hvy Bty as driver

for OCS1 and Cpl/O Milne Bay

Fortress Command.

*Magee* Lt-Col  
1 Aust Fire Command H Q AIF



1 Aust Fire Comd Hq (AIF)

15/10/43

Subject: Adoption of Amdt No 1 VI/11/2 ( A Fire Comd H Q )

H Q

Milne Bay Fortress Command

1. Ref G661 and your R O Part 1 G134.
2. The above amendment has been issued and it is requested instruction be issued as to date such amendment will take effect.
3. No additional personnel are required as the number affected by the amendment are now carried surplus to W E VI/11/1.
4. Increase in personal equipment on W E T is required to cover W E Amdt increases.

*Maqu* 1t-Co1  
1 Aust Fire Command H Q AIF

15-7-43



10/7/43  
1 Aust. Fire Cmn. H.Q. A.I.F.

16th October 1943

N.G.I of C Area Records Office.

Copy To Qld. I of C Area Records Office.

1. Ref. our 10-7-43 of 26th. August.
2. Particulars requested therein were supplied for other ranks vide Qld I of C Area Records Office, 1st Routine Order Part II. No.1 on 13/9/43, showing date of embarkation and disembarkation.
3. But to date, no particulars have been received for the following Officers. It is still requested please that the under-mentioned Officers be shown as marched into R.A.A. Hvy. N.G. I of C Area.

MX106343 Lt. Col. E.F. Magee embarked at Townsville on 7-3-43 and arrived in N.G. on same date.

MX109595	Capt. T.H. Innes	)	Embarked at Townsville per.
QX42357	Lieut. S.C. Trott	)	S.S.Tarcona on 4-4-43 and
QX26571	Lieut. M.V. Bates	)	disembarked at Milne Bay
			on 7-4-43.

4. Herewith copy of Casualty Returns showing date taken in en strength at Koro Koro.

*Magu*  
1 Aust. Fire Cmn. H.Q. A.I.F.

Lt. Col.