AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

[21/17]

Nos. 74-76-77-80-82 O.B.U.
RETURN & REPORT SHEETS

AWM 64
[16/12]

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

1A

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

NO 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

AS AT 31st JANUARY 1945.

Visiting Staff Officers.

Saturday 6th S/Ldr Windwood, Area Armament Officer, made an inspection of Armoury and Bombs on the Unit.
F/Lt Forster, Area Flying Control Officer, inspected flying Facilities in general on the Unit.

Friday 12th. G/Capt Morman, Staff Officer Administrative, made an inspection of Unit.
W/C Cowdell, Staff Officer Personnel, interviewed personnel and checked documents.
S/Ldr Cull, Staff Officer Works, inspected strip surface and buildings.
Padre Goddard, Presbyterian Padre, conducted a service on the Unit.

Sunday 14th Lieut. Wastell (Army) arrived to take charge of move of Special Wireless Group.

Tuesday 16th Air/Cmdr Brownell, Area Officer Commanding, visited the Unit, inspecting various sections. F/Lt. Hennesy. Personnal aide.

Wednesday 17th F/Lt Hickey, Welfare Officer, paid a visit to the Unit.

Thursday 25th S/Ldr Denton, Chief Cypher Officer, arrived on a visit to the Unit, inspecting Cypher Section.
F/Lt Fyfe, Signals Security Officer, on tour of Signals Section on the Unit.
S/Ldr Hurstwaite, Stores, Inspected Stores Tally sheets.

Health. Medical Orderly reports daily sick attendance averages 3.

Heat rash being main complaint experienced.

Fly menace is always with us but in the extreme heat very little inconvience is caused.

General health of personnel is good.

Transport. This section is still understaffed and the only Fitter D.M.T finds it impossible to service all vehicles and engines as inspections come due. Staff Officer Personnel has the matter in hand and with an additional Fitter D.M.T. conditions should improve.

Faulty workmanship in construction has been responsib for 2 breakdowns in the twin 25 KVA sets at the transmitter room. Replacement parts have been demanded.

Buildings. Nil Activities to report.

Water Supply. Fair serviceability for the month from engines at the bores. Water supply always will maintained to Unit.

Aircraft Movements.
Very little doing during month. Service visits by 7 Communication Unit Ansons with Staff Officers.

Routine Flights from Learmonth as usual by Tiger Moth only.

Signal Square and T completed as called for by ›rn Area Letter 24247.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

1B

Fuel and Refuelling (as at 31/1/45)

100 Octane	4972½ Galls.
91 Octane	2232 Galls.
73 Octane	2758 Galls.
M.T.	2200 Galls.
Distillate	396 Galls.
Range Fuel	1100 Galls.
Lighting Kero.	1100 Galls.
120 Oil	3300 Galls.
100 Seconds Oil	442 Galls.

Inspections reveal slight leakage but every endevour is made to keep losses to a minimum.

Nil Galls 100 Octanee was lifter for month.
542 Galls 91 Octane was lifted for month.
.81 Galls 73 Octane was lifted for Month.
127 Galls 120 Oil was lifted for month.

Late in the month an order was received to issue off to 76 O.B.U. 1000 drums of 100 Octane and to Onslow 400 drums of 100 Octane.

A start was made immediately on receipt of this order and by the end of the month 649 drums had left the unit. The 400 drums to be issued to Onslow comprised of old and cloudy fuel that needs reconditioning.

Equipment Store.

A serious hold up of all equipment was experienced during the month caused by the lack of shipping and air freight consignments are very slow in arriving even when demanded by urgent signal. It is suggested that a road convoy be routed from Geraldton on Mondays for Learmonth and return by Saturday in each week. Goods would then arrive within the week of demanding. The area Accountant Officers report indicated a very satisfactory condition of all stores and accounting

Messing Very little fresh meat or vegetables were received during the month but in spite of this the cooks continue to serve very palitable meals and complaints are few.

The hot summer has made the growing of vegetables impracticable and the garden has therefore been discontinued.

Welfare and Physical Training.

Very little Physical Training or sport is attempted owing to the extreme heat. Several trips have been made to a large pool in the Yanrey River near the "Homestead" and swimming has been enjoyed.

The Usual Sunday tennis is played on the grass court and is a welcome change from camp routine.

Owing to the small number of personnel remaining on the Unit organised evening are not possible. Two Community singing evenings have been held, billiards and darts arealways well patronised.

The swimming Pool is in use and is very popular.

Discipline and Moral

Nil action taken for Month.

Moral is good but as most members have spent over 10 months on the Unit a certain air of expectancy is evident on Mail days and a consequent drop in moral is noticed when it is realized that long looked for posting has not eventuated.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

1C

General. The heat is still very enervating, the average for the month being 108 degrees in the shade. Several thunderstorms have been experienced and a total of 49 points of rain recorded.

The surrounding country is looking particularly dry.

The Australian Special Wireless Group which has been stationed at this Unit for 9 months has been ordered to move and is now packed ready for transport.

The HF/DF started to function on the 10th of the month giving third class bearings only.

The transmitter room has been in use since that date also, a continuous watch is kept and the twin 25 KVA sets have been running constantly.

A.L. Shannon F/L

A.L. SHANNON.
Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding NO 74 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

3A

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

NO. 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT. UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY, 1945.

HEALTH.

The daily sick parade averaged 7 personnel per day for the month.

The flies have caused much bother during the daylight hours.

Health of the personnel is good , with minor ailments caused through the heat etc.

RECREATION - WELFARE.

Tennis is played of an evening as well as billiards

The library is almost non-existent owing to the majority of the books being lost during the cyclone .

Swimming parades are conducted each Sunday to the YANREY river.

The Swimming Pool has had little use owing to the water becoming unfit for swimming after two or three days . This trouble may be overcome by the fitting of an overflow pipe at an early date.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

Nil action for the month.

Morale is as good as can be expected in the climate , Dust storms causing a feeling of depression , and of late the flies have been exceptionally bad , which react on the morale of the night workers trying to sleep during the heat and dust of the day.

GENERAL.

The average temperature for the month of February, was over 103 degrees.

Work has recommenced on the cartage of fuel to ONSLOW and No. 76 C.E.U.

The meals are monotonous, owing to the shortage ~~XXX~~ of fresh supplies, but the cooks are doing the best possible with supplies issued. This matter was mentioned to F/Lt. O'KEEFE Area Messing Officer during his visit.

H.R.GIBBS,
Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No. 74 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

No 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

AS AT 31st MARCH 1945.

HEALTH.

1 Health of the personnel is good with minor ailments caused through heat etc. The average sick parade numbers 8 personnel daily for the month.

2 Dental examination and treatment have been given to all personnel.

RECREATION - WELFARE.

1 The unit library is being gradually built up with books donated from members of the unit.

2 Tennis is played on suitable evenings.

3 Dart and Billiard tournaments were held during the month as well as card games.

4 Saturday evening has been set aside for Community singing, and on 31st March a concert was held which was a great success.

5 Two swimming parades were held at the river.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

Nil action for the month.

Morale is average for the conditions

GENERAL.

1 The carting of fuel to Onslow has been completed and odd trips trips have been made with fuel to 76 O.B.U.

2 The meals have improved since the supplying of fresh vegetables, butter, fruit etc.

3 The average temperature for the month of March was 104 degrees. 102.6.

Harold R. Gibbs

H.R.GIBBS,
Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No 74 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

NO 74 O.B.U. UNIT HISTORY SH

AS at 30 APRIL,45.

HEALTH:
Healthof the personnel is good with minor ailments caused through heat, etc. The average Sick Parade numbers six personnel daily for the month.

RECREATION AND WELFARE.
Tennis played on suitable evenings.

Dart and Billiard tournaments were held during the month as well as Card games.

A Cricket Match was played against the Navy at ONSLOW on 27 APR.

Swimming Pool has been cleaned and refilled and is now in use.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

Nil Action for the month.

Morale is average for the conditions.

GENERAL.

The average tempeature for the month of April was 102.6 degrees.

Work has recommenced on the re-erection of the telephone line between LEARMONTH and this Unit.

(H. R. GIBB) FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.
COMMANDING NO 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

74 O.B.U. UNIT HISTORY SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 45

HEALTH

Health of the personnel is good with minor ailments. The average Sick Parade numbers nine personnel daily for the month.

RECREATION AND WELFARE

Card evenings are held every Monday emening.

An indoor sports evening and supper was held on the 9th may to celebrate V-E Day

A cricket match was played against the Australian Navy at ONSLOW on V-E Day 9th May

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE

Nil Action for the month

Morale is average for the conditions.

GENERAL

The telephone line from LEARMONTH to this Unit was completed and the switchboard was removed from Poker to the Signals Section.

The average temperature for the month of May was 91 Degrees

H.R.GIBBS. FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.
COMMANDING No 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

5/1/AIR
SECRET

74 O.B.U.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

UNIT HISTORY SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 45

HEALTH

Health of the personnel is good with minor ailments. The average Sick Parade numbers seven personnel daily for the month.

RECREATION AND WELFARE

Dart and Billiard tournaments are held once fortnightly.

An outdoor sports meeting and social evening was held on the Unit on the 24 June 45

A picture evening was given by S/Ldr CARPENTER S.O.ED on the 11 June 45. Shell films being shown.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE

One minor case dealt with.

Morale is not up to the average of past months owing to the irregularity of inward and outward mail as well as the lack of fresh meat this past fortnight.

GENERAL

The telephone switchboard has been removed from Operations Building and has been reinstalled in Orderly Room.

The average temperature for the month of June was 85 Degrees.

H.R.GIBBS. FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.
COMMANDING No 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

5/MAIR.

SECRET.

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

NO 74 O.B.U.

AS AT 31 JULY 1945.

HEALTH.

Health of the personnel is good with the usual minor ailments. The average sick parade numbers 5 daily for the month.

RECREATION AND WELFARE.

F/Sgt MARSHALL gave a demonstration on the billiard table as to how billiards should be played.

Education films were shown on 2 JULY.

S/Ldr LANCE (PADRE) although a batchelor gave a talk on "MARRIAGE" which was well received. PADRE LANCE also held a church service on the evening of 17 JULY.

An issue of A.C.F. Comforts hampers was made on 30 JULY.

Darts and billiard tournaments were held twice during the month.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

Nil action for the month.

Morale is average under the circumstances.

GENERAL.

It is felt that the functions of this Unit do not warrant the number of personnel based on it as HF/DF is the only operating function,and although practically all surplus personnel have been posted,apart from the number necessary to operate under the present conditions, advice is awaited in regard to surplus Signal personnel.

In view of the Aircraft crash this month it is felt thatbbetter transport facilities should be available for the Medical Officer at Learmonth in cases of emergencies. It would have been very awkward if the personnel on the aircraft had been badly injured when it crashed on July 10 as many hours would have elapsed before the Medical Officer could have arrived on the scene of the accident.

The average temperature for the month was 82.3 degrees.

(H.R.GIBBS) FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.
COMMANDING NO 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

5/1/AIR. UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

SECRET. NO 74 O.B.U.

AS AT 31 AUGUST 1945

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

HEALTH. Health of the personnel is fair with the usual minor ailments. The average sick parade numbers 6 daily for the month.

RECREATION AND WELFARE. Cpl,METCALFE of Area Welfare Section visited the unit on 6 AUGUST.
A sports meeting and Social evening was held to celebrate V.P. day, and a team visited ONSLOW to compete against the townspeople in sports on 16 AUG:

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.
Nil action for the month.
Morale is average for the conditions.

GENERAL.
It is rather difficult to forward Official Mail on the due date owing to the aircraft travelling from Learmonth to this Unit more often than vice versa. This is unavoidable under the present scheme as bread must be delivered from Learmonth to this Unit thrice weekly. The only cure would be more travel flights.
The average temperature for the month was 87 degrees.

Hen. R. Gibbs

(H.R.GIBBS) FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.
COMMANDING NO 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

5/1/AIR.

SECRET.

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.
NO 74 O.B.U.

AS AT SEPTEMBER 30 1945.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

HEALTH.

Health of the personnel is fair with the usual minor ailments. The average sick parade numbers 5daily for the month.

RECREATION AND WELFARE.

Nil activities. A cinema has been promised for many months but as yet no further news has been received, it is presumed that the projector will never reach this Unit now that hostilities have ceased. Even Educational films have now ceased to reach the Unit and the last screening was held three (3) months ago. Two comforts Issues.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

Nil action for the month.
Morale is below average now that the dust storms have made t their appearance and the lack of work does not tend to increase or uplift the morale.

GENERAL.

It is felt that the activities of this Unit do not warrant the number of personnel at present on strength. The only functions operating are the H/F & V/F and the transmitters, and a body of men deatached from No 76 O.B.U. could carry out these duties and be exchanged monthly. This would overcome the monotony and dreariness of this place. as a month would soon pass and the next month would be spent in much more pleasant surroundings. Lack of diversions during stand down periods draw the days out and increase the lowering of morale.
The average temperature for the month was 96 degrees.

(H.R.GIBBS) FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.
COMMANDING NO 74 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

5/1/AIR

SECRET

UNIT HISTORY SHEET
No 74 O.B.U.

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 45.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

HEALTH.

Health of the personnel is fair with the usual minor ailments. The average sick parade numbers 2 daily for the month.

RECREATION AND WELFARE.

Nil activities. Education films were shown on22 October 45. One comforts issue.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

Nil action for the month.

Morale is below average now that the dust storms have made their appearance and the lack of work does not tend to increase or uplift the morale.

GENERAL.

Average temperature for the Month. 99 degrees.

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APPENDIX "A"

Results Swimming Carnival held Henley Beach. = 7 March 1943.

Army v Death Valley SC.

① 55 yds Open Championship. 1st = NIND RAAF 2nd. DAW ARMY 3 Errington. ARMY

② Breast Stroke - Appx. 30yds. FINAL. 1ST LEWINGTON ARMY 2ND DAW - ARMY 3. BELLINGHAM RAAF

3. CHALLENGE - RELAY YARDS 220. ARMY v DEATH VALLEY. 1ST ARMY

4. SURF RACE 1st LEWINGTON ARMY 2ND NIND RAAF - 3 JONES RAAF

5. TANDEM RACE 1st. NIND - HIGGS. RAAF 2ND ERRINGTON - DAW ARMY 3RD LEWINGTON - DAGWOOD ARMY

6. BACKSTROKE - CHAMPIONSHIP Appx 30 yds 1st NIND RAAF 2nd DAW ARMY 3rd. LEWINGTON ARMY. ARMY.

7. UNDER WATER SWIM (ANY SWIMMER STAYING UNDERWATER LONGER THAN 5 MINUTES DISQUALIFIED) 1st McLOOD RAAF 2 NIND RAAF 3. LEWINGTON ARMY.

AGGREGATE POINTS

ARMY	35
RAAF	33

CHAMPION SWIMMER.

NIND RAAF 22. RUNNER UP 18 LEWINGTON. ARMY

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

Unit History Sheet Appendix " ".

No. 80 Operational Base Unit.
DERBY W.A.
31 July 1944

Commanding Officer's Report.

1. General

On arrival of No. 129842, Pilot Officer R. ~~Rogers~~ ODGERS at O.B. DERBY on 3 July, 1944, a signal was sent to Headquarters, Western Area advising the formation of No. 80 Operational Base Unit, DERBY, W.A.

A Personnel Occurrence Report and Daily Routine Order were furnished (Appx " " " ".)

A general inspection was then made and it was noticed that the runways, buildings and area had been maintained in a fairly good condition. Equipment was found to be generally in serviceable condition and personnel clean, tidy and in a good state of health.

Personnel who had been living in the General Purpose Hut were moved to huts the hut now being used for, Kitchen, Mess room and Orderly Room.

A pre-fabricated hut was erected to be used by N.C.O's as a mess, a vegetable garden prepared and planted, six showers installed, water being supplied from 3,000 gallon tank in the area and an open-air recreation room is in course of erection in close proximity to the site on which the canteen will be erected.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

2. Amenities — Aust. Comforts Fund supply cigarettes, soap, sweets and reading matter occasionally. The Recreation room has table-tennis, darts, reading and a wireless set. Pictures are shown in DERBY once weekly. No swimming possible in this area and no organised sport has been played.
Tennis equipment has been requested from Welfare, sport is being organised and a canteen will shortly be opened.

3. Morale. Morale is generally very good.

4. Defence A defence plan is in process of formation, Two twin-mounted .50 Browning and two .303 Vickers Machine Guns have been mounted for A/A purposes and set in pits in strategical position. 75% of personnel have been issued with small arms.

5. Rations — Rations are plentiful, fresh bread and meat daily but a serious shortage in fresh vegetables, & fruit & butter is experienced, the only supply coming to the unit at intervals of approx. 5 weeks. ~~intervals~~ A letter has been written to Western Area requesting a diversion of the aircraft which delivers vegetables to Broome and Noonkanbah weekly.

6. Operations NIL

7. Movements see next sheet.

Amenities

Aust Comforts Fund supply cigarettes, soap, sweets etc occasionally. Recreation room has table tennis darts, reading and a wireless. Pictures are ~~held~~ shown in Derby once a week. No swimming possible & no sport of any description has been played. Sport now being organised and tennis equipment ~~demanded~~ requested. A canteen will shortly be installed.

Morale

Morale is generally very good, the only complaint from the airmen is length of service in this area without leave.

Armament

Operation Nil

Movements

324 Radar moved from their area at Paradise and arrived at this unit on 5 July en route to new location departed 7 July. Space ~~Eu~~ in Surface vessels supplied ~~were~~ was far too inadequate and 324 Radar were compelled to leave 3 airmen and a quantity of ~~gear~~ equipment (approx 20 tons) on this unit awaiting transport. These airmen and the equipment is still on the unit no transport having arrived w/area advised. Mail is delivered to 324 Radar by dropping from Tiger Moth which calls twice weekly.

Pilot Officer
Commanding No. 80 Operational Reinforcement

Unit History Sheet. / No 80 Operational Base Unit; DERBY W.A.

Commanding Officers Report Appendix "

General

On arrival of Nitot Officer R. Cagus at O.B. Derby at 1030 hrs 3 July 1944 a signal was ~~immediately~~ sent to Western Area advising the formation of No. 80 Operational Base Unit at DERBY. W.A. A Personnel Occurrence Report was furnished and Daily Routine Orders ~~and Station Standing Orders~~ Appendices " " " "

A general inspection was then made. It was noticed that the runways, area and buildings had been maintained in fairly good condition. Personnel who had been living in General purpose hut were ordered to move to tents, but ~~was then taken over~~ is now used for Orderly Room, Mess room and Recreation room, all personnel sleeping in tents.

~~A general inspection was made of the unit and~~ Equipment was found generally to be in a serviceable condition.

~~Buildings in a reasonable state of repair and the~~ personnel clean & tidy. and generally in a good state of health. ~~Various orders were given for the betterment of the unit generally~~

A pre-fabricated hut was erected for use as a mess by N.C.O.'s, garden was prepared and planted, 6 showers installed ~~and~~ & an open-air recreation room is in course of erection.

Rations supplied

Rations are plentiful, fresh bread and meat daily, but a serious shortage in fresh vegetables fruit etc is experienced. A letter has been written to Western Area requesting a diversion of the ~~weekly~~ ~~ration~~ aircraft which delivers vegetables to Broome & Noonkanbah weekly. ~~It is considered the~~

2A

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

TELEPHONE: B9051.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

NO. 106/47/Air(3A)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

22596

Headquarters - Western Area,

A.N.A. House,

44 St. George's Terrace,

PERTH.....W.A.

28 AUG 1944

No. 80 Operational Base Unit,
Group 460,
R.A.A.F. Base Post Office,
PERTH.....W.A.

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

Reference No. 80 Operational Base Unit letter 9/1/Air, dated 1st August, 1944, it is advised that the Form A.50 has not been signed by the Commanding Officer. This is most unfortunate, as otherwise, the Unit History Sheet and appendices are entirely satisfactory.

2. The Unit History Sheet, therefore, is being returned for signature.

3. For future guidance it is advised that the strength of the Unit should be given as as the end of each month.

E A Rushbrooke W/C
Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

015 Darley.

1A

HEADQUARTERS - WESTERN AREA.

Tel. B9051. A.N.A. House,

Ref. 160/Air(8A) 52764. 44 St. George's Terrace,

RESTRICTED. PERTH.....W.A.

TO ALL UNITS UNDER THE COMMAND
OF HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN AREA.

8 AUG 1944

UNIT HISTORY SHEETS.

Have you read the article entitled "Can you write a History?", that appears on page 10 of the 18th July issue (Vol 3, No. 8) of R.A.A.F. Magazine "WINGS"?

2. This article rightly points out that Unit History Sheets that contain nothing more than endless lists of aircraft movements and postings are almost valueless from the point of view of the R.A.A.F. Historical section, and would certainly fail to provide any material around which an interesting personal Unit History could be written.

3. A marked improvement in the preparation of Unit History Sheets has been noted but in the majority of instances, the writers are still unable to appreciate the need for making these records a living history of the unit. In some instances not even the most brilliant of "Quiz Kids" could ever determine the type of unit from the nature of the information presented by the Unit History Sheet.

4. Officers responsible for the compilation of the Sheets are not asked to exercise their imagination to such an extent that veracity is forgotten. They are asked, however, to set out the history in such a manner that the work and daily life of the unit, the personal incidents that occur and the general atmosphere of the Unit can be pictured clearly by the historian, who later is called upon to draw his inspiration from the Unit History Sheets.

5. Remember also, that histories make heavy reading if not lightened here and there with a touch of humour. A reasonable degree of levity in the History Sheets, therefore, will not be frowned upon and will certainly relieve the monotonous repetition that appears to be the hall mark of so many officers entrusted with the preparation of the Forms A.50.

6. The attention of all unit personnel should be specially invited to the article "Can you write a History?", and personnel should be encouraged to bring to notice any incidents worthy of inclusion in the Unit History Sheet.

7. The history of the R.A.A.F. and the unit cannot be written if those who are making that history are unable to explain how and why they are doing the job.

B.K. Rushbrooke W/C

W/C Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

4 Rations.

A few parcels of fresh vegetables have been received but not enough to enable it to be called a regular service.

During the month arrangements were made whereby fresh meat was sent to 324 Radar by means of Army hot-boxes. When fresh vegetables are in issue there will also be sent to 324.

5 Sport.

During the last month various hunting & fishing parties were organised and all personnel have an opportunity of participating. * Excellent ~~sport~~ is had by all in these parties. ~~This is considered~~ This is considered excellent weapon training apart from the fact that both fish and turkey are a welcome change of diet.

* Fish, turkey and crocodiles abound and

Cricket matches have been played between Army and RAAF and tennis parties formed for tennis on sunday morning.

It is considered that the general ~~morale outlook~~ morale of personnel on this unit has been improved 100% by the addition of the above activities, and every effort will be made ~~to further same~~, continue same.

Unit History Sheet. Appendix " "

No 80 Operational Base Unit.

Commanding Officer's Report.

1 General

Work has progressed during the month of August correct storage of petrol drums being the main item which is now almost completed. The unit canteen was opened and good stocks of all canteen items are now available.

Arrangements

Headings.

3 ~~Progress of work generally.~~

~~Canteen~~

Meat to 324 Radar.

Bucket matches

Shooting & fishing parties.

Table tennis tournaments

~~Fresh vegetables~~

4 ~~Weapon training & detailing of crews etc.~~

1 ~~Morale good.~~

~~Visit of A.O.C.~~

~~Dull monotony.~~

Operations and Movements ——— Nil.

Unit Hist Sheet, No 80 Operational Base Unit. Appendix "A"

Commanding Officers Report. 31 Aug 44

1. Operations and Movements

NIL.

2. Work.

Work of a general nature has been carried out continuously, rearranging of fuel dumps, maintenance of bombs etc, maintenance of weapons and unit duties generally.

3. Weapon Training

All personnel have participated in weapon training, particularly the .50 Browning, of which two are now mounted for A/A defence and crews detailed to man same in the event of alarm. This training was made possible by the attachment of a fitter armourer for a period of one week.

3. Canteen

The Unit Canteen was opened on 3 August 1944 and good stocks of canteen goods are now available. This is a big improvement as, previously, the Army canteen was relied upon and supplies were sometimes difficult to obtain. Unit canteen opens twice daily — 1630 hrs and 1845 hrs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

Amount of Pay Required For Next Pay Day

NAME	Amount		
P/O. R. Odgers	~~4~~	~~—~~	~~—~~
Cpl. Norton, S.N.			
LAC. Colbert T.A.	3	—	— ?
LAC. Ross, N.K.	2	—	—
Sgt. Lowe, B.G.	3	—	—
Sgt. Edwards, B.G.S.	7	—	—
Cpl. Cheeseman		10	—
Cpl. Dymock, S.F.	3	10	—
LAC. Ramsay, A.D.	5	—	—
LAC. Pengel, J.K.	2	10	—
LAC. Pellew, W.R.			
LAC. Hickey, W.I.	1	10	—
LAC. Doney, T.	2	—	—
LAC. Head, B.R.	1	—	—
LAC. Binns, H.H.	10	—	—
LAC. Mather, R.W.	1	—	—
LAC. Hockey, C.	~~2~~	~~10~~	~~—~~
	6	10	—
	44	—	—
LAC Ordin	1	10	—
	54		
LAC Kelly	5	—	—

paid from P/cash.

8 — 9 — 10 — 6 — 4

45 — 10
5
50

Unit History Sheet Appendix " ".

No 80 Operational Base Unit.
Commanding Officers Report. 30 Sept 1944.

1. Operations and Movements.

NIL.

2. Work.

During the month of September efforts have been made to improve living conditions and, to this end an open-air mess has been built for Officers & Sergeants. Airmens mess is now under construction and all tents have been improved by the addition of a bush shelter adjoining. A garage has been built to give shade to motor vehicles and two prefabricated huts erected for use as stores. Work of removing obstruction from aerodrome continues and general drome maintenance carried out. Owing to the coming of the hot weather, every effort was made during Sept. to improve the condition of the unit with considerable success but, at the expense of training. It is considered however that this was to the advantage of unit personnel.

~~3. Weapon training & general training. Training~~
~~Apart from weapon cleaning and maintenance no training was~~

3. Training.

The usual hunting and fishing expeditions were held (weekly) the results though, being usually poor. Weapon cleaning and maintenance daily all weapons inspected at frequent intervals.

4. Canteen

This unit canteen continues to operate with success, difficulties were encountered however, in keeping drinks, chocolate etc. cool. An extra refrigerator was therefore demanded.

5. Rations

The standard of rations has considerably improved, fresh fruit, eggs and vegetables being received. The meals served are considered to be now as good as any in the area.

6. Sport.

The main sport continues to be the regular hunting & fishing parties. The weather is now rather too warm for ~~any but the mildest~~ most sports. However two cricket matches were played against Army teams. The RAAF winning one and losing one match.

(over)

Badminton and table tennis are also played three weekly during the evening. A table tennis tournament was held against Army resulting in a win for RAAF.

2. General

It is considered that the general state of the unit is good. The aim is to keep the members of the unit working and interested in matters other than home leave, and at the same time improving general conditions in the unit.

Discipline is excellent, no trouble of any kind being encountered which is considered a good indication of the state of morale.

All visiting officers expressed their satisfaction at the general smooth running and efficiency of this unit

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HEADQUARTERS - WESTERN AREA

Tel. B2451.

A.N.A. House,

Ref. 106/Air(16A) 55867 44 St. George's Terrace,

PERTH.....W.A.

RESTRICTED.

30th September, 1944.

80

TO ALL UNITS UNDER THE COMMAND
OF HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN AREA.

UNIT HISTORY SHEETS.

A considerable improvement has been noted over the past two months in the compilation of the Unit History Sheets.

2. It is evident that Commanding Officers are taking an active interest in the compilation of their History Sheets and this has resulted in producing a Form A.50 that is both interesting and informative and should be of great assistance to the official Historians at R.A.A.F. Headquarters.

3. When compiling the Unit History Sheet, the following points should be observed:-

(i) Where references are made to personnel, the number, initials and appointment should be shown.

(ii) When a visit is made to a Unit for a specific purpose, the reason (or reasons) should be stated and a summary of findings or action taken is to be given.

(iii) When a date is given the year is always to be included.

Earl Rushbrooke W/Cdr

for Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET APPENDIX "A"

No. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31st.OCTOBER1944.

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS. NIL.

2. WORK.

During the month, the Command of this Unit was changed from P/O.R. Odgers, to F/O. P.W. Hadley, and inaddition, the Equipment Assistant, 17499 Sjt. B.G. Lowe, was posted to 4 S.F.T.S. This movement entailed a a complete check of all Unit equipment and a Hand Over/Take Over check of the Unit, the necessary D.R's being raised to cover small discrepancies and surpluses discovered.

The living quarters of the Unit have been further enlarged and strengthened in view of the coming wet season,and with the erection of two additional prefabricated huts, one for an armoury, and one for equipment, it has been possible to safely store all equipment previously exposed to the weather.

Work of removing obstructions from the aerodrome continues and general drome maintenance has been carried out.

Approx. 600 empty fuel drums have been issued off to 75 O.B.U. Detach and transported by this Unit to the dispersal area in Derby.

Complete check and maintenance action has been carried out each week on Fuel and Bomb dumps, the discrepancies and irregularities found being very small.

Fuel dump Location Map and Fuel maintenance Log Book have now been completed and put into operation.

Additional concreted area has been laid down around the kitchen,to assist hygiene facilities and is of benefit in keeping down the dust in that area.

Unit personnel are engaged twice a week in unloading and loading Army Luggers for 324 Radar and 52 O.B.U. Detachment-fuel drums,equipment rations,canteen supplies and mail being the main cargo. This Unit also collects and loads fresh meat and butter ration from Army D.I.D. onto the luggers each return trip.

3. TRAINING.

Routine and maitenance work has occupied most of the working hours of Unit personnel during the month, but instruction has been given to all in loading,firing and maintenance of .50 Browning,rifle, and T.S.M.G

All weapons are maintained and inspected daily, weapon pits in good order and all fire fighting equipment tested and inspected regularly.

Syllabus of training for November will cover:- Fire Fighting and use of appliances, Machine Guns,and the practical use of Grenades and demolition explosives.

Shooting and fishing parties have been regularly conducted under the supervision of senior N.C.O's, and result in benefit by useful instructi in handling of weapons and fieldcraft.

4. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen is functioning satisfactorily, stocks kept in good condition. Refrigeration space is limited at present, but and additional refrigerator on supply from W/Area will assist in providing a greater quantity of cool drinks and goods.

5. RATIONS.

Rations received are of fair standard,but could be improved with additional issues of fresh fruit and vegetables. It is underst ood that issue of these items is governed by availability of transport aircraft. Supplies of fresh vegs. from the Unit garden have decreased considerabl due to the hot season. It has been possible to supplement rations with fresh fish on several occasions during the month.

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UNIT HISTORY SHEET APPENDIX "A"

NO.80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31st OCTOBER 1944

6. SPORT.

Owing to the heat and inability of Army personnel to raise a team no cricket or tennis matches have been played this month.
Tennis is played each week and table tennis and badminton three times a week at night. Fishing and shooting parties are regularly conducted.

7. GENERAL

The morale of the Unit is high, and discipline good, no action has been called for during the past month.
Work is carried out in a cheerful and satisfactory manner and personnel appear to be interested in maintaining the Unit reputation of neatness and efficiency.

.....Flying Officer
COMMANDING 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET APPENDIX "A"

No 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 30 NOVEMBER 1944.

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS NIL.

2. WORK.

During this month, personnel have been engaged mainly on routine work. Complete check and maintenance action has been carried out bi-weekly on Fuel and Bomb Dumps and the discrepancies and irregularities found were very small. In addition, the movement of bombs and components from this Unit and 75 O.B.U., Noonkanbah, entailed additional work of unloading and stacking in the dispersal area near this Unit. The Army Transport Coy are at all times concerned mainly with transport of the equipment.
1095 empty fuel drums were issued off to 75 O.B.U. Detachment this month, and transported by this Unit to the Fuel dispersal area in Derby. These drums are used to replace fractured drums and for decanting purposes in connection with the movement of fuel from Noonkanbah to Derby.

Refueling of aircraft has been promptly and efficiently attended to, and general drome maintenance carried out. The work of clearing obstructions from the Aerodrome continues and it is expected that this work will be completed during the coming month.

Improvements to the living quarters and Unit surroundings are continually being implemented and the condition of the Unit at present is regarded as satisfactory.

On several occasions during the month, Transport aircraft remained overnight, and the messing and accommodation arrangements proved quite adequate. Accommodation and meals have also been provided for a number of transient personnel during the month.

The loading and unloading of supply vessels for 324 Radar continues weekly and every endeavour is made to obviate any delay in the departure of these vessels. Fresh rations despatched by these means to 324 Radar have been arriving in good order.

3. TRAINING.

Routine and maintenance work has occupied most of the working hours of Unit personnel, but instruction has been given to all personnel in loading, firing, and maintenance of .30 Browning, Rifle, and T.S.M.G.

All weapons are maintained and inspected daily, weapon pits are in good order.

Fire fighting equipment recently received has been distributed on the Unit, Emergency Fire Tender and Fire Teams prepared, and training given in the use of equipment available. Two fire practices were held during the month with satisfactory results.

4. CANTEEN

The Unit Canteen is functioning satisfactorily, and stocks kept in good condition.

5. RATIONS

Rations received this month have been up to standard, a supply of fresh vegs.fruit and eggs were available for about 10 days and were an welcome addition to the ration. It is understood that a regular supply of fresh vegs. will be soon be implemented by air transport, this will raise the standard of meals considerably.

It has been possible to supplement rations with fresh fish on sever occasions during the month.

6. SPORT AND RECREATION.

Organised sport has lapsed considerably due to the unfavorable weat and the inability of Army personnel to raise any teams. Tennis is played regularly by Unit personnel, but the main items of recreation are table

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

UNIT HISTORY SHEET — APPENDIX "A"

No 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 30 NOVEMBER 1944

7. GENERAL

The morale of the Unit is high and discipline satisfactory, no acti has been necessary during the past month.

Health of the personnel is considered as satisfactory, although some personnel are undergoing certain inconvenience through insect bites and prickly heat. No cases of sickness resulting from neglect of Unit hygiene have occurred.

The work of the Unit throughout the month has been generally satisfactory.

P.W. Bradley .....Flying Officer
Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A"

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

NO 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 DECEMBER 1944.

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS. NIL.

2. WORK.

Regular inspection of fuel and bomb dumps has been carried out, and the discrepancies and irregularities found during the month have been small. Variations of temperature due to rainstorms, caused more leakages in fuel drums than in former months, but prompt maintenance action resulted in small losses only.

Fire breaks around fuel and bomb dumps have all been renewed, and are now considered to be satisfactory.

Refueling of aircraft has been promptly and efficiently carried out, and all refueling equipment is regularly inspected, properly housed and in good order.

Obstructions around the aerodrome have now been removed, and general maintenance carried out.

Unit facilities have been increased with the erection by Unit Personnel of a new Mess and Recreation hut, and additional concreted area has been laid down around the kitchen surroundings.

During the month, 324 RADAR UNIT were accommodated at this Unit as a Lodger Unit pending their movement to a new location. Messing and accommodation facilities provided proved quite adequate and satisfactory.

Personnel assisted in the unloading and transport of all equipment, from Derby jetty to the Unit. All surplus equipment such as barracks stores, messing, work material and welfare articles were handed over to this Unit.

Items such as refrigerators, oil burning stoves and prefabricated huts are proving beneficial to the efficient functioning of this Unit.

The Zone Accounting Officer paid a routine visit to the Unit, and a complete check of all accounting and equipment matters was carried out.

Irregularities discovered were of small account, and the Unit position in regard to such matters is considered to be satisfactory.

3. TRAINING.

During the month, instruction has been given in the maintenance, handling and firing of .50 Browning, .303 Vickers, Bren and rifle, to all personnel. The standard of rifle shooting is average, whilst most personnel appear to have a working knowledge of the automatic weapons. Lectures and demonstrations were also given of grenades and the use of demolition explosives and booby traps.

All weapons are maintained and inspected daily, and are in good order.

4. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen is functioning satisfactorily, and stocks kept in good condition. The receipt during the month of one refrigerator from R.A.A.F. Canteen Services has greatly assisted in maintaining a supply of cool drinks. The Army Services Canteen has now left this Area, and this Unit's Canteen is supplying the remaining Army Personnel with requirements.

Quantity and variety of stock held is considered to be adequate for the demands made.

5. RATIONS.

Rations received during the month are of a fair standard, supply of fresh vegetables and fruit has been irregular. Christmas rations were supplemented by a gift of ham from R.A.A.F. WOMENS VOLUNTARY CANTEEN, Western Area, and an adequate supply of wild turkey procured by personnel.

6. SPORT AND RECREATION.

Organised sport was increased this month with the advent of 324 Radar Unit. Cricket, tennis and badminton was played on several occasions.

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NO 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 DECEMBER 1944.

6. SPORT AND RECREATION. (Cont.)

Normally, lack of opposition is against the arranging of competitive sport, but tennis, cricket, badminton and table tennis are regularly played on the Unit. Sporting material as supplied by Welfare is ample for Unit requirements. Fishing and shooting parties have been regularly conducted, and are a popular form of recreation.

7. GENERAL.

The strength of the Unit has been increased with the attachment of 7 Marine section personnel comprising the crews of refueling barge 05-6, and Supply Vessel 015-52., formerly on the strength of 324 Radar Unit.

Supply Vessel 015-52 was employed in transporting 324 Radar Unit personnel and equipment from Cockatoo Island to Derby, and the intention at present is to use this vessel to transport aviation fuel remaining on Cockatoo Island to Derby. This vessel is in need of further repair and overhaul before it could be considered in a sound and seaworthy condition for these waters and seasonal conditions. Transport of octane fuel is considered to be a rather risky matter in this vessel, as it is driven by a petrol engine, and there is always a definite fire risk in consequence.

These matters have been referred to Western Area for decision and this Unit is awaiting advice regarding the movements and disposal of Section.

The work of the Unit has been varied and strenuous during the month, but has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

The morale of the Unit is good and the discipline satisfactory, no action has been necessary during the month.

Health of personnel is considered to be satisfactory, treatment given during the month is occasioned by infection from insect bites and abrasive sores caused by the hot and humid weather conditions. Strict attention to Unit hygiene has resulted in no cases of sickness occuring from that source

R.O. Hadley
.....Flying Officer
COMMANDING 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

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UNIT HISTORY SHEET APPENDIX "A"

NO 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 JANUARY 1945.

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS NIL.

The work of the Unit throughout the month has been mainly routine maintenance of equipment, regular inspections of fuel and bomb dumps have been carried out, and the discrepancies and irregularities found have been small. All refueling equipment is regularly inspected, properly housed, an in good order.

In accordance with instructions given by the Area Armament Officer during his inspection, all bombs, depth charges and components have been restacked and items of maintenance carried out. The absence of a qualified or experienced "J" Group airman on this Unit has led to several directions regarding Depth Charge and Bomb pistols being overlooked. This matter has been discussed with visiting Staff Officers, and arrangements will be made for a maintenance party from Western Area tocarry out a complete check and maintenance of all Depth Charge and Bombs on this Unit.

Fire breaks around the Detonator and Bomb Shelters have been renewed and in view of the present wet conditions, the position is considered to be satisfactory.

The number of aircraft refueled during the month has fallen consider butall refueling carried out has been promptly and efficiently attended to

The Marine Section attached to this Unit have regularly attended to the maintenance of the marine craft, but the equipment and facilities avail able are sufficient for small work only.

Unit facilities have been maintained during the month, and increased with the installation of an oil burning stove and the erection of a pre-fabricated hut for medical purposes. All prefabricated huts on the Unit have been painted, thus improving the appearance and preserving the fabric.

All equipment on the Unit is regularly inspected, properly housed an in good order.

2. TRAINING.

During the month instruction has been given in the maintenance, handli and firing of .50 Browning, .303 Bren and Rifle, .450 T.S.M.G. and throwing H.E.36 Grenades.

Two rifle shooting competitions were held, and the standard of shoot- ing resulting has shown an increase on that of previous months.

Lectures were also given on the following subjects:- Japanese Tactics and methods in War, Booby Traps and Demolition Explosives, First Aid and Tropical Hygiene.

All weapons are maintained daily and are in good order.

Fire Teams as detailed were given instruction in methods of fire fighting and practice in use of equipment available. All fire equipment distributed araund the Unit is inspected regularly.

3. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily and stocks are kept in good condition. The status of the canteen has been changed from "C class to "B" class and is now based on Broome for supplies. This practice will be satisfactory, provided it is always possible to obtain transport to maintain supplies. The stocks at present held are sufficient in quantit and variety to ~~xx~~ meet the demands made.

4. RATIONS.

Rations received during the month were more varied than formerly, eggs bacon, fresh fruit and vegetables were in better supply. An increase in quantity of tea, coffee, sugar, milk and lemon juice has been effected, and this has assisted in providing the morning and afternoon tea, considered essential for personnel in this climate, without straining our supplies.

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NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 JANUARY 1945.

5. SPORT AND RECREATION.

Under the supervision of the Welfare Committee, organised sport has increased this month. Tennis is played on Stand Down days, Badminton played each Wednesday night in Derby Hall, and on Monday nights a Unit Games Night is held at which table tennis, darts, quoits, euchre and 500 tournements are held. Rifle shooting competitions have also been held during the month and attracted considerable interest amongst personnel.

Fishing and shooting parties arev regularly conducted, and are a popular form of recreation.

Sporting material as supplied by Welfare is ample for Unit requirements and such items as footballs, medicene balls, quoits and darts are in demand each evening.

Libraries provided by R.A.A.F. Educational Service and R.A.A.F. Welfare are popular on the Unit, and in addition a quantity of papers and magazines are provided by Welfare. The reading room on the Unit is well lighted and provided with adequate easy chairs.

6. GENERAL

The work of the Unit during the month has been varied, and in addition has been carried out under adverse weather conditions. Heavy rain has fallen on a number of days, and the humidity has been constant high. Performance of the work has been satisfactory, and the condition of the Unit Buildings and surroundings appears clean and well kept.

Morale of the Unit is good and discipline satisfactory, no action has been necessary during the month.

Health of personnel is generally satisfactory, minor complaints treated by the M.O. are due to the climatic conditions experienced. Sweat sores and infected insect bites are often in evidence but respond to treatment. Unit hygiene is under constant supervision and up to date no cases of sickness have resulted from this source.

.....Flying Officer
COMMANDING 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET. APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 28 FEBRUARY 1945.

1.OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS. NIL.

2.WORK.

The work of the Unit throughout the month this month has been heavy and besides the routine maintenance of fuel and equipment, has entailed th movement of bombs and aviation fuel from the dispersal area to the shippin sheds in DERBY.

BOMBS. Instructions from Western Area, requested shipment by CHUNGK of 186 tons of bombs and components held at DERBY ex 75 O.B.U. to PERTH.

This was carried out in part as shipping space available could not take the lot. 40 tons of bombs and all components were shipped.

AVIATION FUEL. 7299 drums of 100 octane ex 75 O.B.U. were handled by Unit personnel in 64 working hours from 23 Feb-27 Feb, and shipped per S.S.EDNA to DARWIN. The movement was organised,efficient and proceeded according to the time schedule laid down.

During the month, regular inspections of fuel and bomb dumps have be carried out, discrepancies and irregularities found were small. The Area Fuel Officer inspected all refueling equipment held on the Unit, tested fu held, inspected fuel dumps and apart from the growth of grass around the dumps was satisfied with his inspection. Fire risk at this date is negligi but it is pointed out that attantion will be given to fire breaks around all dumps during March.

The number of aircraft refueled during the month has been small,most civil aircraft,but all refueling done has been carried out efficiently and promptly.

The Marine section attached to this Unit have carried out regular maintenance of vessels,to the extent which local facilities permit.

Shipment of the fuel barge 05-6 to 79 O.B.U. was attempted on the CHUNGKING, but it proved too heavy for the ship's tackle to lift and will have to be shipped per M.V.KOOLINDA during March.

No additions to Unit facilities has been made this month,general maintenance has been carried out, and the condition of the Unit is conside to be satisfactory.

All equipment on the Unit has been regularly inspected,is properly housed and in good order.

3. TRAINING.

During the month the .50 Brownings were dismounted and packed,in readiness for shipment to a more operational area.

Practice was given to all personnel in rifle,T.S.M.G. and Vickers .3 as well as practical instruction in stripping,stoppages and maintenance.

All weapons are maintained daily and are in good order.

Fire teams as detailed were given instruction in methods of fire fighting and practice in the use of equipment available. All fire equipment distributed around the Unit is inspected regularly.

4.CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. Difficulty has been experienced in the transport of supplies from BROOME but no actual shortage was experienced. The months trading shows a deficiency of £24-2-5 and all efforts on the part of the Canteen Staff have failed to locate this shortage. No dishonesty of Staff is suspected, and the opinion is held that the transactions with BROOME Canteen will probably show the cause of the discrepancy. A full report has been submitted to Western Region Canteen, in accordance with A.B.O."A" 323/

5.RATIONS.

The rations received during the month were of the reguler issue. The only fresh vegetables received have been potatoes and onions. The absence o even an occasional supply of green vegetables and a regular supply of fruit

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5.RATIONS (Cont.)

was pointed outnto the Area Messing Officer. Transport difficulties appea to be the problem,but the incidence of DERBY civilians receiving each week a supply of fresh vegetables and fruit by R.A.A.F. C47 aircraft, whilst none appears for service personnel is hard to explain satisfactorily.

The supply of Vitamin "C" tablets appears to be the solution for offsetting this hurdle of transport,and will overcome the present deficien in our diet and assist in keeping the health of personnel at a higher stat than it is at present.

6.SPORT,RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Sport has not been very prominent this month, due to the inclement weather and the amount of work which had to be carried out.

Badminton was played on three nights, tennis played each Stand Down D and two Games nights were held on the Unit during this Month.

Shooting and fishing parties went out on several occasions but the on "bag" of note was a 300 lb cod-fish-caught by the Marine section off DERBY jetty. This proved a most welcome addition to our rations.

Sporting material supplied by Welfare is ample for Unit requirements, and such items as footballs,medicine balls,quoits,darts and table tennis are in use each evening.

Libraries provided by RAAF.Educational Service, RAAF Welfare, continu to be popularon the Unit,theselibraries alongwith the variety of papers and pictorial magazines supplied by RAAF Welfare, provide an ample supply of interesting reading. It was pointed out to the Zone Education Officer, that most of the personnel on this Unit were satisfied to relax during Sta Down hours,with light and varied reading,in preference to adopting a particuler course of study. This is probably due to climatic conditions an the nature of work engaged in during the day. The standard of education generally is low,and few of the personnel concerned would benefit or progr if started in a course,without first having a revision of elementary education,plus personal instruction from time to time. The Zone Education Officer was requested to periodically visit this Unit and conduct general m topic and educational talks to personnel.

7.GENERAL.

The work of the Unit has been heavy and has been carried out under adverse weather conditions,considerable rain has fallen and generally the humidity is high and uncomfortable. Performance of the work of loading Bombs and Aviation Fuel wasexcellently done, and reflects credit on the N.C.O's who supervised the work.

To assist with the maintenance,preparation for shipment and the loadi of fuel ex 75 O.B.U. held in DERBY, a party of 14 airmen were attached fro 77 O.B.U.to this Unit. These airmen arrived at 80 O.B.U. without mosquito nets or adequate working dress, evidently little thought had been given to their needs before despatching them from PERTH. Most of the personnel only brought shoes with them,and not boots working,which are essential for the heavy work they were detailed for. It has been nesessary for this Unit to issue several personnel with boots,and also exchange worn out articles of clothing. It is pointed out that only Unit requirements of "L" group are carried here, and in view of the transport difficulty of getting supplies here,it is considered that these personnel should have passed through 5 P. and beenproperly equipped before despatch to this Unit.

The Morale of Unit personnel is good and discipline satisfactory, no action has been necessary during the month.

Considering the season and the difficult weather conditions experienc the health of personnel is generally satisfactory~~ix~~ Sweat sores,Acne,infec ears and insect bites are prevelant but are responding to treatment. Prick

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 28 FEBRUARY 1945.

PAGE 3.

7. GENERAL (Cont)

Heat is very much in evidence amongst personnel. Three personnel were evacuated to No.4 M.R.S. BROOME during the month, and one was admitted to DERBY Hospital for treatment, viz:-

38298	LAC.GIBSON J.W.	(Clerk)	Dyspepsia
46930	LAC.ROBINSON J	(Gen.HAND)	Bronchitus
80224	Cpl.McCUSKER J.	(Equip.Assist.)	For appointment with eye Specialist.
83884	Cpl.MATHER R.W.	(Clerk)	Abscess on knee.

F/L. Fleming M.O No.4 M.R.S. BROOME, visited the Unit and carried out inoculations and vaccinations of personnel. None of the vaccinations appear to have taken as there have been no after effects.

Unit hygiene was also inspected by the Zone Hygiene Officer, and found to be of a high standard. Particular attention is paid to this aspect, and no illness has resulted to date, from any lapse of hygiene.

.....FLYING OFFICER
COMMANDING 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET. APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 MARCH 1945.

Page 2

5. RATIONS

These showed an improvement of the previous month, with the weekly receipt of 46 lb of fresh vegs. and fruit from PERTH, and supplied a needed improvement variety. Butter and eggs have been in very short supply but it is understood that transport arrangements have been made for despatch of such perishables from BROOME each week. Owing to the lack of bulk refrigeration at this Unit, small supplies of perishables at regular intervals are the most desirable.

6. SPORT, RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The main sporting activities this month have been tennis, shooting fishing, and volley ball. Personnel play table tennis, darts, quoits each evening, and shooting parties are regularly out after the elusive turkey.

Fishing parties have not been very satisfactory, all the big ones seem to get away.

Sporting material provided by Welfare is ample for Unit requirements and is well used by personnel. Amenities will be further increased this month with the receipt of a billiard table.

The reading room is well stocked with current papers and pictorial magazines, the libraries provided by RAAF Educational and Welfare Service provide varied reading for all personnel. The Zone Education Officer visited the Unit during the month and held a "Quiz" session and a general topic discussion on current affairs. This was an interesting evening for all who attended.

Cinema Shows have again been resumed in DERBY, and have been well patronised by RAAF personnel.

7. GENERAL.

The work of the Unit this month has been strenuous, and the hours irregular at times, but tasks have been performed satisfactorily.

Weather conditions throughout the month have been adverse, heavy rain fell in the early part, and generally the temperature and humidity have been high.

The morale of the Unit is good, and discipline satisfactory, the only action taken during the month was a charge laid against 29402 Cpl. Campbell H. Fitter M.B., under A.F.A. Sec 9(2). Summary of Evidence was taken and an application made for a Courts Martial to hear the case.

The health of personnel continues to be satisfactory, most cases treated are for seasonal complaints and minor injuries caused during routine work. All complaints have responded to treatment except prickly heat which is very much in evidence amongst personnel.

The Commanding Officer of No. 4 M.R.S. visited the Unit and conducted an examination of personnel. Only one airman was found to be Class 2, unfit for tropical service.

Five personnel were admitted to hospital during the month but only two cases were more than temporary, these were:- 16095 Sgt. MARSH W.J. Medical Orderly, probably P.M.U., and 126341 A/Cpl. McKENZIE K.A. Teleg. appendicectomy.

Unit hygiene has been kept at a high standard, and was commended after inspection was made by the visiting Medical Officer.

31/3/45. .....F/O.

COMMANDING 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SECRET

APPENDIX "A"

NO.80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 MARCH 1945.

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS. NIL.

2. WORK

This month the work of the Unit has mainly been connected with the maintenanceand shipment of aviation fuel, and the maintenance of bombs ei

Instructions were received from Western Area H.Qrs. to test all drums of fuel for serviceability, and this was carried out. 5960 drums of 100 Octane were tested and 667 were found to be unserviceable. Out of the tota number of drums held on this Unit and in the dispersal area ex 75 O.B.U., all unserviceable fuel plus 2876 drums of serviceable fuel were shipped to DARWIN per S.S.EDNA,and 750 drums serviceable fuel shipped to 79 O.B.U. per M.V.KOOLINDA. This entailed heavy work on the personnel concerned, but the tasks were performed in a satisfactory manner and without any delay.

All bombs,depth charges and explosive stores have been inspected this month, and maintenance carried out in accordance with the instructions given by the Area Armament Officer

The refueling equipment held on the Unit is tested each week, and is in a satisfactory condition, necessary demands for replacement of wornout stores have been made to keep this equipment serviceable.

Regular maintenance action and inspection of fuel stocks has been carried out in accordance with instructions laid down. The discrepancies resulting from leakage and evaporation this month are much higher than normally, but thisn is due to the climatic conditions, and also to the individual check on drums increasing the lossmthrough evaporation.

Withbthe passing of the "Wet" season and consequent drying off of the grass, the fire risk has been recognised, and attention has been given to constructing fire breaks around both petrol and bomb dumps. All fire fight ing equipment is in good order, and held in readiness.

The two Marine craft held by this Unit have been disposed of, the Fue Barge 05-6 was shipped per M.V.KOOLINDA to BROOME, and the lugger 015-52 was issued off to the Naval Officer In Charge,BROOME. This lugger is still considered to be unserviceable and is being left at the present moorings i DERBY.

The equipment on the Unit is in good order, and attention is given to proper storage and maintenance. Owing to the absence of the Equipment Assi ant on sick leave, the Equipment records have not been attended to, this matter was brought to the attention of Western Area, and a relief posting will arrive early in April.

No additions to Unit facilities have been made during the month, gene maintenance has been carried out and the condition of the Unit is considere to be satisfactory.

TRAINING.

During this month, instruction was given to all personnel in the care, maintenance,and mechanism of automatic weapons, and firing practice with the rifle,Bren and TSMG was carried out. Lectures on fire fighting and the methods of dealing with grass fires were given. Personnel after instruction have been burning breaks around the Unit and also arounf all petrol and bomb dumps. All fire equipment distributed around the Unit is inspected regularl and all weapons maintained daily.

CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. Difficulty has been experienced in transporting goods from BROOME, but with the passing of the wet season, road transport will be easier and supplies more regular. Stocks held have been sufficient for the demands made.

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5. RATIONS.

The rations supplied during the month have been up to standard, and have been supplemented each week by receipt from PERTH of approx 50 lbs of fresh green vegs. The addition of these fresh vegetables is greatly appreciated, and considerably improve the variety of meals supplied. It has been possible to supplement the meat ration during the month by supplies of "turkey" which are plentiful around the Unit.

6. SPORT, RECREATION, AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The main sporting activities during the month have been tennis, shooting, fishing, and badminton. Personnel play table tennis, darts, quoits each evening. Fishing parties have been popular each week end, with varying results, some personnel are considered to be lucky and rarely return to the Unit without a nice "haul", others are energetic but apparently have the wrong "bait".

The equipment provided by Welfare is adequate for requirements. and is well used by personnel.

The reading room is well stocked with current papers and pictorials and the libraries provided by RAAF Educational Services and RAAF Welfare provide sufficient reading for for all personnel.

Cinema shows, and weekly dance in DERBY, provide personnel with entertainment off the Unit.

7. GENERAL

The work of the Unit during the month has not been very strenuous but all tasks have been satisfactorily performed. Weather conditions have improved considerably with the advent of the "dry season" and beneficial effects on the health and capacity for work of most personnel have been noticed. The general health of personnel is quite satisfactory and few cases were trested during the month, most of these being for minor complaints which responded to the treatment given. The cooler nights have assisted personnel, and a decrease in prickly heat has been noticed. No personnel were admitted to hospital during the month.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained and no cases of illness have occurred through neglect of this matter.

The morale of the Unit is good and disciplinary action has not been called for during the month.

The A.O.C. Western Area, visited the Unit, accompanied by Air Board Finance Member, Mr. R.H. Nesbitt and party. After an inspection of the Unit facilities and equipment, the comment was passed that a considerable improvement in the Unit had taken place since their previous visit last August 1944.

R.O. Hadley

.....F/O.

Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SECRET

APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 30 APRIL 1945

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS NIL.

2. WORK

The work of the Unit during this month has mainly been concerned with the maintenance of fuel, equipment, bombs, and the refueling of aircraft.

After the shipments of fuel made during the last month, it was nece to re-arrange the existing fuel dumps and also construct adequate fire breaks. The "dry season" having commenced, the presence of high, dry gra throughout the Unit constituted a potential menace and a number of days were spent burning off grass throughout the whole area. The position is now considered to be quite satisfactory.

All bombs, depth charges and explosive stores were inspected and the maintenance action required by the Area Armament Officer was carried ou

The refueling equipment on the Unit was tested each week and is in satisfactory condition. Refueling of aircraft has been promptly and efficiently attended to, most of the aircraft refueled have been those the civil service.

Regular maintenance action and daily inspection of fuel stocks has been carried out in accordance with the instructions laid down. The discrepancies resulting from leakage and evaporation have been small, being less than 1% of total stocks held on the Unit.

The Unit equipment was inspected by the S.E.S.O. Western Area, and the comment passed was satisfactory. Directions were given to reduce th quantity of barracks and messing stores held, as it is considered that the need for such reserve equipment will not arise in the future.

All equipment held is properly stored, regularly inspected and maintained in good order. A relief posting of an equipment assistant wa effected during the month, and Unit records are how in good order.

Unit transport was inspected during the month by the Area Transport Officer, and the condition of maintenance of these vehicles was the subject of favorable comment. It was poigted out that the transport hel at this Unit was in excess of requirements, and arrangements are to be made for a reduction within the near future.

No additions to Unit facilities has been made during the month, gene maintenance has been effected, and the condition of the Unit is conside to be satisfactory.

3. Training.

Instruction was given to all personnel in handling, stripping and firing, rifle, Bren, and TSMG. Practice was also given in throwing live grenades. Methods of fire fighting were demonstrated, and personnel were engaged in creating fire-breaks around the Unit. The use of fire extinguishers was demonstrated and instruction in re-filling extinguishers wa given. All fire fighting equipment distributed around the Unit is inspe regularly, and all weapons held are maintained daily.

4. CANTEEN

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. Stocks are replenished from "A" Class canteen, BROOME and have been sufficient for our requirements.

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6.(CONT.)

supplied by Welfare and with the Educational and Welfare Libraries, provide sufficient reading for all personnel. The Unit Wireless and gramaphone prove a popular source of entertainment, and the variety of records held is added to from time to time with new additions from Welfare.

Cinema shows and weekly dance in DERBY, provide personnel with some entertainment off the Unit.

7. GENERAL.

The work of the Unit during the month has not been strenuous, but the routine and tasks allotted to personnel have been satisfactorily performed. Weather conditions are quite good at present, and assist in personnel in the performance of duties.

The health of personnel is considered to be satisfactory, and few cases were treated during the month, most of these were minor ailments and have responded to treatment. No personnel were admitted to hospital during the month.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained, particular attention being given to prevent the breeding of flies around the area. No cases of illness have resulted through neglect of Unit hygiene.

The morale of the Unit is good, and discipline satisfactory, no action has been called for during the month.

G W Hadley
.....F/O.
Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

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SECRET APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICERS REPORT 31 MAY 1945.

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS. NIL.

2. WORK.

The work of the Unit throughout this month has been concerned with the maintenance of fuel stocks, bombs, equipment, and the refueling of aircraft.

Regular maintenance action and daily inspection of fuel stocks has been carried out in accordance with instructions laid down, with the result that discrepancies resulting from leakage and evaporation are small, being less than 1% of total stocks held on the Unit.

The refuelling equipment on the unit was tested each week and is in a satisfactory condition. Refuelling of aircraft has been promptly attended to, most of the aircraft refuelled being those of civil airlines.

All bombs, depth charges and explosive stores have been inspected and the required maintenance action carried out.

All equipment held is properly stored, regularly inspected and maintained in good order.

Unit transport has decreased this month with the transfer of one auxillary refueller to No. 2 M.T.M.P. BROOME. This Unit is quite satisfactorily equipped with refuelling gear.

Additions to Unit facilities this month comprise additional concrete area around the showers and ablution benches, and the erection of a pre-fabricated hut for messing purposes.

3. TRAINING.

Instruction was given this month to all personnel, in handling, stripping and firing the rifle, bren gun, and T.S.M.G. Practice was also given in throwing live grenades. Fire teams were given instruction in the use of extinguishers and methods of refilling after use. All fire fighting equipment distributed around the Unit is inspected regularly, and all weapons are maintained daily.

4. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies from "A" Class Canteen at Broome and a sufficient variety of goods are available for the demands made.

5. RATIONS.

The rations supplied this month have been of better variety than during the previous months. Butter, eggs, bacon, and fresh vegetables have been supplied, and the quality has been good. The health of personnel has benefitted with the addition of green vegs. to the rations supplied.

6. SPORT, RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

With the advent of the cooler weather, interest in sport has revived and cricket and tennis has been played during the days, whilst table tennis badminton are played each night. Fishing and shooting parties remain popular on Stand Down days, and add considerably to the weekly menu. A billiard table has been received from Welfare and will add interest to the indoor games already available.

The reading room is well stocked with current papers and pictorial

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NO. 30 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT- 30 JUNE 1945.

4. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies from "A" Class Canteen at Broome, and a sufficient variety of goods are available for the demands made.

An inspection of the Canteen and check of stocks and accounting was made by the Canteen Officer, Western Region PERTH. No irregularities were discovered and the comment passed was quite satisfactory.

5. RATIONS

The rations supplied this month continue to show the improvement reported last month. Butter, eggs, bacon, fresh fruit and vegs. have been in small but regular supply, and the quality was good.

A visit was paid to the Unit by the O.C. Army Supply Depot at BROOME, and the matter of rationing and supply was fully discussed with the Commanding Officer. The co-operation and efforts of the Army to effect improvements in the food supply is appreciated, and the results have been satisfactory. A weekly supply of fresh fish from BROOME has been commenced and this is appreciated by all personnel.

6. SPORT, RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Interest in sport this month has been keen, cricket practice and matches have been played each week-end, whilst football is indulged in after stand-down each day. Table Tennis, badminton, darts, quoits remain a popular form of entertainment. Considerable interest has been aroused with the installation of a small billiard table, donated by Welfare and the equipment is proving to be very popular. Tournaments in table tennis and billiards have been held and also several Euchre card nights.

Fishing and shooting retain the interest of some personnel every Stand Down day, and despite several unproductive outings the keenness remains.

The reading room has a quantity of current newspapers and pictorial magazines supplied by Welfare, whilst the circulating box libraries supplied by Education and Welfare provide a wide and varied selection for readers. Current items of interest and educational matter are displayed on the Unit Wall Newspaper.

A new wireless set was received this month from Welfare and has been favorably commented on for its tone and clarity-a vast improvement on the sets previously held here. In conjunction with this set, the Unit gramaphone and pick-up prove to be veryb popular, the Unit has about 100 records and these are added to from time to time by Welfare and retain the interest of most personnel. The Educational Box of recorded music has been applied for and on arrival will provide added variety to the records already held.

Cinema shows and a weekly dance in DERBY provide personnel with some entertainment off the Unit.

7. GENERAL.

The work of the Unit during the month has been at times rather exacting, but has been carried out in a cheerful and satisfactory manner. The weather conditions now experienced are quite congenial, and no doubt this is a contributory factor in assisting in the efficiency of personnel in their tasks.

The health of personnel continues to be satisfactory. A visit was paid this month by the Medical Officer from No. 4 M.R.S. BROOME, who carried out inoculations and medical inspections of various personnel.

Most of the complaints are minor and do respond to treatment, but the treatment desired at present is mostly dental and in response to application a visit by a mobile dental [illegible] near fut[illegible]

SECRET APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 30 JUNE 1945.

1. OPERATIONS AND MOVEMENTS. NIL.

2. WORK.

During this month the routine and tasks performed have been concerne mainly with the maintenance of fuel stocks, bombs, equipment, and the refueling of aircraft.

Daily inspections of fuel have been carried out and required maintenance action taken, the discrepancies discovered due to leakage and evaporation were small and represent far less than 1% of total stocks.

1000 drums of 100 Octane were tested and prepared for shipment to 79 O.B.U. BROOME, and altho the fuel was dated February 1944, only 44 drums were found to be unserviceable.

During the month a quantity of unserviceable fuel was transported fr 75 O.B.U. NOONKANBAH to this Unit, and will be held and maintained here pending arrangements for shipment to Freemantle for re-conditioning.

All refueling equipment on the Unit has been tested and used during the month and is in a serviceable condition. The number of aircraft refuelled during the month showed an increase over past months, this was due to the increased service provided by Civilian Aviation in this area.

The refueling of aircraft was promptly and efficiently attended to.

All bombs and explosive stores held on the unit were inspected and maintained during the month, and in addition all pistols Nos 28 & 30 wer extracted from bombs and forwarded to No. 6 Central Reserve for modifica ion. The storage facilities and condition of bombs and components is considered to be satisfactory.

Maintenance action and repairs to Unit buildings and surroundings were carried out, and improvements to the kitchen, Airmen's Mess, Signals Office and equipment buildings were effected. Attention was given to fly proofing latrines and kitchen and improvements to Unit hygiene were also carried out.

Considerable maintenance work was carried out on Unit Transport vehicles, painting of iron work and repairs to wood work on the bodies was done, and an entire new body was built on one G.S. truck with materi and labour available on the Unit. The condition of the transport is considered to be satisfactory and reflects the benefit of constant maintenance action.

The equipment held is properly stored, regularly inspected and maintained in good order. Stocks considered to be in excess of Unit need were shipped to NO. 4 C.R.D. and to the appropriate Stores Depot, salvag action has been taken where necessary and the quantity of stores now hel is considered to be adequate for present requirements. During the month the Unit was inspected by Western Area Independent Stocktakers, the repor on the condition of Unit equipment and accounts proved to be favorable. The surpluses and deficiencies resulting from the check were of small account and called for little comment.

3. TRAINING.

Instruction was given to all personnel in the handling of all small arms, and firing practice with rifle, Bren and TSMG was carried out.

The Unit Fire teams were given practical instruction with the types of extinguishers held, and methods of using the available equipment.

All fire equipment distributed around the Unit and held in readiness for the Emergency Fire Tender is regularly inspected, and all weapons held on the Unit are maintained daily.

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SECRET.

APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICERS REPORT - 30 JUNE 1945

7. GENERAL. (Cont)

There were no admissions to hospital during the month, only one personnel was evacuated for observation to No. 4 M.R.S but was returned to the Unit with a satisfactory report.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained during the month, particular attention has been paid to this aspect during the present dry season with the attendent increase of flies. No cases of illness have resulted through neglect of the Unit hygiene. Two inspections were made this month by visiting hygiene Officers, and the comment passed each time was quite satisfactory.

The morale of the Unit is quite good, and the discipline satisfactory as no action was called for during the month.

.....FLYING OFFICER

Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

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NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 JULY 1945.

4. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. No difficulty has been experienced during the month in obtaining supplies from "A" Class Canteen at BROOME, and a sufficient variety of goods are available for the demands made.

5. RATIONS

The rations supplied during the month showed a decrease in fresh vegetables, it is understood that this factor was governed by shortage of supplies from PERTH. and transport difficulties. However items such as butter, bacon, fresh fruit and potatoes have been in small but regular supply and have assisted in providing variety to the menu. The supply of tinned commodities is varied as far as possible by Army Supply Depot whilst our supplies of fresh meat and bread continue to be satisfactory.

6. SPORT,RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Interest in sport has been maintained during this month, cricket matches were played on two occasions,whilst football practice is held each evening. Indoor games such as billiards, table tennis and darts, remain very popular, and competitions in such games provides keen interest for all personnel. A "bumper board " or ladder is maintained for these games and caters for the individual challenges. Several Euchre tournements were held in the month, and keen interest was shown by the players. Shooting and fishing remain very popular, and each stand down day parties go out to try their skill. The presence of crocodiles in the river adds variety forthe fishing personnel, and some good specimens have been shot.

Current newspapers and pictorial magazines provided by Welfare are well read by personnel,whilst the circulating libraries of Education and Welfare provides some good selective reading. Current items of interest and educational matter are displayed on the Unit Wall Newspaper and changed regularly.

Only one airman is at present enrolled for a correspondence course, and it would appear that the climate and conditions generally are not attractive for studying.

Avisit to the Unit was made this month by a representative of Area Welfare,and directions were given in regard to disposing of u/s welfare equipment, and what items are available for demanding. Unit requirements have been well catered for by Area Welfare .

Distribution was made to personnel of the A.C.F Mid-year Hamper, and also a parcel of comforts issued by RAAF WELFARE,the many useful items contained in these parcels are greatly appreciated by all personnel.

Pictures and a weekly dance in DERBY provides personnel with some entertainment off the Unit.

7. GENERAL.

The various tasks carried out during this month have been strenuous and at times personnel were on duty for periods of 24 to 36 hours continuously. This factor was occasioned by shippings of fuel etc, and times of loading. Despite the factor of long hours, all the work was efficiently and satisfactorily performed.

The health of the personnel continues to be satisfactory, and only eleven airmen attended sick parades during the month.

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NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 July 1945.

7. GENERAL (Cont)

personnel at present on the Unit have arrived here since the "Wet" season and climatic conditions during the last months have been very good, a high standard of medical firness is only to be expected. Complaints treated were of a minor nature and responded to the treatment given. Only two personnel were evacuated to M.R.S. for medical treatment, one of whom has since returned to duty.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained during the month, and is considered to be satisfactory.

The morale of the Unit is quite good, and the discipline satisfactory, as no action was called for during the month.

P. Hadley
.....F/O.
Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

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UNIT HISTORY SHEET APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 JULY 1945.

PAGE 1

1. OPERATIONS. NIL.

2. WORK.

In addition to the normal routine of fuel maintenance and inspection refuelling of aircraft , and domestic duties, Unit personnel,along with Army Transport Drivers carried out the following tasks.

1000 drums of 100 Octane prepared last month for shipment to 79 O.B.U BROOME, were transported from the Unit to shipping sheds in DERBY and loaded onto S.S.CHUNGKING.

300 drums of M/T fuel were also despatched to FREMANTLE.

146 tons of bombs were transported from dispersal area and loaded on to wharf trucks in DERBY.

705 drums of Aviation oil were prepared for shipping and transported to wharf trucks in DERBY.

996 drums of 100 octane ex CHUNGKING were transported from DERBY to 75 O.B.U. BOONKANBAH

576 drums of unserviceable octane were backloaded from 75 O.B.U, to this Unit and prepared for shipping to FREMANTLE.

Over 2000 empty heavy drums were re-washered and prepared for shipment to FREMANTLE.

The total number of personnel employed on the movement of fuel averaged 26,this figure including 14 Army drivers. The hours of work were long and arduous, but were performed efficiently and in a satisfactory manner.

All the re-fuelling equipment on the Unit has been tested and maintained regularly and is in a serviceable condition. An increase in the number of aircraft refuelled is noted and these tasks have been efficiently performed.

Refuelling crews have been given detailed instructions regarding the care required in issuing fuel and appear to be aware of the importance of this work.

All bombs and explosive stores held on the Unit were inspected and maintained during the month, the storage facilities and condition of the bombs and components is considered to be satisfactory.

Maintenance of Unit and Army vehicles has entailed considerable work on the part of Fitters and Drivers. Due to very rough roads,or rather "tracks" broken springs are frequent, whilst "blow outs" and punctures caused frequent delays. Availability of spares is limited, and delay in receipt of items demanded has rendered several vehicles unavailable for the work.

All Unit equipment has been maintained during the month, excess stores have been returned to Stores Depot, and the appropriate salvage action has been taken with unserviceable items.

3. TRAINING.

Instruction was given to all personnel in the mechanism of automatic weapons, maintenance action required before and after firing, and correct handling. Firing practice was conducted with Vickers, Bren, T.S.M.G. and rifle.

Shooting parties have been conducted each Stand Down Day, and give personnel considerable practice in handling small arms.

Unit Fire Teams were given instruction in the use of extinguishers on different types of fires, and the methods of refilling extinguishers.

All fire equipment distributed around the Unit, and held in readiness for the emergency fire tender is maintained and regularly inspected.

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UNIT HISTORY SHEET

APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

Commanding Officer8s Report 31 AUGUST 1945.

1. OPERATIONS. NIL.

2. WORK.

The work of the Unit during this month has been concerned mainly with maintenance of fuel stocks , bombs, equipment, refuelling of aircraft, and the preparation of empty drums for shipment.

Daily inspections of fuel have been carried out, and the required maintenance action taken. Discrepancies discovered due to leakage and evaporation were small and represented far less than 1% of total stocks.

The following movements of fuel were carried out :-
200 drums octane and 50 drums range fuel were transported by road to 79 O.B.U. BROOME, 86 drums of octane were received from Cockatoo Isle, ex 52 O.B.U. Detachment. This latter fuel was tested and found to be unservice able and was prepared for shipment to FREMANTLE along with 576 drums of unserviceable octane received last month from 75 O.B.U. NOONKANBAH.
Approx 8000 empty drums were gas freed, rewashered in preparation for shipment to FREMANTLE.
The total number of personnel engaged on these tasks averaged 7 RAAF & 5 A.M.F.
Refuelling of aircraft was efficiently attended to , the number of aircraft serviced during the month was 47, this figure shows a decrease on the previous months, due no doubt to the cessation of hostilities,and operations from 79 O.B.U. BROOME.
All bombs and explosive stores held on the Unit were inspected and maintained during the month. The storage facilities and the condition of bombs and components is considered to be satisfactory.
Maintenance action and repairs to Unit buildings and surroundings was carried out but therhave been no additions effected thereto.
The equipment now held is properly stored, regularly inspected and maintained in good order. Excess stores have been returned to Stores Depots and the appropriate salvage action taken in regard to unserviceable items.

3. TRAINING.

As all automatic and Small Arms weapons have been withdrawn from the Unit , no training was carried out during the month. Fire Teams were given instruction regarding the use of fire equipment available and in methods of combating various types of fires.
All fire equipment held on the Unit is maintained and inspected regularly.

4. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. No difficulty has been experienced during the month in obtaining supplies from "A" Class Canteen BROOME. , and a sufficient variety of goods are available for the demands made.

5. RATIONS.

The rations supplied during the month again showed a decrease in fresh vegetables, but items such as butter, bacon, and fresh fruit, were in small but regular supply. To overcome the deficiency of fresh vegetables, Vitamin tablets "C" & "B" are being issued to all personnel daily. Supplies of fresh meat and bread continue to be satisfactory, whilst the issues of tinned commodities are varied as far as possible by the Army Supply Depot.

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NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 AUGUST 1945

6. SPORT ,RECREATION, AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Interest in sport was not maintained during the month, due no doubt to the increasing temperatures. However, billiards, table tennis, and darts retain the interest of personnel each night. Fishing and shooting parties have been conducted each Stand Down Day, and are very popular. Several good catches of fish were made during the month, and provided a welcome addition to Unit Memu.

Current newspapers and pictorial magazines provided by Welfare are well read by personnel, whilst the circulating libraries provided by Education and Welfare provide good selective reading. Current items of news interest and educational matter are displayed on the Unit Wall newspaper.

Pictures and dances in DERBY provided personnel with entertainment off the Unit.

7. GENERAL.

The various tasks performed during the month were efficiently and cheerfully performed. The temperature has noticeably increased this month and readings of 100F are frequent at noon, high winds with plenty of dust make the days rather unpleasant for outside work.

The outstanding event this month being the cessation of hostilities, a rise in morale and general cheerfulness has been noted. Whilst most personnel are keenly awaiting demobilisation, the general view is held that release will take some considerable time and the importance of routine and performance of maintenance tasks is recognised,and is being carried out cheerfully.

The discipline of the Unit is satisfactory, no action being called for during the month.

Unit strength has been reduced this month by 10, this was occassioned by the cessation of attachment of four personnel for fuel duties, and the posting of 6 others for either medical reasons or normal relief on completion of tour of duty in this Zone.

It is considered that the number of personnel on strength is more than necessary to carry out expected tasks, directionsfrom Headquarters Western Area are awaited as to disposal of those considered to be surplus to requirements, but it is considered that occupational releases and demobilisation of several long service personnel will no doubt bring about an early adjustment.

The health of personnel generally has been satisfactory, complaints treated during the month were mostly of a minor nature and have responded to the treatment given. Several personnel were evacuated to No. 4 M.R.S. BROOME for medical inspection and treatment, all but two have returned to the Unit and resumed duty.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained during the month, and is considered to be satisfactory.

R W Hadley .....F/O.

Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

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UNIT HISTORY SHEET. APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 30 SEPTEMBER 1945.

PAGE 1

1. OPERATIONS. NIL.

2. WORK.

The work of the Unit slackened considerably during this month, there were no major tasks performed . Unit routine consisted of daily fuel inspections and maintenance action, preparation of approx 800 empty drums for shipment and transporting them to shipping sheds in DERBY.

Close attention to fuel maintenance was given this month and the discrepancies discovered were very slight.

The number of aircraft refuelled during the month was considerably lower than previous months, but the work done was carried out efficiently.

All bombs and explosive stores held on the unit were inspected, and maintained during the month. Storage facilities and the condition of components held is considered to be satisfactory.

Maintenance action to Unit buildings and surroundings was carried out, but there have been no additions effected to Unit facilities.

All equipment considered to be surplus to immediate requirements has been packed up in readiness for shipment to Stores depots and No. 4 CRD salvage action has been taken in regard to unserviceable equipment.

3. TRAINING.

With the exception of Fire Teams and instruction in use of fire equipment, no organised training with small arms was carried out. The only weapons held on the Unit are two revolvers- firing practice with these weapons was given to Signal personnel. All fire fighting equipment held on the Unit was inspected and maintained duringthe month.

4. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies from "A" Class Canteen BROOME, and a sufficient variety of goods are available for the requirements of personnel.

5. RATIONS.

The rations received during the month were up to the normal standard. Fresh fruit and vegs. were in short supply, but it was possible to supplement rations with tomatoes,lettuce and raddishes from the Unit garden. Fishing parties have also provided a supply of fresh fish each week.

6. SPORT,RECREATION, AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The main sporting interest this month has been the weekly fishing parties,and a good catch has been made each time. Billiards and table tennis are popular with most personnel and provide keen interest. Climatic conditions are at present against organised outdoor sport.

Current newspapers and pictorial magazines are available each week for personnel, whilst the circulating libraries and educational matter supplied by RAAF Welfare provide selective and informative reading. The Unit Wall Newspaper is kept up to date with current items of news interest and post-war demobilisation problems.

Pictures and dances in DERBY have provided personnel with some entertainment off the Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET. APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 30 SEPTEMBER 1945.

Page 2

7. GENERAL.

The work of the Unit during the month has not been at all strenuous but all tasks have been performed in a cheerful and satisfactory manner.

With the cessation of hostilities and the completion of all major tasks at this Unit, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find fulltime employment for all personnel. This is noticed in all but the equipment section of the Unit, and it is hoped that demobilisation of long service personnel will shortly take place and relieve the situation.

The health of all personnel during the month has been generally satisfactory. Most complaints treated at Unit sick quarters were of a minor nature only and readily responded to the treatment given. Only one member was evacuated to No 4 M.R.S. BROOME for medical treatment, and he has since returned to the Unit.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained during the month, and is considered to be satisfactory.

The discipline of the Unit has been well maintained, no action has been necessary during the month.

Morale remains high, due no doubt, to the expectations of personnel being discharged within the immediate future.

R W Hadley

.....F/O.

Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET. APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 OCTOBER 1945.

1. OPERATIONS. NIL.

2. WORKK

During the past month the work of the Unit has been concerned mainly with routine maintenance tasks, no major tasks were performed. Fuel maintenance was carried out each day and the close attention given to this work has resulted in only small discrepancies occurring through leakage and evaporation.

The number of aircraft refuelled this month was again low, altho the fuel outgoing was higher. This was due to the refuelling of Anson aircraft from Broome engaged in the search for a missing civilian aircraft.

All bombs and explosive stores held on the unit were inspected and maintained during the month. Storage facilities and the condition of all componants is considered to be satisfactory.

Routine maintenance action to Unit buildings and surroundings was carried out, and all equipment considered to be in excess of present requirements was shipped to Stores Depots and No. 4 C.R.D.

3. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies from "A" Class Canteen at BROOME, and a sufficient variety of goods are available to meet the demands made.

4. RATIONS.

The rations received this month were up to average standard, and showed a welcome increase of perishable items such as fresh vegetables and fruit. The Army D.I.D. in DERBY has now been closed, and this Unit is now holding a bulk supply of non-perishable items whilst perishables are being supplied weekly by air from BROOME. Vitamin tablets "B" & "C" are being issued daily to all personnel to assist in balancing the diet.

5. SPORT, RECREATION, AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The main sporting interest this month has been the weekly fishing and shooting parties conducted, good catches have been made and the fish and game have been of great assistance in varying the Unit menu. Billiards and table tennis were played considerable but the weather conditions were against and organised outdoor sport.

Reading matter supplied by Area Welfare and Area Education have provided a varied source of interest to the personnel, whilst pictures and dances held weekly in DERBY have provided some entertainment off the Unit.

6. GENERAL.

The work of the Unit this month has been very easy- personnel were employed mostly on routine maintenance tasks only which did not provide full-time employment. A reduction in Unit strength of eight personnel will take place early next month, and this will relieve the position, as it will leave only sufficient key personnel to maintain the functions of the Unit until closure takes place. All long service personnel on Unit strength have now been posted for discharge.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET. APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 OCTOBER 1945.

Page 2

6. GENERAL (Cont)

The health of all personnel has been quite satisfactory, the few ~~xxxx~~ cases treated at Unit Sick Quarters were of minor nature only, and quickly responded to treatment. No members were evacuated to hospital for treatment during the month.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained during the month, and is considered to be satisfactory.

The morale of the Unit has been good and discipline satisfactory no action was called for during the month.

P W Hadley

.....F/O.
Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET. APPENDIX "A"

NO. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 30 NOVEMBER 1945.

1. OPERATIONS. NIL.

2. WORK.

During the past month this Unit has virtually been functioning as a Care & Maintenance Unit. The main tasks performed were the preparat and shipment of 795 drums of octane, demolishing of surplus tents and huts, packing of surplus equipment pending arrangements for disposal. Fuel maintenance was carried out each day prior to shipment of stocks, and a small number of aircraft were refuelled.

All bombs and explosive stores were inspected and maintained duri the month.

Routine maintenance action to Unit buildings and surroundings was carried out, surplus tentage and hutments were removed to store and al surplus equipment stacked and sorted pending disposal.

3. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continues to function satisfactorily, and stocks are in good condition. A sufficient variety of goods is maintained to meet the demands made.

4. RATIONS.

The rations received during the month were up to normal standard and call for little comment. The increase in fresh vegs and fruit not last month has been maintained.

5. SPORT, RECREATION, AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Interest in sport has lapsed this month consequent with the reduct ion of personnel. However fishing parties have been conducted each week end with varying results, and also one billiard tournement was held in the month.

Unit reading matter has been well maintained by Welfare and Area Education, and sufficieh supplies are available for all personnel.

Pictures and dances held each week in DERBY have provided personne with some entertainment off the Unit.

6. GENERAL.

A 75% reduction in Unit strength was effected during the month, an the number remaining are considered to be sufficient to maintain the Unit, and carry out the work of disbandment. Although and heavy task entails all personnel being employed, all work carried out this month been cheerfully and efficiently performed.

The health of personnel continues to be satisfactory, only minor complaints were recorded during the month.

Unit hygiene has been well maintained furing the month and is considered to be satisfactory.

With the approaching disbandment of the Unit in view, morale is high, and discipline satisfactory, no action was called for during the month.

R W Hadley
.....F/O.
Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

UNIT HISTORY SHEET APPENDIX "A"

No. 80 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT 31 DECEMBER 1945.

1. OPERATIONS. nil.

2. WORK.

During this month the work of the Unit has been concerned mainly with the packing and despatch of stores, equipment and supplies to 10 Stores Depot and 79 O.B.U. Broome, and the cleaning up of Unit Buildings and surroundings prior to handover to Dept. of Civil Aviation.

All instructions regarding the movement of stores and equipment were carried out and tasks completed by the 18th December.

3. CANTEEN.

The Unit Canteen continued to function satisfactorily until the 18th when the Unit moved to BROOME. As direct access to 79 O.B.U. Canteen is available, Unit canteen account with Canteen Services Perth has now been finalised.

4. RATIONS.

The rations supplied during this month were up to the normal standard.

5. SPORT AND RECREATION.

There is little to report under this heading for this month, as most of the time has been taken up with tasks connected with the disbandment of the Unit.

The activities of this Unit are now incorporated with those of 79 O.B.U and swimming appears to be the most popular form of entertainment.

6. GENERAL.

The preparation of Unit affairs for disbandment has been the main task for all personnel during the month. With the small number of men available to carry out the work, tasks called for special efforts from all. However all work was cheerfully and efficiently performed, and the tasks completed as instructed.

The health of personnel remains satisfactory and morale good, the change of location from DERBY to BROOME is considered to have been of benefit to all personnel.

R W Hadley F/O.

Commanding 80 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - MONTH JANUARY 1945.

1. January has proved a fairly quiet month. The only outstanding incident being the rescue of the R.A.F. Catalina and crew on the 27th. The crew had experienced a very trying time and in order to reach the coast had jettisoned all freight which included several hundred pounds of both official and private mail. When they eventually arrived at LEARMONTH at midnight; it was thirty eight hours since their departure from CEYLON during which time they had without sleep. It is desired to express appreciation of the prompt and efficient co-operation of Lieutenant STEELMAN, Captain of the United States Navy Base, in sending his small craft to the Catalina which was a float a mile off NORTH WEST CAPE.

2. WEATHER

Weather has been hot and dry, no rain having fallen during the month wind and dust storms have prevailed, the last days of the month being particularly trying in this regard.

3. RECREATION

Swimming has continued to be the most popular form of recreation. On sunday the 14th a trip in the gulf for the power barge was arranged for the airmen. The day was particularly hot and sultry. It was found that the outing provided little if any pleasure for the passengers and , from a recreational point of view, had to be admitted a failure. The usual pictures have continued at the United States Navy Base and have been attended regularly by many of the Unit.

4. MESSING

The standard of food has been maintained and there have been no serious complaints.

5. DISCIPLINE

The conduct of members of the Unit has been good, only very minor breaches of discipline having been observed. No charges were made against any airman during the month.

Squadron Leader,
COMMANDING NO. 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 1945

The month of February commenced with signalled advice of the approaching cyclone which struck the unit on the 2nd. The effects of this are fully covered in the form A50. Naturally, it had a most distressing effect upon the equipment, buildings and to a lesser degree the personnel of the whole unit.

On the morning of the third, it was discovered that all telephone lines were down, the signals equipment had been made U/S through the transmitter building being completely wrecked; roads from the Base were impassable and much of the food supplies carried by the local D.I.D. had been destroyed or washed away.

Flight Lieutenant D.S. HOLMES (1457) with a party of his signals personnel cleared the wreckage from some of the signal equipment and worked strenuously to repair enough of the U/S equipment to gain contact with the outside world. Their efforts were rewarded about 1630 hours when a signal briefly describing our plight was despatched to Headquarters WESTERN AREA. All food was collected and the sale of such things as tinned fruit etc. from the wrecked canteen prohibited. This was considered necessary as it was not known when we should get our next supplies. The Captain of the adjacent U.S.N. Base, who had a good supply of tinned food on hand offered to share his supplies with us should the necessity arise. Thanks to prompt action of Headquarters WESTERN AREA in despatching food by air, the precautions taken were found to be unnecessary.

One important matter worthy of special mention is that although the sea flooded practically the whole of both flight strips and the surrounding ground was saturated and boggy for several days, the runways were not affedted in any way. The first aircraft to land was the No. 25 Squadron Liberator on the morning of February 4th after the lapse of one day from the time of inundation. This heavy machine made no impression on the runways.

During the month Squadron Leader R.J.CULL (256254), Staff Officer Works, and his small party of tradesmen helped by every available spare body on the unit have worked strenuously to re-erect the camp buildings. It is believed that when completed the camp will be an improvement on pre-cyclone days.

The tragedy which befell the marine section was very unfortunate. The loss of the three members, 45887 Corporal CARR B.J., 45988 Corporal TURNOR E.C. and 81371 Leading Aircraftsman TONGE G.A. was keenly felt by all ranks.

The survival of 46328 Sergeant HAWKINS R.A., N.C.O. in charge and the only survivor, who swam and was washed by the sea for some miles before gaining land was little short of miraculous. There were so many vivid and interesting letters written by members of the unit about their experiences in the cyclone that it was decided to offer prizes for the three best essays. Winners were 33732 Sergeant CROKER E.W. (1st prize), 434680 Corporal PARSONS R.J. (2nd prize) and 83672 Leading Aircraftsman TAYLOR L.F. (3rd prize)

...../2

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

Copies of these essays are appended.

2. WEATHER

Enough has already been written about weather conditions during the first days of the month. Subsequent to the cyclone the days were very hot and humidity exceptionally high. This was caused through the hot days and saturated countryside. A plague of flies also appeared. As all buildings were either wholly or partially wrecked and therefore not flyproof, the flies were most annoying and also a menace to health.

On the 8th a violent thunderstorm occurred accompanied by about 120 points of rain. This together with the estimated six inches which fell during the night of the 2nd making 720 points in all.

Since the 8th the weather has been hot and clear with the humidity gradually decreasing.

3. HEALTH

Owing no doubt to the flies, a minor epidemic of dysentry occurred about the second week in the month. This fortunately did not last long and only a few mild cases have occurred within the last few days.

There were many slight injuries during the night of February 2nd caused by bits of flying debris etc. The Medical Section was set up in the vegetable preparation room in the Kitchen building (the Sick Quarters having been completely demolished) and a very large number were there treated for cuts and abrasions.

4. RECREATION

There has been little time for recreation during the month and no facilities. The airmen's recreation room was of course demolished.

The cinema at the American Base has also been put out of action.

5. MORALE

Although a few individuals were visibly affected by their experiences on the night of the cyclone, taken on the whole the morale of the unit has been quite good.

A certain reaction was noticeable after the storm on the 8th when many tents which had been newly erected were blown down and much of the efforts of the previous few days undone. Some members also feared a repetition of th experience of the night of the 2nd. Since then there has been a gradual improvement.

6. DISCIPLINE

Good. No breaches warranting charges being prepared against any member during the month.

.....Squadron Leader,
COMMANDING NO. 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

MARCH 1945.

The month of March commenced with another cyclone scare. Various Signals from the Meteorological Section PT. HEDLAND reached the Unit forecasting the course and intensity of a cyclone coming down the coast. These were found very confusing and a subsequent check up showed that on the information received the cyclone passed us twice out to sea, and once inland on to YANREY, hit the coast North of CARNARVON and was still approaching from the North. Actually it hit the coast North of ONSLOW. These conflicting signals arriving over a period of four or five days, together with very obvious cyclone type weather aroused a good deal of worry and in some cases real alarm. In the light of our previous experience on 2/2/45 all possible precautions were taken for the preservation of life, equipment records and personal property. Fortunately the cyclone did not arrive and the weather cleared without incident.

A matter of interest was the arrival from CEYLON of Wing Commander BARLOW, Commanding Officer No. 232 Squadron R.A.F. and crew of the Liberator from CEYLON on March 9th. This was the pioneer flight of the R.A.F. Transport Command and from the Wing Commanders information there will be a regular and frequent service in the near future.

The following day an even more interesting aircraft arrived, the Duke of Glouster's Arro York also from CEYLON, Captained by Wing Commander DONALDSON R.A.A.F. with his all Australian Crew. All had been overseas for a considerable time and expressed delight at being back on Australian soil.

During the month steady progress has been made with the rebuilding of the camp, and all hands have been very busily employed.

A very strenuous couple of days was experienced when S.S. "CHUNGKING" with the first shipment of cargo to arrive for over 2 months dropped anchor in the GULF about 2½ miles off the camp site. The jetty and approached at the U.S.N. Base having been destroyed on February 2nd, all cargo was beached at a new site close to the camp. Only limited unloading facilities were available viz, one American flat topped barge and one L.C.M. All ranks and musterings worked very hard and willingly throughout both day and night. It is considered that a very creditable performance was put up in getting all but a very small proportion off in the limited time that the vessel would stay at anchor.

WEATHER.
Weather conditions have improved considerably especially during the latter half of the month. The humidity noticeable after the rain of early February has given place to a much clearer atmosphere. Days have been hot but nights and mornings clear and pleasant.

HEALTH.
The epidemic of dysentry which occurred in February has been cleared up and the health of the Unit has shown a marked improvement. The Unit Sick Quarters have been re established on their old site with one pre-frabricated hut and tents.

RECREATION.
Again owing to pressure of work there has been no time for recreation. The pictures at the U.S.N. Base have been reestablished to a certain degree but have been mostly rather poor, owing chiefly to defects in the projector.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

A piano from Welfare arrived on the S.S. "CHUNGKING" and has been installed in the newly re erected Recreation Room. It is anticipated that this will contribute considerably to Unit entertainment.

MORALE.
During the last cyclone scare which occurred early in the month, the actions of a small proportion of the Unit showed rather a sad weakening of morale. This necissitated rather drastic action having to be taken. Since then a marked improvement has been observed and it is felt that the Unit has now reached something like normal.

DISCIPLINE.

Good.

F B Norwood
Squadron Leader,
COMMANDING NO. 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A.50 - MARCH 1945.

	ANSON	45
	DAKOTA	36
	LIBERATOR	9
*	ELECTRA	8
	SKYMASTER	3
	COMMANDO LIBERATOR ..	2
	BEAUFORT	2
	DAUNTLESS	1
	YORK	1
	TIGER MOTH	1
	TOTAL :	108

* Department of Civil Aviation aircraft

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

6/1 17 APR 1945

3A

27714

FROM: Headquarters, Western Area.

TO : No. 76 Operational Base Unit.

DATE: 11th April, 1945. 12 APR 1945

REF : 106/44/AIR (24a)

SECRET:

UNIT HISTORY SHEET - FEBRUARY, 1945.

It is desired to compliment the Commanding Officer and personnel concerned with the compilation of the Unit History Sheet for the month of February, 1945, on the excellent manner in which they described the effects of the cyclone and on the very interesting essays which were attached to it.

2. The Commanding Officer is requested to ensure that the terms of this letter be brought to the notice of all concerned.

Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER's REPORT

APRIL 1945

Little or nothing of outstanding interest has occurred during the month of April 1945.

There has been steady progress in camp improvements and the effects of the cyclone of February 2nd are rapidly disappearing. All the debris which surrounded the campsite has been collected and disposed of.

No. 17506 SGT. SQUIRES, L. of No. 4 Aircraft Depot and party have collected the thousands of empty fuel drums which were strewn over the country side and placed them in one dump.

No. 45351 SGT. OTTEY, A.J. of No. 10 Stores Depot and his party are still busily engaged in re-conditioning and re-stacking all bombs and pyrotechnices. Owing to damage from the sea water which flooded the dump about 14 tons of .5 ammunition had to be dumped at sea and a number of depth charges exploded by Flight Lieutenant G.H. GEMMEL, (1011) Explosives Inspecting Officer.

It will be noted that the number of aircraft movements is exactly the same as for the previous month viz 108. However the types have changed and we are now getting a greater number of the larger types such as LANCASTRIANS and LIBERATORS.

As usual the busiest time for all ranks was when the M.V. "KOOLINDA" arrived with a large assorted cargo on the 19th. All hands worked with a will, but it was most unfortunate that our power barge broke down at the very beginning of the job. However thanks to the very obliging co-operative of Captain JOHN AIREY the Master who held up his ship for over 36 hours. All cargo was unloaded. The party which the Captain brought ashore included a number of lady passengers and the dance which was held in the Officer's Mess was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A very good job was done by Flight Lieutenant D.S. HOLMES (1457), Pilot Officer FERGUSON (26879) and their party when moving the Signals from "ROBINHOOD" to the camp and Transmitter from "SPINIFEX" to "ROBINHOOD". This work was done very expeditiously and without a hitch, the normal signals traffic being maintained at all times.

There has been no rain during the month and only one or two dusty days. With cool nights and warm sunny days the weather has been delightful.

There has been a steady improvement in the morale of the Unit. This has been shown in many ways, particularly the added interest of the airmen in their own Welfare.

The sports meeting held on Saturday 14th was a prominent success and it did much to help the improvement in morale.

Both the health and discipline of the Unit has been good.

Squadron Leader,
COMMANDING NO. 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A.50 - APRIL 1945.

ANSON	31
DAKOTA	23
SKYMASTER	10
LIBERATOR	12
* ELEETRA	7
DH. 86	6
BEAUFORT	4
DAUNTLESS	3
LANCASTER	3
RAF. LIBERATOR ..	7
MITCHELL	1
TIGER MOTH	1
	108

* Department of Civil Aviation aircraft.

NOTE : Included in the total of 108 are 2 night landings and 5 night take-offs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

MAY 1945.

May has been a rather an uneventful month, though not without interest, and plenty of work. From an operational point of view, however, our efforts have been nil. Also, we have seen little of our friends the Englishmen of NO. 232 R.A.F. Transport Squadron.

Chief item of interest if the projected departure of the Americans from the adjacent Navy Base 81. There have been many rumors and much packing of gear and equipment since the refloating of the "Y.10" on the 15th May.

The outstanding recreation event of the month was the combined sports meeting organised by the Welfare section of the Unit which was held on the Saturday afternoon of May the 19th. The Americans and local civilians had been invited to compete, and although the former entered for the events in large numbers; the R.A.A.F. and A.I.F. who live with us scooped the pool. Appended is a schedule of events indicating places gained by the various competitors. A prize was given for the best written account of the event and the effort of No. 85306 ACI. MARSH B.R. is attached.

As usual, our busy period was when the Dutch vessel "VAN SPILBERGEN" arrived with cargo for the R.A.A.F.; QANTAS and the SHELL COY. All hands were busily engaged in the unloading operations; employees of the Shell Co. also working with the R.A.A.F. and Army. The willing co-operation of MR. HORTON, the Shell Engineer and his men in this regard during recent times is worthy of comment. Unfortunately, the limited time during which the "VAN SPILBERGEN" would stay was insufficient for all of the cargo to discharged, and a large quantity of fuel was carried on to ONSLOW.

Living conditions during MAY have been very pleasant. The few showers of rain received lay what little dust there had been, whilst the days have been beautifully warm and sunny. Nights and early mornings have been on the cool side, requiring in most cases the covering of three blankets for sleeping comfort. Whatever may be said against the climatic conditions of LEARMONTH which prevail during the summer; it is ideal in the winter.

The food, taken on the whole, has been good and not lacking in fresh meat. Also the diet has been varied frequently by fresh fish.

Health of the camp is all that can be expected, and morale is now considered to be at least equal to that on any other similar Unit. Discipline has been good.

J. Harwood Squadron Leader,
COMMANDING NO. 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

RESULTS OF SPORTS MEETING HELD ON 19th MAY, 1945.

75 YARDS HANDICAP	(:)	1st	PTE.	HYDE
		2nd	SGT.	WINNETT
		3rd	CPL.	PARSONS
HOP, STEP & JUMP	(:)	1st	F/LT.	HOLMES
		2nd	SGT.	WINNETT
		3rd	LAC.	SMITH B.
75 YARDS CHAMPIONSHIP	(:)	1st	PTE.	LANGHAM
		2nd	SGT.	WINNETT
		3rd	LT.	ASMUTH
OLDBUFFERS RACE	(:)	1st	CPL.	COSTER
		2nd	S/L.	HORWOOD
		3rd	MR.	FREEMAN
50 YARDS RELAY (TEAM OF FOUR)	(:)	1st	CPL. KINNEAR - PTE. LANGHAM LAC. DOYLE - PTE. HYDE	
THREE LEGGED RACE	(:)	1st	PTE.	VINE - PTE. ANGOVE
		2nd	PTE.	LANGHAM - PTE. HYDE
		3rd	LAC.	SMITH - LAC. MELDRUM
WHEELBARROW RACE	(:)	1st	LAC.	SMITH) LAC. MELDRUM
		2nd	PTE.	LANGJAM - PTE. HYDE
		3rd	PTE.	ANGOVE - PTE. NASH
RUNNING LONG JUMP	(:)	1st	F/LT.	HOLMES
MILE MARATHON	(:)	1st	SGT.	TONKIN
		2nd	LAC.	SELBY
		3rd	LAC.	RENNIE

CHAMPION ATHLETE : F/LT. HOLMES and SGT. WINNETT dead heated with six points each.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A.50 - MAY 1945.

	DAKOTA	31
	ANSON	23
*	DH. 86	8
	SKYMASTER	2
	LIBERATOR	13
	LANCASTRIAN	4
	LANCASTER	2
	DAUNTLESS	6
*	ELECTRA	4
	TIGER MOTH	1
	CATALINA	1
	BEAUFORT	2
	LODESTAR	1
	MITCHELL	1
		99

* Department of Civil Aviation aircraft.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

JUNE 1945

The month of June has for the most part been quiet and uneventful. Aircraft movements have been much the same as the previous 2 or 3 months and the routine work of the unit has proceeded smoothly.

The most interesting event being the arrival of the 3 Mosquito aircraft of No. 87 Squadron DARWIN, to do a photographic reconnaissance operation from COCOS ISLAND. They arrived with two Catalinas, one from 110 Air Sea Rescue Squadron and the other from No. 41 Squadron for air sea rescue work. The whole operation being under the control of Wing Commander JAMESON of NORTH WESTERN AREA HEADQUARTERS.

Unfortunately the Moquiotoes had difficulty in finding COCOS and one made a forced landing on a coral reef owing to shortage of fuel. Although the aircraft was totally wrecked fortunately both members of the crew escaped injury. They were picked up by the R.A.F. from COCOS.

The inauguration of the regular Lancastrian Service between SYDNEY and LONDON has also added interest and many more passengers, mostly service personnel are catered for in our mess.

The arrival of M.V. "KOOLINDA" on the 27th caused less concern than usual and little work. There was only a small quantity of cargo for EXMOUTH and this was unloaded without incident. The Master Captain John AIREY immediately on arrival signalled an invitation to the officers of No. 76 O.B.U. to attend a dance on board. This was gladly accepted by all those not on duty and a very enjoyable evening ensued.

Contrary to usual, the weather has been cold, wet and wintry. Total rainfall being 106 points for the month spread over about 2 weeks.

The food has been good and it is considered that there has been an improvement in the cooking since the Kitchen has been under the control of No. 16065, Corporal BURNS, W.M. Fresh vegetables and meat have been fairly well supplied although there was one period of about 12 days when no fresh meat arrived. However this was to some extent balanced by some very good hauls of fish, mostly schnapper, sufficient to make several meals for the whole unit.

Health on the unit has been good, but there have been a couple of nasty accidents to personnel, these have already been mentioned in the form A50.

Morale and discipline has been good and as usual everything possible has been done in the way of recreation and sport for the members of the unit.

J Norwood Squadron Leader,
COMMANDING NO. 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

APPENDIX TO FORM A.50 - JUNE 1945.

LANCASTRIANS	:	11
MOSQUITOS	:	6
B. 25	:	1
C.47	:	24
BEAUFORT	:	1
ELECTRA	:	8
ANSONS	:	29
DAUNTLESS	:	1
CATALINAS	:	4
B.24's	:	14
DH 86	:	9
		108

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

JULY 1945.

The month of July was busy and full of interest. The remaining Dakotas of No. 232 Squadron (R.A.F.) staged through at the rate of 3 per day. Association with the English crews and ground personnel was enjoyed by all ranks of No. 76 O.B.U. and some very happy evenings were spent in all messes.

The unloading of S.S. "CHUNGKING" was more difficult than usual owing to unusually rough seas. For a period of some hours, work had to be suspended, however, the Master Captain JOHN SINCLAIR held his ship until all cargo was off loaded. It was not possible to bring the flat top and power barges to the shore for discharging, their last loads until the 9th [illegible]. Early on the morning of the 10th, before unloading could be completed, a sudden squall occurred and again disaster befell the Marine Section, both barges being submerged.

Naturally the arrival of No. 25 Squadron to carry out an operation on the 20th caused most interest. Arrangements were well in hand for the accommodation and feeding of personnel on arrival, also for refuelling of aircraft etc. The whole operation passed off smoothly and with a minimum of disturbance to the normal routine of No. 76 O.B.U. After the departure of No. 25 Squadron for CUNDERDIN on the 23rd & 24th the remaining days of the month passed quietly.

With the exception of about 4 days in the second week, during which the S.S. "CHUNGKING" arrived and misfortune overtook the Marine Section, the weather has been delightful. Days have been bright, clear and sunny and nights cool and cold.

Food has been up to the usual high standard, a fair amount of fresh vegetables have been available and at no time has there been a shortage of fresh beef, which has been of excellent quality. Even during the stay of No. 25 Squadron with over 200 extra bodies there was ample fresh meat for all.

Health remains good and fortunately this month there have been no accidents. Morale and Discipline are good.

It is considered that the operation carried out by No. 25 Squadron was a very helpful morale builder. For the first time the personnel of No. 76 O.B.U. realised that they had a definitelyersonal war job, although they were called on to do more work than usual, especially the messing staff and those working on the strip, everything was done with a very good spirit.

[signature]

Squadron Leader,
COMMANDING No. 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

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SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

APPENDIX TO FORM A.50 - JULY 1945.

LANCASTRIANS	:	:	17	21
ANSON	:	:	37	32
D.H. 86	:	:	12	14
C.47's	:	:	52	22
LIBERATOR	:	:	37	
BEAUFORT	:	:	15	— 1
CESSNA	:	:	1	
TIGER	:	:	4	— 1
ELECTRA	:	:	3	3
AVENGER	:	:	1	
CATALINA	:	:	2	— 9
DAUNTLESS	:	:	2	
		Total:	183	

B2v3

11

114

Night Landings 19
" Take offs 22

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

AUGUST 1945.

August has been an interesting and eventful month here at LEARMONTH, the main interest of course centering round the surrender of JAPAN on the 14th. Great excitement prevailed on the night of the 10th when the first indication of surrender was heard, and the tension continued till the final official announcement was made on the 15th. Unfortunately, it was not possible to do anything much in the form of celebration in this isolated area, where no extra facilities may be called upon. However, fishing trips and picnics were arranged for as many personnel as possible, and a concert, combining the talented performers of this Unit and 190 Staging Post R.A.F. was held. The whole R.A.F. unit was invited and a vote was taken to determine the most popular artist, which was won by S/Ldr L.M.BAILEY Commanding Officer of 190 Staging Post, R.A.F., who proved himself a talented and versatile entertainer.

No 190 Staging Post: The next most interesting event was the establishment of No 190 Staging Post R.A.F. under the command of S/L L.M. BAILEY R.A.A.F. at the old U.S.N. Camp on the 4th. Since this unit messed all R.A.F. ranks till their own camp was put in working order, everyone soon made the acquaintance of their R.A.F. "opposite members" and all became very good friends. This spirit of comradeship between the two units still flourishes and visits between messes, including the airmen's are frequent and convivial.

Shipping : By a co-incidence, fortunately for us, unusual, two ships of the very limited number operating on the Western Australian coast arrived in EXMOUTH GULF on the same day. They were the "KOOLINDA" and the "VAN SPILBERGEN". No difficulty was experienced in unloading our cargo from the "KOOLINDA", the weather being fine and calm. The master Captain AIREY, congratulated our Stevedoring party on unloading the cargo in four hours less than his estimated time. Unfortunately heavy weather sprang up by the time we tackled the "VAN SPILBERGEN", making the work hazardous and difficult. However, there were no casualties, and only minor damage, soon reparied, was suffered by the power barge.

Demobilization: Naturally all ranks have taken a keen interest in demobilization proceedure and the orders thereon, which have been promulgated fully. There have been many equiries for futher explanation, and as to the prospects of early demobilization. All ranks have been warned that demobilization must necessarily be a slow process and that some must inevitably remain for a considerable time. Fourteen members have volunteered to stay in the service beyond the date of their normal demobilisation.

Food: Food had been generally good, and fresh meat plentiful. Fresh vegetables and potatoes are limited and the diet could be improved were supplies extended over a greater period of the month. Fish, in which the Gulf abounds, principally Schnapper, Skipjack, Whiting, Bream, Mullet and Tailer, forms a frequent and palatable addition to the diet. Fishing parties are popular but fish cleaning parties are not.

Weather: With the exception of a few windy dusty days, the weather has been all that could be desired:- Warm sunny days and cold sharp nights.

Health: is generally good, and particularly with the advent of warmer weather, everyone is looking bronzed and fit.

Discipline:- is good, despite the cessation of hostilities, when it might have been expected that the restraint of Service Discipline and authority would prove more irksome than when fortified by the necessities of War. In no case has there been the slightest sign of minor rebellion against authority since Japan surrendered.

.....Page 2.

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the gradual

MORALE Could not be higher, and has been improved by the sight of several members already going South for demobilization. Everyone is in excellent spirits, all eagerly looking forward to their own demobilization. But the position will need watching as the time goes on and aids to morale devised for the disappointed ones who have to remain for a considerable time.

Squadron Leader.
Commanding No. 76 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

October has been an interesting and eventful month, mostly from the point of view of the demobilization of long service personnel and their positions being taken by airmen with less experience. However in most cases the chaps have risen to the occasion and all sections are functioning successfully

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SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

APPENDIX TO FORM A.50 - AUGUST 1945

LANCASTRIANS	:	21
ANSON	:	32
D.H. 86	:	14
C.47's	:	22
BEAUFORT	:	1
TIGER	:	1
ELECTRA	:	3
CATALINA	:	9
B.24's	:	11
Total:		114

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

10B.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1945.

As a result of the cessation of hostilities with JAPAN, September has been a quiet month at LEARMONTH. The main interest being in the arrangements made for demobilisation. Quite a number of personnel on this Unit have been in the North West for periods up to three years, and as there has been no action with the enemy they are daily becoming more restless.

No 190 Staging Post: The R.A.F. Staging Post at the old U.S.N. Base has become well established and many friendships between members of the R.A.F. and R.A.A.F. have developed, visits between members of the respective messes continue. Unfortunately through lack of R.A.F. transport through LEARMONTH the numbers of R.A.F. personnel have been reduced to one Officer, F/Lt MAITLAND and 24 other ranks.

Discipline and Morale: Discipline as a whole has been good. Members who have almost completed their 15 months tour are becoming worried as no replacements have been posted to relieve them.

Health:- With the exception of diaorrhoea health has been very good, diaorrheea has been prevalent and has caused the Medical Officer considerable worry. Flies have been reduced to a minnimum by the use of D.D.T., Hygiene has been greatly improved by the building of new Latrines for the Airmen. Concrete has been put in outside the airmen's mess as flies used to congregate there. Samples of the water have been sent to PERTH to be analysed.

Living conditions:- Every man on the unit has a bed and the tent lines are left in good order.

General Welfare:- Pictures have been the main source of entertainment, good films have been shown and the projector is working extremely well. Fishing trips taking 20 personnel at a time in the landing barge have been organized. Land trips have been organized, taking parties to N.W. Cape and Point Cloates. The Medical Officer has given interesting talks on Hygiene and sex, these talks have been attended by all members not on duty.

Weather:- With the exception of a few windy dusty days, the weather has been all that could be desired : Warm sunny days and cold sharp nights.

Food:- Food has been generally good, and fresh meat plentiful. Fresh vegetables and potatoes are limited and the diet could be improved were supplies extended over a greater period of the month. Fish, in which the Gulf abounds, principally Schnapper, Skipjack, Whiting, Bream, Mullet and Tailer, forms a frequent and palatable addition to the diet. Fishing parties are popular but fish cleaning parties are not.

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Flying Officer.
T/Commanding No. 76 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

APPENDIX TO FORM A. 50 - SEPTEMBER 1945.

LANCASTRIANS	:	28
LOCKHEED ELECTRO	:	7
ANSON	:	27
BEAUFORT	:	2
DH 86	:	1¼
TIGER MOTH	:	1
C 47	:	11
LIBERATOR	:	21
CATALINA	:	7
MOSQUITO	:	1
AVRO YORK	:	1
TOTAL		120

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 1945.

October has been an interesting and eventful month, mostly from the point of view of the demobilisation of long service personnel and their positions being taken by airmen with less experience. However in most cases the men have risen to the occasion and all sections are functioning successfully.

Naturally all ranks have taken a keen interest in demobilisation procedure and the orders thereon, which have been promulgated fully. There have been many enquiries for further explanation and as to the prospects of early release. All ranks have been warned that demobilisation must necessarily be a slow process and that some must inevitably remain for a considerable time.

FOOD: Food has been generally good, and fresh meat plentiful. Fresh vegetables and potatoes are limited and the diet could be improved were supplies extended over a greater period of the month. Fish in which the Gulf abounds forms a frequent and palatable addition to the diet. Fishing parties are popular but fish cleaning parties are not.

WEATHER: With the change of seasons the weather has been unsettled.

HEALTH: is generally good, and particularly with the advent of warmer weather, everyone is looking bronzed and fit.

DISCIPLINE: is good, despite the cessation of hostilities, when it might have been expected that the restraint of Service Discipline and authority would prove more irksome than when fortified by the necessities of War. In no case has there been the slightest sign of minor rebellion against authority since Japan surrendered.

MORALE: Could not be higher, and has been improved by the gradual demobilisation. Everyone is excellent in spirit all eagerly looking forward to their own release. But the position will need watching as the time goes on and aids to morale devised for the disappointed ones who have to remain for a considerable time.

Flying Officer.
T/Commanding No 76 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A.50 OCTOBER 1945.

ANSONS	:	36
LIBERATORS	:	21
D.H.86	:	17
LANCASTRIANS	:	26
CATALINAS	:	9
L 10's	:	6
YORK	:	2
BEAUFIGHTERS	:	1
DAKOTAS	:	10
BEAUFORTS	:	1

TOTAL LANDINGS - 129 : Service 71
Civil 58

NIGHT LANDINGS - 13
NIGHT TAKEOFFS - 25

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COMMANDING OFFICERS REPORT

NOVEMBER 1945.

Most of the month of November was spent in working airmen into higher positions necessitated by the posting of nearly all those persons with high point scores. In most cases the parties concerned have carried on very well and all work is well up to date.

FOOD: For most of the month the food has been good. Fresh meat supplies from PT HEDLAND have been good and plentiful. As usual fresh fruit and vegetables supplies have been limited. Owing to the hot weather fish has not been so plentiful but occasional catches have been provided a welcome change of diet.

WEATHER: The coming of the summer season has made the weather changeable and at times severe dust storms have made conditions very unpleasant. However, the beach has been more popular and provides a relief after trying days.

HEALTH: All personnel are in particularly good health and the unit is very free from practically all tropical diseases.

DISCIPLINE: Breaches of discipline are practically unknown. Weekly parades and inspection are carried out regularly and the clean conditon in which the airmen turn up on parade is a credit to them.

MORALE: The morale of all ranks is very good considering that some have been somewhat disappointed in their efforts to be discharged.

Flying Officer.
T/Commanding No 76 Operational Base Unit.

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SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS

APPENDIX TO FROM A.50 NOVEMBER 1945.

R.A.A.F.	52
R.A.F.	1
QANTAS	38
MACROBERTSON MILLER	22
OTHERS	1
TOTAL	114.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

DECEMBER 1945.

Another month of numerous personnel changes , particularly in the Signals Section, where, in one week, thirteen members were posted for discharge. The replacement of these men has proved a very slow process, and many have had to be held well beyond their date of discharge, At the time of writing, 7 Jan'46, some are still impatiently awaiting the arrival of their respective reliefs.

The Unit Signals Officer was unexpectedly called apon to take over Temporary Command of the Unit, thus enabling Flying Officer E.G.Hodgkinson (46889) to proceed on discharge. The non-arrival of the officer posted to command is hampering the efficient functioning of a unit already working under difficulties.

FOOD: The unit was without fresh meat for a period of a fortnight, and also , for a similiar period practically no fresh vegetables were received. The D.I.D. has had no trouble in maintaining the supply of necessities such as flour and potatoes, stocks of both these items having reached zero at least once during the past three weeks. Despite these drawbacks, strenuous efforts have been made to maintain a high standard of messing, and it is felt that some headway has been made.

HEALTH: Sick parade attendances very small, indicating that personnel are in good health.

DISCIPLINE: Good, considering present conditions. More detailed supervision of airman on the part of the few remaining officers is required in these days of serious personnel shortages; for the discharge of so many "old hands" has definitely upset the normal delegation of authority. Unfortunately, good senior N.C.O's are daily becoming more rare.

WELFARE: The 35mm talkie equipment is still the main source of unit entertainment, and each week's programme is normally shown on two nights. Table Tennis tournaments are popular and frequently held. Christmas Day brought additional luxuries in the way of food and drink through both service and Comforts Fund issues.

MORALE: Morale in general is high, particularly when the circumstances surrounding the function of the unit are considered.The common belief, to put it bluntly, that "we are working for a civil organization" is most distressing, and often keenly felt, particularly by those airmen (chiefly Signals personnel) who have been retained long after their effective dates of discharge posting. Their attitude is most understandable. The arrival of new blood should improve matters in that regard, and it is to be hoped that the only real remedy for the situation, the cessation of Qantas Empire Airways' use of Learmonth, will soon be effective.

Despite these facts, the behaviour of all ranks during the cyclonic storm of 31st. Dec, and on the busy days following, left nothing to be desired.

Flying Officer.
T/Commanding No 76 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

JANUARY 1946.

Although the number of members posted for discharge was very small this month, personnel problems have been well to the fore. Replacements take a considerable time to reach this Unit; some of those arriving find an onward posting awaiting them; others again for various reasons, never arrive. This complicated personnel situation has made it difficult to have on hand the numbers required, particularly for domestic duties. Signal Section strength improved progressively during the month.

January's highlight was the cessation of Qantas traffic through this base. The consequent withdrawal of that company's staff commenced on the last day of the month. This major event should help the Unit a great deal, and, it is hoped, cause a reduction in operational commitments.

FOOD:- On the whole, quite satisfactory. The Liberator "Salad Run" each wednesday has improved the supply of fresh vegetables. Eggs also have been forthcoming in reasonable quantity. Meat in short supply recently, mainly due to delay in shipping bulk stock from Broome to Port Hedland DID.

HEALTH:- No problems in this direction.

MORALE AND DISCIPLINE:- Good, Camp life in general more free-and-easy than during the war period, but members all sticking to their respective jobs, despite the inevitably reduced supervision. Majority of them now have low point-scores, and appear to realise that theymay yet have some months to wait before demobilisation. All, of course, are keen to hear something definite as to the future of the Unit.

WELFARE:- With less spare time than formerly, the welfare committee's activities have been reduced somewhat. However, Sunday cricket matches were held and members participated keenly, despite the heat. The weekly movie show remains an essential part of the Unit's amenities, and the lending library continues it's good work.

R.L.Andrew. Flying Officer.
T/COMMANDING No 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

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SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS.

APPENDIX TO FORM A 50 JANUARY 1946.

DECEMBER 1945:-

CIVIL	70
RAAF	35 (No record before Dec 10)

Includes 27 night landings.

JANUARY 1946:-

	RAAF	CIVIL
DAY	46	34
NIGHT	3	35
TOTALS	49	69

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CONFIDENTIAL.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

FEBRUARY 1946.

The arrival of F/Lt Parsons to take over command relieved things considerably, the Signals Officer then being able to attend more fully to his own particular duties. Constant postings for discharge and arrival of replacements, usually with very little experience, creates perpetual personnel problems, but the best is being done with the material available.

FOOD:- Generally quite good throughout the month. The weekly supply of fresh vegetables etc, flown in by Liberator is a great boon and is appreciated by all concerned.

DISCIPLINE:-Considering the almost non-existence of senior N.C.O's, discipline is far better than would normally be expected.

HEALTH:-Sickness is practically unknown on the Unit.

WELFARE:-The wekkly picture show is looked forward to eagerly by everybody and there is great disappointment if the films fail to arrive on time as sometimes happens.

MORALE:-is fairly high but, naturally enough, the majority are looking forward to the day when they get their "bowler hat".

J.E.PARSONS Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding No 76 Operational Base Unit.

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SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS,& DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A 50 FEBRUARY 1946.

	R.A.A.F.		CIVIL.	
	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT	DAY
Landings	3	24	2	56
Take-offs	3	23	1	55

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STRENGTH OF UNIT.

		ATTACHED	DETACHED	TOTAL.
OFFICERS	4	1		5
W/O's	2			2
F/SGT	2			2
SGT	2			2
CPL	12	2		14
AC's	60			60
	82	3		85

In addition to the above listed personnel, following also based on Unit for messing: 4 Army Personnel, 8 civilians of Shell Coy, also DCA.

GRAND TOTAL OF 98.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

MARCH 1946.

The loss of the lugger "Peggy" and a Qantas Lancastrian meant many search aircraft being based here with a consequent welcome increase in Mess activities and news from the outside world. The visit of Lord and Lady Louis Mountbatten also proved a very pleasant interlude and it is pleasing to know that this Unit had the distinction of being the first to welcome them to Australia again.

FOOD.:- Fresh meat and vegetables were still being flown in once a week and it is hoped that this practice will continue until final disbandment of the Unit. The erection of a fish trap in the creek provided many excellent fish meals for the Unit - a welcome addition to our rations.

DISCIPLINE.:- Apart from a few extra duties for minor offences, discipline on the Unit was very good for the month.

HEALTH.:- Personnel still continue to remain healthy.

WELFARE.:- The weekly picture show constitutes the main recreation but an occasional fishing excursion and a week-end trip to Carnarvon by about a dozen members to play cricket helped to relieve the boredom.

MORALE.:- Still fairly high at Learmonth but far from high at Yanrey, which is only to be expected all things considered.

J.E.PARSONS. FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.
COMMANDING No 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

STRENGTH OF UNIT.

		ATTACHED	DETACHED	TOTAL.
OFFICERS	3			3
W/O's	2			2
F/SGT	1			1
SGT	1	1		2
CPL	7	1		8
AC's	47			47
	61	2		63

In addition to the above listed personnel, following also based on Unit for messing: 3 Army Personnel, 6 Civilians of Shell Coy, also 2 DCA's.

GRAND TOTAL OF 74.

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SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A 50 MARCH 1946.

	R.A.A.F.		CIVIL.	
	Night	Day	Night	Day
Landings	4	46	6	16
Take-offs.	7	45	5	20

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CONFIDENTIAL.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

APRIL 1946.

The forerunner of our disbandment "a prepare to disband" signal has been received and all ranks are co-operating so as to hasten ~~XXX~~ the closing down of this Unit. Death Valley "Yanrey" has now been evacuated by it's three remaining members who are proceeding by motor transport to Learmonth.

The 'unsung heros' of the demolition squad led by Squadron Leader WATSON are busy each day disposing of armament stocks - and of an evening between 1600 and 1700 Hrs the aerial fireworks display is admired by our troops from safe vantage points.

Approximately four inches of rain fell during the latter part of the month disrupting communications and transport for a short period.

FOOD:- Fresh fruit sent by your Headquarters occasionally is very much appreciated by the lads and is a pleasant deviation from the routine meals. Our fish trap is being repaired after having been washed away by heavy tides so our supplementary fish supply has been missed of late.

WEATHER:-The weather is now ideal with pleasantly warm days and cool nights. The season has been good - consequent plagues of insects namely grasshoppers and sand flies.

HEALTH:- Except for an outbreak of boils amongst the troops everyone appears to remain healthy

WELFARE:-Fishing and shooting are the only recreational outlets left open to the lads, now, that the weekly picture shows are to be discontinued.

DISCIPLINE:-Very satisfactory for month.

MORALE:- The morale of all ranks is quite high.

J.L.HANNA Flying Officer.
T/Commanding No 76 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A50 APRIL 1946.

	R.A.A.F.		CIVIL.	
	Night	Day	Night	Day.
Landings	-	15	1	23
Take-offs	-	15	-	24

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CONFIDENTIAL.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

MAY 1946

Disbandment is now under way and is progressing satisfactorily. Communications flight pearce have commenced a shuttle run with C47's to remove approximately 30,000 lb of equipment, mainly Y group and at the present rate of uplift all available packed equipment should be removed inside six days.

The government surveyor has completed a survey of all territory likely to interest DCA adjacent to strip and theAWC repair gang are are due here to repair the sealed strips.

FOOD

Satisfactory stocks being received from D.I.D. at present. D.I.D. have received instructions to keep 3 months hard rations and dispatch balance south.

Itis to be hoped that the weekly supply of fresh vegetables, meat and dairy produce will be continued to be supplied on the weekly C 47 run.

WEATHER

The weather remains ideal.

HEALTH

All ranks appear quite healthy.

WELFARE

Shooting and fishing trips are still being organised as occasions warrant.

DISCIPLINE

Satisfactory.

MORALE

Morale remains quite high.

J.L. HANNA FLYING OFFICER.
T/COMMANDING No 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

APPENDIX TO FORM A50 MAY 1946.

	R.A.A.F.		CIVIL.	
	Night	Day	Night	Day
Landings	Nil	10	Nil	8
Take-offs	Nil	10	Nil	8

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMANDING OFFICER's REPORT.

JUNE 1946

June has been a seemingly short month at this unit, the equipment personnel continue their duties of centralizing, sorting, counting and arranging. In the course fo cleaning up, equipment buried since the cyclone 3/2/46 has beenunearthed and approximately 40% of the total equipment centralized had to be brought on charge.

WEATHER

The weather is quite warm during the day with cold nights.

HEALTH

An outbreak of boils is the only sign of ill health prevalent.

WELFARE

Crabbing parties and fishing trips are arranged of a Sunday.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline satisfactory. One case of extra duty for a minor offence being the only reprimand for this month.

FOOD

The cook does a good job with limited facilities and commodities. Green vegs are received occasionally but only last seven days so due to irregular plane service we are often without them.

MORALE

As good as can be expected in this locality.

J.L. HANNA Hanna FLYING OFFICER,
T/COMMANDING No 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMANDING OFFICER's REPORT.

JULY 1946.

With the ending of July comesthe big news that the date fixed for the commencement of the disposals sale is the 24 August 1946. The "spirits" of the lads are elevated somewhat as they have a date to work on, and make future arrangements, July 4 th was the date the last service C47 left supplies and as a result we are short of necessary commodities including meat, vegetables and beer. Mail and replacement parts for equipment are held up at Pearce pending the departure of the next aircraft sometime during the month August.

HEALTH.

The evacuation in case of serious illness or accident is still not satisfactory. Last monthtwo blood poisoning cases were evacuated by civil aircraft just before complicationsset in. The flying doctor based at Marble Bar considers it the RAAF responsibility to fly the patient to his whereabouts No aircraft was available upon request, as all RAAF aircraft were apparently undergoing inspections. Consider it essential that we are within eight hours of medical aid.

WELFARE.

Fishing and shooting trips are arranged of a weekend. Beer supplies are exhausted and further stocks should arrive with the next C47.

DISCIPLINE.

Satisfactory.

FOOD.

We have 3 months supply of tinned commodities but the nutriment values seem to be lacking as outbreaks of boils are prevalent. The supplies of fresh commodities should improve as efforts are being made to put supplies on McRobertson Millars aircraft which calls in once per week.

MORALE.

As good as can be expected after considering above.

J.L. HANNA Hanna FLYING OFFICER.
T/COMMANDING No 76 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMANDING OFFICERS REPORT.

AUGUST 1946

The big event of August was the Disposals Sale conducted by the C D C with Mr Gregson acting as auctioneer.

The sale was a success beyond expectations, after considering the isolation of the unit and knowing that cartage by contract to Carnarvon is £12 per ton then estimating the costs to be borne by buyers Kalgoorlie, Northam Albany, Broome, Pt Hedland and Perth towns located up to five times the distance of Carnarvon away.

The fact that each buyer thought he would be the sole representati in attendance together with the fact that once there the buyer would not return from such a remote spot with an empty truck- plus the competition from the stations' buyers who apparently came to buy predetermined items of equipment, attributed to the success of the sale.

Wealthy buyers dressed as the typified cowboys with their big trucks, trailers and semi-trailers helped lend the 'rodeo' atmosphere to the whole show. At nights around the camp fires many tales were 'swapped of the wily 'North West, as the buyers renewed acquaintances.

Some of the personalities present on the staff, included Wing Commander Dale S.E.S.O. Western Area, Mr Whitehead C D C representati Mr Gregson auctioneer, F/L Fyfe, while among the buyers there was DR Hanrahan from Albany (who dropped in from out of the blue in his tiger moth. The Flying Doctor was having an impromptu holiday fishing and shooting along the coast at all the attractive spots combined with the buying of a few aircraft requisites at the sale.) Mr Taplin a Pt Hedland buyer who is believed to be the No 2 'ace' in world war one of the AFC. Mr Forrest the member of parliament for this district_- Mr McManus of Perth a Hotel owner with a station as a diversion interest. Present also was Mr Lefroy and sons from Ningaloo and Exmouth Stations, Mr Eric Payne from Yardi Creek Station, Mr 'Bob' Scott from Manilya Station and Mr 'Bill' Horwood a previous C O of this unit.

This unit Consisting of eleven members had quite a busy time, arranging equipment, catering for visitors and guarding the equipment. Considering that seven dumps over a distance of two miles contained

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

the equipment for auction and due to the widespread nature guarding the equipment was quite a job, the small number of items found to be missing proves the honest sincerity of the people of the North West.

With the closing of the sale and the moving of the equipment this isolated outpost will sink once again into obscurity and become a ghost town until speed becomes the essence of the contract on the England - Australia and Africa - Australia air-routes.

A maintenance party is due to arrive here on the 8th of August to take over from the remaining members of 76 OBU who will proceed south by road convoy with all store and accounting records to complete the disbandment of 76 OBU at Western Area Headquarters.

Health

Satisfactory

Welfare.

Fishing shooting and crabbing outings of a week end are still being arranged.

Discipline.

Satisfactory considering the influx of civilians during the month and the deviation from routine.

Food.

'Greens' and fresh dairy produce are a rarity nowdays as aircraft are not available and the intervening time between the perishables leaving Perth and arriving here byroad is too great to warrant despatch by these means.

Morale

The troops will all be happier when they are finally southbound on the relieving convoy as a majority are discharged.

J. L. HANNA FLYING OFFICER.

T/COMMANDING NO 76 OBU

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

SEPTEMBER, 1946.

1. Another R.A.A.F. Unit is going out of existence, No. 76 Operational Base Unit, identified early as EXMOUTH, then unofficially as POTSHOT, and finally LEARMONTH, is about to disband.

2. Much has happened since the last Commanding Officer's report was submitted concerning this most westerly post on Australia's sea board. A maintenance party of four R.A.A.F. personnel have taken over all that remains of this once busy and important Unit.- The party is a Detachment of Headquarters, Western Area, and has retained sufficient equipment for the maintenance of the buildings and the few installations which are left.

3. On the 15th of the month, the Unit, eight vehicles in convoy, personnel numbering seven and all records were ready to leave on the long journey South. It was a great day for the Unit personnel some of whom had been away from home for over twelve months. A cherry farewell to members of the caretaking party, and the convoy was on its way, and even among those few members it is safe to say that some at least will cherish memories of arduous days of good comradship.

4. After a good trip, PEARCE was reached on the afternoon of the 21st and then leave. All personnel, with the exception of the Commanding Officer, have been disposed of and the disbandment should be completed at an early date.

R.M.L.

F/O.

T/COMMANDING No. 76 O.B.U.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

	F/Lt	Collings	E.J.	Defence Office
31608	F/O	Hawkins	C.H.S	equip.
427562	F/O	Skewes	D.T.	G.D. pilot
29882	W/O	Dawton	P.C.	pilot
80325	CPL	Geal	S.H.	equip Asst.
83903	LAC A/CPL	Leslie	H.D.	Equip Asst.
85108	LAC	McGlinn	J.L	Clerk
84938	LAC	French	J.W.	Gen Hand.
85904	A/C1	Grose	H.J.	Gen Hand
83789	LAC	Boarley	W.T.	Fitter / Rigger
85854	LAC A/CPL	Hyde	W	Gen Hand.
84747	LAC	Flanders	H.E.	Aircraft Hand

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT MAY, 1946.

No. 77 O.B.U.

PERSONNEL

The strength of the Unit 30th May was:-

	Permanent.	Attached.
Officers.	2	1
Airmen.	16	2
Airwomen.	-	-

MESSING.

With no messing staff and all personnel on living out allowance the kitchens have been closed.

TRANSPORT.

No transport held on charge this Unit all vehicles required are requisitioned weekly from 4 T.M.O.

MORALE AND DISCIPLINE.

Morale and Discipline under present conditions is considered good.

GENERAL.

Present strength adequate for disbandment duties.

David Stewart

F/O for Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit...

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

HEADQUARTERS - WESTERN AREA.

Tel. B3051. A.N.A. House,

R[illegible] 160/Air(8A) 52764. 44 St. George's Terrace,

RESTRICTED. PERTH.....W.A.

6a

TO ALL UNITS UNDER THE COMMAND
OF HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN AREA.

8 AUG 1944

UNIT HISTORY SHEETS.

Have you read the article entitled "Can you write a History?", that appears on page 10 of the 18th July issue (Vol 3, No. 8) of R.A.A.F. Magazine "WINGS"?

2. This article rightly points out that Unit History Sheets that contain nothing more than endless lists of aircraft movements and postings are almost valueless from the point of view of the R.A.A.F. Historical section, and would certainly fail to provide any material around which an interesting personal Unit History could be written.

3. A marked improvement in the preparation of Unit History Sheets has been noted but in the majority of instances, the writers are still unable to appreciate the need for making these records a living history of the unit. In some instances not even the most brilliant of "Quiz Kids" could ever determine the type of unit from the nature of the information presented by the Unit History Sheet.

4. Officers responsible for the compilation of the Sheets are not asked to exercise their imagination to such an extent that veracity is forgotten. They are asked, however, to set out the history in such a manner that the work and daily life of the unit, the personal incidents that occur and the general atmosphere of the Unit can be pictured clearly by the historian, who later is called upon to draw his inspiration from the Unit History Sheets.

5. Remember also, that histories make heavy reading if not lightened here and there with a touch of humour. A reasonable degree of levity in the History Sheets, therefore, will not be frowned upon and will certainly relieve the monotonous repetition that appears to be the hall mark of so many officers entrusted with the preparation of the Forms A.50.

6. The attention of all unit personnel should be specially invited to the article "Can you write a History?", and personnel should be encouraged to bring to notice any incidents worthy of inclusion in the Unit History Sheet.

7. The history of the R.A.A.F. and the unit cannot be written if those who are making that history are unable to explain how and why they are doing the job.

Bob Rushbrooke W/C

for Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

HEADQUARTERS – WESTERN AREA

8A

Tel. B2451. A.N.A. House,

Ref. 106/Air(16A) 55867 44 St. George's Terrace,

PERTH.....W.A.

RESTRICTED.

30th September, 1944.

TO ALL UNITS UNDER THE COMMAND
OF HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN AREA.

UNIT HISTORY SHEETS.

A considerable improvement has been noted over the past two months in the compilation of the Unit History Sheets.

2. It is evident that Commanding Officers are taking an active interest in the compilation of their History Sheets and this has resulted in producing a Form A.50 that is both interesting and informative and should be of great assistance to the official Historians at R.A.A.F. Headquarters.

3. When compiling the Unit History Sheet, the following points should be observed:–

(i) Where references are made to personnel, the number, initials and appointment should be shown.

(ii) When a visit is made to a Unit for a specific purpose, the reason (or reasons) should be stated and a summary of findings or action taken is to be given.

(iii) When a date is given the year is always to be included.

Edd Rushbrooke W/Cdr
for Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

'APPENDIX TO A.50'

SEPTEMBER 44.

COMMANDING OFFICERS' REPORT.

PERSONNEL.

STAFF. The strength of the Unit as at 30th September was 2 officers posted and 2 officers attached, Airmen 39 posted 5 attached, ACWs 2 posted and 1 attached.
Total strength 51.

MESSING. As this Unit is responsible for all catering arrangements F/O. SWEENEY, from 35 Squadron was made the messing officer responsible to the Commanding Officer No.77 O.B.U. The meals have been of a very high standard and credit must be given to the combined messing staff for the interest shown in their work.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

A9s, have been forwarded for work that has been deemed necessary for the needs of the combined camp site, and when these requisitions have been completed conditions should be excellent. Works Division has given every assistance and advice regarding the sub-dividing of present buildings to room the switch and teleprinter, and to make a Canteen bulk store. Representatives of the lodger units, 35 Squadron, and 106 Fighter Control Unit, 77 O.B.U. w ill meet early next month to form a Canteen and Welfare Committee. The morale of the Unit has been well maintained, and the interest shown by the personnel in the execution of their various duties has been of the highest nature.

STRIP AREA.

Work on the strip area has gone ahead during the last month, notice boards have been printed and displayed, to inform all visiting aircrew members of the procedure to be adopted while at this Unit. In complience with Western Area Headquarters, Principal Medical Officer's instruction a notice board with all particulars appended, and a yellow flag have been placed in position, in the event of aircraft landing from overseas.

.....F/Lt
Commanding Officer,
No.77 O.B.U.
GUILDFORD, W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A" 50.

107

OCTOBER 44.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

PERSONNEL.

STAFF. The strength of the unit as at 31st October was 4 officers posted, and 2 officers attached, Airmen 48 posted 30 attached, W.A.A.A.F. officers 1, A.C.Ws, 7 posted and 2 attached. Total strength 94.

MESSING. As this unit is responsible for the accomadation and messing of lodger units it is worthy of note that the ration strength has risen in two months from 301 to 703. Although the matter of accomadation is at times a problem, the messing is particularly well handled and the general opinion amongst all ranks is that the food is very good indeed.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

Work on the unit has progressed very well during the past month, unit labour has laid down paths to cope with the increased traffic, a parking area next to the administration block has been put down, a shed has been build for the unit carpenter, and a hut erected for use as a post-office by the postal assistant. Telephone operators are now working on a 24 hour basis, and when 7 Comm. Unit arrive early in November, approximately 700 personnel will be based at the Combined Camp. The morale of the unit has been of a very high standard and the interest shown by members of the various sections has resulted in a satisfactory monthly report.

STRIP AREA.

An A9, has been submitted to seal the area around the Hangar and Buildings of 35 Squadron; this has been found necessary owing to the sandy nature of the surrounding areas. Work has progressed in a satisfactory manner, and all possible attention has been given to visiting aircraft and crews.

MARKET GARDEN.

The return from the market garden was a record, and much credit can be given to the civilian gardener for his efforts.

MOTOR TRANSPORT POOL.

On 16th October a Motor Transport Pool was formed by placing under the control of 77 Operational Base Unit, Transport Officer, all transport and transport personnel of 106 Fighter Control Unit, and 35 Squadron. The Pool has operated very satisfactorily and has already brought about a considerable saving in man hours and economy in transport.

.....F/Lt.
Commanding Officer,
77 Operational Base Unit,
Dunreath via Guildford, W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

11B

HEADQUARTERS - WESTERN AREA.

Tel. B9051. A.N.A. House,

Ref. ~~166~~/Air(8A) 52764. 44 St. George's Terrace,

RESTRICTED. PERTH.....W.A.

8 August 1944

TO ALL UNITS UNDER THE COMMAND
OF HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN AREA.

UNIT HISTORY SHEETS.

Have you read the article entitled "Can you write a History?", that appears on page 10 of the 18th July issue (Vol 3, No. 8) of R.A.A.F. Magazine "WINGS"?

2. This article rightly points out that Unit History Sheets that contain nothing more than endless lists of aircraft movements and postings are almost valueless from the point of view of the R.A.A.F. Historical section, and would certainly fail to provide any material around which an interesting personal Unit History could be written.

3. A marked improvement in the preparation of Unit History Sheets has been noted but in the majority of instances, the writers are still unable to appreciate the need for making these records a living history of the unit. In some instances not even the most brilliant of "Quiz Kids" could ever determine the type of unit from the nature of the information presented by the Unit History Sheet.

4. Officers responsible for the compilation of the Sheets are not asked to exercise their imagination to such an extent that veracity is forgotten. They are asked, however, to set out the history in such a manner that the work and daily life of the unit, the personal incidents that occur and the general atmosphere of the Unit can be pictured clearly by the historian, who later is called upon to draw his inspiration from the Unit History Sheets.

5. Remember also, that histories make heavy reading if not lightened here and there with a touch of humour. A reasonable degree of levity in the History Sheets, therefore, will not be frowned upon and will certainly relieve the monotonous repetition that appears to be the hall mark of so many officers entrusted with the preparation of the Forms A.50.

6. The attention of all unit personnel should be specially invited to the article "Can you write a History?", and personnel should be encouraged to bring to notice any incidents worthy of inclusion in the Unit History Sheet.

7. The history of the R.A.A.F. and the unit cannot be written if those who are making that history are unable to explain how and why they are doing the job.

B.C. Rushbrooke W/C

W/C Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

11A

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: B.2451.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. 106/52/Air.(1A)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
Headquarters, Western Area,
A.N.A. House,
44 St. George's Terrace,
PERTH. W.A.

SECRET. 24834

No. 77 Operational Base Unit,
Group 419,
R.A.A.F.
DUNREATH via GUILDFORD. W.A.

27 NOV 1944

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

Reference No. 77 Operational Base Unit's Unit History Sheet for the month of October, it is advised that the Unit History Sheet, Form A.50, does not attain the required standard for Western Area.

2. It is noted that routine aircraft movements have been included among entries on the Unit History Sheet. This is contrary to the instructions contained in W.A.R.O. 81/44, as amended by W.A.R.O. 139/44. Routine aircraft movements are to be shown as a separate appendix in future.

3. For future guidance the attention of the Officer compiling the Unit History Sheet is directed to the attached copy of Western Area letter 106/AIR(8A) dated 8th. August,'44. The Unit History Sheet is to be set out in such a manner that the personal incidents that occur and the general atmosphere of the unit can be pictured clearly by Historians at R.A.A.F. Headquarters.

E H Rushbrooke W/C
for Group Captain.
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A" 50.

NOVEMBER 44.

12B

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

PERSONNEL.

STAFF The strength of the unit as at 30 November was 4 officers posted and 2 officers attached, Airmen 48 posted and 14 attached W.A.A.F. officers 1 posted A.C.W's posted 7 and 2 attached Total strength 78.

MESSING. Over 700 personnel are now being catered for at thisunit, the position has been well handled, and the food provided does credit to the messing Section in its preparation.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

The Unit Orderly Room has been sub-divided and seperate rooms for switch and teleprinter provided, in addition to a well set up Orderly Room.

The bulk store for the canteen has been provided, and fills a much wanted need as far as canteen facilities are concerned and a refrigerator for the cooling of soft drinks has been made available in the canteen.

Unit labour has kept the area of the combined camp in good order and lawns have been laid in front of the Administrative buildings.

MARKET GARDENS.

A good return of vegetables was again received from the market graden.

WELFARE. The welfare Committe have been instrumental in arranging dances and evenings, which have been held,well attended and enjoyed by all.

Unit picture show is held on the Wednesday of every week.

MORALE The morale of the Unit is of very high standard, and the work carried on at the various Sections, show that a keen interest is being taken in the progress of the Unit, by all concerned.

H W Balder Sgt for .....S/Ldr.
Commanding Officer,
77 Operational Base Unit,
Dunreath via Guildford, W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A" 50.

DECEMBER '44.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the unit at 31st December was 7 officers posted and 2 officers attached. Airmen '44 posted and 10 attached Airwomen 7 posted and 2 attached Total strength 72.

MESSING.

This section has continued the very good work of previous months and credit must again be given to the staff for the interest shown in the preparation of meals during the month.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

The parking area at transport has been completed, an ample space is now provided for the parking of service vehicles.

The installation of a petrol bowser at transport section, will facilitate refueling operations.

A prefabricated hut has been erected to act as a bulk store for the use of the unit caterer.

The lawns and gardens are showing to advantage, and more than compensate for the labour expended.

WELFARE.

The Welfare Committee arranged for the entertainment of personnel over the festive season, and credit must be given for their successful efforts.

MORALE.

The morale of the unit continues to be of a very high standard, and but for isolated cases where disciplinary action has been necessary, the work of personnel has been of the highest standard.

.....S/Ldr
Commanding Officer,
77 Operational Base Unit,
Dunreath via Guildford, W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

14A

PHONE: B2451.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. 106/52/AIR (2a)
SECRET:

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
Headquarters - Western Area,
A.N.A. House,
44 St. George's Tce.,
PERTH. W.A.

26493

No. 77 Operational Base Unit,
Group 419,
R.A.A.F.,
DUNREATH via GUILDFORD. W.A.

12 FEB 1945

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

Reference No. 77 Operational Base Unit History Sheet for the month of January, 1945, it is advised that the Form A50 as submitted is entirely inadequate and does not fulfil the requirements of A.F.O. 18/F/5 and W.A.R.O. 81/44 and is therefore, being returned for recompilation.

2. The Officer responsible for the compilation of the History Sheet is to be instructed to set out the History Sheet in such a manner that the work and daily life of the Unit, the personal incidents that occur and the general atmosphere of the Ubit can be pictured clearly by Historians at R.A.A.F. Headquarters.

3. For future guidance it is advised that it is no longer necessary to attach P.O.Rs and D.R.Os as appendices to the Unit History Sheet. When a posting or promotion is mentioned the signal authority must be quoted.

W.G. Brearley W/C.
for Group Captain,
STAFF OFFICER ADMINISTRATIVE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A" 50.

JANUARY 45.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the unit at 31/1/45 was 6 officers posted and 1 officer attached. Airmen 46 posted and 6 attached. W.A.A.A.F.- Officer 1 posted and 7 airwomen ~~attached~~ posted.

MESSING.

The preparation and standard of food has again been of the highest standard and fully appreciated by all members.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

The hut used by Medical Section has been taken over by the Dental Section, and a prefabricated hut provided for Medical Section. A Flag Mast has been provided , and placed in front of the main Administrative Buildings. The lawns and flower beds are looking a picture, and the areas just planted are showing good results. The road through the main camp area has been resurfaced by the Main Roads Board.

WELFARE.

The Welfare Committee has again provided the unit with entertainments in the way of dances and picture shows. Arrangements have been made for the purchase of good library books, these will be selected by the unit Education Officer.

STRIP WORK.

Work on the strip has increased to a geat extent by the number of visiting aircraft, which are serviced and refueled, this month has been a record as regards fuel supplied to visiting aircraft.

MORALE.

The morale and discipline of the unit has been of the highest nature, and this month has been satisfactory from every point of view.

next page

H.O. Bardock

.....F/Lt.
Temp. Commanding Officer 77 O.B.U.
Dunreath via Guildford, W.A.

RECEIVED
8 FEB 1945
SECRET REGISTRY.
R.A.A.F.
HQRS. WESTERN AREA.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A" 50.

JANUARY 45.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

PERSONNEL.

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MORALE.

The morale and discipline of the unit has been of the highest nature, and this month has been satisfactory from every point of view.

H.S. Barwood .....F/Lt.
Temp. Commanding Officer 77 O.B.U.
Dunreath via Guildford, W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

M1431

18/1/Air

SECRET.

15A

No. 77 Operational Base Unit.
Dunreath via Guildford, W.A.
21/2/45.

Headquarters,
Western Area,
A.N.A. House,
PERTH.

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

Reference Headquarters Western Area letter 106/52/AIR (2A) No. 26493 dated 12/2/1945, enclosed herewith recompiled A 50 for the Month of January 1945.

.....S/Ldr,
Commanding Officer, 77 O.B.U.

14A

APPENDIX "A" 50

JANUARY 45.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the unit at 31/1/45 was 6 officers posted and 1 officer attached. Airmen 46 posted and 6 attached. W.A.A.A.F. Officer 1 posted and 7 airwomen posted. This now includes an Education Officer and a Dental Officer who look after the requirements of all lodger units in addition to those of the O.B.

MESSING In spite of the comings and goings and shortages of messing staff the messing section continues to maintain an excellent standard of food. Complaints have been conspicuous by their absence and the orderly officers job in this direction at least is a relatively easy one.

TRANSPORT SECTION.

The Transport Section again had a very busy month. Providing for the requirements of four units with a limited number of vehicles and personnel calls for considerable organisation and although the milage for the month was down slightly the combined total averaged 5000 miles per week. The additional of two vehicles from Clontarf has helped to ease the strain.

EQUIPMENT SECTION.

Due to Liberator aircraft form Cunderdin coming to Guildford for refueling this section turned over record figures for aviation fuel consumption.

CANTEEN.

Canteen figures sontinue to maintain a high level at about £350 per week and the two canteen stewards find their time fully occupied handling this turnover.

SERVICING SECTION.

A greater percentage of aircraft arriving from overseas plus the visits of Liberators from Cunderdin has resulted in the strip servicing party having a particularly busy month.

MORALE.

The morale and discipline of the unit has been of the highest nature, and this month has been satisfactory from every point of view.

.....S/Ldr
Commanding Officer, No. 77 O.B.U.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

16/1

1617

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A".

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - FEB RUARY, 1945.

PERSONNEL

The strength of the unit at 28/2/45 was 6 officers posted and 1 attached, 53 airmen posted and 18 attached,1 W.A.A.A.F. officer and 10 airwomen posted and 8 airwomen attached, a total of 97. Although this represents a substantial increase on the previous month 14 of the 18 airmen attached are employed at Derby and 7 airwomen have been attached during the month for teleprinter duties.
Due to excellent living conditions, the increased activities of the Welfare Committee and also that the majority of the personnel are living close to their homes, the morale of the unit continues to be of a high standard. The general discipline is also satisfactory.

MESSING.

The food in all messes continues to be of an excellent standard and complaints have been conspicuous by their absence. The acute shortage of messing staff experienced in the previous month eased somewhat during February because of postings of messing personnel of lodger units.

METEOROLOGICAL SECTION.

The Meteorological Section continues to provide route forcasts and general weather information for all units and for the Civil Aviation Department, Their personnel consists of one R.A.A.F. and one W.A.A.F. officer and two airmen.
On the 19th of the month Met flights were commenced in conjunction with 7 Communication Unit, a Wirraway being used for this purpose. This work had been previously carried out at Pearce. On the 11th of the month the balance of the Met equipment from Western Area Headquarters was transfered to this unit which is now responsible for the issue of equipment to all R.A.A.F. Met sections in the Western Area.
The Met Officer makes the following observations "Apart from a hot spell in the early part of the month moderate temperature prevailed. The month was generally very dry. Maximun temperature 106.1° on 2nd February, minimum 54.2° on 25th. rainfall 14 points.

WELFARE.

Unit dances have been held each Monday night. The average attendance has been approx 110.
Apart from two Wednesday nights when the projector was unserviceable the area cinema section has shown its weekly programme which has been appreciated by those who attend.
The airmens recreation hut is now complete with lounge chairs, Writing tables, magazines and wall maps and is being well used.
The Eduaction Officer has taken over the Welfare Library and is adding new books regularly from funds donated by Welfare. The Committee has granted £25 for library books as well as £5 monthly. The addition of a well stocked library from 5.V.A.O.C. unit has assisted in making the unit library a really worth while one.

EDUCATION SECTION.

Advice and guidance on educational and rehabilitation matters has been given to a large number of personnel. Considerable interest is being shown in Corrospondence Courses and up to date 22 persons have been enrolled. This includes all units at Guildford for the unit Education Officer also acts as a Zone Education Officer.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

EDUCATION SECTION (Continued)

Facilities for study have been provided by the setting up of a reading and writing room by the Unit Welfare Committee. Wall newspaper maps and pictures have been placed in recreation rooms and messes to keep personnel abreast of developments in the various war zones. Frequent screenings of educational films have been well attended. An up to date fiction library of more than 250 books has been established and is being conducted in conjunction with the Technical library.

DENTAL SECTION.

The dental needs of the combined camp area are now being attended to by the units dental section which comprises a dental officer, 2 dental orderlies, and a dental mechanic. With over 700 personnel to look after and considerable leeway to make up the section has been very busy indeed.

MEDICAL SECTION.

This section moved into new quarters on the 1st of the month but are hoping they will only be temporary as tenders for the erection of a Unit Sick Quarters close on the 27th February. Looking after the needs of the combined camp area also keeps this section very busy.

TRANSPORT SECTION.

The Transport Section continues to meet the transpottation requirements of all the units based on the Guildford camp in spite of shortage of suitable vehicles and drivers. By further co-ordination 3000 miles of running was saved as compared with the previous month.

EQUIPMENT SECTION.

With the projected move of 35 (Transport) Squadron this section has been busy taking over some of their equipment. The turnover of motor and aviation fuel continues at a high level.

SERVICING PARTY.

The members of the Servicing Party continue to obtain experience on a variety of aircraft. Those which needed service during the month included. Liberators, Beauforts, Ansons, Douglas "Skymaster" Liberator "Commando" Hudson, Tiger Moth, Douglas C47& C54, & Mitchell.

TELEPRINTER.

On the 25th of the month the installation of a teleprinter was completed and a 24hour service is provided to all units at Guildford.

CANTEEN.

The canteen continues to maintain a very satisfactory turnover and an excellent variety of goods is stocked. During the month the United States Navy has made Coca-Cola available and it has proved extremely popular.

SERVICE POLICE.

During the month a Service Police section was established and it filled a long ~~felt~~ want. Two Service Policemen have been posted to the unit and by their interest in their work have already effected an improvement in the general discipline of the combined camp area. With the requirements of five

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SERVICE POLICE (Continued)

units to fulfill this section will undoubtedly find little idle time on their hands.

GENERAL

Work is continuing on improvements to the camp area.
New lawns and gardens hane been laid out and an inter hut gardening competition in the W.A.A.A.F. section has had excellent results.

.....S/Ldr
Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS.

DATE	FROM	TIME	DATE	DEPART TO	TIME	TYPE.
1/2/45	Cunderdin	0930	1/2/45	Cunderdin	1623	A72-124
1/2/45	Learmonth	1622	3/2/45	Pa afield	0542	B25-655
2/2/45	Cunderdin	2030				A72-149
3/2/45	Parafield	1453	6/2/45	Mascot	0530	A16-115
3/2/45	Cunderdin	1950	4/2/45	Learmonth	0530	A72-151
4/2/45	Learmonth	1838	4/2/45	Cunderdin	1859	A72-151
6/2/45	Cunderdin	0600	6/2/45	Learmonth	0748	A72-154
6/2/45	Cunderdin	0610	6/2/45	Learmonth	0748	A72-137
6/2/45	Overseas	1000	6/2/45	Amberley	1420	C54-171
7/2/45	Cunderdin	0600	7/2/45	Learmonth	0728	A72-154
7/2/45	Cunderdin	1113	7/2/45	Cunderdin	1130	A72-156
7/2/45			7/2/45	Learmonth	1135	C54-153
7/2/45	Learmonth	1658	7/2/45	Cunderdin	1711	A72-154
8/2/45	Cunderdin	1047	8/2/45	Cunderdin	1133	A72-152
8/2/45	Darwin	1842	11/2/45	Learmonth	1032	C54-171
9/2/45	Cunderdin	0657	9/2/45	Legrmonth	0825	A72-156
9/2/45	Cunderdin	0943	12/2/45	Cunderdin	1649	A72-149
9/2/45	Cunderdin	1504	9/2/45	Cunderdin	1853	A72-151
9/2/45	Learmonth	1740	9/2/45	Cunderdin	1755	A72/156
12/2/45	Cunderdin	0915	12/2/45	Cunderdin	0958	A72-154
12/2/45	Cunderdin	1544	12/2/45	Cunderdin	1609	A72-133
14/2/45	Essendon	1615	15/2/45	Overseas	1310	AL-504
15/2/45	North	1200	19/2/45	Pearce	1010	A9-348
16/2/45	Cunderdin	1130	16/2/45	Cunderdin	1515	A72-149
17/2/45	Cunderdin	0950	17/2/45	Cunderdin	1005	A72-150
19/2/45	Geraldton	1110	19/2/45	Geraldton	1650	R3457
20/2/45	Cunderdin	0945	20/2/45	Cunderdin	1800	A72-140
20/2/45	Ceylon	1100	21/2/45	Darwin	0825	DC4-317171
21/2/45	Cunderdin	1445	21/2/45	Cunderdin	1550	A72-140
22/2/45	Ceylon	0820	23/2/45	Darwin	0910	DC4-317153
22/2/45	Cunderdin	1550	22/2/45	Cunderdin	1610	A72-152
23/2/45	Cunderdin	1450	23/2/45	Cunderdin	1610	A72-152
24/2/45	Darwin	1015	25/2/45		1000	Dc4-317171
25/2/45	Learmonth	1145	6/3/45	Kalgoolie	0915	A16-235
26/2/45	Pearce	1425	26/2/45	Cunderdin	1445	A17-159
27/2/45	Pearce	1005	27/2/45	Carnarvon	1045	A9-369

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - MARCH 1945.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the unit on 31/3/45 was 6 officers posted and 1 attached, 52 airmen posted and 21 attached, 1 W.A.A.A.F. and 13 airwomen posted and 5 attached, a total of 99, representing a slight increase over the previous month. The departures of No. 35 (Transport) Squadron has resulted in a reduction in total strength of the lodger Units from approximately 720 to 490.

MESSING.

Food in all messes has been of a high standard, and has left no room for complaint. The principal difficulty in this section has been concerned with the shortage of staff, particularly stewards which has necessitated the introduction of a meal line service in the Sergeants' Mess. The duties of Messing Officer are at present being performed by an attached aircrew officer with no previous experience of such work, the fourth such appointment is a little more than three months.

WELFARE.

The Welfare Committee has been very active during the month and in addition to the regular weekly dances each Monday evening, and the Wednesday picture nights, several special functions have been organised for the entertainment of personnel. The most noteworthy of these were a Community Concert and Quiz Contest evening on the 13th, and a W.A.A.A.F. Birthday Ball on the 15th, both of which attracted large attendances and reflected much credit on those responsible for their organization.

EDUCATION SECTION.

The demand for Correspondence Courses, particularly by the W.A.A.A.F. Section is still great, and approximately 50% of the total personnel are engaged in some form of study. Film screenings with the 16 m.m. projector are proving very popular.

MEDICAL SECTION.

Good progress is being made with the erection of the new Unit Sick Quarters and it is hoped that the building will be completed in time for the Medical Section to move in before the winter.

METEOROLOGICAL SECTION.

The weather during March remained fairly dry, only 64 points being recorded. Of these 57 fell during the 24 hrs. ended 9 a.m. on 26th. being caused by a small tropical depression which moved down the coast and then moved over Perth in SE/ly. direction. Temperatures remained fairly high for the whole period, the max. being 99.6° on 12th. Minimum temperatures were also high, the lowest recording being 49.5° on 11th. Conditions for the first 3 weeks were mostly cloudless but for the latter part of the month broken to overcast skies prevailed on a large number of occasions.

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GENERAL.

The month saw a further extension of the area under lawns and gardens, with a corresponding improvement in the beautification of the Unit.

Morale and discipline continue at a high standard, and despite difficulties associated with manpower shortages, excellent work is being done by all sections.

L. Barry
.....S/Ldr
Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS.

DATE	FROM	TIME	DATE	DEPART TO	TIME	TYPE.
2/3/45	Cunderdin	1530	2/3/45	Cunderdin	1600	Tiger Moth.
3/3/45	Kalgoolie	1600	3/3/45	Kalgoolie	1620	Beaufort.
3/3/45	Melbourne	1830	6/3/45	Melbourne	0600	C47 Dakota
5/3/45	Cunderdin	1640	5/3/45	Cunderdin	1700	Liberator
9/3/45		1230	9/3/45			Liberator
10/3/45	India	0815	10/3/45	Darwin	2115	DC 4 317171
11/3/45	Darwin	1615	12/3/45	Ceylon	1200	DC 4 317171
10/3/45	England	1340	12/3/45	Canberra	0630	Avro York
17/3/45	Camden	1600	18/3/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas C47
18/3/45	parafield		18/3/45	Oodnadatta		Mitchell B24
19/3/45	Cunderdin	1030	19/3/45	Cunderdin	1100	Tiger Moth
21/3/45	Cunderdin	1000	23/3/45	Cunderdin	1616	Liberator.
22/3/45	Parafield	1600	23/3/45	Broome	0530	Douglas C417.
24/3/45	Ceylon	0800	24/3/45	Darwin	2000	DC 317143
24/3/45	Mascot	1500	25/3/45	E.States	0600	DC 3 VMYAA
24/3/45	Broome	1900	24/3/45	Parafield	0530	C47.VHCUX
25/3/45	Parafield	1500	26/3/45	Broome	0530	C47 VHCIO
27/3/45	Parafield	1600	28/3/45	Broome	0530	C47 VHCIP
27/3/45	Broome	1900	28/3/45	Parafield	0530	C47 VHCIO
27/3/45	Ceylon	1500	27/3/45	Ceylon		B24 Liberator
27/3/45	Darwin	1900	29/3/45	Ceylon	1540	DC4 317143
29/3/45	Cunderdin	1120	29/3/45	Cunderdin	1200	DH82 A17-159
29/3/45		1540	30/3/45		0600	DC3 VHCIT
29/3/45		1700	30/3/45		0600	DC3 VHCIP
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130	30/3/45	Mt Gambier	0630	Anson Ms 274
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130	31/3/45	Mt Gambier	0630	Anson MH 116
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130				Anson LV 283
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130				Anson LV 212
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130	31/3/45	Mt Gambier	0630	Anson MG 122
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130	31.3.45	Mt Gambier	0630	Anson MH 114
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130	31/3/45	Mt Gambier	0630	Anson MH 126
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130	31/3/45	Mt Gambier	0630	Anson MG 120
30/3/45	Geraldton	1130	31/3/45	Mt Gambier	0630	Anson MG 180
31/3/45	Forrest	1515	31/3/45			DC3 VHYAA
31/3/45		1545				DC3 VHCIT.

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPE NDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - ~~MAY~~ APRIL. 1945.

PERSONNEL

The strength of the unit on 30/4/45 was 5 Officers posted and 7 attached, 52 airmen posted and 4 attached, 1 W.A.A.A.F. Officer and 14 airwomen po sted and 3 attached a total of 86.

MESSING.

Food in all messes has been up to standard. Shortage of messing staff demand that additional musterings be rostered to assist in the messes. Duties of messing officer are still being car ried out satisfactorily by an attached air crew officer.

WELFARE.

Regular weekly dances and pictures are proving very popular now that the winter nights are approaching. A start has been made on the construction of a unit tennis court.

EDUCATION SECTION.

A steady demand for correspondence Courses persists and the unit library is attracting more and more personnel. The purchase of many new books has added to the already attracti ve list of library books. Educational and popular 16 MM films are also being shown to increasing audiences.

MEDICAL SECTION.

Unit sick quarters is nearing compl etion. It can not be completed to soon as the early winter rains have already found their way into the existing prefabricated hut quarters.

METEOROLOGICAL SECTION.

The weather during April remained of a Summer Character throughout with temperatures above average and very little rain. Max temperature recorded was 96.3° on 18th. and the minimum 44.2° on 29th.

Rain fell on five days, 28 points being recorded.

Mist or fog occ urred on 7 mornings, the worst being on the 19th. when the aerodrome was closed from 0615 till 0715 hours.

Strong easterly winds were experienced from 1400hours. on 22nd. till 1400 hours. on 23rd averaging between 20 and 40 m.p.h. during that period with many gusts between 40 and 50 m.p.h. A gust of 52 m.p.h. occurred at 2140 hours. on 22nd. and ano ther of 51 m.p.h at 0025 hours. on 23rd.

GENERAL.

Morale and discipline remains at a high standard. All personnel appeared contented and are doing a good jo b of work.

.....S/Ldr
Commanding Officer No. 77 O. BASE UNIT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS.

DATE	FROM	TIME	DATE	DEPART TO	TIME	TYPE.
1/4/45	Parxafield	1500	2/4/45	Broome	0600	DC3 CIM
3/4/45	Parafield	1530	4/4/45	Broome	0600	DC3 CIR
3/4/45	Broome	1800	4/4/45	Parafield	0600	DC3 CIM
2/4/45	Brisbane	0900	3/4/45	Brisbane	2000	Liberator
5/4/45			6/4/45		0600	Douglas VMVAG
5/4/45			6/4/45		0600	DC3 CUZ
5/4/45			6/4/45		0600	DC3 CIR
5/4/45	Darwin		7/4/45	Ceylon		DC4 317171
6/4/45	Brisbane		8/4/45	Ceylon		DC4 317153
5/4/45	Kalgoolie		7/4/45	Kalgoolie		Boomerang A46-73
6/4/45			9/4/45			Douglas KN 338
7/4/45			8/4/45			Douglas CUZ
8/4/45			9/4/45			Douglas CIR
9/4/45			10/4/45			Loadstar
10/4/45			11/4/45			Douglas CIR
6/4/45			13/4/45			Avro York MW 140
8/4/45	Corunna		11/4/45	Darwin		Mitchell.
9/4/45			10/4/45			Loads tar RAA
10/4/45			11/4/45			Douglas, CIR
13/4/45			14/4/45			Loadstar.
17/4/45			18/4/45			Douglas, CIQ
19/4/45			20/4/45			Douglas, CIO
11/4/45						Liberator, EW 630
11/4/45			12/4/45			Douglas, KN 338
12/4/45			13/4/45			Douglas, KN 388
12/4/45			13/4/45			Liberator, EW 633
12/4/45			14/4/45			Dc4 317143
18/4/45	Darwin		20/4/45	Ceylon		DC4 317171
15/4/45	Parafield		16/4/45	Broome		Douglas CIQ
17/4/45	Broome		18/4/45	Parafield		Douglas CIQ
19/4/45	Parafield		20/4/45	Broome		Douglas CIO
18/4/45	India		20/4/45	India		Liberator, EW 633
21/4/45	Mascot		22/4/45	Mascot		Douglas KN 240
23/4/45	India			India		Liberator EW 630
23/4/45	Darwin		25/4/45	Darwin		Mitchell 130644
21/4/45	Broome		22/4/45	Parafield		Douglas CIO
22/4/45	Parafield		23/4/45	Broome		Douglas CIR
24/4/45	Parafield		25/4/45	Broome		Douglas CIN
24/4/45	Broome	1600	25/4/45	Parafield		Douglas CIR
25/4/45	Darwin	1400	25/4/45	Ceyl on		DC4 317143
26/4/45	Parafield		27/4/45	Broome		Douglas CIP
27/4/45	Broome		28/4/45	Parafield		Douglas CIN
28/4/45	Broome		29/4/45	Parafield		Douglas CIP
28/4/45	Mascot		29/4/45	Mascot		Douglas KK 155 RAF
29/4/45	Parafield		30/4/45	Broome		Douglas CIR.

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APP ENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - MAY 1945.

PERSONNEL.

T he strength of the U nit on 30/5/45 was 5 Officer s posted and 7 att ached, 47 airmen posted and 20 attached, 1 W.A.A.A.F. Officer, 20 Airwomen posted and 1 attached - a total of 100.

MESSING.

Additional Musterings are still being supplied to Messes to assist regular Messing Staff. The preparation of meals at all hours for visiting air crews is making greater demands on the staff. This coupled with frequent detachment of present Messing Staff and the fact that this Unit has no Messing Officer necessitates t he use of personnel in the messes of other musterings.

WELFARE.

Weekly Dances and Cinemas are well attended. A Basket ball court has be en marked out on the Bitumen area near transport section.

MEDICAL SECTION.

Sick Quarters stil l not finished. Repeated efforts to estimate completion date have all failed.

MET. SECTION.

Weather. This month was marked by the onset of the rainy season 350 points being recorded on 18 days . the maxim daily fall being on the 16th when 125 points were recorded for the 24 hours ended 9 a.m. Moderate day and night temperatures were experienced with a max of 84.9 on the 8th and a min of 40.2 on the 18th.

Sectional Operations. The Met. Flight conducted by 7 Com Unit ceased on the 19th with the commence ment of radiosende observ-ations from Pearce. We ather advices to 85 Squadron ceased on that Squadron shifting to Pearce.

GENERAL.

Mo rale and discipline remains hig h. All personnel appear contente d.

.....F/Lt.
Commanding Officer ,77 O.B.U., GU ILDFORD.

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - JUNE 1945.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the Unit on 30/6/45 was 5 Officers posted and 5 attached, 55 airmen posted and 6 attached, 1 W.A.A.A.F. Officer, posted, 35 airwomen posted and 1 attached, 1 R.A.F. Officer and 11 airmen attached.- Total of 120.

MESSING.

The posting of lodger Unit's Messing Staff to the O.B. has greatly facilitated the control and discipline of the Messes.

The fact that the O.B. is providing a 24 hours meal service most of the time leaves the Messing Staff very short handed and it is still necessary to use other musterings in the Kitchens.

MET. SECTION.

The first seven days of the month were characterised by cloudless or very high cloud conditions with fine weather. On the afternoon of the seventh a marked change occurred and for the remainder of the month, stormy conditions prevailed with rain every day. During the month 1669 points were recorded on th aerodrome, the maximum fall being 308 points on the 10th.

Several days were very gusty, on the 17th, a gust of 57 m.p.h. being recorded while several days gusts between 40 and 50 m.p.h. were experienced.

Max. Temp. recorded was 71.5° on 1st.
Min. Temp. recorded was 41.9° on 14th.

TARMAC.

44 Aircrafts were refuelled and serviced during the month of June. One of the aircrafts visiting the strip was on a fishing survey of Australia, carrying Mr. Fowler, Chief Fishery Inspector of the Counsel for Scientific Research and piloted by F/Lt. Ellis of 67 Squadron.

TRANSPORT.

The Pooling of all vehicles held by lodger units should make far more efficient control and economy.

GENERAL.

The increasing number of visiting aircrafts to the Guildford drome is reflected in the additional work and tempo at the O.B. but all personnel have responded cheerfully to all emergency calls and it is considered that the morale remains at a high level.

E.J. Collings F/Lt.
(E.J. COLLINGS.)
Commanding Officer, No.77 O.B.U., GUILDFORD. W.A.

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AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS.

DATE	ARRIVED FROM	TIME	DATE	DEPART TO	TIME	TYPE.
1/5/45	Broome		2/5/45	Parafield		Douglas CIR
1/5/45	Parafield		2/5/45	Broome		Douglas CIT
3/5/45	Broome		4/5/45	Parafield		Douglas CIT
3/5/45	Parafield		4/5/45	Broome		Douglas CI M
3/5/45	Mascot		4 /5/45	Mascot		Douglas YAC
4/5/ 45	Morotoi Is.		8/5/45	Morotoi Is.		Mitchell 26481
5/5/45	Broome		6/5/45	Parafield		Douglas CIM
5/5/45	Mascot		6/5/45	Mascot		D ouglas YAG
5/5/45	Darwim		6/5/45	C eylon		DC4 317171
6/5/45	Parafield		7 /5/45	Broome		Douglas CIQ
8/5/45	Parafield	1610	9/5/45	Broome	0615	Douglas CIN
8/5/45	Broome	1800	9/5/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas CIQ
8/5/45	Parafield	1830	9/5/45	Parafield	0630	D ouglas YAW
10/5/45	Parafield	1530	11/5/45	Broome	0615	Douglas CIR
10/5/45	Broome	1800	11/5/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas CIN
10/5/45	Parafield	1745	11/5/45	Parafield	0615	Douglas YAR
12/5/45	Broome	1815	13/5/45	Parafield	0630	Douglas CIR
13/5/45	Biak Is.	1515	20/5/45	Biak Is.	1030	Liberator 142.
13/5/45	Parafield	1500	14/5/45	Broome	0600	Douglas RFK
15/5/45	Parafield	1600	16/5/45	Bro ome	0630	Douglas RFJ
15/5/45	Broome	1715	16/5/45	Parafield	0630	Douglas RFK
15/5/45	Parafield	1900	16/5/45	Parafield	0630	Douglas YBA
17/5/45	Parafield	1530	18/5/45	Broome	0615	Douglas CIO
17/5/45	Broome	1830	18/5/45	Parafield	0610	Douglas RFJ
17/5/45	Mascot	1615	18/5/45	Mascot	0615	Douglas YAB
19/5/45	Mascot	1815	20/5/45	Mascot	0630	Douglas YAV
19/5/45	Broome	1530	20/5/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas CIO
20/5/45	Parafield	1600	21/5/45	B roome	0615	Douglas COZ
20/5/45		1700	21/5/45		0630	Douglas RDZ (NEI. T.S. Brisbane)
22/5/45	Parafield	1730	23/5/45	Broome	0600	Douglas CIM
22/5/45	Mascot	1830	23/5/ 45	Mascot	0615	Douglas YBE
23/5/45	Broome	1530	24/5/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas CUZ
23/5/45	Mascot	1730	24/5/45	Mascot	0830	Douglas YBL
24/5/45	Parafield	1515	24/5/45	B roome	0615	Douglas RFK
24/5/45	Broome	1630	25/5/45	Parafield	0630	Douglas CIM
24/5/45	Mascot	1830	25/5/45	Ma scot	0600	Douglas YAS
25/5/45	Carnarvon	1115		Parafield	0630	Lodestar RDW
26/5/45	Parafield	1700	27/5/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas 7 BA
26/5/45	Broome	1630	27/5/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas R FK
27/5/45	Parafield	1500	28/5/45	Broome	0600	Douglas CIT
28/5/45	Cunderdin	1530	30/5/45	Bachelor	0700	L iberator A72/14 4.
29/5/45	Parafield	1430	30/5/45	Parafield	0600	Douglas 7 BH
29/5/45	Parafield	1600	30/5/45	Broome	0630	Douglas CIQ
29/5/45	Broome	1800	30/5/45	P arafield	0600	Douglas CIT
31/5/45	Parafield	1430	1/6/45	Broome	0600	Do u glas CIM
31/5/45	Broome	1800	1/6/45	P arafield	0600	Douglas CIQ
31/5/45	Parafield	1630	1/6/45	Parafield	0630	Douglas76G

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - JULY ,1945.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the Unit on 30/7/45 was 5 Officer posted and 7 attached, 54 airmen posted and 39 attached, 1 W.A.A.A.F. Officer posted, 34 airwomen posted and 3 attached, 13 R.A.F. attached. Total of 156.

MESSING.

Satisfactory meals are being supplied to all ranks and staff problem although still acute is expected to improve with the arrival of a R.A.F. Detachment.

MET. SECTION.

Weather. July saw a marked falling off in the wet weather which was the main feature of June and a period of 30 consecutive days of rain ended on the 7th. The total rainfall recorded for the month was 463 points as against 640 recorded at the Perth Weath Bureau.

Several fogs were experienced, one on the morning of the 7th resulted in the aerodrome being closed from 0630 hours till 0730 hours.

Temperatures remained fairly low, the highest recording being only 68.5°F, this being on the 14th and the lowest 39.6°F on the 9th, although on nearly every occasion the minimum temp. recorded lay newteen 40°F and 45°F.

Section Activities.

Several staff changes occurred during the month due to postings, leave etc. causing some difficulty in maintaining the full weather service, however these have now been overcome. It is anticipated that the establishment will be increased in the near future to enable the section to operate on a full 24 hour basis.

TARMAC.

74 Aircraft were refuelled and serviced during the month of July.

TRANSPORT.

Difficulty is at times experienced in supplying all transport demands. Visiting aircrew and passengers from the India run are making increasing demands upon the pool but by combining two or three demands together all requirements are being met.

GENERAL.

The work of the O.B.U. continues to increase but it is considered that the efficiency and morale of the personnel remain at a high level.

.....F/Lt.
(E.J. COLLINGS.)
Commanding Officer, No.77 O.B.U., GUILDFORD...W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

5

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTR ALIA.

APPENDIX "A".

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - AUGUST,1945.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the Unit on 31/8/45 was 7 Officers Posted and 3 Attached, 89 airmen Posted and 1 Attached., 1 W.A.A.A.F. Officer Posted and 1 Attached, 31 Airwomen Posted and 14 Attached.Total of 147.

MESSING.

The R.A.F. Detachment of 300 Group have supplied sone 7 extra messing staff and the position is somewhat easier. A 24 hours messing service is now found necessary to cater for visiting aircraft and transit personnel.

MET. SECTION.

Rain was again the predominating feature of the weather in August, some being recorded every day from the 4th to the 8th inclusive for a total of 1042 points ,the maximum daily registration being 221 points for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. on the 14th. Temperatures remained mild, the highest recording being 73.8°F., on the 31st and the lowest 43.1°F., on the 30th.

No change occurred in the section routine, though a slight increase in the weather information issued was noticed.

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT.

A total of 1.832 Transit personnel passed through 77 O.B.U. GUILDFORD for the month of August and during this month 120 Aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

TRANSPORT.

The Pool is still functioning satisfactorily. The N.C.O. School and the R.A.F. Detachment making additional demands. The Transport made available to the R.A.F. Detachment not being adequate to cope with their settling in period.

GENERAL.

The work of the O.B.U. continues to increase but it is considered that the efficiency and morale of the personnel remains at a high level.

.....F/Lt.
(E.J. COLLINGS.)
Commanding Officer, No. 77 O.B.U.,GUILDFOR

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - SEPT.,1945.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the Unit on 30/9/45 was 7 Officer posted and 2 attached, 69 airmen posted and 1 attachedm 1 W.A.A.A.F. Officer posted and 1 attached, 32 Airwomen posted and 10 attached. - Total of 123.

MESSING.

Transit personnel are increasinf and the Messing Staff are coping with the position at present. The transfer of the Sergeants' Mess to building adjacent to the Airmens' Mess enables a Staff in the Officers' Mess to cater for Officers and all transit. This has relieved the acute over crowding in this Mess when it was sometimes necessary to have three sittings.

MET SECTION

A considerable increase in weather requirements for R.A.F.T.C. occurred during September resulting in this Section operating continuously during the 24 hours.

The weather during the month showed a marked improvement over that of the previous two months. Temperatures were moderate though several cold nights were experienced. The lowest temperature recorded was 36.6° on 29th. and the highest 74.6° on the 13th. Rainfall amounted to 418 points, rain falling on 18 days, the highest daily recording being 61 points on the 22nd.

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT.

A total of 1,171 Transit personnel passed through 77 O.B.U. GUILDFORD for the month of September and during this month 88 Aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

TRANSPORT.

The pool is functioning satisfactorily. Many additional demands outside routine runs being handled by this Section.

GENERAL.

The work of the O.B.U. instead of decreasing with the cessation of hostilities is on the increase. A new Signals section has been added. The R.A.F. appear to have made this a base. 136 personnel now being quartered here. The number of transit passengers and ex P.O.W. is increasing. Visiting Aircrafts and their crews stage here for weeks at a time whilst 25 Squadron are operating a detachment from here. The closing down of A.D.H.Q. Radar and V.H.O.C. has brought more personnel into the Camp Area so the O.B.U. is extended to cope with these extra commitments. Still personnel are responding well and morale remains at a high level.

E.J. Collings

.....F/Lt.

(E.J. COLLINGS.)

Commanding Officer, No.77 O.B.U., GUILDFORD.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - OCTOBER, 1945.

PERSONNEL:

The strength of the Unit on 31 Oct 45 was:-

	Posted	Attached
Officers	8	2
Airmen	22	1
Airwomen	31	6

MESSING:

Transit personnel are still making exceptional demands upon existing messing staff. With the supplementation of General Hands etc., it has been possible to maintain a satisfactory service.

MET. SECTION:

A marked improvement in the weather occurred during October, with little rain (87 points falling in 6 days) and several warm to hot cloudless days.

The maximum Temperature was 89.8° on 11th and the minimum 41.2° on 23 Oct 45.

Several windy days occurred, chiefly gusty Easterlies in the early morning with many gusts to 35/40 m.p.h.

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT:

A total of 1,719 Transit personnel passed though No. 77 O.B.U. GUILDFORD for the month of October, and during this month 97 aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

TRANSPORT:

The R.A.F. lodger Unit, No. 189 Staging Post have withdrawn their vehicles and drivers from the pool. This has not assisted the rostering of duty driver etc., still with the help of Emergency Drivers, all calls have been met.

GENERAL:

Few discharges have, as yet, come through, so all commitments are being satisfactorily handled, by the available personnel. The many and varied demands on the O.B.U. still show no sign of abating.

Personnel are all fully engaged and morale and interest appears as high as ever.

(E. J. COLLINGS) Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 1945.

PERSONNEL :

The strength of the Unit on 30th Nov 45 was :-

	Posted	Attached
Officers		
Airmen		
Airwomen		

MESSING:

Discharge in the staff are making it difficult to provide the expected high standard of meals.

MET SECTION:

The weather during November was mainly fine and on many days skies were cloudless. Cloudy to overcast conditions existed on 11 days when clouds ranged from 1500/4500 feet.

Rain fell 7 days and a total of 101 points were recorded. A fog occurred from 0530 to 0620 hours on 23rd and ground fogs occurred on 4 other days in the early morning and lasted only for a short time.

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT:

A total of 2,097 Transport personnel passed through No. 77 O.B.U. GUILDFORD for the month of November, and during this month 90 aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

TRANSPORT:

The discharge of key personnel has effected more than any other section and maintenance in particular has suffered. Emergency drivers and other musterings are being extensively used.

GENERAL:

Despite the general unrest occasioned by discharges. Morale and efficiency is still high.

R.J. Shields F/O

.....F/O
(R.J. SHIELDS)
T/Commanding Officer, No. 77 O.B.U.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPENDIX "A".

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - DECEMBER, 1945.

PERSONNEL:

The strength of the Unit on the 31st Dec 45 was:-

	Posted	Attached
Officers		
Airmen		
Airwomen		

MESSING:

Air Board policy to post all W.A.A.A.F. personnel from Operational Base Units seriously effected this section.

Arrangements are in hand to replace airwomen with airmen when available.

MET SECTION:

Drizzle to light rain on 6 days, total 69 points. Moderate to thick fog on 2 days, dissipating 0800 hrs. Visibility generally 10/20 miles, slight haze on many days.

Over half the month mainly cloudless, remainder 5/10tenths cover, base lowest 800 feet, generally 2000/4000 feet.

Variable, East through North to West SW afternoon sea breese most days. Maximum gust 42 m.p.h. from East 1048 a.m. on 17th.

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT.

A total of Transit personnel passed through No. 77 O.B.U. GUILDFORD for the month of December, and during this mon month aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

TRANSPORT:

Owing to shortage of staff and lack of senior N.C.O's transport is being drasticly curtailed and despite these measures maintenance is still beyond the inadequate staff available.

GENERAL:

Although O.B.U. is losing many key personnel on discharge lodger units still maintain a high percentage of their personnel, making it very difficult for the O.B.U. to maintain all essential commitments.

Existing O.B.U. personnel are responding well to the additional demands and moraleand discipline remains at a high level.

R.J. Shields F/O

.....F/O

(R.J.SHIELDS)

T/Commanding Officer, No. 77 O.B.U. DUNREATH.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A".

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT - JANUARY, 46.

No. 77 O.B.U.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the unit on 31st. Jan. 46 was :-

	Permanent.	Attached.
Officers.	8	-
Airmen.	56	13
Airwomen.	2	5

MESSING.

Difficulty is still being experienced in handling messing commitments, but a satisfactory standard has been maintained.

MET SECTION.

Weather conditions during January were fine and mainly cloudless, or few clouds. Cloudy to overcast conditions existed on 4 days, when cloud bases were 2500/5000 feet.

A ground fog was recorded at 0600 hours on the 26th. January, and a fog occurred on the 30th at 0600, lasting only for a short time.

Strong South-westerly sea breezes occurred regularly on almost all afternoons, and easterly gales were recorded as follows :-

ESE	-	49mph	-	051908Z.
E	-	46mph	-	132056Z.
E	-	50mph	-	162008Z.

No rain was recorded during the month.

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT.

A total of 793 transit personnel passed through the unit during January while 54 aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

M/T TRANSPORT.

Owing to lack of staff and Senior N.C.O's, transport has been drastically curtailed and despite these measures, maintenance is still beyond the inadequate staff available.

MORALE AND DISCIPLINE.

Morale and Discipline remains at a high level.

GENERAL.

The unit has lost many personnel through posting and demobilisation, but remaining staff have responded well and maintained essential commitments.

E. J. Collings
Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

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APPENDIX "A".

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT FEBRUARY, 46.

No. 77 OBU.

PERSONNEL. The strength of the unit on 28th. February, 1946 was :-

	Permanent.	Attached.
Officers.	5	2
Airmen.	59	22
Airwomen.		5

MESSING. A high standard has been maintained in this section, and the staff have been doing a satisfactory job.

MET. SECTION.

Weather conditions during February were mainly cloudless and fine, but cloudy conditions existed on four days when cloud bases ranged from 2500 to 5000 feet and two points of rain were recorded on 5th. February. Gales were recorded as under :-

102030Z	ESE	57 m.p.h.	141910Z	ESE	56 m.p.h.
111945Z	E	42 m.p.h.	261905Z	E	40 m.p.h.
131815Z	ESE	48 m.p.h.			

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT.

A total of 1182 transit personnel passed through the unit during February while 49 aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

TRANSPORT.

Owing to the lack of staff in this section it has been necessary to use Emergency drivers, otherwise the section is functioning satisfactorily.

MORALE AND DISCIPLINE.

Moraleand discipline has been good.

R. J. Shields Sq.
Flight Lieutenant,
for Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

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APPENDIX "A".

COMMANDING OFFICERS REPORT MARCH, 1946.

NO. 77 OBU.

PERSONNEL. The strength of the unit on 31st. March, 46, was :-

	Permanent.	Attached.
Officers.	4	2
Airmen.	68	7
Airwomen.		1

MESSING. Messing has been of a good standard.

MET. REPORT.

Cloudy to overcast conditions existed for 19 days when cloud heights ranged from 1200 to 6000 feet. Except on 20th. March when cloud base was only 600 feet. Otherwise the weather was fine and cloudless. Rain fell on 5 days when a total of 61 points were registered. Except on the 20th. visibility was generally good. Winds of gale force were recorded as under :-

050127	-	ESE	- 42mph.
151816	-	ESE	- 42mph.
222312	-	E	- 47mph.
231733	-	E	- 46mph.

TRANSIT PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT.

A total of 1213 transit personnel passed through the unit during March while aircraft were refuelled and serviced.

TRANSPORT.

The section is functioning satisfactorily with one fitter and three drivers. Some emergency drivers are being used to relieve during busy periods.

MORALE AND DISCIPLINE.

Morale and discipline is good.

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

FROM : No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

TO : Headquarters, Western Area.

DATE : 10th. May, 1946.

REF : 18/1/AIR. SECRET.

UNIT HISTORY SHEET.

1. No. 77 Operational Base Unit's Unit History Sheet for the Month of April, 1946 is attached.

David Stewart F/o for Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A".

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT APRIL, 1946.

No. 77 O.B.U.

PERSONNEL.

The strength of the unit on 30th. April 46, was :-

	Permanent.	Attached.
Officers.	4	1
Airmen.	41	-
Airwomen.	-	-

MESSING.

Has been of a good standard.

TRANSPORT.

No fitters D.M.T. are on strength of the unit. All repairs in future are to be done by M.T.R.S. Pearce.

MORALE AND DISCIPLINE.

Morale and discipline is considered good.

GENERAL.

Postings for discharge have considerable reduced the strength of the unit. Messing staff is much below the required personnel, but the position is being relieved by placing some members on living out allowances.

David Stewart F/o for Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No. 77 Operational Base Unit.

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APPENDIX

REPORT BY COMMANDING OFFICER

PERSONNEL

Airmen concerned in the formation of the Unit are working most satisfactorily. Sgt Equipment Assistant has completed many Equipment Demands for the new Unit, besides assisting with 4.T.&.M.O. Equipment matters. Cpl Clerk has Orderly Room functioning on a sound footing besides completing much work in organising the Unit Technical Library, of which 4 crates of unamended orders have been received from R.A.A.F.Headquarters. Acl Cook is employed on general duties at 4 .T.&.M.O.Marine Section, besides assisting Equipment Assistant in demanding for messing requirements.

GENERAL

Unit Operations and Equipment remain at a standstill as the proposed move to Crawley Bay is still held up owing to trouble in securing buildings at the new site.

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No.82.Operational Base Unit,
R. A. A. F.

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1B.

APPENDIX "A" OCTOBER, 1944

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

NO.82.O.B.U.

GENERAL

1. As the temporary move to RIVERSIDE DRIVE pending a further move to CRAWLEY BAY, was anticipated, it was possible to have the Unit buildings practically ready when the Unit moved from No.5.P.D.on 28/10/44.

2. The C.O.'s office and its two adjoining buildings, one used as the Unit Orderly room and the other is being converted into a spare office, to be used for navigation, pay parades etc. The complete building was painted and the floors oiled by the ACl Cook, during the month.

3. With the co-operation of H.Q.W.A.E quipment Section, office furniture and much stationary had been procured. H.Q.W.A. have requested authority from R.A.A.F.Headquarters for a duplicator and a typewriter. When received,they will ease the job of the Orderly Room Clerk, who is finding a difficulty in managing without these two necessary items of office equipment.

4. The Unit store is being organised satisfactorily, although some difficulty was experienced in obtaining timber for the shelves, however, this has now been rectified.

PERSONNEL

Morale of the Unit is high, and all express a feeling of satisfaction that the Unit has assumed an operational role rather than remaining at a loose end at No.5.P.D.

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No.82.Operational
Base Unit, R.A.A.F.
RIVERSIDE DRIVE PERTH W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

2 B.

APPENDIX "A" NOVEMBER, 1944.

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT

GENERAL

The Unit moved from its temporary location at RIVERSIDE DRIVE to CRAWLEY BAY during the month. The University Boat-shed was quickly made operational and it is difficult to imagine a more ideal set-up for a Marine section.

An inspection of Unit Administration was made by the S.O.A. Assnt.S.O.P. and Org.l. of H.Q.W.A. during the month. The C.O.'s attention was drawn to some matters of administration that had been overlooked on the formation of the Unit. The criticism was most constructive and the points raised have now been righted.

PERSONNEL

Establishment has been increased during the month and the majority of the 4.T.&.M.O. Marine personnel have now been posted to the Unit. The musterings of Carpenter Boat Builder, Fitter M tor Boat Crew and Motor Boat Crew are more than double the strength against present establishment.

The morale of all ranks is high.

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No.82 Operational Base Unit,
R.A.A.F CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A" DECEMBER, 1944.

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT

GENERAL

Consequent on the movement of the Unit to its new location at Crawley Bay, work is proceeding on those installations peculiar to Flying Boat Bases and Marine Sections.

FUELLING

A contract has been let by A.W.C. for a Bulk Fuelling installation at the Unit. A mobile fuel pump has been received and existing underground tanks piping, fittings etc are being utilized when completed all marine craft will be fuelled from the terminal of line at Unit jetty thus obviating the existing practice of having to take marine craft to Riverside Drive PERTH for fuel. In the event of a flying boat squadron being based at the Unit provision is being made for the existing fuel line to be duplicated to allow the higher octave aviation spirit to be pumped direct into fuel barges.

MOORING BUOYS

Moorings for four boat buoys left by the Navy Catalina Squadron have been lifted and inspected and where necessary, repairs effected. At present however, only one of the moorings is complete with harness. Delivery of the remainder of buoys is awaited. Moorings for marine craft are being laid adjacent to the Unit premises.

SLIPPING

Arrangements have been completed with R.A.N. for the slipping of T.R. Launch 03-6 at M.L. Slipway FREMANTLE. Slipping of this craft was previously handled by a private firm PETTERSON & CO FREMANTLE W.A. at a cost of from £7.0.0. to £10.0.0. on each occasion use of slipway was necessitated.

OPERATIONS

With advent of the Royal Navy establishing a submarine base at FREMANTLE, torpedo firing exercises off ROTTNEST have been stepped up resulting in T.R.Launch 03-6 being engaged practically continously on these exercises.

PERSONNEL

On 11th December, 1944, F/O A.J.FILEAR (126748) took over command of the Unit from F/Lt.J.CASSEL (254423), who was posted to No.1.P.D. Posting of marine personnel from No.4.T&MO to 82.OBU was effected during the month with the exception of the Unit painter 45436 LAC WALTERS R.H. No establishment has been provided for this mustering on the Unit, however a request for amendment has been forwarded to H.Q.W.A.

Flying Officer,
Commanding, No.82.Operational Base Unit,
R.A.A.F. DARWIN N. T.

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APPENDIX "A"

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT.

JAN, 45.

GENERAL.

Report is made hereunder of Unit activities for the month of Jan, 45:

Fuelling Contract for bulk fuelling installation has been completed, and although the unit is being used for the delivery of Range fuel to Marine Craft, its operation is not efficient, and plans for proposed alterations are in hand by D.W.B.

Mooring Buoys. Delivery of Sunderland type rubber mooring buoys has been made, but the laying of same in MATILDA BAY, CRAWLEY, has been withheld pending directions of S.A.S.O.

Flying Control. Nine marine (kerosene type), flares and buoys complete with anchors and chains for night flying operations have been delivered to this Unit from No. 2 Stores Depot. Three reconditioned Power Meadows Marine Engines have been allotted to Unit by R.A.A.F. Headquarters to replace existing unsatisfactory engines in craft 01-6 which is to be used for crash boat duties. Consequent on Area inspection of Unit premises by the Area Flying Control Officer in company with Commanding Officer, demands have been made for the additional Flying Control equipment in accordance with R.A.A.F. Publication 23, leaflet Z18. Details respecting location of control tower navigation lights at Unit have been furnished to Area Flying Control Officer.

Prohibited Area adjoining unit premises. Encroachments on Unit prohibited area by civilians still continues, despite vigilant policing by unit guards and other personnel. Recommendation for supply of fencing materials for this work to be completed has been received from Staff Officer Works.

Operations Torpedo Recovery Launch 03-6 has been continuously engaged in Naval Torpedo firing exercises off ROTTNEST. On 17 and 25 Jan 45, complying with R.A.A.F. Headquarters instructions, special calibration I.F.F. tests were carried out on Marine Craft 01-6 and 03-6 with Anson M.C. 477 at rendezvous at position, Lat 32° South, Long. 115939' East, with satisfactory results. Work Boats 011-58 and 011-59, have been regularly employed in tendering of Quantas and R.A.F. Catalina aircraft.

Personnel. All postings of Marine Personnel to No. 82 O.B.U. from No. 4 T.M.O. Marine Section have now been completed and amendments to Units personnel establishment approved by R.A.A.F. Headquarters, with the exception of that of up grade to Sergeant of clerk general, approval of which is anticipated.

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No.82.Operational Base Unit,
R.A.A.F. CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

10B

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT

APPENDIX "A"

MARCH 1945

FUELLING

Refuelling launch 05-20 was delivered to this Unit ex 2 T.&.M.O. WEST MELBOURNE on 31st March, 1945, in accordance with R.A.A.F. H/Qs allotment. In future refuelling of all service aircraft using this base will be effected by Unit personnel with this craft. Orders have been placed for the delivery of 100 octane aviation fuel to this Units tanks. Delivery of adequate metering facilities and suitable pumping unit to cope with increased gallonage handled is still awaited.

FLYING OPERATIONS

During the month this base was availed of by both R.A.F. & R.N.N. CATALINA flying boats. Assistance was also rendered to Qantas NEDLANDS in the handling of that companys flying operations.

AIR SEA RESCUE LAUNCH - 0-25

Modifications, slipping and fitting out of this craft has been completed by Unit labour and advice is awaited from 4.T.&.M.O. re details of despatch of craft.

LAUNCH 03-6

Is still engaged in Torpedo recovery operations under control of R.A.N.

POLICY

With the growth of the Unit and increasing number of craft on strength, additive to the fact that his Unit is responsible for all major overhauls and repair jobs to engines and hulls of other craft in Western Area the existing establishment in respect to the technical and Motor Boat Crew musterings is far below the requirements. A revised personnel establishment for the Unit is accordingly in course of preparation for submission to Headquarters Western Area.

PERSONNEL

On 27th March, 1945, a dance, arranged by the Unit Welfare Club was held in the adjoining premises to this Unit, and was attended by members of this Unit with their friends. The morale of the Unit continues to be high.

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No.82.Operational Base Unit...,
R.A.A.F. CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A". FEBRUARY, 1945.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT.

GENERAL:

Set out hereunder is resume of Unit activities for month of February, 1945.

Fuelling: Delivery of stationary pumping engine and gallonage meter for installation, bulk fuelling installation is still awaited. The absence of these components is affecting the efficiency of the Unit, and militates against an accurate tally of petrol consumption. Refuelling of Catalina aircraft using this base is being effected by Qantas Limited, NEDLANDS, pending receipt at Unit of refueller 05-20.

Mooring Buoys: On 9 Feb 45, an additional Sunderland type aircraft mooring buoy was laid in MATILDA BAY by Unit labour, making two serviceable rubber buoys available. Mooring harness was also fitted to a tin can "mooring buoy in MATILDA BAY for emergency use.

Flying Operations: During month of February 1945, three R.A.F. Catalina flying boats were based at Unit while two R.N.N. Catalinas also utilised the base. In the course of the flying operations of these aircraft, three flare paths under control of F/Lt. FILEAR were laid for landings. By arrangements with the Public Works Department through Divisional Works Office, all RIVER obstruction lights in the vicinity of MATILDA BAY were made serviceable and available for night flying.

Operations Torpedo Recovery Launch, 03-6: Continues to be fully engaged in Torpedo Recovery exercises under control of Navy Operations Room. Log Book of craft discloses that its engines logged 105 hours for the month on these exercises (exclusive of times taken for trips from CRAWLEY BASE to FREMANTLE Harbour and return). Work Boat 011-58 logged 62 hours while engaged on tendering of flying boats for the month. Air Sea Rescue Launch 02-5 allotted by R.A.A.F. Headquarters to Western Area for distribution to No. 76 O. B. Unit was off-loaded from M.V. Hermion at FREMANTLE on 19 Feb 45, and towed to this Unit's base where final adjustments, etc., are being made to engines and W.T. and R.T. equipment of craft, preparatory to its despatch to LEARMONTH.

Personnel: With the increased activity of the base consequent on the stepping up of flying operations and torpedo recovery exercises, the morale of the Unit is high and keen enthusiasm is displayed by all personnel in the execution of their duties.

COMMANDING No. 62 O.B.U. CRAWLEY BAY

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT, APRIL 45.

OPERATIONS.

On 11th to 17th Apr 45, the Sunderland Flying Boat was based on this Unit for the purpose of selling War Bonds for the Third Victory Loan. Flying Control was installed for the duration of the visit. A Sergeant Flying Control N.C.O. was attached from PEARCE to attend to this work. Set out hereunder is a letter received from MR. LATHAM, Deputy Director of War Loan as follows:

"I would like to express to you my very best thanks for the splendid co-operation of yourself and Unit on the recent visit of the Sunderland. Everything went clock-wise, and attributed to the success was the excellent way in which your staff performed in getting the passengers out and back.

Will you please accept my thanks and convey to the members of your Unit my greatest appreciation."

Modifications and repairs were completed to R.A.A.F. Craft O-25 during the month. The vessel was despatched to No. 76 Operational Base Unit, POTSHOT, by road convoy on 22 Apr 45. Overhaul of engines for O3-19 were completed, these also, being despatched by road convoy with installation party, comprising of members of this Unit.

The O3-6 has been almost continuously engaged on torpedo recovery operations during the month; the following signal of appreciation has been received from the ROYAL Navy.

"Very many thanks for all your hard work on behalf of our submarines. The splendid seamanship displayed in picking up torpedoes in the swell in your little craft has been admired by all the submarine Commanding Officers, and is very much appreciated."

PERSONNEL.

The Commanding Officer, F/Lt. FILEAR in the capacity of Area Marine Officer, accompanied by SGT. HAWKINS, Coxswain 2nd class, departed on temporary duty to No. 76 Operational Base Unit on 25 Apr 45, to supervise the floating of power barge, and to attend to various matters affecting personnel of the Marine Section of that Unit.

F/Lt. FULLER (Nav) has been appointed Temporary Commanding Officer in the absence of F/Lt. FILEAR.

Flight Lieutenant.
T/Commanding No. 82 O.B.U.
R.A.A.F. CRAWLEY BAY.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A" MAY, 1945

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT

LANDING BARGE 018-40

The Unit took delivery of this craft at FREMANTLE from 2.T.&.M.O. and brought it under its own power to 82.O.B.U. for overhaul, repairs, slipping and anti-fouling prior to despatch to POTSHOT.

AIRCRAFT BUOYS

Two seaplane buoys were lifted by 03-6, thoroughly cleaned of marine growth, antifouled and painted.

Assistance to Quantas overseas aircraft was rendered by the loaning of the crew of work-boat on numerous occasions, when their own watercraft was unserviceable.

PERSONNEL

F/LT.J.de CASTILLA (A.&.S.D.Marine) took over command of this Unit on 15th May, 1945. F/LT.A.J.FILEAR (A.&.S.D.Marine) departed on attachment to R.A.A.F.HQ'S(D.R.M.) on 29/5/45.

A night duty crew has been instituted on the Unit comprising of 1 Sgt Coxswain
1 Fitter M.B.C.
1 Crew
their duties comprising inspection of Marine Craft and buoys, this also enables a continuous twenty four hour standby of a full crew for serviceing of aircraft, fuelling etc.

Unit strength is now approximately 50 personnel. During the month an application for screening off the Orderly Room Clerk from posting was submitted to H.Q.W.A. on the grounds that the Commanding Officer is frequently absent from the Unit in the capacity of Area Marine Officer, additive to the fact that there is a constant changing pool of marine musterings which entails much administrative work. In view of the fact that there is no Adjutant or second officer on strength of the Unit, the Orderly Room N.C.O.'s responsibilities are greatly enlarged, for this reason 3 requests for increase in establishment to Sergeant have been submitted to H.Q.W.A., approval of which is still awaited.

J.de Castilla
Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No.82.Operational Base Unit.,
CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT.JUNE 1945.

TORPEDO RECOVERY CRAFT 03-6.

During the month the three engines from Marine Craft 03-6 were removed and transported to M.T.R.S. R.A.A.F.PEARCE for complete overhaul. Four F.M.B.C. were detached from 82 O.B.U. CRAWLEY to the above Unit to complete the work with a maximum of efficiency.

MARINE CRAFT 011-59.

This craft was slipped to facilitate repairs to the deadwood chine, and hull, the engine was removed for complete overhaul owing to damage sustained during recent heavy weather.

OPERATIONS.

The Commanding Officer, F/LT.J.de CASTILLA as Area Marine Officer departed to Marine Section No.79 O.B.U. and 76 O.B.U. to carry out inspections of Marine Craft and personnel on strength at respective Units, was recalled to 82 O.B.U. before inspection was completed at the later Unit.

Additional personnel were posted to 76 O.B.U. and 79 O.B.U. owing to the increased pressure of work carried out by these sections, and to complete the full complement of existing craft.,

EQUIPMENT SECTION.

Existing crew room was converted to a separate tool store to relieve the pressure on the equipment store which was lacking in space according to the number of items handled by that section.

PERSONNEL.

On the 22nd of June 1945 a dance and social evening was arranged by the Unit welfare committee in adjoining premises to this Unit, and was attended by virtually all members of this Unit and their friends.

The morale of Unit personnel continues to be of a high standard.

Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding No.82 Operational Base Unit.
CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

1/3/AIR

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT - JULY, 1945.

OPERATIONS.

During the, month, Barge 018-40 was prepared for convoy, which included modifications to forward girders of barge to enable easier transportation to Learmouth by road. Convoy left 4 T.M.O. on 31st July, 1945.

The engines were returned to 03-6 after complete overhaul, and craft was completely repainted throughout.

Much valuable assistance was rendered to the Ministry of Munitions during the month by assisting in the launching and towing of five Army tugs and two steel ammunition barges.

Two Royal Netherlands Navy Catalinas made use of the base during the month, refuelling and servicing being given, and flare paths were made available for early morning take-offs.

PERSONNEL.

During the month the monthly function of the Western Area Headquarters Sergeants' Mess was held at the premises adjacent to the unit, and an enjoyable evening was spent by all attending.

Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding No. 82 Operational Base Unit,
CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

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APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT - AUGUST, 1945.

OPERATIONS.

During the month numerous trips were made to ROTTNEST conveying stores as required. Catalinas were attended to for refuelling and the laying of flare paths.

PERSONNEL.

The Unit took part in the VICTORY MARCH through PERTH on the 16th August, 1945.

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding No.82 Operational Base Unit.
CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICERS MONTHLY REPORT - SEPTEMBER, 1945.

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.

During month barge 018-58 arrived by No.4 T.&.M.O.convoy from LEAMONTH. Engines have had complete overhaul and now await spares damaged when craft was sunk. Hull requires considerable welding and repairs.

OPERATIONS.

Three Catalina aircraft arrived during month from CEYLON MOROTAI and DARWIN.

Assistance was rendered the Ministry of Munitions during month with the launching and towing Army tugs and amunition barges.

Letters of appreciation were received from Quantas Empire Airways for assistance rendered in the past and from Captain and crew of Catalina.A 24/30 as set out hereunder;-

The Commanding Officer,
No.82 O.B.U.
R.A.A.F.
NEDLANDS.

When I met you at our Nedlands Base yesterday I was unaware of the fact that you were in command of the Crawley Bay Marine Section,or I should have taken the opportunity of thanking you for all that you and those under your command have done to simplify the problems we have been faced with at our Catalina Base at Nedlands.

I take this opportunity of doing so,and would be glad if you would convey to your Officers and other ranks the very real appreciation we feel for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,
for QANTAS EMPIRE AIRWAYS LTD.
(SIGNED L.R.AMBROSE
MANAGER

PERSONNEL OF 82 O.B.U.

On behalf of members of F/O Watson's crew I wish to convey to you their deepest appreciation for the services that you rendered them so enthusiastically on their short stay recently at you CRAWLEY FLYING BASE.
We all appeciated your help very much which made our stay very delightful,the crew all have the desire to visit PERTH again so we are seeing what can be done in those lines for a speedy return.
With these few words I wish to thank you all again and wish you all the best.

yours sincerely
THE CREW.

Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding No.82 Operational Base Unit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

APPENDIX "A"

COMMANDING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 1945

OPERATIONS:

Twentytwo (22) Catalinas arrived during the month carrying time expired Navy, Army and Air Force personnel and a few Prisoners of War.

Considerable maintenance had to be carried out on aircraft. Maintenance crews were secured through the Area Engineer Officer from No. 17 R. S. U.

Rations for each departing aircraft were secured by Unit Transport from No. 77 Operational Base Unit, GUILDFORD.

Most aircraft arrived at break of day necessitating the presence of extra night crew and the Commanding Officer.

Four (4) extra seaplane mooring buoys were laid by Unit Labour. Short type buoys were secured from Department of Interior and chain was made available by the Navy. Divisional Works Office were unable to assist.

03-6 made trip to LANCELIN ISLAND with bomb disposal crew. Canteen stores and personnel were transported to ROTTNEST ISLAND when required.

01-6 Target Launch was handed over to Navy for disposal.

The meteors, six, were shipped to No. 2 Stores Depot.

PERSONNEL:

Seven personnel were posted for discharge during the month.

Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding No. 82 O.B.U.
CRAWLEY BAY. W.A.

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

NOVEMBER, 1945.

OPERATIONS

Five Catalinas arrived during the month carrying service personnel from Borneo, Moratai and Darwin.

Refuelling and maintenance work was carried out by Marine Section and members from 17 R.S.U.

Launch 03.6 made numerous trips to Rottnest on service work and on those occasions loaded bombs and ammunition for dumping in sea.

Work boats 011-59 used for Service Police duties at Fremantle on arrival S.S. Aquatania.

F/Lt.
Commanding No. 82 O.B.U. R.A.A.F.
Crawley Bay.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

COMMANDING OFFICERS REPORT

DECEMBER, 1945 APPENDIX "A"

OPERATIONS

03-6 carried out extensive operations during the month, dumping H.E. and small arms ammunitions.

Eight Catalinas (8) arrived from operational areas i.e. Darwin, Labuan and Balik-Papan with Army, Airforce and N.E.I. forces.

Accomodation, refuelling rations and maintenance was arranged by this Unit.

PERSONNEL

Owing to the greater number of discharges from this Unit the personnel were doing extra duties during the flying operations.

D. Moore

Flight Lieutenant,
Commanding, No.82.Operational Base Unit,
R.A.A.F. CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

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NO.82 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

JAN. 1946

OPERATIONS:

1. Launch 03-6 carried out usual programme of bomb and ammunition disposal. Also called upon by the R.A.F. to assist in the demolition of two Catalinas some miles west of ROTTNEST ISLAND.

2. A.S.R. Catalina A24-353 carried out a sea sweep to look for ketch adrift in heavy seas, north of GERALDTON. Recalled before completing duty as ketch sighted by land-based aircraft.

3. Eight (8) Catalinas arrived from operational areas. Accommodation, rations, refuelling and maintenance was arranged by this Unit.

4. Orders were received to prepare the "Hood", 2 dinghys, and 1 Power Barge, for disposal at public auction.

PERSONNEL:

5. No. 436862, F/O K.R. RODD (G.D.) arrived on posting as Flying Control Officer.

6. Eight (8) airmen arrived on posting or attachment.

7. One (1) airman posted to No.5 Personnel Depot for discharge.

E.J. Moore,
Flight Lieutenant.
Commanding, No.82 O.B.U., Crawley Bay.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.18.559

NO.82 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

MARCH. 1946.

OPERATIONS:

1. Catalina (A24-353) carried out four sweeps in search for missing Lancastrian. Negitive sightings were reported.

2. T.R.Launch 03-6 Laid up for an engine overhaul, repainting, and scraping of hull.

3. Instructions received re participation of Catalina (A24-353) in Security Loan Drive, at an early date.

PERSONNEL

4. No 415107 F/Lt. ARNOLD (G.D.) arrived on attachment to Temp. Comm. 82 O.B.U.
5. No.415107 F/Lt. ARNOLD (G.D.) CEASES ATTACHMENT .
6. No. 436862 F/O RODD (K.R.) App.TEMPORARY Commanding Officer.
7. Three(3) airmen arrived on posting or attachment.
8. One(I) Officer posted 5P.D.for discharge.
9. Six(6) Airmen posted on discharge or disposal.

F/O
C.O. 82 O.B.U. CRAWLEY

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No.82 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

APRIL 1946

OPERATIONS:-

(I) Catalina A24-353 successfuly particapated in Victory Loan drive at Albany Geraldton and Crawley.

(2) T.R.Launch 03-6 now servicable after overhaul. Two trips made to Rottnest in connection with removal of Radar equipment to mainland

(3) Intensive check of equipment started pending early forclosure of this unit.

(4) All marine craft on strength alloted to 4 T&MO on disbandment of this unit.

PERSONNEL

(4) Five (5) airmen posted from this unit four (4) to 5 P.D.for discharge

(5) Two (2) airmen sent to POTSHOT on command and returned.

(6) Sgt. WILKINS ceased attachment POTSHOT and returned to this unit.

F/O

COMMANDING 82 O.B.U.CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

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No. 82 OPERATIONAL BASE UNIT.

COMMANDINGS OFFICER'S REPORT.

MAY 1946.

OPERATIONS

(1) Nil flying operations carried out. Catalina A24-353 unservicable during the month of May.

(2) T.R. Launch 03-6 made six trips to Rottnest in connection with removal of radar equipment to mainland.

PERSONNEL.

(3) Nine Airmen posted from this unit. THREE to RAAF Station Darwin. Two to 42 O.B.U. One to 4 P.D. for discharge and Three to 5 P.D. for discharge. One to 4 T & M O

F/O
COMMANDING No. 82 O.B.U. CRAWLEY BAY W.A.

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