

5/13/8/15

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

JANUARY TO
FEBRUARY 1944

ORIGINAL

2/8 FIELD COMPANY

2/8 AUST FD COY. R.A.E.

WAR DIARY

25 APR 1944

FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1944

- 1st Coy. still at KAPOOKA. Personnel up to full-strength with
to a few trades down.
10th Capt BROCKE left for 6 Div to attend conference.
- 11th W.E.T. arriving in large quantities.
to
20th
- 21st Movement Order.
- 22nd Last minute preparations for move.
- 23rd Unit entrained at KAPOOKA and departed for 6 Aust Div at
1100-hrs.
- 24th Still on train travelling north.
to
25th
- 26th Arrived CLAPHAM JUNCTION at 0500-hrs. Staged for day at
YERONGPILLY. Troops paid and granted 4-hrs leave to BRISBANE.
- 27th Travelling further northwards in not-so-fast QUEENSLAND trains.
to
28th
- 29th Arrived RED LYNCH at 0445-hrs. Staged day at RED LYNCH Camp.
- 30th Entrained again at 1600-hrs for final stage of journey.
- 31st Arrived at WONDECLA 0145-hrs detrained and transported to
new camp by 2/1 Aust Fd Coy who supplied men with hot drink
before going to bed.

R.C. Brooke

Capt,

(R.C. BROCKE)

A/C.C. 2/8 AUST FD COY. R.A.E.

2/8 AUST FD COY. R.A.E.

WAR DIARY

ORIGINAL

FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY '44

24 MAY 1944

- 1st Settling into camp. Discovered that the mosquito finally got Robert and that he was still in hospital.
- 2nd Still settling in.
- 3rd Coy starts on works.
- 4th Capt. BROCKE returned to Coy. from hospital.
- 5th Coy. on construction of four minor units and numerous small jobs.
- 6th Church Parades.
- 7th Works proceeding.
- 8th Works proceeding. Own camp much improved with new orderly room and drawing office also kitchen, mess huts and showers.
- 11th
- 12th A cricket match was held this afternoon. Coy. v C.R.E. HQ. resulting in a win for the Coy.
Two teams from the Coy played Aust. Rules as a part of the inter-Pl. competition.
- 13th An advance party left for the coast for the Combined Operations training ("Octopus")
Coy was beaten to-day in their Aust. Rules football match with C.R.E. HQ.
- 14th Main Sapper party left for the coast with 19 Bde to "Octopus" Exercise. Lieut J.S. SMITH O.I.C.
Camp construction, in 6 Aust Div area continuing in spite of incessant rain.
The P.O., Capt WILSON, who has been acting as 2 I/C since the departure of Maj. WATTS (late C.C.) has gone to 2/2 A.G.H. It appears that an old bullet wound in his foot, that he obtained whilst with the 2/1 Pnr. Bn in the early campaign in LIBYA has developed complications.
- 15th Malaria is playing havoc with the Coy. strength. 1 officer and 22 O.Rs. have been in hospital since the Coy arrived in this district. All cases are relapses from previous attacks received in NEW GUINEA.
- 16th The Coy's tradesmen are in their element constructing things; but all are very anxious to get into it again.
We are going to be very backward in combat training as compared with the rest of the 17 Bde. when the time comes to move up.
There is no chance to train as a Fd Coy while this camp construction is being done.
- 17th At last the temporarily taken up, so much headway has been made with the works programme.
Three more malaria cases have gone to hospital. All cases so far have been B.T.
The usual bugbear of shortage of materials is adversely effecting the completion of works on time.
The three Pls and H.Q. drew for the four wireless sets purchased with Regimental Funds; H.Q. did best in the draw in spite of everything being fair and above board.

- 18th The Canteen facilities are quite good in this area, but the same cannot be said of the other Amenities, in particular, the Pictures. R.A.E. is "rationed" to one show each week and that on Sunday. The party of six Sappers who have been on Exercises with 16 Bde. returned to-day and have joined their Fls on camp construction.
- 19th The heavy rain this afternoon cannot be taken as a excuse for the colossal defeat of our Aussie Rules team at the hands of the 2/7 Bn. (28 goals to Nil) Sgt CLANCY of 7 Fl. had a Malaria "blackout" on his way to mess and was taken to hospital. Major J.W. MAYNES has at last arrived to take over the reins of the Coy from the much worn 2 L/C who has endeavoured to carry on the good work of our late O.C. Maj. N.B. WATTS since the latters appointment to a base job in INDIA. Strange though it may seem, we have completed an "A" camp, which consists of three kitchens, two shower houses and three latrines with sundry drains etc - Good show 8 Fl. C.E. 1 AUST CORPS is still searching diligently among the Fd Coys for a Cpl clerk for his office. He seems set on taking one of our driver-operators - Spr PHILBRICK, who seems to have three sets of letters tacked onto his name for accountancy.
- 20th Lt. VENN took over 7 Fl and Lt. CASBOULT will take over the duties of Fd Officer on HQ during the absence in hospital of Capt. WILSON. A small party from 7 Fl. constructed a 10' span bridge across a washaway on the road near WONDECLA. Both our Rugby and Aust Rules teams defeated 2/2 Fd Coy. at RAVENSHOE.
- 21th Sapper party that has been on exercise with 19 Bde returned to-day. Exercise "Octopus". Heavy rain fell during the night. Construction of new O.Rs Canteen started to-day. It is to be quite an elaborate affair, with milk bar, restaurant etc. The building will be 170' long by 40' wide with concrete floor. A composite team of tradesmen from all Fls. under the supervision of Lt. PHILLIPS will do the construction.
- 22nd All construction jobs going to schedule. Weather becoming overcast and heavy rain is indicated in the near future.
- 23rd It has been decided to put down two practice wickets with nets and all complete to increase, if possible, the efficiency of our cricketers and to try to get the officers interested in sport to lower their waist measurements. Spr JOHNSON R.E. marched out to BRISBANE to attend a wireless school. All our driver operators are becoming very efficient at their trade and will be ready to get some practical experience on the field sets when the new batteries have been charged. 6 Aust Div Choir assisted by the ladies of WONDECLA gave a concert in the Y.M.C.A. Hut in the Engineer lines this evening and were entertained to supper in the Officers Mess after the concert. A very good evening was had by all.

2/8 AUST FD COY.R.A.E.

WAR DIARYFOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY '44

- 24th Lieut PHILLIPS went to 104 C.C.S. to-day for a slight operation and is expected to be away for about 2-weeks.
- The Unit strength is increasing rapidly by the addition of reinforcements received from various G.D.D.s and the return of 'X' List personnel who were evacuated to hospital with malaria while the Unit was in training at WAGGA.
- 25th The OC, Major MAYNES J.W. was evacuated to 2/2 A.G.H. with malaria to-day.
A start has been made on the construction of a 6 Div rest camp at Mt. GARNET. The lay-out was designed by the A/F.O. Lieut CASBOULT. It is alright for a short rest but home leave is far more to be desired.
All personnel who returned from "Octopus" Exercise were given the day off to-day to compensate for the loss of last week-end.
The weekly beer issue to troops was released to-night.
- 26th Some of the masonite huts left by the C.C.C. at their old camp, known to the Army as G.G./G.H. are being transplanted to the 2/22 Fd Pk. and 6 Div. HQ. by 7 Pl. with the assistance of a transporter from the Fd. Pk. Except for a few tradesmen doing shift work in the new Canteen the Coy is to have the week-end off.
The practice wicket and nets should be available for use in a few days.
- 27th A return Rugby League match was successfully contested with 2/2 Fd Coy on our own ground, but we were beaten in the return Aust Rules game by a small margin. They were both very rough games but no deaths were recorded. Week-end sport is being taken very seriously and training is carried out every evening after work.
- 28th Heavy rain again last night making things unpleasant on the construction jobs. Construction of Canteen is being retarded because of delay in the supply of materials, but it should be a great success when completed.
- 29th A good quantity of parcels came in the post to-day. On the whole the Postal Cpl has treated us fairly well. During the month the Coy has not had the opportunity to carry on with any sort of training programme as the works programme has taken all the available personnel.

R.G. Brocke capt,
(R.G. BROCKE)

A/O.C. 2/8 AUST FD COY.RAE.

1944 MASTER SPORTS

2/2 AUST ED COX RAC

EVENTS

1.	To Start 1000-hrs	FLAG RACE 300-yds (Pl. team of 6)	
2.	1015-hrs	120-yds HURDLE (3-ft)	Price 21
3.	1030-hrs	TOSSING THE CABER	" 10/-
4.	1045-hrs	HIGH JUMP	" 21
5.	1050-hrs	580-yds	" 21
6.	1115-hrs	KICKING FOOTBALL (Distance) (Goal Kick)	" 10/- " 10/-
7.	1140-hrs	BACK RACE	" 10/-
8.	1150-hrs	100-yds SPRINT	" 21
9.	1200-hrs	TOWING SOCCER-BALL	" 10/-
10.	1210-hrs	WOOD-CHOP Handicap (Heats)	" 21
	1230-hrs	100-yds	
11.	1315-hrs	THROWING THE HAMMER	" 10/-
12.	1330-hrs	THROWING CRICKET BALL	" 10/-
13.	1345-hrs	220-yds	" 21
14.	1400-hrs	OBSTACLE RACE	" 10/-
15.	1420-hrs	BROAD JUMP	" 21
16.	1440-hrs	CLIMBING THE ROPE	" 5/-
17.	1445-hrs	SHOT PUT	" 10/-
18.	1500-hrs	440-yds	" 21
19.	1515-hrs	HOP, STEP & JUMP	" 21
20.	1535-hrs	TUG-O-WAR (heats)	
21.	1600-hrs	WOOD-CHOP (final)	" 21
22.	1615-hrs	440-yds RELAY (Pl. team of 4)	
23.	1630-hrs	TUG-O-WAR (final)	
	1715-hrs	EVENING MEAL	

ENTRIES TO PL. CLERKS AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

1944 EASTER SPORTS
GOOD FRIDAY 7 APRIL

Major. G.F.MacDONNELL.

Capt. A.G. BROOKS

Lieut. H.E. McMENAMY Chairman
" J.G. WILLIS
" A.R. CASECULT
" H.G. STARKS
Padre J.C. MITHVEN

1. Capt. R.H.M. WILSON
2. Lieut. R.E. McMENEMY
3. " A.R. CASBOULT
4. " J.S. SMITH

Lieut. H.G. STARKS

Major. J.W. MAYNOR
Capt. W. CHANDLER
Padre J.O. NEPHEW
Capt. A.L. YULIN
Capt. L. HORSEFALL

1. Lieuts VENN & WILLIS
2. " CURLIS & MASEY
3. CSM. McFARLANE &
Sgt BRAY.

1. A sports meeting will be conducted by 2/8 AUST FD Coy. R.A.S. on 7 April 44 commencing 1000-hrs on local sports ground.
2. It has been arranged for the inclusion of HQ. R.A.S. 2/1 AUST FD Coy. R.A.S., 2/2 AUST FD Coy. R.A.S., 2/22 AUST FD Pl. Coy. Each Platoon of 2/8 AUST FD Coy. will make every effort to submit the maximum number of nominations for each event.
3. Nominations for each event will be submitted to this HQ NOT later than 1800-hrs 4-4-44.
4. A pennant will be awarded the Platoon of 2/8 AUST FD Coy. whose competitors amass the highest aggregate point score.

W. G. Brooks Capt.
(R. G. Brooks)
HON. SEC. & ORGANISER.

7 FL
8 H
9 H
EQ. R. A. E.
2/1 AUST FD COY.
2/2 AUST FD COY.
2/22 AUST FD PK. COY.
E. 3 DIARY.

2 1/2

WAR DIARYST INF BDE
1 MAY 44.RESULTS OF SPORTING ACTIVITIESWEEK 24 - 30 APR 44.

1. BOXING, 6 AUST DIV TOURNAMENT - FINALS SAT. NIGHT 29 APR 44.
- | <u>WEATHERWEIGHT</u> | <u>WINNER</u> | <u>Pte NAMES</u> | |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>LIGHTWEIGHT</u> | " | Tpr BYNOE | 2/1 Aust Inf Bn |
| <u>WELTERWEIGHT</u> | " | Dvr TULLIPAN | 2/6 Aust Cav (Commando Regt) |
| <u>MIDDLEWEIGHT</u> | " | L/Cpl O'CONNOR | 2/155 AGT Coy |
| <u>LIGHTHEAVY WEIGHT</u> | " | Cfm COODE | 2/2 Aust Inf Bn |
| <u>HEAVYWEIGHT</u> | " | Pte HIRST | 2/9 Aust Arm'd Regt |
| | | | 2/1 Aust Pnr Bn |
- \$\$ \$-----

2. BDE GROUP COMPETITION

AUST RULES:- 2/7 Bn 17.5 defeated 2/8 Fd Coy 10.11
 2/6 Bn 10.9 " 2/2 Fd Regt 8.13
Points: 2/7 Bn 20 2/3 Fd Regt 16 2/8 Fd Coy 12 2/5 Bn 8
 2/2 Fd Regt 4 2/1 Pnr Bn (2/119 W/shops) 4 Bde HQ Nil

RUGBY:- 2/6 Bn 26 pts defeated 2/3 Fd Regt 2 pts
 2/7 Bn 27 " " 2/8 Fd Coy 3 "
 2/1 Pnr Bn 13 " " 2/2 Fd Amb 3 "
Points: 2/5 Bn 20. 2/1 Pnr Bn 20. 2/6 Bn 12. 2/2 Fd Amb 8.
 2/7 Bn 4. 2/8 Fd Coy 4. 2/3 Fd Regt Nil.

SOCCER:- 2/7 Bn 5 goals defeated 2/3 Fd Regt Nil
 2/1 Pnr Bn " 2/5 Bn
Points: 2/7 Bn 14. 2/1 Pnr Bn 12. 2/5 Bn 8. 2/3 Fd Regt 2.
 2/6 Bn Nil.

TENNIS:- 2/8 Fd Coy 5 sets 39 games defeated 2/7 Bn 3 sets 31 games
 2/2 Fd Amb 7 " 46 " " 2/3 Fd Regt 1 set 17 games
Points: 2/2 Fd Amb 20. 2/8 Fd Coy 8. 2/6 Bn 4.

3. GROUP COMPETITIONS . DRAW FOR WEEK 1 - 6 MAY 44AUST RULES

2/5 Bn V Bde HQ
 2/6 Bn V 2/8 Fd Coy
 2/7 Bn V 2/3 Fd Regt
 2/2 Fd Regt Bye.

RUGBY

2/5 Bn V 2/1 Pnr Bn
 2/6 Bn V 2/8 Fd Coy
 2/7 Bn V 2/3 Fd Regt

SOCCER Final:- 2/7 Bn V 2/1 Pnr Bn

TENNIS:- 2/6 Bn V 2/8 Fd Coy
 2/7 Bn V 2/3 Fd Regt
 2/5 Bn V Bde HQ
 2/2 Fd Amb V 2/1 Pnr Bn

VOLLEYBALL

FINAL
 2/2 Fd Amb V 2/7 Bn

BASKETBALL - FINAL - 2/5 Bn V 2/7 Bn

2 P B Dge / Capt
 (W P Bolger P
 SC 17 Aust Inf Bde

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
...../..... (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5/2/1944 (Unit)

W.E. 11/104 OFFRS. 7 O.R's. 234 OFFRS. O.R's. 10 ATT. BY W.E.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.								
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.				
				Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.									
1	1	1	7										
DETAIL				A.I.P.	G.M.P.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.P.	**	TOTAL
A.				1									7
E.(1)													
E.(2)													

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

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

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

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

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

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

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

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5/2/1944. (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

5. 2. 44

Truth—7/43

Signature of Commander

Signature of Commander
(R.G. Brooke)

2/8 Aust FDC Coy RAE Unit

Army Form W3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan. 1943)
R 53 Serial No.PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in
Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 5/2/1944

Details of Tradesmen, GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted strength.	Reinforce. Required.	Details of Tradesmen, GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted strength.	Reinforce. Required.	Details of Tradesmen, GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted strength.	Reinforce. Required.	Details of Tradesmen, GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted strength.	Reinforce. Required.
Ammunition Examers				Surveyors, Engineering	1	1	-	Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammerns			
Armament Artificer Filter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Filter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Filter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangefinders			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders		-	1	Painters		7	8	Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Builders				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographers				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine	10	7	3					Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths	9	7	-					Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers	3	6	-					Radiographers				Stewards			
Computers										3	3	Stokers, Stg. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storeroom, Technical	4	3	1
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signalers				Tailors	1	1	-
Dispensers				Assemen				Signwriters				Textile Reftiers			
Draughtsmen	1	1	-	Bakers				Telescope Identn. Numbers				Tinsmiths	3	3	-
Draughtsman (Architectural)				Br. Comd's Asst.				Well Rovers				Valminders			
Draughtsman (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsman (Mechanical)				Carpenters		32	33	Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsman (Surgical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Mod.)		3	3								
Filters	1	1	-	Driver-Operator		7	4								
Filters (Cycle)				Drummers											
Filters (Electrical)	1	1	-	Electricians			-								
Filters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Filters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.							
Filters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors							
Filters, Railway Signal				Headman				Butchers							
Filters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks		4	5				
Grinder, Precision				Heli Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Machine, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical							
Machine, Instrument (a)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers							
Machine, Instrument (gun)				Joiners				Concretors		6	6				
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders							
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator	9	8	1	Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Pharmacist				Masons				Driver Tpin. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.		1	1	Engine Hands, I.C.		6	6				
Photewriter				Misrs		12	7	Equipment Repairs							
Plumber	4	6	-	Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors	4	5	-	Nurses, Trained				Filters' Males							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	36	36	4	CARRIED FORWARD	56	57	8	CARRIED FORWARD	26	28	-	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 5, and 1 and 10 of Part A, respectively.	244	248	24

NOTE.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.

(b) Authorized trades or specialties not included in this will be added as required in spaces provided.

(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.

(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.H. in col. "Reinforce. Required."

(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this form.

5-2-44
Date of DespatchSignature of Commander
(A.G. BROOKES)

