AWM52

Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/1/7 HEADQUARTER UNITS

General Headquarters South West Pacific Area

Detachment Section 22 (GHQ SWPA AMF Det Sec 22)

October 1944 - April 1945, summary of unit's activities



1/1/7-002+

AMF Detachment
Field Unit 12
Section 22,
GHQ, SWPA.
APO 500.

25 Feb 45.

Military History, Section,
Allied Land Forces,
Dept of the Army,
MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY.

1. Enclosed herewith War Diary of this Unit for period 9 Oct 44 - 21 Feb 45.

2. This Unit, commanded by Capt D.J.P. TIER and comprised wholly of AIF personnel is 17 all ranks, and is attached to Section 22, General Headquarters, SWPA. This was the second venture outside Australia, the first being Jan-Apr 44 to the New Britain Area. An intensive 6 months training period was undergone in guerilla tactics and jungle warfare as well as in RCM operations. This training was done in Queensland at various locations, according to the suitability of the terrain. A training film was also made of the training activities for GHQ. A toughening up course was undertaken, comprising assault landings, river crossings and mock attacks on radio and radar stations. All this was done with an eye for what was expected as a land intercept unit of Section 22. Special equipment was devised and AIB rations provided for a period of 3 months. Although transport comprised one jeep and trailer, all gear necessary for the setting up and operation of a RCM station was divided into man loads, ranging from 76 to 92 lbs.

2. To date, GHQ is well satisfied with the results of the two completed missions, ie., ILIN and MARINDUQUE. A complete log summary of events has been forwarded to Section 22 for analysis. This covered a full 24 hour operating period each day. Whilst all members of the unit are competent RCM operators, there are also specialist signal operators and cipher personnel.

3. Altogether the show pulled extremely well together and always conducted themselves with the bearing of genuine ambassadors for Australia in a theatre of war where the slouch hat is so infrequently observed.

.....Lt.
for Officer in Charge, FU 12 Sec 22,
General Headquarters, S W P A.

26 FEB 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit AMF Det., Sec 22, GHQ *Date and Time.—From* 9 Oct 44 *To* 23 Dec 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Brisbane	9 Oct 44 to 16 Oct 44		Personnel embarked for Hollandia " " " "	
	23 Oct 44		Lt. Rose joined unit ex Sec 22, Brisbane. Total strength now 3 officers, 17 ORs.	
Hollandia	24 Oct 44		Stores unloaded from ship.	
	1 Nov 44		Camp sites completed; unit ready to move.	
	2 Nov 44		Entertained WACs to dinner.	
	18 Nov 44		Wireless station WVTF entertained. Warned of movement.	
	24 Nov 44		Unit show at Lake Sentani Club.	
	28 Nov 44		2 officers, 16 ORs embarked LST 741.	
Leyte	6 Dec 44		Disembarked San Pedro Bay, Leyte. Reported GHQ for instructions.	
	11 Dec 44		Lt. Rose with Pvt. Marquette (3144 Sig Ser. Co.) embarked LST 565.	
Mindoro	15 Dec 44		Disembarked San Augustin, Mindoro.	
	22 Dec 44		Lt. Rose first Allied soldier to enter San Jose. Remainder FU 12 disembarked San Augustin.	
Ilin Island	23 Dec 44		Unit moved to Ilin Island, RCM set-up.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(Revised.)

Unit ALF Det., Sec 22, GHQ *Date and Time.—From* 24 Dec 44 *To* 14 Jan 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Ilin Island	24 Dec 44		This unit first Allied troops to land on island.	
	25 Dec 44		Xmas repast comprised chiefly native foods.	
	26 Dec 44		Patrol (Lt. Rose and Cpl. Bennett) over center of the island and Ilin Barrio.	
			Enemy Task Force picked up and followed for 2 hours approaching San Jose. San Jose shelled by Jap warships for 90 minutes. 24 Filipinos on payroll.	
	28 Dec 44		Pvts. Dalzell and Maher evacuated mainland to hospital.	
	29 Dec 44		Cpl. Williams and Pvt. Hastwell rejoined unit from Rear Details.	
	31 Dec 44		Natives reported 2 small Jap bancas around northern headland of Ilin. Patrol investigated. Nil report.	
	1 Jan 45		Cpl. Williams, Cpl. Beatty promoted to rank of Sergeant. Pvt. Knox, Pvt. Bennett promoted to rank of Corporal.	
	4 Jan 45		Cpl. D'Vorak and T/5 Steller (5144 Sig Ser Co) to mainland. Patrol (Lt. Rose, Pvt. Whelan) to Ambulong Island. Contacted crew from SS Juan de Fuca on island.	
	7 Jan 45		Capt. Tier to WVTF Hq. on receipt of signal re L-4 operations.	
	14 Jan 45		Moved to Labangan Beach, preparatory to move to Mindoro.	
			Arrived San Augustin Beach, Mindoro. Slept on beach.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit AMF Det., Sec 22 *Date and Time.—From* 14 Jan 45 *To* 7 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Mindoro	15 Jan 45		Rear Details FU 12 rejoined unit; 3 personnel from FU 14 atchd.	
	16 Jan 45	1600	Embarked LCI 699 for Marinduque .	
Marinduque	17 Jan 45	0140	Beached at Buena Vista, stores unloaded.	
			K Co. 21st Regt. 24th Div. stationed here.	
			Moved to Amoingon, personnel and gear remained night.	
	18 Jan 45		Capt. Tier to Pot Balancan to collect Jap radar equipment.	
			Established camp at feature 1401 ft. high, 3 Kilos S. of Maybo.	
			View of north Mindoro coast, south Luzon and Verde Island passage as far as Lubang Island (110 miles) obtained. RCM and radio intercept station set up.	
	21 Jan 45		Pvt. Whelan to Leyte with captured Jap radar equipment.	
	27 Jan 45		Capt. Tier, Col. Hudson, Pvt. Rhode, Pvt Dalzell on trip around Marinduque to take cross bearings in order to pin-point Jap radars already picked up.	
	28 Jan 45		Sgt. Beatty joined Capt. Tier.	
	29 Jan 45		L/Sgt. Bennett to Leyte; thence Australia for discharge approved by LHQ.	
	6 Feb 45		Moved to beach at Ibatug (nearby pier at Boac). Picked up Jap civilian prisoner.	
	7 Feb 45	1400	Capt. Tier, T/4 Panchikoff (FU 14) embarked LCI 1025.	
		2000	Remainder FU 12 embarked LCI 703 for Mindoro.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit AMF Dat., Sec. 22 *Date and Time.—From* 8 Feb 45 *To* 21 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Mindoro	8 Feb 45	0730	LCI 703 arrived Blue Beach.	
		0800	LCI 1025 arrived Blue Beach, with 2 Jap prisoners who were taken to Task Force Headquarters by Capt. Tier.	
	10 Feb 45		Cpl. Hudson evacuated 13th Station Hospital.	
	13 Feb 45		Warned Tawi Tawi mission to be ready to move on 15 Feb 45	
	21 Feb 45		Capt. Tier, Sgt. Beatty, Cpl. Dennis, Pvt. Dalsell, Pvt. Rhode, Pvt. Swaney, emplaned on 2 Catalinas for Sulu Archipelago mission. 1 officer and 6 ORs from FU 14 with party on same mission for ~~radio interception work. 30 days supply carrier; further needs~~ to be dropped by Allied Air Forces; 8th Army responsible for evacuation. Length of mission indefinite.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

S E C R E T

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
Office of the Chief Signal Officer
Section 22, Australian Military Forces Detachment.

APO 321.

1 May 1945.

Military History Section
L H Q
MELBOURNE, AUST.

WAR DIARY.

1. Attached hereto War Diary covering period 22 Feb 45 to 13 Apr 45, being the second instalment forwarded by this Unit operating as Field Unit Twelve of Section 22, GHQ.

2. The period under review covers a mission assigned by G H Q . Scene of operations on this occasion was the SULU Archipelago (Southern Philippines), mostly on the island of TAWI TAWI, a former Jap base.

3. The whole mission was eminently successful. A quantity of valuable Jap radio equipment was captured and forwarded to GHQ, as were some Jap POW's. This earned commendation from those Headquarters.

4. It was possible also to provide Navy, Ground and Air Forces with an up-to-the-minute and accurate layout of the enemy strength, dispositions, etc., prior to Allied Forces embarking on forthcoming operations in that area, and which ultimately proved successful.

Lieut.
for Officer in Charge, AMF Detachment,
Section 22, GHQ., SWPA.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118. (adapted.)

Unit AMF Detachment *Date and Time.—From* 22 February 1945 *To* 12 March 1945

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Mindoro	22 Feb		Left Mindoro by Catalina for Tawi Tawi at 0230 and arrived at 0730 hours. Proceeded direct to Guerilla Hq. where remainder of day was spent studying area, etc. to determine suitable location for site.	
	23 Feb		Advance party, Capt. Tier, T/4 Palchikoff, T/4 Williams and Pte Swaney set out to reconnoiter and reached Balimbing. Remainder followed with equipment and reached Buan that night.	
Tawi Tawi	24 Feb		Decided upon site at Balimbing Hill and moved up all gear.	
	25 Feb		Set up equipment and commenced operation. In communication with Mindoro.	
	26 Feb-3 Mar		Operation of enemy activity noticed in Bato Bato.	
	4 Mar		Patrol, Lt. Tremaine, Sgt. Beatty, T/4 Palchikoff and Pte Dalzell, out to Bato Bato. Found the enemy had evacuated.	
	5 Mar		Operating patrol at Bato Bato.	
	6 Mar		Patrol returned. Operating.	
	7-8 Mar		Operating	
	9 Mar		Korean escapee joined party.	
	10 Mar		Patrol, Lt. Tremaine, T/4 Palchikoff, Pte Dalzell, Pte Swaney to Jolo by Kunpit - remainder operated.	
	11 Mar		Patrol stopped South Obian-operating.	
	12 Mar		Patrol arrived Tabuan - operating.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit AIF Detachment *Date and Time.—From* 13 March 1945 *To* 22 March 1945

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Tawi Tawi	13 Mar		Patrol travelled to Lapinosa - operating.	
	14 Mar		Patrol arrived Buntud Jolo-operating.	
	15 Mar		Patrolled island - operating.	
	16 Mar		Patrolled island-operating. Reconnaissance part, Capt. Tier and Pte Rohde set out to Batu Batu.	
	17 Mar		Patrolled island-operating. Reconnoitered Sibentud still for site-remainder packed up equipment.	
	18 Mar		Patrol left Jolo per P.T. boat and returned Tawi Tawi equipment set upon new site and communications established.	
	19 Mar		Patrol arrived Bato Bato and met Capt. Tier who had delcused booby trap this area (supposedly Jap depth-charge approx. 400 lbs T.N.T.)-operating all personnel returned to site.	
	20 Mar		Patrol (Capt. Tier, T/3 Bales, T/5 Wiedemecht and Pte Rohde) set out for Kunpit for Banaran island to meet P.T. boat-operating-patrol left for Cula Cula (Guerilla Hq.)	
	21 Mar		1st Patrol arrived Cula Cula at 1000 hrs.; then departed for site at 1800 hrs.-operating-2nd patrol (Lt. Tremaine, T/3 Barr and Cpl. Dennis with Korean set out at 2100 hrs. for Cula Cula to intercept two supply planes P.B.Y.	
	22 Mar		1st Patrol arrived site at 0330 hrs.-operating; 3rd Patrol (Capt. Tier, T/4 Patchikoff) left 0700 for Cula Cula arriving at 1300 hrs.; 2nd Patrol arrived Cula Cula at 1000 hrs. Planes arrived 1115 and departed at 1300 hrs. Pte Hartwell arrived by plane and replaced Cpl. Dennis who returned by plane; 2nd patrol returned to site at 1700 arriving at 2300; they were intercepted by enemy barge at 2230 and fired upon-no casualties-3rd Patrol (Cont'd)	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118. (adapted.)

Unit AMF Detachment *Date and Time.—From* 22 March 1945 *To* 28 March 1945

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Tawi Tawi	22 Mar	(Cont'd)	took charge of Korean, Chen Yun, Mestizo Illermo (prisoner) and captured enemy radio equipment (from Patu and Siasi); then proceeded to Banaran to meet P. T. boats.	
	23 Mar		Patrol met P.T. boats at 0100 and travelled then to Jolo where they shelled city for 1/2 hour at 0700; thence to Zamboanga, arriving at 1230. Both prisoners interrogated, equipment and Korean dispatched to Leyte and ammunition and supplies and communication facilities arranged with 8th Army Hq., 41st Div.-Operating.	
	24 Mar		Patrol moved to Basilan (P.T. base) where Capt. Tier lectured to P.T. Skippers at briefing for Bongao raid on defenses there. At 1900 took off by P.T. for Tawi Tawi.	
	25 Mar		Arrived Bongao at 0900; picked up pilot, then proceeded through airfield to waters inside ring of islands to attack inner defenses of Bongao At 1200 contact was made with fighter cover of 4 Corsairs carrying 1x1000 lb. each. At 1215 closed range to engage enemy. At 2500 yards approx turned to bring fire to bear and encountered heavy opposition from enemy-intense enemy fire from guns of caliber 25 mm. 37 mm. and mortars (estimated only). Immediately P.T.'s turned and withdrew at speed, laying smoke-screen to cover, except one ship hit and holed in engine room aft, which caught fire, later extinguished. All other ships damaged slightly and holed--one casualty only-wounded in right side of neck severely, bleeding profusely. Engagement broken off and P.T.'s returned to base at best possible speed; patrol returned to site; remainder operating.	
	26 Mar		Operating.	
	27 Mar		Patrol (Capt. Tier and Pte Rohde) to Bato Bato; returned Sunday; heavy allied raid on enemy position at Bongao 21 planes (Corsairs)-operating.	
	28 Mar		Heavy raids on Bongao again; patrol (Capt. Tier, Pte Dalzell and Pte Swaney) set out for Paniungan to set up mortars and harass enemy on Bongao wharf; it is thought they were trying to evacuate as six large Kunpits arrived from Borneo-operating.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit AIF Detachment *Date and Time.—From* 29 March 1945 *To* 6 April 1945

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Tawi Tawi	29 Mar		Patrol left camp 0400 hrs. Arrived Sanga Sanga. Mortar team under Capt. Tier set up on Pabahag is Pte. Sweney set up at Paniungan Pt. Commenced firing 1600 hrs. Good hits registered until position at Paniungan Pt made untenable by fire from enemy 37 mm. cannon; ceased firing for day. Three guerillas wounded.	
	30 Mar		Patrol bombed and strafed by American aircraft in error on Sanga Sanga. Spent very trying day. Capt. Tier left for camp to signal 8th Army to cease bombing. Casualties light as result of bombing (6 guerillas wounded) Heavy raids by heavy bombers on Bongao; patrol returned to camp.	
	31 Mar		Patrol, Capt. Tier, T/4 Patchikoff and T/4 Williams set out again for Sanga Sanga. Kunoit fired on by Japs; patrol active carrying information and looking over air strip on Sanga Sanga. Air strip in good condition, could be used by Allies. Heavies raided Bongao. Corsairs bombed and strafed. Pte Bohle left camp for Sanga Sanga. Operating.	
	1 Apr		Patrol on Sanga Sanga active. Bongao bombed and strafed by Corsairs. Operating.	
	2 Apr		American 41st Div. troops landed on Sanga Sanga, aided by Capt. Tier and accompanying personnel. Beach head established on Bongao later in day.	
	3 Apr		Not much activity from Japs. Ptes Hastwell, Bohle, T/4 Williams and T/4 Patchikoff returned to camp.	
			Sgt. Beatty, Pte Dalsell and T/4 Weiderrecht left for Sanga Sanga, accompanied by T/4 Patchikoff. Capt. Tier still at Sanga Sanga aiding Americans. Operating.	
	4 Apr		Received word today to return to Mindoro; patrols active on Bongao. Jap radio equipment captured. Personnel operating equipment absent town, packed up and with the exception of Lt. Tremaine and Ptes. Hastwell and Sweney moved to Sanga Sanga to join Capt. Tier.	
	5 Apr		Patrolled on Bongao, more booty captured. Lt. Tremaine and Ptes. Hastwell and Sweney ~~moved to Sanga Sanga to join Capt. Tier~~ joined party.	
	6 Apr		Lt. Tremaine, T/4 Patchikoff, T/4 Williams, Ptes Hastwell and Sweney left for Zamboanga per P.T. boat. Jap prisoners taken along. Remainder awaiting transportation.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit ..... *Date and Time.—From* ..... *To* .....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	7 Apr		Party at Sanga Sanga still awaiting transportation; others at Zamboanga negotiating air transport to Mindoro.	
	8 Apr		Both parties still awaiting transport.	
	9 Apr		Still awaiting transportation.	
	10 Apr		Party at Sanga Sanga left for Zamboanga by L.C.I. Party at Zamboanga still no further ahead.	
Zamboanga	11 April		L.C.I. called at Jolo which had just been invaded by American troops. Proceeded then to Zamboanga. Arrived Zamboanga 2200 hrs.	
Leyte	12 April		Two parties united. Transport to Leyte was obtained. Arrived Leyte in late afternoon.	
Mindoro	13 April		Party reached Mindoro and returned to base.	

By Authority: L. F. Johnston, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.