

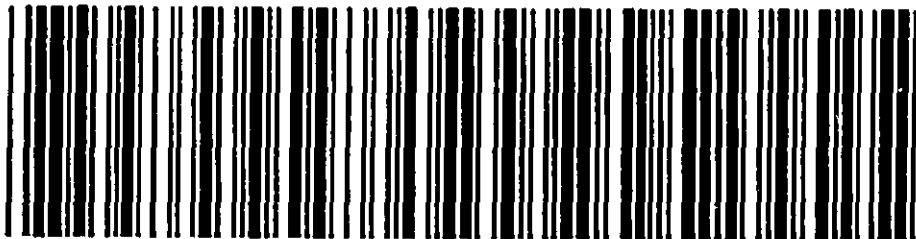
AWM52

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

1/14/28 AIR LIAISON

24 Australian Squadron Air
Liaison Section (24 Aust Sqn
AL Sec)

March - July 1945



1/14/28-0014

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit 210 Class Jan. 11, 1915 Date and Time.—From 25th March 1885 To 30th April 1885

21 743b

[illegible]

Chas. Henry Cook

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2nd Class in Hb. Soc.

Date and Time.—From 25th Dec. 05 To 30th Dec. 05

51 7455

[illegible]

Frequency Capt-

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

Unit Self-Management

Date and Time.—From 12.00 Noon To 2.00 Noon

48 745.5

[illegible]

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday, 28 / 4 / 1945 24 Aug / 9 AL 10 (Serial No. 47) (Unit)

W.E. 7 / 30 / 1 OFFRS. 1 O.R.'s 2 OFFRS. O.R.'s 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.N.W.S. Offs. Civilians Count- ing as Offs.					
—	—	—	/						

[illegible]

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

[illegible]

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 28/4/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

28/9/45

Date of Despatch

Chas. H. Ketchum, Capt.

Signature of Commander

Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday

24 Aug 59 *AF Rec* (Unit)

W.E...../...../..... OFFRS.....O.R's.....+ OFFRS.....O.R's.....ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

Detail	A.L.F.	C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.P.	**	TOTAL
		Under 19 Years	19 years and over							
A										
B(1)										
B(2)										

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

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

Part D. Description of O.R.'s. Whose Return To... (Unit) is Particularly Requested. .../.../1945.

[illegible]

Details of Tradesmen GROUP I	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reints. Required	Details of Tradesmen GROUP I (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reints. Required	Details of Tradesmen GROUP II (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reints. Required	Details of Tradesmen GROUP III (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reints. Required
Armourers				Surveyors				Observation Post				Pitters' Mates			
Armament Artificer				Surveyors, Engineering				Assts. Operating Room				Gun Layers			
Butter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator Keyboard				Hammernien			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.P.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Saddle				Welders				Opticians				Rangefinders			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Painters				Riveters			
Artificer, Artillery								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Engine								Photographer Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Blacksmiths								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacklayers								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Computers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Cook, Hospital				GROUP II.				Riggers				Stokers, Stary, Eng.			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signallers				Tailors			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's Asst.				Telephone Identfu. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Electricians				Cooks				Wireman							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics				Woodturners							
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fare Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				GROUP III							
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Battery Surveyors							
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Butchers							
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks							
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Clerks, Technical							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Concretors							
Mechanics Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Cooks							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Dental Clerk							
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Orderlies							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Despatch Riders							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Drivers, H.T.							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Driver Mechanics							

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

.....
Date of Despatch

N.S.W. L. of C. Press-2000 Page-1/43

.....
Signature of Commander

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118

(adapted) _____

(Erase heading not required).

B. 1977.

Unit 2nd Class Sqns AL/Sec

Date and Time.—From 1st May '45 To 31st May '45

[illegible]

APPENDIX "H"

SAD REPORT ON PREPARATION FOR ORDE 1 OPERATION
13 APR 45 to 6 MAY 45.

Missions prior to P Day with 33 IB Wing RAAF.

1. Apr 15 TO 0715, TOT 1130 to 1215, Landed 1330hrs.

Altitude 7000ft.

Area carefully studied. Reported sightings to Gp HQ and interrogated by Commander 33 Bde.

Briefed by Brig Whitehead to report on certain areas in TARAKAN Town and SARAU Is.

Apr 16 TO 0730, TOT 1145 to 1300, Landed 1715hrs.

Altitude 6000ft.

Observations reported to 33 Bde.

2. These missions, although carried out at medium altitude, were extremely helpful in my becoming familiar with the area as well as gaining information about landing beaches, air strip, oil and water installations, and terrain.

CONFERENCES.

1. SAGs were shown ORDE ONE Operation Order at 1 Aust A L Group HQ and were briefed on complete operation including naval and air bombardment.

2. SAGs visited the HQ ship USS ROCKY MOUNT and contacted over camp by Lieut Van Dusen and shown records and reports of SAG on previous operations and how these reports were recorded.

3. On P-1 SAGs and air crews taking part in operation were briefed by Lt-Col London at 33 IB Wing.

MAPS SUPPLIED.

Maps supplied were as follows:-

TARAKAN		1:50000	
do		1:50000	WT grid
do	S & N	1:25000	
do	S & N	1:25000	WT grid
do	S	1:25000	Special
do	S	1:25000	Naval Bombardment
do	S	1:25000	Air Force targets.

PHOTOS.

SAGs were given the opportunity of studying ILS verticals and obliques of SW Coast and Area area.

NO photos but 3 uncontrolled mosaics of LITAKAS BEACH Area issued.

OPERATION ORION ONE.

P Day.

TO 0315, TOT 0735-1230, Landed 1530hrs.

Altitude over target area minimum 200 to 2000ft.

SAC reported to HQ ship "Cracker" at 0730 and reported forming up of assault waves and the various stages until the beach was reached. When first wave 500yds from beach white flares were dropped and position reported. Movement of all landing craft, troops and vehicles continuously reported. Close recon of town and strip area and findings such as conditions of roads, bridges, buildings and oilfields reported. Reported on locations and results of naval and air bombardment. On request of SAC, target for minimum altitude bombing and strafing by 7 B25s selected and results reported.

At 1130hrs A/C was hit by medium A/A causing damage to port wing and puncturing tyre. Area circled and exact location of A/A gun sighted and reported.

Recon of DUJENA oilfields and village, Cape PATER, BAKOL, Cape BAKOL and all coastal areas carried out and findings reported.

B24 had to leave area owing to damage at 1230hrs. On landing port tyre collapsed but no further damage to aircraft resulted. Communications excellent with HQ ship.

Pilot directed by SAC on inter-communication during all missions.

P + 1

TO 0315, TOT 0735-1245, Landed 1645hrs.

Altitude over target area 200 to 2000ft.

Encountered bad weather en route to target.

Reported to SAC 0755hrs and reports given in same manner as on

P Day.

Approx 1130 received fire from HQ. NO damage. Area circled and HQ posn identified and posn reported.

Left area at 1235 owing to shortage of fuel. Comm excellent.

P + 3

TO 1030, TOT 1445 - 1800, Landed 2200hrs.

Altitude over target area 200 to 2000ft.

Communications bad - NO contact with "Cracker" or "Banding" on 4816 or VHF until 1530hrs. Intermittent contact made with "Intell" 1530hrs. Signal strength very weak and contact lost shortly afterwards. Could hear "Cracker" strength 5 on VHF but they would not reply to our calls.

Messages dropped for Bde troops in LITHEAS Beach Area.

Air strikes, artillery fire, tanks, vehicles, and 21mm mortar panels observed, pinpointed, but was unable to report same to Ground Stations.

P + 6

TO 0315, TOT 0730 - 1235, landed 1730hrs.

Altitude over target area 200 to 3000ft.

Reported similar to D + 1 on activities of ground and air.

SAO called on VHF by "Redate" and requested to identify target area named, in order to land in support A/C on to target when required. Area located accurately and arrangements made by SAO to fire a single red flare over target as indication.

This target was finally cancelled owing to close proximity of own troops.

Communications good with HQ Ship.

Total number of hours flown for OBOE ONE OPERATION 7hrs 45 mins.

As a result of experience gained during OBOE ONE, I would make the following suggestions.

1. Preparation for Operations.

(a) Conferences

- (i) Commander and Staff Assault Force.
- (ii) CAS and Staff.
- (iii) Naval Bombardment Group.

(b) Rehearsals

SAO should be given the opportunity of viewing all rehearsals carried out prior to P Day.

(c) Landing Area.

SAO be given the opportunity of flying (at low and medium altitudes) over the area where the operations will take place. Such information can be gained from these flights as well as becoming familiar with the area.

2. During Operations.

The B24 type of A/C used for OBOE ONE was NOT entirely satisfactory for the purpose. Although the bombardiers compartment offered a wide range of visibility to each side, the forward vision was very limited. The A/C was slow to manoeuvre to selected areas and if an observation was made and it required a second look for confirmation, many minutes would elapse before the A/C could be brought back into the same position.

Road reconnaissance was almost impossible unless it was straight for some considerable distance. It is necessary to fly at low altitudes for better observation making the A/C difficult to manoeuvre and so hampering the SAO.

I recommend the following types of A/C which would be suitable for SAO:

Bombardier
B23
Avenger
TBM

Period of time over target be limited to four hours.

Ground Troops

It suggested that more use of fluorescent panels be made for making FDLa as they very obvious to A/C up to 10,000ft. Numbers painted on the rear of tanks easily recognizable and can be used as means of identification.

Ex. 1
.....Capt.
2d Asst Sqd A L Sec (AIP).

Distribution:

1 Asst Corps	1
1 Asst A L Gp HQ	1
File	2

Australian Military Forces.

Please quote this Number when replying.

SS	24	35
----	----	----

Address 24 AUST SQM A L SEC.

Date 1 AUST A L GROUP.

3 rd. JUNE 1945.

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR OBOE 6 BY SAOs.

ADV.L.H.Q.

1 AUST. CORPS.

1 AUST. A.L. GROUP.

1. MAPS

All relevant maps scales 1:25000, 1:50000, 1:250000, T.D. grid and specials supplied.

2. PHOTOGRAPHS

Only limited number of K18 vertical and oblique photographs available for inspection and study.

3. WRITTEN INFORMATION RECEIVED

- (a) 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Review No. 3 with appendices.
- (b) Terrain Handbook 58 and 59 - 14/3/45.
- (c) " Evaluation 89A - 5/5/45.
- (c) Concept of Oboe 6 Operation (RAAF).
- (e) 1 Aust Naval Bombardment Group Operation Order No.2.
- (f) Photographic Interpretation Reports.
- (g) 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Summaries.
- (h) 1 Aust Corps JWS Bulletins.

4. WRITTEN INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR STUDY

- (a) 9 Div Operation Order.
- (b) 20 Bde " "
- (c) 24 Bde " "
- (c) Attack Order No.606 - 45.
- (e) T.A.F. RAAF Operation Order.

5. CONFERENCES

The following conferences were arranged through respective Gll.Aids.

- (a) 20 Aust Inf Bde - Brig. Winckler.
- (b) 24 Aust Inf Bde - Brig. Porter.
- (c) C.B.A. on USS "Rocky Mount". Information from SAO recorded during Oboe 1 replayed.
- (a) Maj. Vickery 1 Aust Naval Bombardment Group.
- (c) T.A.F. RAAF re communications.

6. FLIGHTS

(a) Test run to check communications with HQ Ship and A.L. Parties 27/5/45. B24 used - communications only partly successful owing to failure in HQ Ship. Time of flight 2 hours 30 mins.

(b) Observation of rehearsal and further communication check 31/5/45. Communications successful.

(c) As O.C. SAOs flew to PALAWAN to make following arrangements with Maj. G. Stephens 28/5/45.

(i) Accommodation.

(ii) Arrange Briefing Room and Intelligence set-up.

(iii) Passage of information.

7. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OF SAOs

Lecture and Instruction in use of parachutes, escape apparatus and ditching of B24 30/5/45.

8. MOVEMENT TO PALAWAN

Arrangements have been made with 82 H.B. Wing RAAF to move all personnel and baggage at 050900I.

9. ACCOMMODATION ON MOROTAI

SAOs whose Sqns have already embarked are being accommodated at 82 H.B. Wing RAAF prior to embarking for PALAWAN on 5/6 /45.

.....*Charles Jones*.....Capt.
O.C. SAOs.

[illegible]

(Revised Jan. 1943)
245 (Serial No.)

WE. 111. 321. OFFRS. 1. O.R.'s. 3. + OFFRS. 7. O.R.'s. 7. ATT. BY WE.

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.				
Ranking Required	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength		Arm or Corps	Posted Strength	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Ranking Required
				W.Os., Class I					
				W.Os., Class II					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Data					
				Staff Sergeants					
				Sergeants					
NR	1	1	2	Corporals					
				Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
	1	1	2	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.					

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

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

[illegible]

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

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

[illegible]

Part D. Description of O.R.'s. Whose Return To . . . (Unit) is Particularly Requested. . . . / . . . / 194 . .

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

Chas. J. Evans
Signature of Commander

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in

Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 26/5/1945

Details of Tradesmen	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reinfs. Required	Details of Tradesmen	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reinfs. Required	Details of Tradesmen	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reinfs. Required	Details of Tradesmen	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reinfs. Required
GROUP I				GROUP I (cont.)				GROUP II (cont.)				GROUP III (cont.)			
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Pitters' Mates			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				Gun Layers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator Keyboard				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Hammernien			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.P.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Radio				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Signals				Watchmakers				Opticians				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Wireless				Welders				Painters				Rangetakers			
Artificer, Artillery								Panel Beaters				Riveters			
Artificer, Engine								Photographer Dry Plate				Roughriders			
Blacksmiths								Predictor Numbers				Saddlers			
Bricklayers								Printers				Saddletree makers			
Computers								Radiographers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Riggers				Stevadores			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Sawyers				Stokers, Staty. Eng.			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signallers				Storemen, Technical			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Signwriters				Tailors			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's Asst.				Telescope Identn. Numbers				Textile Refters			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Bolermakers				Well Borers				Tinamiths			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Wheelers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Winchman				Wagon Erectors			
Electricians				Cooks				Wireman				Whitesmiths			
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics				Woodturners							
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fine Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator											
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				GROUP III							
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Battery Surveyors							
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Butchers							
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks							
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Clerks, Supply							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Clerks, Technical							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Concretors							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Cooks							
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Dental Clerk							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Ordnance							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Despatch Riders							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Drivers, H.T.							
Photewriter				Miners				Driver Mechanics							
Plumber				Moulders				Driver Tpt. Plant							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Engine Hands, I.C.							
								Equipt. Repairers							
								Parriers							
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A, respectively.			

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

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

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

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

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

26/5/45
Date of Despatch

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted.)

Unit 2d Nov 1 Sp. & L. 20.

(Erase heading not required)
Date and Time.—From 12:00 To 3:00

[illegible]

Capt. Lawrence J.

Australian Military Forces.

Please quote this Number when replying.

SS	24	35
----	----	----

Address 24 AUST. CORPS. A.L. GROUP.
Date 1 AUST. A.L. GROUP.
3 re. JUNE 1945.

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR OBOE 6 BY HQs.

AMV.L.H.Q.
1 AUST. CORPS.
1 AUST. A.L. GROUP.

1. MAPS

All relevant maps scales 1:25000, 1:50000, 1:250000, T.M. grid and specials supplied.

2. PHOTOGRAPHS

Only limited number of ILS vertical and oblique photographs available for inspection and study.

3. WRITTEN INFORMATION RECEIVED

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- (b) Terrain Handbook 58 and 59 - 14/3/45.
- (c) " Evaluation 59A - 5/5/45.
- (c) Concept of Oboe 6 Operation (RAAF).
- (e) 1 Aust Naval Bombardment Group Operation Order No.2.
- (r) Photographic Interpretation Reports.
- (g) 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Summaries.
- (h) 1 Aust Corps AIGs Bulletins.

4. WRITTEN INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR STUDY

- (a) 9 Div Operation Order.
- (b) 20 Bde " "
- (c) 24 Bde " "
- (c) Attack Order No.606 - 45.
- (e) T.A.F. RAAF Operation Order.

5. CONFERENCES

The following conferences were arranged through respective G.H.Q. Airs.

- (a) 20 Aust Inf Bde - Brig. Incey.
- (b) 24 Aust Inf Bde - Brig. Porter.
- (c) C.C. on USS "Rocky Mount". Information from SAO recorded during Oboe 1 realyses.
- (c) Maj. Vickery 1 Aust Naval Bombardment Group.
- (c) T.A.F. RAAF re communications.

6. FLIGHTS

(a) Test run to check communications with HQ Ship and A.L. Parties 27/5/45. B24 used - communications only partly successful owing to failure in HQ Ship. Time of flight 2 hours 30 mins.

(b) Observation of rehearsal and further communication check 31/5/45. Communications successful.

(c) As O.C. SAOs flew to PALAWAN to make following arrangements with Maj. G. Stephens 28/5/45.

(i) Accommodation.

(ii) Arrange Briefing Room and Intelligence set-up.

(iii) Passage of information.

7. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OF SAOs

Lecture and instruction in use of parachutes, escape apparatus and ditching of B24 30/5/45.

8. MOVEMENT TO PALAWAN

Arrangements have been made with 82 H.B. Wing RAAF to move all personnel and baggage at 050900L.

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SAOs whose Sgns have already embarked are being accommodated at 82 H.B. Wing RAAF prior to embarking for PALAWAN on 5/6 /45.

..........Capt.
O.C. SAOs.

b:

24 Aust Sqn A.L. Section
1 Aust A.L. Group.

Subject : SAC REPORT ON OMOR 6

Ref : SS/24/38

19 June 45

"B"

ADV LHQ/
1 AJST CORPS.
1 AUST A.L. GROUP.

1. (a) The following ALOs acted as SAOs for this operation :

Capt. W. Ring.
" B. Westgarth.
" P. McEwin.
" A. Hollicor.
" J. Haydon.
" G. R. Davey.
" S. Spry. (RAA 1 Aust Corps.)

(b) Four missions totaling 40 hours flying time were flown by each ALO.

2. PREPARATION FOR OMOR 6 BY SAC

A complete report of preparations was forwarded 3 rd June 45.

3. Z-DAY MINUS 3 TO Z-DAY MINUS 1

(a) This period was most valuable for acquainting ALOs with general terrain.

(b) Reports on topography particularly that concerning state of roads, beaches and going for MT and troops were made to USS "NASHVILLE".

(c) Other reports were limited in scope as enemy movement in assault area was slight. Negative reports made were substantiated on Z-Day when enemy resistance was non-existent for practical purposes.

4. Z-DAY ONWARDS

(a) In both northern and southern sectors a running commentary was given on the pre-assault naval and aerial bombardment.

(b) Complete description of the waves forming up and approaching the landing beaches was covered. Included in this report were the movements of the supporting LCI (R), LCI (G) and LCI (M).

(c) During this phase the SAO in the northern sector was told to orbit the most northern point of LABUAN ISLAND at 5,000 feet owing to a red alert.

(d) Flares were dropped over the north eastern tip of LABUAN ISLAND AND EAST of RAMSAY POINT. Also verbal report given when first assault waves were 800 yards and 500 yards respectively from the beaches.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Z-3 to Z-1.

Slight difficulties were encountered when first contacting USS "NASHVILLE" but later communications were excellent.

(b) Z to Z plus 3.

Excellent with HQ while afloat but when HQ moved ashore a number of difficulties arose.

(i) Ground set could receive SX5 but at first did not have sufficient power. Communications were fair when close to the station but as soon as the a/c moved to a far sector SAOs were not able to receive ground station. On the third day this was greatly improved and communications were good.

(b)

(ii) Operators ashore in some cases spent too much time concentrating on procedure and checking strength, interfering with passing of information. If communications are good it is necessary to keep giving long calls for testing.

6. INFORMATION

It is suggested that whenever possible the officer on the set at HQ should have a list stating areas and times of all air strikes, naval and artillery bomb report to be passed to SAO as soon as he arrives over the area. The ground situation including position of patrols, position and strength of enemy forces.

7. MAPS

For general use TD grid 1:25,000 satisfactory but if operation covers a large area TD 1:50,000 required. At all times 1:250,000 Strat maps were carried.

8. USE OF SAO AS LEAD IN A/C

(a) SAO a/c was used many times to lead in strikes using the following methods :-

(i) Flying low and area strafed by front gunner.

(ii) Flying low and dropping US smoke grenade from camera hatch.

(b) It is suggested that the following methods be adopted :-

(i) Description and location of target passed to SAO on SAO frequency.

(ii) Aircraft on station given target and method of indication on WLF.

(iii) SAO contact aircraft on WLF and lead in using tracer ~~xxx~~ or smoke.

(iv) SAO report directly to strike a/c so that if bombs are falling outside area necessary corrections can be made saving tremendous waste of bombs and effort.

(v) As soon as strike a/c on target SAO will report the fact to the flight leader and immediately switch to SAO frequency and report result of strike to HQ.

9. USE OF SAO FOR ARTY/R

On one occasion SAO was asked to register with one gun the most westerly house in KEMPAKOL village. This was successfully carried out though at times orders had to be relayed through "Goddess" to battery owing to the artillery set not being sufficiently powerful to reach a/c. It was also requested that two other points be registered but SAO was ordered to leave area as a naval bombardment has commenced on same village.

10. USE OF SAO FOR TAC/R

Many long range Tac/R flights were carried out as far as JUEHA and TUTONG in the south and BEAUFORT and TIRION in the north.

All recon produced valuable information. Strikes were later ordered as a result of sightings reported.

11. USE OF SAO FOR PHOTO/R

At 121000G SAO a/c took vertical line overlay of road north of BRUNSI. Prints were dropped on 20 Dec. HQ by 130800G. Cameras are always carried and are invaluable to SAOs.

12. MESSAGE DROPPING - USE OF SAO FOR

An urgent message for the GOC 9 Aust Div. was enclosed in a water-proof

12. (continued)

containter with fluorescent eye attached and dropped in the water off the starboard bow of USS "ROCKY MOUNT" under instructions of the CO. This message was easily picked up and passed quickly to the SOC.

13. CODES

Correct codes are imperative otherwise great confusion caused to both parties. In this operation Shackle code given to Jaws did not coincide with that used by HQ ship.

14. FLUORESCENT PANELS

These panels were again used with great success.

15. PILOTS AND CREWS OF B24 A/C

Co-operation by Wing Comar R. Bell and captains and crews of 82 H.B. Wing detachment could not have been better. At all times great enthusiasm was shown and many helpful suggestions made. Pilots in particular are deserving of the highest praise for their execution of a most exacting task.

16. 4 MUST COMB SECTION

Maj G. Stephens was most helpful liaising between the RAAF detachment and Fighter Command. Also the co-operation of the US forces including Capt Hardy of the US Transient Camp at ALAMOG was excellent.

.....*Carroll*.....Capt.
O.C. — SAOs.

Army Form W1
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
26, 45 (Serial No.)

26,45 (Serial No.)

24 AUST. SEN. A.L. SECTION Unit

Army Form W3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
26 / 45 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 30/6/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

[illegible]

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

[illegible]

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

[illegible]

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

[illegible][illegible]

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

[illegible]

29 JUNE 45.
Date of Despatch

Chas. H. H. H. H.
Signature of Commander

Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 30 / 6 / 1945.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.[illegible]

Details of Tradesmen				Details of Tradesmen				Details of Tradesmen				Details of Tradesmen			
GROUP I.				GROUP I. (cont.)				GROUP II. (cont.)				GROUP III. (cont.)			
	W.E.	Posted Strength	Reins. Required		W.E.	Posted Strength	Reins. Required		W.E.	Posted Strength	Reins. Required		W.E.	Posted Strength	Reins. Required
Ammunition Loaders				Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Fitters' Mates			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				Gun Layers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator Keyboard				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Radio				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Signals				Watchmakers				Opticians				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Wireless				Welders				Painters				Rangetakers			
Artificer, Artillery								Panel Beaters				Riveters			
Artificer, Engine								Photographer Dry Plate				Roughriders			
Blacksmiths								Predictor Numbers				Saddlers			
Bricklayers								Printers				Saddletree makers			
Computers								Radiographers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Cooks, Hospital								Riggers				Steedores			
Coppersmiths								Sawyers				Stokers, Staty. Eng.			
Dispensers								Signallers				Storemen, Technical			
Draughtsmen								Signwriters				Tailors			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)								Telescope Identn. Numbers				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)								Well Borers				Tinmiths			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)								Wheelers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)								Winchman				Wagon Erectors			
Electricians								Wireman				Whitesmiths			
Electricians (M.V.)								Woodturners							
Electricians (Signals)															
Fitters															
Fitters (Cycle)															
Fitters (Electrical)															
Fitters (Gun)															
Fitters (Instrument)															
Fitters (M.V.)															
Fitters, Railway Signal															
Fitters, Signals															
Grinder, Precision															
Mechanics, Instrument															
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)															
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)															
Mechanics, Radio															
Mechanics Typewriter															
Mechanics, Wireless															
Millwrights															
Operators, Excavator															
Pattern Maker															
Pharmacist															
Photographer, Wet Plate															

.....
Signature of Commander

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form O. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

10. ~~SECRET~~

Unit 3rd Coast. Sign. PL Det Date and Time.—From 1st July '45 To 31st July '45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MOROTAI	1 st 5 th		Preparations and actual operations CREE 2	
	July		APPED. "H"	
	22 nd Mo.		Capt G.D. Roney appointed A.L.O. K	
			Sgt H.B. King M.A.F.	
			— Capt. Roney	

24 Aust Sqn A.L. Section.

Ref : SS/24/47

10 July 45

C.O.

1 AUST A.L. GROUP.

1. The following ALOs acted as SAOs for this operation :-

Name	Missions Prior to Oboe 2 over Balikpapan.	Missions Flown During Oboe 2.	Flying Hours.	Remarks.
Capt G.H. Dewey	1	3	52	-
" P. McEwin	1	2	38	-
" B.D. Westgarth	1	3	48	Shot down by A/A on 3rd mission.
" J. Haydon	1	1	20½	Shot down by A/A on 1st mission.
" F.S. Walsh	1	1	20½	Shot down by A/A on 1st mission.
" H.L. Spry (RAA 1 Aust Corps)	1	1	15	Shot down by A/A on 1st mission.
Maj. R. Garnsey (G II Air Adv LHQ)	-	1	14	-

Casualties

Capt B.D. Westgarth :	Missing believed killed 5 July 45.
" H.L. Spry :	Missing believed killed 2 July 45.
" J. Haydon :	Shot down in sea - rescued 1 July 45.
" F.S. Walsh :	Shot down in sea - rescued 1 July 45.

2. PREPARATION FOR OBOE 2 BY SAOs

(a) Maps

All relevant maps scales 1 : 25,000, 1 : 50,000, T.D. Grid, Specials and Aeronautical Series supplied.

(b) Photographs

- (i) K 18 obliques of coast.
- (ii) E 18 verticals.
- (iii) Victograph.
- (iv) Strike photographs from 82 Wing (HB) RAAF.

(c) Written Information Received.

- (i) 7 Aust Div Operation Order.
- (ii) 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Review. No. 4 with appendices.
- (iii) Terrain Handbook No. 62 12/3/45.

(c) continued.

- (iv) Photographic Interpretation Reports.
- (v) 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Summaries.
- (vi) 1 Aust Corps ALO Bulletins.

(d) Written Information Available for Study.

- (i) TAF RAAF Operation Order.
- (ii) Naval Attack Order.

(e) Conferences.

The following conferences were arranged through respective G III Airs :-

- (i) 18 Aust Inf Bde Brig Chiltern.
- (ii) 21 Aust Inf Bde Brig Dougherty.
- (iii) 25 Aust Inf Bde Brig Pather.
- (iv) GSO 1 7 Aust Div Lt-Col Wilmott.
- (v) RAAF Air Support Section.
- (vi) CSA Staff USS "WASACHT".

(f) Briefing of All Air Crews and SAOs.

A complete briefing was carried out at 82 Wing HQ on 30 th June 45 for all Air Crews and SAOs concerned in the operation O.C. SAOs giving exact details of army, air and naval intentions.

(g) Flights.

(i) Prior to "F" Day all SAOs flew on strike mission with 82 HB Wing RAAF in order to familiarise themselves with the area.

(ii) It is imperative that a test flight be carried out before all operations of this nature to check communications and procedure with air support sectors and HQ ship.

(h) Accommodation.

All SAOs were accommodated at 82 HB Wing RAAF.

3. "F" DAY ONWARDS

(a) Running commentary was given on pre-assault naval and aerial bombardment.

(b) Detailed description of waves forming up and approaching the landing beach and also the actual landing.

(c) Flares were dropped over Point FRIDA when first assault wave 500 yards from beach.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications on the whole were very good but the following points were brought out in this operation.

(a) When the transmitter on the HQ Ship broke down there appeared to be no emergency set which could be immediately brought into operation.

(b) During one mission passage of information from the SAO to the HQ Ship and Vice-versa was continually interrupted by ground sets on the same frequency giving long tuning calls. It is most important that these listening sets stay off the air otherwise important information will be considerably delayed.

If these sets require continuous tuning they can listen out to the SAO and use that for their tuning calls. Where it takes almost five hours from time of take off until the SAO aircraft is over the area it is considered that the ground sets had ample opportunity of completing their tuning before the first SAO aircraft arrived at 0730 hours.

(c) On some sorties the SAO had to repeat messages many times before they were accurately understood. This may have been caused by the height, movement or direction of the aircraft or the nature of the terrain. It is well known that the directional properties of the fixed aerial are such that during the manoeuvring of the aircraft there is a variation in signal strength.

5. CONTROL BY CSA AFLOAT AND ASHORE

(a) Control by CSA was good.

(b) Information regarding troop dispositions and aerial and naval bombardment was readily imparted. Only on odd occasions was the information insufficient or delayed.

(c) It is important that where possible relieving SAO should be briefed on the situation by the SAO about to leave area.

6. USE OF SAO FOR ARTY/R

Once again SAOs were used to register many points using 25 prs. This was successfully carried out. The response from the guns was excellent although orders had to be relayed through CSA ashore.

7. USE OF SAO FOR PHOTO/R

During Oboc 6 operation SAO aircraft was used in this respect but for this operation cameras were available but there were NO films. This was most unfortunate as much information can be gained in this manner. It is strongly suggested that in future operations ample film be available for SAO aircraft.

8. USE OF SAO FOR TAC/R

SAOs were successfully used for road reconnaissance. Many sightings of MT reported.

SAO called for fighter aircraft to attack these targets. Response was excellent and carrier borne fighters were quickly despatched to the area resulting in the destruction of many vehicles.

9. CODES

During this operation codes were used with complete success.

10. FLOUR ESCENT PANELS

These panels were again successful and it is suggested that more use of them should be made.

11. PILOTS AND CREWS OF B24 AIRCRAFT

Co-operation by Captains and Crews of B24s of 82 Wing RAAF could not have been better.

At all times great enthusiasm was shown and observations made by members of the crews were extremely helpful.

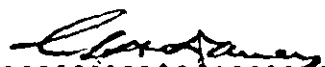
Special praise is due to the pilots who, in taking evasive action throughout the entire four or five hours over the target, were subjected to great physical as well as mental strain.

12. B24 AIRCRAFT

In all previous SAO reports it was stated that a B24 aircraft was not suitable for this type of work owing to its size and limited manoeuvrability.

Its unsuitability has now been forcibly brought to notice in this operation as three B24s were shot down by J/A while flying at low altitudes. As a result 29 lives were lost. Had a smaller, more manoeuvrable aircraft been used this considerable loss of life would not have occurred.

13. Appreciation is expressed of the action of G II Air Adv LHQ (Maj R. Garnsey) who volunteered his services and carried out SAO duties at a time when SAO casualties had reached 50% of the detachment strength.


.....Capt.
O.C. SAOs.

Army Form W-5008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1963)

32, 42 (Serial No.)

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

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).

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

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

[illegible]

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5/2/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

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

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

[illegible]

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 28/7/1945.

Details of Tradesmen GROUP I.	W.E.	Present Strength	Reinforcements Required	Details of Tradesmen GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Present Strength	Reinforcements Required	Details of Tradesmen GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Present Strength	Reinforcements Required	Details of Tradesmen GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Present Strength	Reinforcements Required
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assist.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificers				Surveyors, E.A.S.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificers (Electric)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stickers			
Armament Artificers (Instrument)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificers (M.V.)				Tailors				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing (Mental)			
Armament Artificers (M.V.V.)				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificers (Instrument)				Watchmakers				Opticians				Refractometers			
Armament Artificers (Radio)				Welders				Painters				Revolvers			
Armament Artificers (Signal)								Panel Builders				Roughriders			
Armament Artificers (Wireless)								Photographers, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificers, Artillery								Printers, Numbers				Saddlery Makers			
Artificers, Engine								Printers				Shoemakers and Boot Repairers			
Biochemists								Radiographers				Stevardens			
Biochemists								Riggers				Stokers, H.M.S. Engine			
Computers				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Cooks, Hospital				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Coppersmiths				Assault				Signwriters				Tenille Builders			
Dishwashers				Bakers				Telephone Identif. Numbers				Timemakers			
Dressmakers				Big, Com'd. Ass.				Well Sovers				Valeanters			
Dressmakers (Architectural)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Dressmakers (Engineering)				Carpenters				Winchmen				Whitewashers			
Dressmakers (Mechanical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wiremen							
Dressmakers (Telegraphical)				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (M.V.)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Electricians (Signal)				Driver-Operator											
Filters				Drummers											
Filters (Cycle)				Electricians											
Filters (Electrical)				Instrumental (Engineers)											
Filters (Gun)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN			
Filters (Instrument)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors							
Filters (M.V.)				Hatchmen				Catchers							
Filters, Railway Signal				Height Taker				Clerks							
Filters, Signals				Mail Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Grinder, Precision				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical							
Mechanics, Instrument				Intelligence Dishes				Cook Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Signal)				Jewellers				Crocodiers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Linemans				Cooks							
Mechanics, Radio				Linemans, Signal				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Typewriters				Lithographers				Dressmaker Makers							
Mechanics, Wireless				Mechanics, Metal				Droughtholers, Signals							
Millwrights				Mechanics, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Operators, Excavator				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Painters, Maker				Masters				Driver Tpm. Plant							
Pharmacist				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Mends, L.C.							
Photographers, Wet Plate				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Photofillers				Moulders				Farmers							
Plumber				Nurses, Trained				Fitters, Mains							
See Doctors				Observation Post Assist.				Gun Layers							
Surveyors															
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD							

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

27 JULY 45.

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander