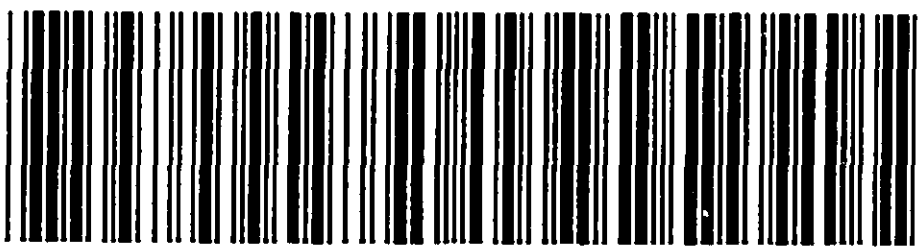
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/14/39
AIR LIAISON

44 Australian Squadron Air Liaison Section (44 Aust Sqn AL Sec)

November 1944 - November 1945



1/14/39-0016

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 44 AUST SQN AL SEC Date and Time.—From 30 Nov 44 To 30 Nov 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	30 Nov		(c) A lecture was also given by Capt WOODHOUSE and Lieut McKINNON, 2/6 Cav Commando Regt on the Regt's activities in the DANAP RIVER and SUAIN areas, and how best mutual assistance can be given by the two forces.	
			In capacity as acting ALO 48 AUST SQN AL SEC, Lt JOHNSTON lectured 7 SQN on :-	
			(a) AITAPE-WEWAK campaign from the time of the initial landing.	
			(b) Security as given to 100 SQN.	
			(c) Supply Dropping.	
			Numerous visits were made by ALO to 7,8 and 4 Tac/R Sqn RAAF, 6 Div HQ with particular reference to GIII(Air) and Intelligence Officers; visits made to 2/6 Commando Regt.	
			Passengers carried during the month by the 7 and 100 SQNS on recce and strike missions included General	

By Authority: L. F. Johnson, Government Printer, Canberra.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 44 AUST SIGN AL SEC *Date and Time.—From* 30 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	30 Nov		Stevens, GOC 6 Aust Div AIF, many of the G and Q Staff Officers, Bde Commanders and staffs, officers of 2/6 Cav Commando Regt, and COs and IOs of Inf Bns.	

Appendix A

[illegible] OF [illegible] AND [illegible]

PATROL [illegible] 2/[illegible] [illegible] 6-12 Nov [illegible].

OBJECT: To promote understandings of capabilities, limitations, and difficulties [illegible] experienced on the ground, in the air, and with particular reference to close-support and supply dropping.

[illegible]: [illegible] days duration, vicinity [illegible], [illegible] Ref map [illegible] 1/[illegible].

COMMENTS [illegible].

1. [illegible] Ground Troops.

(a) All personnel were most interested in the activities of the [illegible], and asked numerous questions. In particular, capabilities of aircraft being used in the [illegible], how support is requested and given, and how soon it can get there.

(b) [illegible]ethods of bombing, bombing errors, and [illegible].

(c) That ground strips would be quite inadequate to indicate targets, except in flat coastal areas.

(d) All ranks consider that much necessary information could be gained from aerial photos of the ground to be covered, and particularly of the high ground overlooking their positions.

General: Feeling is that the [illegible] are doing all they can to help, and stressed the lift in morale from seeing friendly aircraft above them.

2. By Air Crew.

(a) [illegible] impressed by the work done by the ground troops, and fully appreciative of their difficulties.

(b) Consider that aircrew should be issued with jungle-green clothing, as in the event of ditching khaki clothing would make them conspicuous.

(c) Air crews should carry an [illegible] in the aircraft.

(d) [illegible] knowledge gained of terrain, which should be of benefit to them in the case of ditching.

(e) Salt tablets, medicine for dysentery, insect repellent, water tight containers for matches, should be carried in jungle kits for air crews.

(f) Agreement with ground troops suggestions re photographs, use of ground strips, and supply dropping.

3. By both Ground Troops [illegible] Air Crews on [illegible] Dropping.

(a) Note: Up to date [illegible] have been carrying in the bomb bays only four packages weighing [illegible] a total of [illegible] lbs, all four packages being released on one run.

(b) Consider two runs better than one, dropping two of the four packages each time, as chutes have a tendency to bunch together, and this prevents or delays the opening; which results in the load hitting the ground with considerable force and possible damage [illegible] to the contents.

(c) Drop should be made from 5[illegible] to 100ft higher than in the past, with slightly higher [illegible], and [illegible] possible [illegible].

(d) Dropping mail would be appreciated, also [illegible] small supplies of canteen goods, both which can be thrown [illegible] the [illegible] or flare chute.

(e) A full report on supply dropping will be made within the next week.

4. General:

(a) A mutual appreciation of each other's work [illegible] most noticeable, and both crews and ground troops think that future visits of air crews would be of benifit to both forces.

(b) Air crews by nature of their work are unused to marching under hard conditions, and to prevent unnecessary distress their patrolling should be limited to those of one or two days duration.

(c) Comments by the C.O. [illegible] Sqn [illegible] attached.

W.K. Johnston Lt.

[illegible] (W.K. JOHNSTON)

COMPILED BY THE CO MANDI G OFFICER 200 SQUADRON R.....F. ON THE RUA DOING REPORT.

The patrol completed from W/C Christianson and crew was from the foregoing report a complete success.

The harmony, goodwill, and comradeship of both services were the salient features, plus a more thorough understanding and appreciation of each others' respective duties, and capabilities.

W/C Christianson was able to point out certain difficulties of target location if insufficient information be sent in with requests for strikes.

His recommendation for the issue of jungle-green clothing seems a logical one...Also be gained invaluable information about the wild fruits and vegetables, and of jungle craft, resulting in full confidence in his survival in the jungle if forced down.

These many advantages gained I consider more than warrants the continuance of such patrols for aircrews, but necessarily of short duration, i.e. one or two days. Bearing in mind the highly specialised training through which aircrews have to go, they would be sent on these patrols in which there is small chance of contact with the enemy, and they will still be able to accomplish the mission on which they have been sent.

F.K. Johnston-Le Jon. (Johnston-Le Jon)
Squadron Leader.
Commanding No.100 Squadron.

Appendix B

To [illegible] Div — 10th Nov 44.

REPORT ON SUPPLY DROPPING EXERCISE [illegible] -

REPORT NO. 1.

Results of Dropping over period 5-17 Nov 44.

1. (a) Unit: 100 Sqn [illegible].
(b) Aircraft: Type I
(c) Packing & Loading: 1 Sqn Air Maintenance Section
(d) Supplied to: [illegible] patrols, forward elements of 6 Div.

2. Appreciation.
(a) None of the pilots had had any experience in supply dropping from a Beaufort.
(b) While R.A.F. Air Maintenance Section had had considerable experience in supply dropping and packing, the section personally were untrained.
(c) There are only six bomb racks on a Beaufort, 4 in the bay, and 1 on each wing.
(d) Measurements of the bomb bay are 5ft 6in x 1ft 2in.
(e) Maximum load for Beaufort is 1750 lbs in bomb bay, and 250 lbs under each wing, total 2,250 lbs.
(f) Slowest safe speed is 120 m.p.h.

3. Points noted.
1. In the packing.
(a) Maximum measurements for packs (including ropes) in the bomb bay are, 2 centre packs 12"x12", 2 outside packs 10"x10". The reduction in size for the two outside packs was necessary to ensure clearance for opening and closing the bomb doors.
(b) As the carrier hook is only 5ft 6in from the front of the bomb bay, (Note: total length of bay 5ft 6in) the length of the packs had to be curtailed owing to the uneven suspension.
(c) Owing to the limited space in the Beaufort, and to get maximum usefulness, it is preferable to carry those supplies which are compact and heavy, such as ammunition, rather than those which are bulky.
(d) When two or more sorties are being flown by one aircraft, considerable saving in time can be achieved in turn round by fitting spare carriers to the packs for the next load.
(e) Difficulty is still being experienced in getting a good attachment from pack to carrier hook. A possible solution seems to be an iron band round the pack, with right-angled lugs at each end which do not meet. This is squeezed round the pack by tightening a threaded bolt being through the lugs. On one side of the band is welded an eyelet for attachment to the carrier. (Note: 20/11/44 subsequently been tried and found successful)
(f) Pilots must check that loads are securely attached to aircraft, and that he knows the contents and weight of the packs, before taking off.

2. In the Air.
(a) Conventional target sign discharges have proven satisfactory in all cases; [illegible] petrol. using [illegible] instead of strips.
(b) Best height for Free Dropping, 50-100ft, speed 120 m.p.h.
(c) Best height for Parachute dropping, 500-600ft, speed slowest safe possible.
(d) Up to 15° of flap were used for Parachute Dropping.
(e) Where possible, dropping sites should be located so that the pilot does not have to make his run towards a line of hills.
(f) Personnel on the ground must be clear of the area when the dropping is taking place, as movement distracts the pilot's attention at the critical moment.

(c) Observer release was found to be best for Parachute dropping, & pilot release for free dropping. But suggest that this can be a mutual agreement between pilot and observer.

(d) To avoid dispersion of packages, a live dropping was found to be the best. Difficulty was experienced at first in this direction as parachutes were inclined to bunch together, thus delaying their opening. This was overcome by releasing in pairs with a short spacing between pairs.

(e) Immediately before drop ..... should see that static lines have not become tangled in the tail assy.

(f) Pilot must not close bomb doors until the ..... has reported that the static lines have been pulled in.

4. General:

(a) Much of the foregoing are only suggestions, but up to date 100% recovery has been obtained, and in all cases except one (?) by use of these methods.

(b) Attached are detailed reports on the loads dropped.

(c) After the first three drops which all have been done by the same pilot, a lecture was given to air crew on what had been learned with benifit to all.

(d) A demonstration drop in T.B.I. area was also arranged, crews from all squadrons in the area being there.

W.K. Johnston Lt.

A.D.C. (A.F.HENDERSON)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

SUPPLY DROPPING SUMMARY

Period 5-23 Nov 44.

Date: ---------- 5 Nov 44
Place:----------BABIANG
No.Para Packs:----------4 (ammunition)
No.Free Containers:---------Nil
Stores:----------Nil
Total Weight:----------1332 lbs
Height:----------300 Ft
Speed:----------130 mph
% Recovery:----------100 %

Date:----------7 Nov 44
Place:----------BABIANG
No.Para Packs:----------4 (ammunition)
No.Free Containers:---------Nil
Stores:----------Nil
Total Weight:----------944 lbs
Height:----------350 ft
Speed:----------130 mph
% Recovery:----------97%

Date:----------9 Nov 44
Place:----------BABIANG
No.Para Packs:----------4 (hand grenades)
No.Free Containers:---------Nil
Stores:----------Nil
Total Weight:----------984 lbs
Height:----------250 ft
Speed:----------120 mph
% Recovery:----------100%

Date:----------14 Nov 44
Place:----------YAPSUNGA
No.Para Packs:----------4
No.Free Containers:---------13
Stores:----------Rations & small quantity equipment
Total Weight:----------3006 lbs
Height:----------300 ft (para) 150 ft (free)
Speed:----------130 mph
% Recovery:----------100%

Date:----------15 Nov 44
Place:----------NIALU
No.Para Packs:----------2
No.Free Containers:---------2
Stores:----------Rations
Total Weight:----------760 lbs
Height:----------75 ft (free) 350 ft (para)
Speed:----------130 mph
% Recovery:----------100%

Date: ----------16 Nov 44
Place:----------TADJI Crash Strip
No.Para Packs:----------8
No.Free Containers:----------1
Stores:----------Rations,Rice,& Ammn.
Total Weight:----------1949 lbs
Height:----------400 ft
Speed:----------140 mph
% Recovery:----------100 %

Date:----------17 Nov 44
Place:----------YAPUNDA
No.Para Packs:----------11
No.Free Containers:----------4
Stores:----------Fuel,Rice,Rations,Wheatmeal.
Total Weight:----------2267 lbs
Height:----------250 ft (para) 75 ft (free)
Speed: ----------130 mph
% Recovery:---------- 100 %

Date:----------19 Nov 44
Place:----------BABIANG
No.Para Packs:----------4
No.Free Containers:----------Nil
Stores:----------Canteen Goods,Toilet,Mail,Rations.
Total Weight:----------839 lbs
Height:----------300 ft
Speed:----------130 mph
% Recovery:----------100 %

Date:----------19 Nov 44
Place:----------NIALU
No.Para Packs:----------8
No.Free Containers:----------Nil
Stores:----------Rations,ammn,grenades.
Total Weight:----------1725 lbs
Height:----------300 ft
Speed:----------130 mph
% Recovery: ----------100 %

Date:----------23 Nov 44
Place:----------BABIANG
No.Para Packs:----------8
No.Free Containers:----------Nil
Stores:----------Rations
Total Weight:----------1533 lbs
Height:----------300 ft
Speed:----------130 mph
% Recovery:----------100%

Summary:

No. Sorties: 18
Total Para Packs: 57
Total Free Containers: 20
Total Poundage: 15,339 lbs

DETAILS OF LOAD DROPPINGS

5 Nov 44. Particulars of Test Drop of Amn.

Height from which drop was made 300 Ft
Speed of aircraft 120 m/.h.

Amn packed as follows:-

No 1 pack	5 boxes	4000 rds. 9 mm.	weight	310 lbs
No 2 "	ditto		"	310 "
No 3 "	3 boxes	3200 rds "	"	306 "
No 4 "	3 "	ditto	"	306 "
Parachute equipment	4 'chutes		"	100 "
		Total Payload		1332 "

It would be appreciated that this Test Drop was made to the fullest capacity of space available in the aircraft and extreme limits of Parachute capacity.

This enables 39200 rds 9mm Amn to be dropped by Beaufort in one load.

Note:- No packing material such as shock absorbers were used. Boxes were firmly crated by 3 x 1 inch timber, trussed with ropes, making this drop a severe test.

100% recovery

---

7 Nov 44. Result of Drop.

Amn was dropped in the following quantities:-

No 1 Pack	4 x 576	.303	Amn	-	2304 rds
No 2 Pack	4 x 576	.303	Amn	-	2304 rds

Note:
(These packs were made up of special air dropping boxes, specially packed and constructed enabling easy carriage by an individual soldier)

No 3 Pack	1 x 1000	.303	Amn		
	2 x 1248	.303	"	-	3496 rds
No 4 Pack	1 x 1000	.303	"		
	2 x 1248	.303	"	-	3496 rds
Total No of rounds				-	11600
Total weight				-	944 lbs

Height from which drop was made - approx 350 ft
Speed of aircraft - 110 m.p.h.

Special Notes
When next dropping amn. it has been arranged to free drop 2 metal containers from bomb racks under wings, enabling a further 7240 rds to be dropped, making total payload of .303 amn. approx 18840 rds.

1 case damaged.
97% recovery.

---

9 Nov 44. Result of Drop.

Amn. was dropped in the following quantities:-

No 1 Pack	11 x 12	Grenades Hand 36M	4 Sec	-	311 lbs
No 2 Pack		ditto		-	312 lbs
No 3 Pack	6 x 12	Grenades Hand 36M	4 Sec	-	181 lbs
No 4 Pack	6 x 12	Grenades Hand 36M	4 Sec	-	181 lbs
Total poundage				-	984 lbs

As this was a complete load of hand grenades, packs were specially prepared.

Height from which drop was made - 250 ft
Speed of aircraft - [illegible] m.p.h.

Special note: This pay-load is the maximum capacity of grenades hand that can be dropped from the bomb bays of a Beaufort bomber.

100% recovery.

---

14 Nov 44. Result of Drop.

Native and S[illegible] Rations and a small quantity of equipment were dropped as follows:-

No 1 Trip.				
Para packs	No 1	Rations	233	
	No 2	Rations	235	
	No 3	Rations	245	
	No 4	Equipment	125	
Free drop	No 1	Rations	266	
	No [illegible]	Rations	195	[illegible] lbs
No 2 Trip	No 1	Rations	116	
Free drop	No 2	Rations	116	
	No 3	Rations	116	348 lbs
No 3 Trip				
Free drop	No 1	Misc 11	75	
	No 2	Rations	116	
	No 3	Rations	116	
	No 4	Rations	266	
	No 5	Rations	266	739 lbs
No 4 Trip				
Para packs	No 1	Rations	233	
	No 2	Rations	235	
Free drop				
	No 1	Rations	150	618 lbs
Total poundage		-	-	3006

a. Special packs had to be made as most ration commodity cases were too large to be fitted in bomb bays.

Height from which drop was made	Parachute		300 ft
Speed of a/c		-	[illegible] mph
Height from which drop was made	Free drop		150 ft
Speed of a/c		-	125 mph

4. Drop site was found to be difficult owing to surrounding hills and the pilots were unable to fly at a reduced speed and altitude.

5. Special Note:
It is desired to bring to notice the following:- Biscuits Service were broken into fragments when the tins were opened and so were packed in sandbags instead of drums. Although biscuits be badly smashed when received, good porridge meal can be made from them.

100% recovery.

---

15 Nov 44. Result of Drop

Rations were dropped as follows:-

BEAUFORT: Para pack
No 1 [illegible]ations 255 lbs

(Para pack Cont.)

No 3	Rations	145 lbs
Free Drop		
No 1	Rations	140 lbs
Total		760 lbs

2. Free drop was packed in metal cylinders and dropped from wing racks.

Free Drop	Speed	130 m p h
	Height	75 ft
Para Drop	Speed	130 m p h
	Height	350 ft

100% recovery

---

16 Nov 44. Result of Demonstration Drop.

Test Drop was carried out by Beaufort bomber on 15 Nov 44. Two trips were made as follows:-

Trip No 1 take off 1415hrs

Details of Load:-

Para packs were carried in bomb bays.

No 1	Ammo.	224 lbs
No 2	Rations	342 lbs
No 3	Rations	298 lbs
No 4	Rations	175 lbs

Rations were packed in wooden crates without any interior packing, and were made to correct measurement to allow 4 packs to be fitted and dropped with no danger of hang-ups occuring.

Free Drop

Nos. 1 & 2	Rice	150 lbs ea.

Rice was packed in metal containers, with no interior packing used.
Para packs were dropped from a height of 300 ft at approx 120 mph

Result of Drop

Para Packs: 100% recovery. Crates were in perfect condition, there was not even a nail sprung out of place.
Free Drops: Containers were damaged which was expected, but the sand bags of rice remained intact.

Trip No2 take off 1525 hrs

Details of Load.

Para Packs carried in bomb bays.

No 1	Rations	210 lbs
No 2	Rations	350 lbs
No 3	Rations	175 lbs
No 4	Rations	155 lbs

Note.

Para packs in wooden crates had no interior packing.

Result of Drop.

Para Packs: 100% recovery

Details of Drop Site:

Location - Western end of green strip.
Surface - Hard
Dimensions of Area - 80 yds wide 100 yds long

Ground signals were clearly laid out.

The pilot when questioned, stated he had not experienced difficulty in regard to release of packs from bomb bats. The drop site and signals were clearly defined.

---

17 Nov 44. Result of Drop.

1. Rations and the miscellaneous items were dropped as follows:-

No 1 Trip.			
Para Packs	No 1	3 Drums Range Fuel	135 lbs
	No 2	1 Drum Range Fuel	
		1 case med.comforts	152 lbs
	No 3	3 cases Rations	165 lbs
	No 4	3 cases Rations	165 lbs
Free Drop:	No 1	1 Container Rice	235 lbs
	No 2	1 Container Rice	235 lbs
Total			735 lbs
No 2 Trip			
Para Packs:	No 1	4 Drums Aeatmeal	155 lbs
	No 2	" " "	155 "
	No 3	1 2/Pack Case Ratn's	123 "
	No 4	1 " " "	170 "
Free Drop:	No 1	1 Container Rice	107 "
	No 2	1 Container Rice	107 "
Total			817 "
No 3 Trip:			
Para Packs:	No 1	1 2/Pack Case Ratn's	180 lbs
	No 2	1 " " "	275 "
	no 3	1 " " "	140 "
Total			595 "

2. Special packs had to be made as most ration cases were too large to be fitted in Beaufort bomb bays.

Height from which drop was made	Parachutes	250 ft
" " " " "	Free Drop	70 ft
Speed of a/c	Parachutes	120 mph
" " "	Free Drop	120 mph

No difficulty was experienced in dropping all supplies on drop site. The pilot was well acquainted with the area.

100% recovery.

-8 FEB 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 44 AUST SQN AL SEC *Date and Time.—From* 1 DEC 44 *To* 31 DEC 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	31 Dec		Following are points of interest with regard to close air support activities in this area during the month:- (a)The Japs in several of the villages have shown dislike of bombing by evacuating after attack without waiting to make contact with our ground forces. (b)In the TONG area, it has been customary to send out six aircraft each day; targets to be given over R/T on arrival in area. Owing to low-lying cloud it was found that on many occasions the aircraft were unable to get through to the target area, also that they had to circle over the area when they did get through for communication to be established and the target given. A satisfactory way of handling this type of operation was as follows:- 1 aircraft took off on weather recce before the others. The remainder of the crews being briefed and proceeded to the strip to stand by. On receipt of the weather OK by our ground station, remaining	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit..... 44 AUST SQN AL SEC *Date and Time.—From* 31 Dec 44 *To* 31 Dec 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	31 Dec		aircraft take off and proceed to the target area.Meanwhile the weather recce aircraft establishes communication with TONG , gets location of the target and other relative information; finds the target and waits for the remaining aircraft to arrive. Also calls up the other aircraft,gives them the target and if necessary indicates it to them. If the weather is unsatisfactory,the remaining aircraft take off and bomb secondary targets in the coastal area.	
			(c) The element of surprise was being lost on many occasions through an aircraft having to get the spot height of the target before the attack. This was overcome by detailing one aircraft to obtain all spot heights of possible targets in the area, and these have been passed to other squadrons.	
			(d)Direct results of air strikes as far as causing casualties is concerned has been apparent on several occasions.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 44 AUST SQN AL SEC *Date and Time.—From* 31 Dec 44 *To* 31 Dec 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	31 Dec		In one attack there were reported 29 Japs killed and 17 wounded, and in another attack 23 Japs were killed by our ground troops while trying to escape from an area under attack. (e) On 16 Dec an interesting ruse was tried by the Japs to obtain supplies from our C47. A display sign in white lap-laps was put upon the ground; but unfortunately for the Japs some BEAUFORTS happened to arrive at the same time, and instead of ~~XX~~ supplies they received a few well directed sticks of bombs. Our forward patrols showed their appreciation by putting out a display sign which read "U-Beaut". 2. Lectures to both 100 and 7 Squadrons were given by Lt Johnston on organization of 6 Division and the Army generally. 3. On Dec 23, a talk was given by Capts McRae and Pepper of 6 Div HQ on the patrol activities in the TONG and DANAP River areas; these officers have just returned from these areas. Note. Arrangements have been made also for this talk	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 44 AUST SQN AL SEC *Date and Time.—From* 31 Dec 44 *To* 31 Dec 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	31 Dec		to be given to 7 Squadron.	
			4. Arrangements were made for one aircraft on Xmas Day to drop parcels of papers, books, cigarettes etc to forward elements of our troops. This was done at 4 different outposts and that it was appreciated very much may be seen from the following signal received the next day. "Many thanks for Christmas parcel, also for the iron rations delivered to Japs for Christmas. Best wishes from all members "C" Coy 2/5 BN. You'll do us".	
			5. A weekly newspaper which is proving very popular is now being published by the ALO and IO secs for the benefit of all members of the Sqn. This contains all items of interest in connection with the war on all fronts, and is read out in the airmens' mess each Sunday evening. This also gives to all members of the Sqn an opportunity to ask questions on war front	
			Copies to War Room, Offrs and Sgts and Airmens' messes.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 44 AUST SQN AL SEC *Date and Time.--From* 1 Nov 44 *To* 30 Nov 44

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	12 Nov		Arrangements were made with 2/6 Cav Commando Regt 6 Div AIF to take member of the air crew with them on patrol in the DANMAP RIVER, SUAIN area. This was done over a period 6-12 Nov 44, and a copy of the report on the patrol is attached.	See Appendix A
	17 Nov		Supply dropping to forward elements 6 Aust Div and ANGAU was carried out by the Squadron (100 SQN) including a demonstation for all Squadrons in the area.	See Appendix B
	28 Nov		Major Hopkinson, OC 7 Aust Comd AL Sec visited 100SQNS and 7 SQNS .	
	30 Nov		Arrangements were made with 2/6 Commando Regt for their NCOs to visit 100 SQUADRON and be entertained in the Sgts Mess. During the month Lt JOHNSTON,OC this Sec,gave lectures on following to Sqns:- (a) Supply Dropping. (b) Security,with particular reference to Aust Troop movements in this area	

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.

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

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

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

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.

W. K. Johnston

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

February 1945.

A stock-take of war diaries commenced in 1956 revealed that an ORIGINAL diary covering the above period was missing. This diary, previously registered as a DUPLICATE, has therefore been re-registered as an ORIGINAL.

An entry to this effect has been made in the War Diary Register.

SECRET.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit ...Aust Sqn 1 Sec *Date and Time.—From* 1 Feb 45 *To* 28 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE-WEWAK	for month		...points of interest in relation to close-support: (a) Clear instructions have now been given to get the pilot with regard to giving full information when forwarding air request. This has resulted in more satisfactory briefing, and consequently more efficient enemy strikes. (b) Giving R/T over target to ground forces 15 minutes before, so that mortar smoke is laid 4 minutes before a/c's arrival; thus enabling full surprise effect to be obtained as the first a/c bomb on their first run over the target. (c) Two strikes by this squadron during the month were of particular interest in that they yielded a return of 32 Nips killed. The first 7 a/c were at WEWAK Ref 620030 [illegible] which 18 were killed, and the second 8 a/c at a reported [illegible] which 25 were killed. In the second instance nothing could be seen from the air except jungle, the crews bombing the pin-point given with the help of mortar smoke indications. (d) A feature of air attacks during the month has been the consistent accuracy of the bombing. This was probably to the fact that most of the air crews have now become [illegible] and have been operating in the area for at	

[illegible]

SECRET.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec *Date and Time.—From* 1 Feb 45 *To* 28 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			(Continued) least 5 months.	
			(c) This was the squadron's best month for close-support strikes.26 sorties being flown on an average daily service. of 7%.All atikes were carried out in only our flying days.	
			(f) Casualties from Air Actiun (all squadrons) for the month were 83,of which at least 38 were killed bycthis squadron.	
			2. General.	
Squadron.			(a)Talks on the local ground progress and on all war fronts were given each week as usual by the ALO.	
	22 Feb		(b) A lecture was also given by the ALO to the aircrews on the use of mortar smoke by ground forces to indicate targets,and the framing of requests for air support.	
	27 Feb		(c) A talk to aircrews was given by Capt. Marshall of 2/2 Pn on his experiences while doing a recc. patrol in the SEPIK Area SE of ATTAPE.This was the patrol with which one of the crews from this squadron did the contact recc. and supply dropping.	
			(d) 77,700 surrender and propaganda Leaflets were dropped by the squadron during the month,mostly in village areas in the vicinity of WEWAK.	

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Capt.
ALO. 44 Aust Sqn AL Sec
100 Sqn RAAF.

SECRET.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit. 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec *Date and Time.—From* 1 Feb 45 *To* 28 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE-WEWAK	For month		1. Points of interest in relation to close-support:	
			(a) Clear instructions have now been given to get troops with regard to giving full information when forwarding air request. This has resulted in more satisfactory briefing, and consequently more efficient ~~xxxxx~~ strikes.	
			(b) Giving FDA over target to ground forces 15 minutes before, so that mortar smoke is laid 4 minutes before a/c's arrival; thus enabling full surprise effect to be obtained as the ~~xxxx~~ a/c bomb on their first run over the target.	
			(c) Two strikes by this squadron during the month were of particular interest in that they netted a return of 38 Japs killed. The first (7 a/c) were at MILAK Ref 640030 MAP WIK WEST 1" - 1 mile in which 13 were killed, and the second (8 a/c) at a reported BN Hq at 575005 NANU EAST in which 25 were killed. In the second instance nothing could be seen from the air except jungle, the crews bombing the pin-point given with the help of mortar smoke indications.	
			(d) A feature of air attacks during the month has been the consistent accuracy of the bombing. This due probably to the fact that most of the air crews have now become conversant with the procedure in use, and have been operating in the area for at	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit. 4 Aust Sqn AL Sec Date and Time.—From 1 Feb 45 To 28 Feb 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			(Continued) least a month.	
			(e) This was the greatest best month for close-support strikes.55 sorties being flown on an average daily service. of 7. All strikes were carried out in only one 11 flying days.	
			(f) Casualties from air action (all squadrons) for the month were 88;of which at least 38 were killed by this squadron.	
			5. General.	
Squadron.			(a)Talks on the local ground progress and on all war fronts were given each week as usual by the A.L.O.	
	22 Feb		(b) A lecture was also given by the A.L.O to the aircrews on the use of morter smoke by ground forces to indicate targets,and the drawing of requests for air support.	
	27 Feb		(c) A talk to aircrews was given by Capt. Marshall of 2/2 Bn on his experiences while on long recce. patrol in the WEWAK area of NEW GUINEA.This was the patrol with which one of the crews from this squadron did the contact recce. and supply dropping.	
			(d) 27,700 surrender and propaganda leaflets were dropped by the squadron during the month,mostly in village areas in the vicinity of WEWAK.	

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E. K. Johnston Capt.
A.L.O. 4 Aust Sqn AL Sec
100 Sqn RAAF.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec *Date and Time.—From* 1 Mar 45 *To* 31 Mar 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE - WEWAK	For month		1. Close Sp. Procedure as outlined in lasts months diary is still being adhered to with satisfactory results. A general improvement has been noticed particularly in speed in estab .comms and the cutting out of all unnecessary "chatter" over R.T. and 124 Sorties in close sp ac/gn targets of tactical impertance were flown by the Sqn for the Month with an average daily serviceability of 10 a/c. Enemy cas from air action for the month (all sqns) were 43 killed. 2. Tactical Recce. With the departure of 4 T/R Sqn from this area during the month all of their work is being done by the BEAUFORT Sqns. Considering the Beauforts limitations for this class of work. and the fact that the crews are untrained in Tac Recce, the results have been entirely satisfactory. This has been achieved mainly by giving this work to only 2-3 crews in each Sqn, doing the work for one week at a time. 3. Lectures. Were given to the Sqn by the A.L.O. as follows: 1. Weekly talks on war fronts, particular attention to the AITAPE- WEWAK area. 2. Tac Recce. 4. Leaflets. 53000 various types of surrender leaflets were dropped by the Sqn in areas adjacent to immediate operations.	

W.K. Johnston Capt

A L O (W.K. Johnston)
100 Sqn RAAF

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 44 Aust. Sqns. A.C.Sect. *Date and Time.—From* 1st April, 1945 *To* 30th April, 1945.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI (AITAPE BEAK AREA)	For month	1.	CLOSE SUPPORT (a) As in previous months, the procedure in engaging close supports targets is still working efficiently and smoothly. (b) Many new crews in the Squadron has been responsible for a slight decrease in the accuracy of bombing. This however, is rapidly being overcome. (c) Also, more effective strikes in the future may be expected as the result of increased bomb loads from 1,000 lbs., to 2040 lbs. (d) 117 Sorties in close supports and on targets of tactical importance were flown by the Squadron for the month, with an average daily serviceability of eight aircraft. (e) A.S.P. Officers both inland and on the coasts have helped considerably in framing requests for air support and educating the ground forces generally in the capabilities and limitations of the aircraft supporting them. (f) Enemy casualties for the month as a direct result of air action were forty eight (48) killed. (All Squadrons)	
		2.	NEW CREWS IN THE SQUADRON. (i) Many new crews arrived in the Squadron during the month, and it was noticeable that the majority of them were unfamiliar with close support procedure of any sort, and had only hazy ideas on how to read an I inch - 1 mile map. (ii) As a result, much time is wasted in familiarizing them with these matters, and also an additional risk in close targets is made for the ground forces. (iii) It is felt, that even a brief period of tuition in the above subjects before the crews are posted would be of great	

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WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			benefit both to themselves, the ground forces and the squadron with which they are to do their tour of operations.	
		3.	LECTURES Instruction to all new crews was given by the A.L.O. on Close Support Procedure, Map Reading, and familiarization with the local situation in detail. Talks were also given to all air crews on local progress of ground forces each week, also on progress of other war fronts. A lecture was also given by Flight Lieutenant MAUGER on the organisation of A.S.P's and the framing of requests for air support. On 27th April, Lieutenant PETERSON of A.I.B.U. gave a lecture to all air crews on the New Guinea natives, and how to live off the jungle.	
		4.	GENERAL (a) 50,800 various types of surrender leaflets were dropped by the squadron in areas adjacent to immediate operations.	

W. L. Johnston ..... Capt.,
(W.L.JOHNSTON.)
A.L.O. No. 100 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

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WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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(Adap ed.)

Unit 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec AIF *Date and Time.—From* 1 May *To* 31 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE - WEWAK Sector	For month		1. (a) As in previous months the procedure of engaging close support targets is still working efficiently, and has lent immense assistance to ground forces with repeated bombing of enemy gun and defensive positions.	
			(b) 260 sorties in close-support and on targets of tactical importance were flown with an average daily serviceability of 13 a/c.	
			(c) Enemy casualties for month as result of air action:- It is not possible to accurately separate this number from those of other causes, but approx figure is 178.	
			2. Lectures: An interesting lecture was given by Lt. Ash, Flakintell Officer Northern Command, on observations following the attack on WEWAK with particular reference to enemy defences in the area.	
			3. General: 59,400 various types of surrender leaflets were dropped by squadron	

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for Capt L. K. Johnston Capt

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Unit 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec *Date and Time.—From* 1 May *To* 31 May 45.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	continue.			
	8 May		V.725 Capt. W.K.Johnston proceeded on leave.	
	27 May		NX1.46.8 Cpl. Clarke P.H. reported back from leave.	

A.L.O. S.K.Bowen. Capt.
2IC Capt W.K.Johnston

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 14 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF) *Date and Time.—From* 1 June '45 *To* 30 June '45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE-WEWAK SECTOR	for month		1. (a) The procedure in engaging close-support targets is still operating efficiently, and bearing good results which is most encouraging to air crews. (b) 210 sorties have been flown, the majority on close-support targets both in YAMIL and WEWAK Areas. Average serviceability 14 a/c each day. 2. W/C Canaghan, CO 100 Sqn RAAF, visited WEWAK area, spending 6 days, with intent to further his appreciation of the ground situation, and view and learn of the results of air activity there during assault on WEWAK. Knowledge of the Jap infiltration and night raiding tactics being present, added further to his appreciation of ground ops. S/Ldr DENAR, T/CO 100 Sqn RAAF, visited 17 Bde at MAPRIK area to confer on the squadron's efforts in this area, and to view the ground situation. 3. Bomb loads have included Jap 100KG & 50KG bombs which the majority have revealed themselves in being unreliable in exploding. It is thought that this is due to the possible deterioration of fuse components, explosive, & exploder, is due to climatic conditions.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Unit 14 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF *Date and Time.—From* 1 June '45 *To* 30 June '45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	Cont.		4. 65,000 various types of surrender leaflets were dropped on enemy installations on MUSCHU I, and inland villages East of Yamil in the general radius of Jap 18 Army HQ	
			5. 3 new crews have joined the squadron, and have been informed on matters of, map reading (prev 1"-1m), local situation in detail, target indication & ground-air communication.	
			6. VX723 Capt JOHNSTON M.K. is on recreational leave.	
			bls Eling Lt. For OC 14 Aust Sqn A L Sec	

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WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~.

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Unit 4 Aust Sig A L Sec (AIF) Date and Time.—From 1 Jul 45 To 31 Jul 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
ATTACHED - BRAK Potter	5 Jul		[illegible] Capt E.H.JONES marched into unit as C.O. ex 6/2 PW/A Regt.	
	7 Jul		Capt.JONES went on reconnaissance flight with strikes to learn of the topography of inland area.	
	10 Jul		Capt.Jones attended ALO conference at 71 Wing RAAF.	
	11 Jul		Capt.Jones explained the functioning of 3" Mortar (smoke:H.E.) and also Grenade smoke.	
	13 Jul		Col.Herron,C.O. 2 Aust A L Group visited unit.	
	14 Jul		VX[illegible] Pte.AMSFORD F.J. admitted to hospital suffering from Malaria.	
	22 Jul		VX22800 Pte.AMSFORD F.J. rejoined unit ex hospital.	

Capt.
C.O. 4 Aust Sig A L Sec (AIF)

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
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Unit 44 Aust Sqn A L Sqn (AIF) *Date and Time.—From* 1 Aug *To* 31 Aug '45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI	1st - 31st Aug '45		NIL Return.	
			Lt. E.P.JONES.	

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Unit 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF) *Date and Time.—From* 1 Sep '45 *To* 30 Sep '45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TADJI			15 Effective, and 1 non-effective sorties have been flown for the month for 6 Division.	
	13th		QX6075 Capt. JONES E.P. represented the section at the surrender ceremony of Gen. ADACHI to 6 Div. at WEWAK.	

Capt.
O.C. 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF)

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Unit 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF) *Date and Time.—From* 1 Oct '45 *To* 31 Oct '45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE	19 Oct '45		VX82266 Gnr WATSFORD J.J. - [illegible] transferred to 11 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF)	

For O.C. 44 Aust Sqn A L Sec

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Unit 4 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF) *Date and Time.—From* 1 Oct '45 *To* 31 Oct '45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE	1 Oct		Strength - 1 Offr & 2 ORs	
	19 Oct		VX 82266 Gnr WATSFORD J.J.- MARCHED OUT transferred to	
			11 Aust Sqn A L Sec (AIF)	
			for O.C.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 4 Aust Sec A L Sec (AIF) *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov '45 *To* 22 Nov '45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AITAPE	1 Nov		Strength - 1 O/R	
	4 Nov		QX6075 Capt. JONES E.F. - MARCHED OUT enroute to Discharge Depot, BRISBANE. Q.	
	21 Nov		Disdandment of unit having been approved, all stores and sec's vehicle were returned to Ordnance on today's date.	
	22 Nov		This sec's affairs were wound up on this date and records forwarded to Ech & Records Office.	
			for O.C.	

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