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

1/14/44
AIR LIAISON

50 Australian Squadron Air Liaison Section (50 Aust Sqn AL Sec)

January - May 1944

1/14/44-0023

January February
1944

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.

JUN 7 8 1944

WAR DIARY

Army Form C.2113.

Unit: 50 Aust.Sqn. A.L.Section A.I.F.

Attached:23 Sqn.R.A.A.F.

Date:-From January '44. To: February '44.

Place	Date	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices,Diaries
LOWOOD.Q'ld.	18 Jan.	Embarked for New Guinea,from Brisbane.for overseas service.	
MILNE BAY.	29 Jan.	Arrived Milne Bay,New Guinea.	
LAE	3 Feb.	Arrived Lae,and then departed for Nadzab.	
NADZAB	11 Feb.	Locate villages YOGATOGA, TARIENGAN,GWARAWON and D/B in close support of the 6th.U.S.Army Operation as success.	
NADZAB	12 Feb.	D/B enemy position REITZEN Ridge,and M.T.Park between Bridges 13 and 14,was D/B and Straffed.	
NADZAB	16 Feb.	Villages YOGATOGA,TARIENGAN,GWARAWON were again D/B and well Straffed.	
NADZAB	21 Feb.	Mindiri village was straffed and D/B,mainly dispersed stores.	
NADZAB	24 Feb.	Capt.Watson.D.C. 50 Aust.Sqn.A.L.Section,reported missing from Air-operation over Hansa Bay.(see Apendix A).	
NADZAB			

B. Hooke Capt. A.A.L.C.
50 Aust.Sqn A.L.Section.

APPENDIX "A"

(COPY)

17 Aust. Sqn. A. L. Sect.,
1 Aust. Air Liaison Group.

SUBJECT: Report on Air Operation in which NX112723, Capt. W. P. Watson, is reported missing, believed killed.

1. On 24 Feb 44, Capt. Watson, as observer in a Vultee Vengeance Dive Bomber, piloted by Pilot Officer Burnell of 23 Squadron, R.A.A.F., took part in an attack by 35 aircraft on enemy anti-aircraft positions at Hansa Bay, New Guinea.

2. From eyewitnesses' accounts, it appears that the aircraft was not pulled out of its dive during the attack, and crashed on the beach near the waterline in the vicinity of the target. On impact, the aircraft appeared to disintegrate, and the petrol, some of which spread over the sea, ignited immediately.

3. Anti-aircraft fire over the target was reported - Light, intense, accurate - Heavy, intense, inaccurate at 10,000 ft.

4. No parachutes were observed to leave the aircraft during the dive.

5. There appears to be little doubt that both members of the crew were killed instantly.

Sgd. K. P. Clarke Capt.
Air Liaison Officer,
10 Operational Group, R.A.A.F.

24 Feb 44

JUN 1 1944

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit 50 Aust. Sgn. Pl. Sec

Date and Time.—From 29 Feb 44 To 31 Mar 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Nadzab.	8 Mar		Lt. HIGSON. HC. posted as OC and	
			seconded from Australian Intelligence Corps	Lt. Higson Lt
"	17 Mar		OC departed with advanced Air Echelon	
			to HIGGINS FIELD	
"	19 Mar		Section departed NADZAB for LAE	
LAE	20 Mar		Embarked with main body enroute	
			to Thursday Island	
THURSDAY. Is.	29 Mar		Disembarked and proceeded to	
			28 OBU HORN Is	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

Lt. Higson Lt

JUN 7 1944

WAR DIARY or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form G.2118 (adapted.)

Unit 50 Aust Sqn RAAF Det Date and Time.—From 31 March 44 To 30 April 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HORN IS	1 Apr		Section departed Sqn and arrived at	
			HIGGINS FIELD (now under command of	
			Aust Bde and 7 Aust Comd AL Det and	
			attached to 75 Wing RAAF. Strength	
			1 Offs 10R.	
HIGGINS FIELD	18 Apr		1 OR. marched in from 51 Aust Sqn AL Det	
	20 "		1 OR marched out to 57 Aust Sqn AL Det	
			the completed change over of clerks.	
	22 "		Strength 1 Offs 10R.	
	29 "		Strength 1 Offs 10R.	
	30 "		Section relieved 51 Aust Sqn AL Det	
			at Horn Is. Now attached to 84	
			Squadron (Kittyhawks)	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

C. C. Ferguson Lt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 50 Base Sqn RAAF Det Date and Time.—From 30 Apr 44 To 31 May 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HORN TS	1 May		Section stores packed ready to move	
			until 5 Sqn Area.	
"	13 May		Lt. HIGSON. HC returned from ARL. Strength 1 Off. 10R.	
"	17 "		Section embarked at Thursday Is	
			enroute to Townsville	
TOWNSVILLE	20 "		Disembarked at Townsville. Strength 1 Off 10R	
	21 "		Unloading and establishing camp.	
			at ATKENVALE STRIP	
ATKENVALE	23 "		Camp site completed	
TOWNSVILLE	27 "		84 Squadron formed into a Repair	
			and Salvage Unit. Section ordered	
			to establish HQ at 81 Wing RAAF Townsville	
			Section now established and attached	
			to 81 Wing RAAF. Strength 1 Off. 10R	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

Lt. Higson Lt

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 2/10/194[illegible] [illegible] Fd Amb RL Unit [illegible] (Serial No.)

W.E. 11/10/41. 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'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
				*					
				*					
				Lieut.-Colonels					
				Majors					
				Captains					
			1	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
			1						

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).	DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
	A.		1									1
	E.(1)											
	E.(2)											

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX 5025[illegible]	Lt.	[illegible]	-	-	[illegible]

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

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

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

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

[illegible] Fd Amb RL Unit

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

[illegible] (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 2/10/194[illegible] (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Lt	VX 5025[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		

Army Form W3009 (Adapted)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

16/44 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 6 May/194 4 50 Aust Gen Bd Sec (Unit)

W.E. 11/3D/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.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
				W.Os. Class I.					
				W.Os. Class II.					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
				Staff Sergeants					
				Sergeants					
			/	Corporals					
/	/			Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
/ *	/		/ *	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 notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).	Detail		A.I.F.	C.M.F. Under 19 Years.	C.M.F. 19 Years and over.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 30 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.	A		/						[redacted]	[redacted]		/
	B(1)											
	B(2)							[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong

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

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To (Unit) is Particularly Requested. /194

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

50 Aust Gen Bd Sec Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1942)

6/44 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 6 May/194 4.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Asets.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Shovelmen			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Stnty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Raditers			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd'rs. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Mot.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Draftsmen											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				BATMEN.			
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers				Dvr.	1	—	1
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	1	1					
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical							
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concreters							
Mechanics, Radio				Linesmen				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED ST W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, M.T.							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tpts. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photorrifler				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Asstc.				Gun Layers							
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.	2	1	1

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

6 May 44
Date of Despatch

[redacted] Maj A.A. for OC 50 Bd
Signature of Commander

L.H.Q. Press—411—8/43—312m.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W3008 (Adapted) (Page 1) (Revised Jan., 1943) *

6/[illegible] (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 6/May/1944 [illegible] (Unit)

W.E. 4/3/44. 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'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
				*					
				*					
				Lieut.-Colonels					
				Majors					
				Captains					
			1	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
			1						

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).	DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
	A.		1									1
	E.(1)											
	E.(2)											

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

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

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

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

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

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

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

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50 Aust Gen Pl Coy ..... Unit

Army Form W3008 (Adapted) (Page 2) (Revised Jan., 1943)

5/[illegible] (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 6/May/1944. (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Lt	VX54461	HIGSON	EC.	OC	No.	HQ.	

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

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.

6 May 44
Date of Despatch

[signature]
Signature of Commander

a.w. 10m blks 10/43