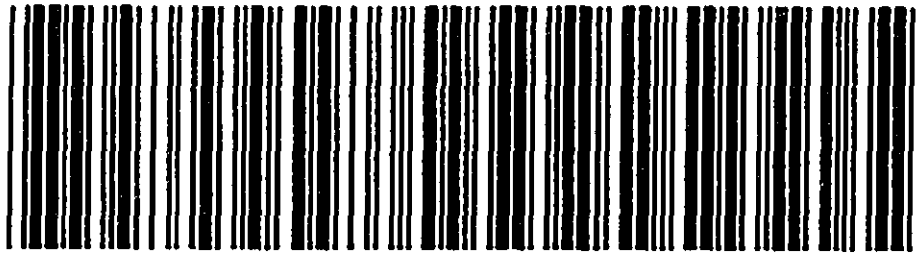
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/14/47
AIR LIAISON

55 Australian Squadron Air Liaison Section (55 Aust Sqn AL Sec)

October - December 1943, August 1944



1/14/47-0015

UNIT WAR DIARY. ORIGINAL SECRET. 30 NOV 1943

55 AUST. SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION, ATTACHED TO No.31 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

OCTOBER 1943.

Oct. 4 - 8 — Beaufighters and crews of No. 31 Sqn. were made available to co-operate with 13 Aust. Inf. Bde., training exercises in the Shoal Bay Area.
ALO outlined purposes and phases of the manoeuvres and briefed crews for 'Tac-R'; prepared prearranged close support and mock straffing missions.
During the exercises, ALO with fourteen members of aircrew, visited the manoeuvre area. These RAAF personnel were escorted to every position that would demonstrate to them, how the Army would be organised and function in action. This included a live shoot demonstration by 5 Aust. Fd. Artillery Regiment.
Owing to the movement of the Squadron, aircrew were unable to attend a conference of RAAF and Army personnel at H.Qs., 13 Aust. Inf. Bde., to discuss the above co-operation. ALO represented the Squadron and enumerated points brought out during his interrogation.

Oct. 8 — ALO briefed pilot of sortie provided by No.1 P. R. U. RAAF, for co-operation with 'Bofors' guns in Darwin Fortress Area. Parachute flare targets were dropped over all gun positions.

During the month, ALO organised visits to, and demonstrations of Light and Heavy A/A Guns, A/A Searchlights, and No. 5 Fighter Sector RAAF. In all, twenty-four members of aircrew accompanied ALO on these visits and gained valuable knowledge of the functions and capabilities of these other arms.

H. Edwards Capt

55 Aust. Sqn. A. L. Section.

859/67.

SECRET.

UNIT WAR DIARY.

55 AUST. SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION. ATTACHED TO NO.31 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

November 1943.

1. At the beginning of the month, this section was stationed at RAAF DARWIN with No. 31 Squadron, and during that period the opportunity was taken to conduct air crew over as many Army establishments as possible. Such establishments included Heavy A/A stations, coast defences, and Norforce school where captured JAPANESE equipment was displayed. Visits were also made to LO5 Fighter Sector.

2. ALO accompanied Sqn Comd on operations, over TANIMBER ISLANDS on NOV 6.

3. ALO assisted Sqn I.O. on preliminary interrogation of B.24 crews who landed at DARWIN en route to base.

4. Section returned to COOMALIE on 14 NOV.

5. Flare dropping for co-operation with Lt.A/A guns was carried out at DARWIN on 23 & 30 NOV and HUGHES on 27 NOV.

6. At the request of GSO.ii(Air) ALO spoke to 2 Aust Inf Bde Air-Spotters Cadre on SWPA Simplified Air-Ground Code, and followed it with a demonstration in which a Beaufighter co-operated by reading ground signals and giving air-to-ground signals. The limitations of these a/c in some of these signal-manoevres was clearly brought out.

[redacted] Capt.

O.C. 55 Aust Sqn A.L. Section...

559/68

ORIGINAL

SECRET.

1 MAR 1944

UNIT WAR DIARY.

55 AUST. SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION, ATTACHED TO NO.31 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.

DECEMBER, 1943.

1. Co-operation during the month consisted of flare dropping for Bofors A/A shoots and the training of air crew and ground personnel on SWPA simplified Ground Panel Code.

2. Flares were dropped at COOMALIE on 18th & DARWIN on 28th, while a request from HUGHES area for 31st had to be postponed owing to unser vicibility of Wirraway.

3. Beaufighters from No.31 Squadron co-operated with Army during Amphibious Warfare Training at MINDIL BEACH area. Beaufighters attac ked the landing craft in mock straffing runs while Spitfires attempted interception. The co-operation stressed to all the neccesity for adequate air cover during such operations.

4. Beaufighters were released for co-operation with 2 Aust Inf Bde and 5 Aust Inf Bn in ground to air and air to ground signals with SWPA Simplified Air-Ground Code.

5. ALO attended Norforce Amphibious Warfare Training Cadre from 10th to 13th December.

6. 60 Aust Sqn A.L. Section was attached to 55 Aust Sqn A. L. Section for experience.

7. Recreational leave was granted to Pte.JOHNSON R.J. and Cpl. SNEE K.J. who left for home stations on 8th and 16th December respectively. Pte. O'Halloran became attached to the section from 15 December during the absence of those personnel.

Capt.

O.C. 55 Aust Sqn A. L. Section..

8/1

WAR DIARY

55 AUST SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION

(ATTACHED TO 2 SQUADRON RAAF)

ORIGINAL
SEP 1944

HUGHES FIELD — AUGUST 1944

2 Aug 44		Attended and participated interrogation of crews following attack on enemy encampment near MINA RIVER bridge (Dutch Timor).
3	"	Lecture to ground personnel and display of photographs of targets attacked by squadron.
4	"	ALO took IO to meet officers at HQ 135 Lt A/A Bty; inspected Jap bell tank at NOONAMAH.
5	"	Assisted Squadron Medical Officer at aircraft crash at ADELAIDE RIVER.
6	"	ALO's conference at NT Force. Lecture to air crew on war situation.
10	"	Lecture to ground personnel on war situation.
13	"	Attended briefing and interrogation - LANGGOER strike.
14	"	ALO's conference at NT Force. Arranged lecture to aircrew by Capt Coop (135 Lt A/A Bty) and Lieut Hicks (135 Hy A/A Bty) on evasive tactics. Lectured on war situation.
15	"	Took air crew to observe heavy A/A shoot.
16	"	Briefing and interrogation of crews - shipping sweep ALOR ISLAND area.
17	"	Lecture to air crew on war situation.
18	"	Interrogation of crews - shipping sweep.
19	"	" " " " "
20	"	ALO's conference at NT Force. Interrogation of aircrews - shipping sweep to ALOR and WETAR ISLANDS. Lecture to air crew on war news.
23	"	Conferred with Searchlight Duty Officers (105 Fighter Control) re S/L Co-operation and briefed crew for S/L Co-op DARWIN area. Lecture to ground personnel on war news.
24	"	Interrogation of crews engaged on shipping sweep.
25	"	Briefing and interrogation - LANGGOER strike.
28	"	ALO's conference at NT Force. Briefed crew for S/L Co-op. Lecture to aircrew on war situation.
29	"	Briefed crew for combined fighter and searchlight co-op.
30	"	ALO flew with wing aircraft on shipping search ~~xxxx~~ TANIMBARS.

(Brian Hastings) Capt
OC, 55 Aust Sqn Air Liaison Sec