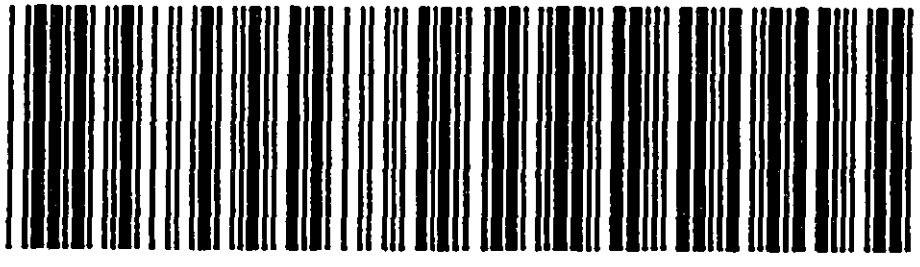
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/14/47
AIR LIAISON

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

January 1945, April - July 1945



1/14/47-0026

W A R DIARY

55 AUST SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION

13 FEB 1945

(ATTACHED TO 2 SQUADRON RAAF)

HUGHES FIELD — JANUARY 1945

16 Jan 45		Capt. FLETCHER assumed duties as Sqn. A.L.O. vice Capt. HASTINGS. Reported to senior A.L.O. at NORTH WEST Area.
17	"	Routine Sqn. duties.
18	"	Conference with senior A.L.O. in reference to duties and Staff.
19	"	Attended friefing of crews for Army - Air Co-op. exercise. Flew with formation to observe affects of bombing and strafing. Briefed crews for later exercise. Attended briefing of crews for special mission and assisted in interogation.
20	"	Briefed crews for Army - Air Co-op exercise.
21	"	Routine Sqn. duties.
22	"	Briefed crew for S/L Co-op. exercise later exercise cancelled.
23	"	Routine Sqn duties.
24	"	Routine Sqn duties.
25	"	Visited 13 Bde. arranged for demo's of Inf. weapons and visit to Feild firing on 31st.
26	"	Routine Sqn duties.
27	"	Routine Sqn duties.
28	"	Accompanied C.O. on recce by motor launch.
29	"	Visited 40 Inf. Bn. and 10/48 Inf. Bn. Arranged visit to Feild fire.
30	"	Routine Sqn duties.
31	"	A.L.O. took Officers to demonstration of M.M.G. Feild firing by 10/48 Bn.

Bruce Fletcher Capt

BRUCE FLETCHER Capt.

O.C. 55 Aust. Sqn. Air Liaison Sec.

WAR DIARY

55 AUST. SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION

(ATTACHED TO 2 SQUADRON RAAF)

APRIL 45

resumed duties with

During the month of APRIL A.L.O. ~~went back to~~ 2 Sqn and there carried out duties in Liaison for the Sqn. Sqn still inoperative and camp accomad. is still in progress. Mess huts and stores being errected.
The Section during the month became short of the Cpl. Clerk J.R. HAMILTON who was "Man Powered"out. It has been recomended by A.L.O. that Section Batman/ driver be promoted and another be made available.

A.L.O. has had several conferences with O.C. Comd. Section and G3 (AIR). One duty was done in arranging a recce for two lost barges. Barges found after short search.

Supplies of maps and information very good. A.L.O. receives daily sitreps and revsits.

Took several Army Officers to inspect Airstrip and Instalations. Officers expressed surprise at tremendous amount of work done. Rlwy Construction Coy has done work of almost Superhuman efforts.

Bruce Fletcher Capt

BRUCE FLETCHER Capt.

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

WAR DIARY

55 AUST. SQN . AIR LIAISON SECTION

MAY 45

1 MAY . A.L.O. approached Army Authorities in reference to water system for the Sqn and a satisfactory agreement was reached. Later A.L.O. and Sqn Armament Officer made a recce for a UXB. It was found and found to be a 250 lb G.P. nose and tail fused. Arrangements were made to destroy same. Forrestry Coy was approached for a quantity of flooring and date was made for delivery.

2 MAY . Sqn Armament Officer being engaged, A.L.O. undertook to destroy UXB having bomb disposal experience , and in conjunction with R.A.E. Officer drew necessary explosives and destroyed same. It was interesting to note the devestating damage done by bomb in thick jungle. Army and R.A.A.F. H.Q. notified.

3 MAY . A.L.O. had conference with Bde Comd 4 Bde with view to future co-operation. Bde Comd expressed the view personal contact between "supporters" and "supportees" was most desirable and assisted greatly in ensuring confidence in each others ability and would therefore ensure closer co-operation. Later A.L.O. visited C.O. 37/52 Bn on C.O. request to assisting junior officers in understanding better the Airforce "Setup"

4 MAY . 4 MAY to 8 MAY. Inc. Normal Sqn duties. (Note) this term in this area will be used for A.L.O. and Section Batman/ Driver being engaged in assisting Sqn in construction work.

9 MAY . Remainder of Sqn ground staff and some Officers arrived by SS Bontekoe A.L.O. assisting in disembarking of same. New arrivals bedded and fed which eased the feeling incurred by arriving in the centre of a tropical storm.

10 MAY . A tour of Army instalations for new Officers was conducted by A.L.O. then Sqn duties.

11 MAY . 11MAY to 14MAY Inc. Normal Sqn duties.

15 MAY . A.L.O. informed he was to assume temporary Comd of 48 Sqn A.L. Sec. at TADJI.

16 MAY . Sqn occupied in repacking all stores etc in preparation for another move. Section likewise engaged and assisting where possible in Sqn. A.L.O. was advised that temporary secondment was cancelled.

17 MAY . 17 MAY to 31 MAY Inc. Assisting Sqn to repack

Bruce Fletcher Capt.

BRUCE FLETCHER Capt.

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

WAR DIARY

55 AUST SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION

(ATTACHED TO 2 SQUADRON RAAF)

JUNE 1945

1 to 6 Incl. Section engaged in packing section gear and making up deficiencies in section equipment.

6 to 30 Incl. Section in transit aboard the " ANDREW CARNEGIE ". During the voyage no work was in progress and the section stood down. During transit ship called in at MORATOI AND there Group was contacted. There was an adequate supply of maps, Inf. etc made available. G1 (air) was also contacted and much assistance was given in all matters.

During stay on shore ALO gave lectures to Airmen and some Officers on Booby Traps at the Det, Comds. request. ALO made arrangements to give lecture on the new battle area etc. but SAO Wing preferred that it be given by Det. Comds.

Lectures not given.

Section Bat/ Dvr promoted to Corporal and the section remains short a Bat/ Dvr.

Bruce Fletcher Capt.

BRUCE FLETCHER Capt.

O.C. 55 AUST. SQN AIR LIAISON SECT.

WAR DIARY

55 AUST SQUADRON AIR LIAISON SECTION

JULY 45

1 to 14 Incl. Section still in transit, arriving BALIKPAPAN on 14 July. Intention is that ship will move into jetty to disembark personnel.

14 to 31 Incl. Section moved to 2 Squadron site and commenced to build own living accommodation.

3 Aust Comd Section joined Wing and A.L.O. contacted O.C. (Maj HARPER). Maj HARPER and A.L.Os. from 28- 55- 56 Sections met G111 Air 7 Div where supplies of maps were made available. Squadron is preparing a crew room to accommodate both R.A.A.F. Intelligence Officer and A.L.O. It is proposed to have this building completed by the 8 Aug 45 in time to receive a possible 6 A/C from Squadron. Area of camp site is well laid out and drained, making the whole very comfortable.

Bruce Fletcher Capt.

BRUCE FLETCHER

O.C. 55 AUST SQN AIR LIAISON SEC

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

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

____/____(Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 4 /8 /1945 55 Aust Sqn A.L. (Unit)

W.E.111/3D/1. OFFRS. 1 O.R's 1 + 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.
NIL	NIL	NIL	ONE	* * Lieut.-Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Quarter-masters A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs. Civilians Counting as Offrs.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

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.		ONE									ONE
	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.
			NIL		

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

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

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).
		NIL	

55 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec ____ *Unit*

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

____/____(Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 4 /8 /1945 (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. T/Capt	NX7455	FLETCHER	B	OC	YES	NIL	NIL

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.
		NIL			

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

a.w. 10m 6.43 16/43

Army Form W.3009 (Adapted)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

____/____(Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 4 / 8 /1945 55 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec (Unit)

W.E.111/ 3D/ 1. OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 1 + 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					
NIL	NIL	NIL	ONE	Corporals		NIL			
ONE	ONE	NIL	NIL	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., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.	A		ONE						[redacted]	[redacted]		ONE
	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).

55 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec ..... *Unit*

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

____/____ 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 4 / 8 /194 5.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.
Ammunition Examiners			
Armament Artificer Fitter			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)			
Armament Artificer Instrument			
Armament Artificer Radio			
Armament Artificer Signals			
Armament Artificer Wireless			
Artificer, Artillery			
Artificer, Engine			
Blacksmiths			
Bricklayers			
Computer			
Cooks, Hospital			
Coppersmiths			
Dispensers			
Draughtsmen			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)			
Electricians			
Electricians (M.V.)			
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			
Photowriter			
Plumber			
Saw Doctors			
Surveyors			
CARRIED FORWARD			

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.
Surveyors, Engineering			
Surveyors, R.A.A.			
Surveyors, Topographical			
Surveyors, Trigonometrical			
Toolmakers			
Turners			
Watchmakers			
Welders			
GROUP II.			
Armourers			
Asmen			
Bakers			
Bty. Comd's. Asst.			
Bellermakers			
Carpenters			
Carpenters and Joiners			
Cooks			
Dental Mechanics			
Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Mot.)			
Driver-Operator			
Drainers			
Electricians			
Electricians (Engineers)			
Fire Control Operators			
Gun Operator			
Hatchman			
Height Taker			
Helio Operator			
Instrument Operator			
Intelligence Duties			
Joiners			
Lineman			
Lineman, Signals			
Lithographers			
Machinists, Metal			
Machinists, Wood			
Masons			
Motorcars			
Mechanics, M.T.			
Miners			
Moulders			
Nurses, Trained			
Observation Post Assts.			
CARRIED FORWARD			

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.
Operating Room Assts.			
Operator, Keyboard			
Operator, Line			
Operator, Signal			
Operator, Switchboard			
Operator, Wireless			
Opticians			
Painters			
Panel Beaters			
Photographer, Dry Plate			
Predictor Numbers			
Printers			
Radiographers			
Sawyers			
Signallers			
Signwriters			
Telescope Identifn. Numbers			
Well Borers			
Wheelers			
Winchman			
Wiremen			
Woodturners			
GROUP III.			
Armourers			
Batmen			
Bakers			
Bty. Comd's. Asst.			
Boilermakers			
Carpenters			
Carpenters and Joiners			
Cooks			
Dental Mechanics			
Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Mot.)			
Driver-Operator			
Drainers			
Electricians			
Electricians (Engineers)			
Fire Control Operators			
Gun Operator			
Hatchman			
Height Taker			
Helio Operator			
Instrument Operator			
Intelligence Duties			
Joiners			
Lineman			
Lineman, Signals			
Lithographers			
Machinists, Metal			
Machinists, Wood			
Masons			
Motorcars			
Mechanics, M.T.			
Miners			
Moulders			
Nurses, Trained			
Observation Post Assts.			
CARRIED FORWARD			

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reinfts. Required.
G.P.O. Assistants			
Hammermen			
Leather Stitchers			
Orderlies, Nursing			
Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Plate Layers			
Rangetakers			
Riveters			
Roughriders			
Saddlers			
Saddletree makers			
Shoemakers and Boot Repairers			
Stevedores			
Stokers, Stat. Engine			
Storemen, Technical			
Tailors			
Textile Refitters			
Tinsmiths			
Vulcanizers			
Wagon Erectors			
Whitesmiths			
DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Bat/Dvr	I	Nil	I
ATTACHED ST W.E.			
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) 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 denied 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.

4 Aug 45
Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

L.H.Q. Press—1944—1/45—80m.