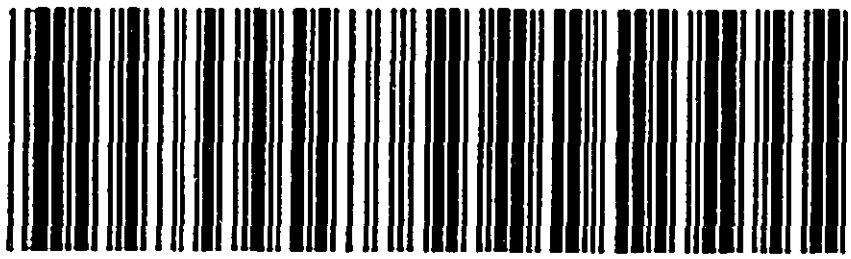
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/14/7
AIR LIAISON

5 Command Air Liaison Section (5 Comnd AL Sec)

June - December 1943, Weekly reports



1/14/7-0011

(COPY)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND

In reply quote
43/12/2

5 Aust. Air Liaison Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
22/6/43.

L.H.Q. (MO.6)
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No. 2 - Week Ended 19 June '43.

Reference is invited to report No. 1, wherein the significance of Parts 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' is indicated.

PART 'A'

1. Lieut. CONNOR departed by R.A.A.F. Transport aircraft for MELBOURNE en route to A.L. Group, N.G. Force. He was instructed to make himself known to the C 1 (air) if latter available.
2. Normal training of a soldier in weapons, drill, marching and discipline proceeded during the period under review.

PART 'B'

1. 16 June 43. 1000 hrs to 1230 hrs. Plotting Exercise for S.L.C. by Tiger Moth from MAYLANDS, over PERTH-FREMANTLE-ROTTNEST (CANCELLED due to bad weather).
2. 19June 43. S.L. Practice over PERTH-FREMANTLE-ROTTNEST by 14 Sqn (Beaufort). New evasive tactics employed. Successful exercise. Pilot will be taken to S.L. GP H.Q. on 22 June for discussion.
3. Severe weather conditions have interfered with flying programme, particularly for S.L. Co-operation exercises.

PART 'C'

1. On journey from MELBOURNE to PERTH, Major ADAIR travelled with P/O COPLEY, R.A.A.F. member of a Lancaster "Pathfinder" Sqn. and asked him to visit the station and talk on his experiences over Europe. This visit occured on 18 June, and P/O COPLEY gave informal talks both before and after lunch, and answered scores of questions. Modern methods of S.L. evasion tactics as described by him were employed by the pilot during the S.L. exercise on the following nights, and these will be discussed with the A/A S.L. Grp. H.Q. on 22 June. It is considered that S.L. operators will derive benefit from this.
2. On 15 June, the A.O.C. Western Area (Air Commodore BROWNELL) visited this Section. He showed considerable interest in the work being done, and suggested that Corps be asked to permit the N.C.O. who makes up the sand models, to fly whenever necessary, as this would assist him in preparaing a "birds eye" view. This has always been regarded as desirable, but not possible. However, with the A.O.C's backing, it should now be possible to obtain the G.O.C's permission for this N.C.O. to fly, and this has been requested.

The A.O.C. also said he would agree to Sqns dropping H.E. bombs in a Direct Air Support exercise if Corps so requested. This has been passed on to the C.O. 3 Aust Air Support Control, and an exercise is now being prepared by him and Maj. STOCKER of that unit, in which this Section will be employed.

PART 'D'

Some recent Manuals and/or Pamphlets mention by MO6 during Maj. ADAIR'S recent visit, so far have NOT been received by this unit.

(Signed) -- ADAIR (Major)
C.O. 5 Aust Air Liaison Section (AIF)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND

43/12/1

5 Aust Air Liaison Section(AIF)
AUSTRALIA
16 June 43.

L.H.Q. (MO 6)
MELBOURNE

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No. 1 - Week ended 12 June 43

This is the first of a series of Weekly Reports, each of which will consist of four parts, "A", "B", "C" and "D".

Part "A" will be general, and will comprise subjects not appropriate for inclusion in "B", "C" or "D".

Part "B" will deal with exercises completed and/or planned, with comments.

Part "C" will refer to liaison contacts made, visits to units, lectures etc.

Part "D" will consist of recommendations or requests to L.H.Q. (MO 6).

It will be realised that frequently one or more parts will return a "nil" report.

PART "A"

7 June 43 — O.C., (MAJOR S.H. ADAIR) returned to the Section by R.A.A.F. Transport aircraft from visit to Melbourne, where had conferred with the newly appointed GI(Air) MO 6, Lt.-Col. Alan BINNIE, M.C.

12 June 43 — Signal from 3 Aust Corps that LIEUT I.B. CONNOR to be transferred to Air Liaison Group, New Guinea Force. Ascertained that T/Capt. KOLVIG, from 1 A.L. Section, will replace him. Seat booked for Lieut CONNOR on first available Transport aircraft, due to leave on 16 June.

During past month, the office filing system has been re-organised. "G" files and register now separated from "A" and "Q" files. This will facilitate a quick selection of files necessary during operations, and increase efficiency and mobility.

PART "B"

8 June 43 — S.L. Practice, FREMANTLE-ROTTNEST, from 1900 hrs to 2200 hrs by 14 Squadron, (Beauforts). Exercise cancelled owing to nil availability of aircraft.

9 June 43 — S.L.C. Training, Instrument Operators, PERTH-FREMANTLE-ROTTNEST. 35 Squadron (Tiger Moth) from 1000 hrs to 1230 hrs.

10 June 43 — An attempt to carry out exercise cancelled on 8 June. This also cancelled owing to low cloud base.

11 June 43 — Training A/A gunlayers and instrument operators, SWANBOURNE, OLIVERS and DICKLEY Batteries, from 1000 to 1230 hrs, 35 Squadron (Tiger Moth). Due to low cloud base aircraft took off at 1130 and flew until 1300 on low level.

12 June 43 — Successful exercise by 14 Squadron as laid down for 9 and 10 June.

PART "C"

5 June 43 — Lieut CONNOR went to NORTHAM Arty School to lecture to officers on "Air Liaison and the Army Co-operation Sqn." one hour lecture and discussion for remainder of evening.

7 June 43 — Lieut BARNETT to ROTTNEST ISLAND. Lecture to Garrison personnel on Air photos and their interpretation. He had just returned from the Army Co-op School, CANBERRA, and the Air Photo Interpretation Wing, L.H.Q. School of M.I., Queensland. A day and evening were employed, many photos and six stereoscopes being used. Two lectures, each of one hour, were given to different personnel, and the remainder of the time used in the examination of the photos.

PART "D"

Advice on the following points would be appreciated -

(i) Are ORs of the Section likely to get a turn with A.L. Group, N.G.F? (The possibilities are constantly being discussed by the ORs and the writer asked for an assurance).

(ii) When an A.L.O. is transferred to an operational theatre, should (or may) he take his driver-batman?

(SGD.) S.H. Adair,
Major,
O.C., 5 Aust Air Liaison Section (AIF)

SECRET

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND

43/12/3

5 Aust Air Liaison Section(AIF)
AUSTRALIA,
29th June 43.

L.H.Q. (MC 6)
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No. 3 - Week Ended 26 June '43

Reference is invited to report No. 1, wherein the significance of Parts "A", "B", "C" and "D" is indicated

PART "A"

June and July are the wettest months in the area GERALDTON-ALBANY, and flying periods are reduced in number and duration.

This affords an opportunity in instruction in ground subjects, and Air Co-operation subjects are NOT neglected. Since, however, bombing air gunnery and other airborne subjects must take precedence whenever there is a break in the bad weather, it follows that anything in the nature of a definitely progressive syllabus on Air Liaison subjects is not practicable, and lectures are put in at short notice, and usually to a class of aircrew personnel fluctuating as to individuals and numbers. Squadrons are working off Inter-State leave during this period. This Section, also, is temporarily down in strength, Capt. KOLVIG having not yet arrived, and one member is on Annual Leave in Victoria, where another also is on Compassionate Leave.

PART "B"

22 June '43 1000-1230 hrs. S.L.C., Training of Instrument Operators PERTH-FREMANTLE-ROTTNEST, by 35 Squadron (Tiger Moth). Briefed by Lieut. BARNETT.

22 June '43 1830-2100 hrs. S.L.C. Training of Instrument Operators including lights exposure, and plotting staffs. 14 Squadron (Beauforts) briefed by Leiut. BARNETT. Fighter Sector Control took a hand in this exercise. With short notice to the pilot, and none to this Section, a Boomerang from 85 Squadron at GUILDFORD was vectored to intercept the Beaufort. The S.Ls. failed to illuminate the bomber, but succeeded in illuminating the fighter, much to the disgust of Fighter Sector. However, a conference of S.L. Gp. Comd., Fighter Sector, and 5 A.L. Section, to be held on 29 June, should result in a more elementary but progressive series of exercises from which all types of night A/A defence should derive benefit.

PART "C"

Station visited by a General Transport Coy, A.A.S.C., 2 officers and 38 ORs. They were broken up into 4groups, each under the captain of an aircraft, and spent an interesting and instructive afternoon.

A mobile Searchlight Bty bivouaced between the Station and the bombing range. This Section assisted in recce for a site for an 8 days' bivouac, and arranged for hot baths for the personnel of the Bty.

The Section paid a social visit to 3 Aust Air Support Control on the evening of 24 June. Lieut. BARNETT remained on duty.

The forthcoming Direct Air Support exercise mentioned in the last Report is taking shape and its scope is extending. The date will be 24 July, the targets will be "Mock-up" A/A and Field

Artillery Btys on the Arty Range, and the following Squadrons have enthusiastically agreed to provide the following -

85 SQUADRON - 9 Boomerangs, to do a ground - straffing attack with .303 MGs firing tracer and 20 mm. cannon with shells.

Followed by 14 SQUADRON, 9 Beauforts, level bombing from approximately 7,000' with 60 x 250 lb G.P. bombs. Boomerangs giving top cover.

Then 25 SQUADRON, with 9 Wirraways, dive bombing. Boomerangs still giving top cover; 60 x 250 lb bombs available for this. Separate targets provided for each formation, but in same observed area.

Immediately on landing, aircrews will be taken on Army transport to inspect the targets.

Normal D.A.S. Control will be used, and will be heard by the spectators, including students from the Officers' School at HARVEY, through amplifiers. It is possible that an air rendezvous will be used, and the final attack order given to each squadron in turn by the senior officer in the three squadrons taking part.

Briefing, however, will be done by this Section, on Air Photos to be taken by 25 Squadron on the morning of the exercise.

PART "D"

NIL

(SGD) J.H.Adair

Major,
O.C., 5 Aust Air Liaison Section (AIF)

PART I.

One Hurricane was slightly damaged by AA. fire and crashed on landing at its base. There were nil casualties to personnel.

On 24/5. six Hurricanes were employed to attack Malara Island. These aircraft to act as top cover and to attack target later if no A/A encountered. All A/c reached target and discharged two grenades each against numbers of thatched villages of Zhugait and Nerwin. There was no sign of enemy activity, nil AA or interception. All our A/c returned safely.

[signature]
.....Capt.
Attached Squadron H.Q.A.F.

C.C.
File or Ac Ians Report
D

SECRET.

LT/1/9a

7 Aust. Air Liaison Section,
AUSTRALIA
26 June 1943

G.S.O.
N.T. Force.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF A.L.O. ATTACHED TO 31 SQN. R.A.A.F. COVERING WEEK ENDING 25 JUNE 1943

Saturday 19 June 43.

Contacted G 11, (Ops) who intimated his intention of conducting exercises on Air Support Messages through Edes, "G" Branch and 7 Air Liaison Section. 9 2/1 Air Support Control.

Sunday 20 June 43.

Notice received from HQ NT Force for Capt. Catton to report to ATO, Batchelor at 1500 hrs, 21 June 43, for movement by Air.

Monday 21 June 43.

ALO contacted Capt. De Vries and Lieut. Van Rijn of 18 Sqn with reference to Army liaison and co-operation. Capt. Catton departed from Batchelor by air for Brisbane, prior to moving to New Guinea.

Tuesday, 22 June 43.

ALO contacted DAAG and DAQMG, NT Force for final details of transfer of Capt. Leech. PRU and HQ, RAA were contacted in reference to special photographs of gun positions. A request from RAA for flares to be dropped for AA practice was received. These flares are to be dropped, as a drogue is not available in this area.

Wednesday, 23 June 43.

ALO contacted HQ, RAA, re flare dropping and arrangements were made to have an AA liaison officer at RAAF drome at 1430 hrs on 25 June 43. SOT, NW Area was then informed of all preparations made.

Contact was made with 103 Tk. A Regt and 4 RSU with regard to co-operation and liaison.

Thursday, 24 June 43.

HQ, RAA was contacted for final details re co-operation with Lt. AA Batteries. These details were passed to S/Ldr. Sharpe, NW Area and to PRU.

Friday, 25 June 43.

ALO visited Darwin to witness Lt. AA shoot by Fortress Area with Air co-operation. S/Ldr. Sharpe also visited the area for the shoot.

The exercise was classed by Artillery observers as very satisfactor, and the shooting considered the best yet.

In all 8 flares were dropped, the parachutes of two failed to open. Each gun fired 30 rounds. A report has been requested concerning the safety angle for the aircraft when the Bunny Ray Battery opened fire. From the ground observer's position the firing was too close to the plane. The pilot had no knowledge of the firing. The reason for requesting this report is to obtain information as to whether increased safety precautions are necessary for future shoots.

OPERATIONS.

During the period under review, the following operational flights were conducted by the squadron.

Three Beaufighters were provided to supply continuous cover over convoys, Force "X", Force "G", and Force "KJ" on 19, 20, and 22 June. In each the task was successfully completed, and nil enemy sightings were reported.

Nine Beaufighters attacked enemy float planes at Taberfane on June 22. All a/c reached target area and damaged 2 E/A in the air, 2 Float planes on beach, damaged one lugger and destroyed a barge.

SECRET

7 Aust. Air Liaison Section,

AUSTRALIA.

5 June 43.

Q [illegible]

NT Force.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF A.L.O. ATTACHED 31 SQN. R.A.A.F.

COVERING WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, 4 JUNE 1943.

Saturday, 29 May 43.

ALO contacted 23 Bde in connection with exercise recently conducted in the Shoal Bay area, and proposed conference with officers of the Bde. A separate report has been forwarded to HQ NT Force with regard to the above exercise, which due to operational requirements within the sqn, and a lack of knowledge or understanding, on the part of personnel, led to confusion and mistakes being made. Signal communications within the Bde were inadequate to cope with normal signals traffic and requests for Air Support were delayed accordingly.

ALO contacted 452 Sqn and received the report of the acting ALO, Sgt. Drew, and a conversation was held with S/L McDonald, who was very dissatisfied with the results obtained by his squadron throughout the exercise.

ALO contacted GO,2/1 Aust Air Support Control, in connection with exercise and to check times of receipt of messages and traffic within the Air Support Signal network, which appeared satisfactory. No request for Air Support took longer than 15 Minutes from time of receipt at the FASL, until the ALO had the message at the landing ground.

Six a/c from the squadron carried out an attack on ~~the Tiwi Islands~~ Koepang. Heavy weather forced them to return. Nil sightings.

Sunday, 30 May 43.

ALO and Sgt. Drew contacted G2 NT Force with regard to 23 Bde exercise and to discuss signals and mistakes made. It was decided to await the result of the proposed conference with 23 Bde to take place on Monday 31 May 43.

Monday, 31 May 43.

Six a/c carried out a strike on Langoer. Interception was made by 4/5 Zekes, one of which was probably destroyed. Zekes followed our a/c for 200 miles. One of our a/c was damaged and force landed at Darwin.

Owing to these operations, exercises arranged with 16 Bn could not take place.

ALO went to 23 Bde to attend the conference, which was again deferred, as it is now intended to hold a special conference embracing Air Support only.

Contact was made with Photographic Section, PRU, regarding the training of photographic personnel for Air Liaison Section. Photographs for 2/8 Bn were unable to be delivered as requested.

Tuesday, 1 June 43.

ALO contacted IO, 16 Bn, with regard to exercise, which due to the squadron's operations were unable to take place.

CO, 12 Sqn. and ALO were contacted with regard to personal records and documents of personnel from 7 A.L.Section.

23 Bde exercise was discussed with CO 2/1 Air Support Control.

Escort was provided for a convoy approaching Darwin. Nil enemy sightings were reported.

PRU carried out AA co-operation over Batchelor in conjunction with the meteorological flight.

ALO contacted Photographic Officer NW Area regarding the photographs for the Intelligence School Winnellie. These photos are not yet to hand.

Wednesday, 2 June 43.

A conference was held at NT Force with the G2 and Bns of the

SECRET. G523.16 B

7 Aust. Air Liaison Section,

AUSTRALIA. 12 June 43.

G 11
NT Force.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF A.L.O. ATTACHED TO 31 SQN. R.A.A.F. COVERING WEEK ENDING 11 JUNE 1943.

Saturday 5 June 43.

ALO and Capt Hourn discussed 7 ALSection administration, filing system, and general operation of the section. Contact was made with PRU with regard to aerial photographs, and courses flown on the daily meteorological flight by personnel of that unit, for co-operation with AA Units.

Contact was made with NT Force and Capt. Hourn was introduced to 'G' Staff officers, where exercises were discussed - in particular, the forthcoming exercise with 13 Bde.

Arrangements were made through RAA to advise all squadrons of the use of Air Gunnery Range, East of Pell Fd, by 11 Fd. Regt. for the calibration of guns on Monday, 7 June 43.

Capt. Hourn was introduced to officers of Air Intelligence, NW Area, and S/Ldr Sharpe. Arrangements were made for squadrons to participate in the exercises conducted by 13 Bde on 10, 11, June 43.

Contact was made with a/CO, 2/1 Aust. Lt. AA Regt., Major Perry. Drogue towing, calibration of predictors and range finders, was discussedd in conjunction with co-operation already being supplied by PRU.

Air Support exercise with 13 Bde was discussed with CO 12 Sqn, and Capt. Leech. 12 Sqn. will participatein the exercise as arranged, dropping 250 lbs bombs. Call Signs, Frequencies, targets and methods of indication were discussed.

Sunday 6 June 43.

ALO and Capt. Hourn contacted 457 Sqn where CO and pilots were introduced, and the squadrons operations discussed.

Capt. Hourn was introduced to S/Ldr McDonald, 452 Sqn, and W/C Haldwell as well as members of the squadron. Army co-operation and Air Support was discussed, the squadron being particularly anxious to co-operate. The question of an ALO was discussed with the above officers, who are anxious to retain the acting ALO, Sgt. Drew. Representations have previously been made to NT Force, to have this NCO commissioned, and, at the same time, attend the school of Army Co-operation, Canberra. Sgt. Drew has acted in the capacity of an ALO with the above squadron for a considerable period, and has earned high praise for his work from the Squadron Commander. Coupled with this is the recommendation from this section, in the light of previous work carried out by this NCO.

The Fortress defences and airfields, Sattler, Darwin RAAF and Civil, were inspected.

Monday 7 June 43.

Administration and correspondence. Nil activities took place within the section. All personnel were stood down to attend the picnic race meeting. Capt. Hourn was at the same time given an opportunity to meet the Bde and Bn commanders.

One Beaufighter crashed while taking off from the strip. The a/c was completely wrecked. The pilot was severely injured. The other members of the crew suffered abrasions and shock and were admitted to hospital.

Tuesday 8 June 43.

ALO and Capt. Hourn contacted 'G' Staff officers and the position of the ALSection was discussed with G2.

AA co-operation was discussed with RAA and warning of danger areas and notification to squadrons were promulgated.

Capt. Hourn was introduced to G2(I) and Intelligence Officers. Photographs of the area were discussed, particularly in relation to the suggested filing system to be put into operation. Arrangements were made with S/L Sharpe for co-operation by all squadrons on 13 Bde exercise. Arrangements were made for the use of the Vultee a/c from 12 Sqn.

CC- file and Air Liaison Reports

SECRET.

LT/1/6A

7 Aust.Air Liaison Section,
AUSTRALIA.
7 June 43.

HT,
HT Force.

ACTIVITIES OF 7 A.L. SECTION COVERING WEEK ENDING 4 JUNE 1943.

1. No exercises were conducted by the squadrons for the period under review.

2. A conference was held at HT Force by the G2 with BMs of the three brigades, and officers of Air Support Control and 7 A L Section, to discuss Air Support and Army Co-operation. Various aspects of training were discussed together with experiments conducted by each Bde. It was decided that all future experiments would be conducted entirely separate from Bde or Bn exercises.
As the result of the conference, it was decided to submit for approval, suggestions and a proposed policy to both Army and RAAF for approval and consideration, as the present set up has in the past led to misunderstanding and confusion. All future exercises are to be co-ordinated between HT Force and NW Area.

3. AA co-operation was carried out by PRU over Hughes and Batchelor on alternate mornings, in conjunction with the daily meteorological flight.

4. Searchlight co-operation was carried out as per arrangements made direct with NW Area.

5. An exercise arranged with the 16 Bn was unable to take place owing to operational requirements by 31 Squadron.

6. WX30100, Pte O'Halloran joined this unit from 16 Bn and has been detached to No.1 PRU for training in photographic work.

7. NX107674,T/Capt. Hourn F.C. joined this section from LHQ, as A.L.O.

The general working of the section and administration have been discussed with this officer, and arrangements are in hand to conduct a tour of inspection of the area, so that he will have an opportunity of contacting and discussing problems met with, both Army and RAAF, and to more fully understand the requirements of Air Liaison in this area.

.....Capt.
O.C. 7 Aust. Air Liaison Section.

ALO and Capt. Hourn contacted CO 2/1 Aust.Air Support Control and arrangements for signals communications, target indication, map ref code and time adders were promulgated to the squadrons and units, together with other Air Support Control signal arrangements. ALO contacted 12 Squadron and enlarged maps and forecast of events on 13 Bde exercise were discussed with the CO and ALO.

Wednesday 9 June 43.

13 Bde exercise commenced, squadrons participated in straffing our own troops representing enemy machines. All convoy movement and in particular 'bottlenecks' were straffed. For the most part all a/c reported that road discipline and vtm were good. 1 Vultee flew over the proposed target area at 1015 hrs and located targets which were reported to be unsuitable, and arrangements were made to have them made more distinct, for safety precautions.

ALO contacted 2/1 A S Control in connection with tentacles and requests for Air Support. Communication was established at 12 Sqn at [illegible] Additional [illegible] arrangements were made with 457 and 452 Sqns to p[illegible] a/c to carry out straffing of convoys up until 1300 hrs Thursday 10/6/43.

Aerial photos for Intelligence School, Winnellie for training purposes were delivered to G111, NT Force.

Thursday 10 June 43.

Contact was made with ALO and CO 12 Sqn regarding the request for Air Support for 13 Bde exercise, to take place on the following afternoon.

Mock straffing was carried out by 6 a/c from 452 Sqn at 0800 hrs in Tumbling Waters - Pioneer Ck. area. Pilots reported that MT were well dispersed and stationary vehicles well camouflaged. Air Support was received at the FASL at 1330 hrs. This request was received at 12 Sqn at 1359 hrs. A/c were over target area at 1445 hrs as per ETA sent by ALO.

Recognition Signals. Air to Ground - Green varey light.
Ground to Air - "T" Panel.

Target Indication by "T" panel and bars representing 500 yards. Pilots reported - The "T" panel was visible and three bars indicating 1500 yards were picked up. The actual target was very descernable. One divebombing run was made by the six a/c, dropping a total of 10x250 lbs bombs. One a/c did not release bombs as the target was obscured. All fell in the target area. R/T communications were OK throughout the exercise and no difficulty was experienced. At 1700 hrs a further mock straffing attack was made by 8 a/c from 452 Sqn on infantry, MT, and straf[illegible] [illegible] towards Agnes area. Pilots stated that vtm was very good and dispersed vehicles were well camouflag

Friday 11 June 43.

ALO contacted 11Fd Regt with regard to oblique photography and preparation of precis on Merton photography.

Officers from 13 Bde Hq had not returned from the exercise and results could not be ascertained of the support rendered from a ground point of view, of 12 Sqn's display.

ALO contacted RAA Hq to ascertain the position of batteries for photographic purposes.

Officer's reports were handed in to G2 NT Force and Nominal Roll of all Section's personnel was submitted to DAAG.

13 Bde exercise was discussed with S/L Sharpe NW Area, and r[illegible] on current work carried out by the section were submitted. The 13 Bde exercise signals set up and communications were discussed with Major Murphy, 2/1 A S Control. Sig communication throughout the exercise was extremely good.

No operations were conducted by the squadron during the period under review.

W Carr
.....Capt.
A.L.O. 31 Sqn. R.A.A.F.

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SECRET.
42/401/400.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA.

5 Aust Air Liaison Section (AIF),
AUSTRALIA.

43/12/8.

27 July 43.

LHQ (MO6),
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No. 7 - Week Ending 24 July 43.

PART 'A'

21 July 43. Capt. H.D. KOLBIG joined unit from No. 1 A.L. Section. He had previously been with A.L. Group New Guinea Force.

PART 'B'

Arty Co-op exercises referred to in reports Nos. 5 and 6 were again carried out on 18-20 July inclusive, two Wirraways being used in each attack. The exercise was improved from the Air Force point of view by bringing in, as part of each attack, a Tac/R.

S.L. practices were cancelled for the week owing to bad weather conditions, except Sat 24 July, when a successful exercise was held VDC personnel manning AASLs.

24 July ' 43. An Air Support exercise, details as per attached Appendix 'A' was arranged for this day but was postponed till 26 July, owing to unfavourable weather reports.

PARTS C & D.

Nil.

(SGD.)

Major,
CO, 5 Aust Air Liaison Section (AIF).

TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION.

LOCATION

Artillery Range	SAFETY BAY
Map	ROCKINGHAM 1"
Spectators approx	757023
Target vicinity of square	7401

DATE 1000 - 1230 hrs Sat 24 Jul '43.

DIRECTING STAFF ex 3 Aust. Air S.C. and 5 Aust. A.L. Section.

OBJECT (a) A demonstration of Tactical Air Support, softening up enemy strongposts which are assumed to be holding up advance of our troops.

(b) To demonstrate method of calling for Air Support; operation and functions of an Air Support Control and Air Liaison Sec.

(c) To demonstrate to students of 3 Aust. Corps School HARVEY, and other Army and RAAF personnel the effect of 250 lb bombs, incendiary bullets, and 20 mm cannon fire on suitable targets

(d) To demonstrate medium level bombing, dive bombing, and ground strafing, using live bombs and ammunition.

Considerable benefit will be derived by RAAF personnel taking part in the exercise, as all arrangements have been planned in close co-operation with Air Force.

TROOPS TAKING PART

Army. 3 Aust. Air S.C.
5 Aust. A.L. Sec
3 Aust. Corps Sigs.
Engineers
Camouflage

RAAF 25 Sqn Wirraway, Vultee Vengeance (Dive/Rec)
14 Sqn Beaufort Bombers
85 Sqn Boomerang Fighters

ESTIMATED TIMINGS.

TIME	SQN	PROGRAMME
0630	25	(First light recce of Area, report to A.S.C. at (Div H.Q. (For purpose of broadcast only)
1015	14	(High Level attack by Beauforts at 6000 ft. (Targets as directed by A.L.O. in conjunction (with A.S.C. A/C flying in flights of three line (astern. Bombing as directed by Sqn C.C.
	85------	(Fighter cover by Boomerangs. (Note patern Bombing.)
1020	25	(Dive bombing assault by Wirraways. A/C drop (1 bomb per dive. (1 takes a photo of result) (Targets as directed by A.L.O. & A.S.C.
	85 -----	(Fighter cover by Boomerangs.
1040	85 -----	(After bombing completed by above Sqns, Boomerangs to carry out ground strafing.
1100	25	(Immediately after ground strafing, one A/C, (Vengeance, to carry out low level Tac/R recce of (area dropping reports on Div H.Q. (represented (by O.P.)
1115	85	(Ground strafing by Boomerangs, on targets as (directed by A.S.C. after perusal and Tac/R . (Reports from recce A/C
1130	25	(Dive bombing attack on targets reported by A.L.O (to be still intact.(Photo dropped on O.P.) ((Briefing by A.L.O.)
1140	14	(Low levelattack at 1000 ft by Beauforts on (remaining targets, followed by Front and Rear (Gunner G.S. (Briefing by A.L.O.)

Targets. Two targets for each son have been constructed.

A/ Medium Bomber Targets. 1. An inhabited area.
2. Heavy A.A. Bty Positions.

B/ Dive Bomber Targets 1. Heavy Field Guns.
2. M.G. position and defended Locality.

C/ Fighter straffing " 1. Dummy tank from boiler plate.
2. Inhabited area with inflamable material to be ignited by incendiary bullets.

Safety
Provost to assist in policing of proclaimed area.

Photo/Recce Air photographs of area to be taken prior to demonstration.

Transport. Transport to be arranged, if necessary, to enable pilots to visit ground after demonstration.

Public address system. To enable spectators to hear all ground to ground and ground to air R/T conversation, as well as local commentator to be arranged.

BOMBLINE. To be decided after conference with Armaments Officer H.Q. Western Area.

INTERCOMMUNICATION By R/T
Ground stations Army personnel.
Aircraft RAAF "
Frequencies and call signs as arranged.

Encl. One photograph of area with target positions marked.

5

TELEPHONES: CENTRAL 7188, MXY 3460.

M06(c)/DW DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

A.D.V. L.H.Q.
C523.16-B
29/7

Quote in Reply 125778

ALLIED LAND FORCES HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS.

Melbourne, S.C.1. 27 July, 1943

Adv LHQ

(For G.II Air)

5 A L SECTION

1. Forwarded herewith are weekly reports Nos 4, 5 and 6 from the above section. These were all received together at this HQ.

2. Your attention is drawn to marked paragraphs in part "D" of reports Nos. 5 and 6 and it is requested that you will take the necessary action thereon.

Alan Bourke Lt Col
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

ADV. LHQ. REGISTRY
28 JUL 1943
TIME RECEIVED
HOURS

CIRCULATED TO G.S. (Ops) Army

DEPT	INITIALS	DATE
G.S.		
G. 1 (a)		
G. 2 (a)		
G. 6		
G. I (b)		
G. 2 (b)	JKK	29/7
G. 3		0
G. 5		
CLERK		

GSC1 OPS.
29 JUL 1943
TIME RECEIVED
Hours 1700

Held for HLO's
JKK

Obo

MO6(c)/DW

27 JUL 1943

125778

27 July, 1943

Adv LHQ

(For G.II Air)

5 A L SECTION

1. Forwarded herewith are weekly reports Nos 4, 5 and 6 from the above section. These were all received together at this HQ.

2. Your attention is drawn to marked paragraphs in part "D" of reports Nos. 5 and 6 and it is requested that you will take the necessary action thereon.

Alan Brooke

for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

Telephone No.

[redacted]LAD

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA

Please quote this Number when replying

[redacted]43	I2	5

5 Aust. Air Liaison Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
5 Jul '4

L.H.Q. (MO6)
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 4 - Week Ended 3 Jul '4.

PART 'A'

Nil.

PART 'B'

S.L. Co-op was cancelled on 29 and 30 June, owing to low cloud and non-availability respectively. On 1 Jul low cloud again prevented the exercise.

Fighter interception, referred to in Report No. 3 has been suspended, pending a conference to be held, dealing with safety precautions as to possible collision.

PART 'C'

Lectures to 25 Sqn air crews on Contact/R and Tac/R. Section carried out weapon training and normal drill.

PART 'D'

Nil.

.....Major.
C.O. 5 Aust. Air Liaison Section (AIF)

MO6 24/7

Headquarters
Western Command } B 3147 (4 lines).
Ordnance Officer M 100.
For other Branches and Drill Halls
see Department of Defence in
Telephone Directory

Australian Military Forces—Western Command.

Please quote this Number when replying

43	I2	6

5 Aust. Air Liaison Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
12 Jul '43.

L.H.Q. (MO 6)
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 5 - Week Ended 10 Jul '43.

PART 'A'

A.T.M. 18 Dec 1942; Appx 'C' comprises Eighth Army Training Memorandum No. 1. Para 3 states:- "Whatever the military plan, it is vital that the air should be brought in from the start; it is not sufficient to decide on the plan and then ask the R.A.F. how it can help." On taking up his appointment with this Section, the writer called on many G.S. officers in W.A., showed them the relevent paras, and requested that these principles be observed in all training. Hearty agreement was expressed in all cases; and, generally the principle has been observed. The enclosed copy of a 3 Aust. Corps Memo (Appx A) however, indicates a 'Slip-up' on the part of R.A.A. 3 Aust. Corps. This lays down a cut and dried exercise, to commence on 11 Jul. Formal approval from RAAF Western Area was received by 3 Aust. Corps on 10 July and by the Squadron concerned (25) on the 11 Jul. However, personal enquiry had elicted the information that permission might be anticipated. The Squadron, when informed by the A.L.O. of the forthcoming exercise made the usual, and, it is submitted, entirely natural reply:- "What training do we get out of it? We have to send petrol by road to a strip 120 miles away, fly there and back each day, to do dummy attacks. We can do those over our own 'drome."

The position was improved by this Section providing the Field and Medium Regts. or rather, the Directing Staff, with 'T' panel strips and discs, and arranging that the aircraft, before attacking on the second day of each series should do a Tac/R and drop the A55 on the D.S. as part of the Contact/R.

This experience has been quoted at some length, solely for the purpose of showing that some Army Circles still seem to regard 'Co-operation' , in training at least, as a one-sided business.

PART 'B'

Drogue target for A/A training. Five sorties on three dates during the period. Fairey Battle a/c from 35 Sqn.

Searchlight training at night was listed for 6 Jul and 8 Jul, but both cancelled owing to low cloud.

PART 'C'

Conferences with Arty A.L.O. (See part A above)

Interviews with Staff officers of 1 Armd Div and 2 Aust Div. 'Selling Air Co-op' as desireable in future exercises.

Normal weekly liaison visits to A/A Gp H.Q. Fighter Sector, 3 Aust. Corps H.Q. and W.A.L. of C. Area.

PART 'D'

MO 6 (c) Memo 107555 is acknowledged. Could Terrain Studies prepared by GHQ Geographic Section be supplied to this Section, please, also examples of Target Maps S.W.P.A.

.....Major.
C.O. 5 Aust. Air Liaison Section (AIF)

COPY

APPX. "A"

DSG

G:36 8 21

H.Q. 3 Aust. Corps (AIF)
6 Jul '43

Western Area RAAF.

ARMY - AIR TRAINING.

It would be appreciated if aircraft may be made available for a series of simultaneous sorties to carry out strafing and bombing attacks during exercises which are being conducted this month by artillery units of 3 Aust. Corps.

2. Details of the proposed dates and targets are as follows:-

Dates	Sorties	Type of Target	Type of attack	Area-ref maps PINJARRA and COLLIE 4" Strats.	Time
Jul 11, 18 and 25	3	Vehicles and guns moving along road.	Straf-ing.	Column starts at ARMADALE 401023 0800 hrs. Moves SE along road PERTH-ALBANY at 12½ M.P.H.	Between 0900 and 1200 hrs.
Jul 12, 19 and 26.	3	Gun positions road movement and wagon line areas.	Low Level Bombing	Vicinity road WILLIAMS - MERIDIAN HILL 489918-473909	Between 0900 and 1100 hrs
Jul 12, 19 and 26	3	Do	Dive. Bombing	do	Between 1400 and 1600 hrs
Jul 13, 20 and 27	3	do	do	do	Between 1100 and 1300 hrs

3. During each sortie the aircraft would be required over the target area for approximately thirty (30) minutes.

4. Should aircraft be made available it is suggested that AILO H.Q. RAA 3 Aust. Corps arrange details of briefing through 5 Aust. AL Sec with squadron concerned.

B.G.S. for.
Lieut. General
Comd. 3 Aust. Corps.

Copy to
RAA 3 Aust. Corps
5 Aust. AL Sec.

Headquarters
Western Command } B 3147 (4 lines).
Ordnance Officer MJ 100.
For other Branches and Drill Halls
see Department of Defence in
Telephone Directory.

Australian Military Forces—Western Command.

Please quote this Number when replying

43	I2	7

5 Aust. Air Liaison Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
20 Jul '43

L.H.Q. (M06)
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 6 - Week Ended 17 July '43.

PART 'A'

Nil

PART 'B'

S.L. practice carried out by Beauforts on 13 Jul; but cancelled owing to non-availability on 15 Jul 43.

Drogue target, A/A practice on 12, 14 and 15 Jul. Effectiveness and duration curtailed by low cloud and rain. Five sorties attempted.

Co-op with a field regt., referred to in last Report, Appx 'A'. Road column strafed on 11 July, in difficult weather conditions. The weather deteriorated further on 12 July and flying was cancelled. It improved on 13 July and two Wirraways did a good job, reporting on A55 in recce code positions of arty, both fd and A/A, transport, H.Qs and medical posts, then dive-bombing the targets.

PART 'C'

Normal liaison contacts, included H.Q. R.A.A. 3 Aust. Corps.

Separate interviews with C.Os 14 Sqn. (Beauforts); 25 Sqn. (Wirraways); 85 Sqn (Boomerangs); and C.O. 3 Aust. Air Support Control.

Arranged that Wirraway should drop two 250 lb bombs on Arty Range, ROCKINGHAM, on Friday 16 Jul to determine best distance targets should be from O.P. (sandy country) As a result targets were moved 200 yds nearer the spectators.

Arranged conference with the three Sqn Comds for Monday, 19 Jul in briefing room of the Section. Maj. STOCKER and F/Lt. HOPKINS of Air Support also will attend. Purpose:- To reconcile Army and Air training requirements in exercise on Sat. 24 July on ROCKINGHAM Arty Range.

PART 'D'

Reference is made to Report No. 1, Part 'D' It is realized that 'A' and 'C' matters are involved in this question, but information when available would be appreciated.

.....Major.
C.O. 5 Aust. Air Liaison Section (AIF)

This raised the following questions:-
(1) Are ORs of this Sec likely to get a tour with A L Sqn HQ F?
(2) When an A L O is transferred to an operational theatre, should (or may) he take his driver - how etc? 24/7

MO6/GHG

TELEPHONES: CENTRAL 7185. MXY [redacted]

ADV. LHQ REGISTRY 9 JUL 1943 TIME RECEIVED 2900 HOURS

323/1/342

A.D.V. E. FILE NO. G523-16-B

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

ALLIED LAND FORCES—HEADQUARTERS 97
VICTORIA BARRACKS,

Quote in Reply S/M16102

Melbourne, S.C.1. 5 July, 1943.

ADV LHQ
(for G 11 Air)

REPORTS FROM 5 A.L.SEC.

Forwarded herewith are reports from O.C. 5 A.L.Sec. for your information and action where necessary.

CHECKED FOR INDEXING

Colonel,
Deputy Director of Military Operations.

Page 167

285 - 1 - 145

(COPY)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES -- WESTERN COMMAND

43/1 2/14

5 Aust Comd A L Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
30 Aug. '43.

L.H.Q. (MO 6)
MELBOURNE

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No.12 - Week ended 28 Aug '41.

PART 'A'

Nil.

PART 'B'

The two S.L.Co-op exercises programmed for this week were NOT carried out. The Beaufort Sqn concerned (14 Sqn) have had eleven crews posted to N.E. Area during the month. In addition, aircraft are operating from A.O.B.s North and South of PERTH. These commitments, together with normal patrols, made S.L. exercises impracticable.

35 Sqn on 25 Aug towed a drogue target in the morning for a Lt A/A shoot at PEARCE, and in the afternoon for Hy A/A at SOUTH BEACH.

Normal section training has been carried out. In addition, driving instruction has been given in the new 15 cwt 4 x 4 Office Van just received. The old van (20 cwt) is being returned to Ordnance.

PART 'C'

On 23 Aug. Maj ADAIR visited 1 Aust Arm Div near MOORA and discussed outline plans for interchange visits of Army and R.A.A.F. officers in Sep. and co-op training later in the year.

On 26/27 Aug, Maj ADAIR visited the School of Arty at NORTHAM, and examined methods of teaching air arty recce and air shoots. The C.I. (Maj. HAWKINS) and the S.I. (Capt. FITZHARDINGE) will be visiting PEARCE on 1 Sep and are to speak on Arty-Air Co-op in Libya and at Alamein respectively.

PART 'D'

Ref is invited to Weekly Reports No.s 8 and 11, Part 'D(.

(SGD) - ADAIR
Maj.
O.C., 5 Aust Comd A L Sec (AIF)

ADV. LHQ.
285/1/126.
C523·16-B
31 AUG 1943

MO6(c)/AM.

DEPARTMENT OF ~~DEFENCE~~ THE ARMY

~~MILITARY BOARD~~

Quote in Reply 148424

~~ARMY~~ HEAD-QUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
Melbourne, S.C.1. 30 Aug 43.

Adv LHQ.

5 AUST COMD A.L. SECTION.

Forwarded herewith is one copy of Report No. 11 from the above section.

Alan Bennie
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

ADV. LHQ.
REGISTRY
1 SEP 1943
TIME RECEIVED
.... HOURS

~~DEFENCE~~
~~SECRET~~
~~RESTRICTED~~

P/A

(COPY) 285/1/126.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND.

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF) AUSTRALIA.

43/12/13. 24 Aug 43.

LHQ (MO6) MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No. 11 - Week Ended 21 Aug 43.

PART 'A'

Capt KOLBIG discharged from 110 A.G.H. to light duty on 18 Aug 43.

PART 'B'

Night S.L. exercises with 14 Sqn were arranged for 17 and 19 Aug 43. The latter exercise was cancelled owing to low cloud. Daylight exercises for training of instrument operators and layers were arranged for both morning and afternoon of the 16 and 19 Aug 43. All four exercises were successfully carried out.

PART 'C'

The G.III (I) 1 Aust Armd Div visited PEARCE on the 17 Aug. It is arranged that Major ADAIR visit his HQ during the following week-end. Liaison visits by Major ADAIR and Capt KOLBIG to HQ 3 Aust Corps, Fighter Sector Control and RAAF HQ Western Area.

Parties of Army officers, A/A and S.L. personnel visited PEARCE during the week. The presence of the Lancaster bomber was the main attraction. These visits were arranged through this Section.

PART 'D'

Reference is invited to D.O. letter to M.O. 6 dated 9 Aug 43. No reply has been received as yet to the points raised therein. An early reply, particularly with regard to the final para, would be greatly appreciated.

(SGD.) ? ADAIR
Major,
C.O. 5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF).

MO5 (c)/FIW
CENTRAL 7188.
HOURS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

285/1/126
SECRET
G 523 · 16-B

Quote in Reply M20046

ALLIED LAND FORCES HEADQUARTERS.
VICTORIA BARRACKS.

Melbourne, S.C.1. 12 August 1943

ADV LHQ

5 A L SECTION.

Forwarded herewith is one copy of Report No. 8 from the above section.

Alan Bourke
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

CHECKED
FOR
INDEXING

P/A

285. 1. 126

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND.

5 Aust. Command A.L. Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
3 Aug. '43.

43 12 9

S E C R E T

L.H.Q. (MO6)
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 8 - Week ended 31 July '43

PART 'A'.

Advice received on 28 July from L.H.Q. (vide SM18355 of 20 July '43) of change in organisation of Air Liaison Sections. No date is shown for change-over, hence it is assumed that the new organization and designations will apply forthwith.

However, it is proposed to carry on the numerical sequence of these reports, making the next one No. 9, but the heading will be "5 Aust. Command Air Liaison Section".

The Squadrons based on Pearce have been informed of the new organisation, and welcome the fact that each will have its own full time A.L.O.

The O.C., Major ADAIR, to Station Sick Quarters with influenza, on Sunday, 25 July. Off duty one week.

PART 'B'.

The programme provided for Arty Co-op exercise on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, as on the two previous weeks. However, shortage of aircraft, coupled with the Close Support demonstration on Monday, made it necessary to cancel the Monday and Tuesday morning programme. To make amends to the Arty in some degree, the Sunday morning programme was extended to the afternoon.

The shortness of aircraft referred to was due to a night cross-country flight of four Wirraways from 25 Sqn becoming lost en route Geraldton to Pearce. One landed on wheels in a paddock under light of motor-car head-lamps, a second did a successful belly-landing. The crews of the remaining two bailed out, one observer being killed due to colliding with the tail plane.

On Monday, 26 July, the postponed Air Support demonstration was attempted in rainy weather. Dive bombing through gaps in the cloud was successful, as was ground straffing by Boomerangs. Formation bombing by Beauforts was abandoned, as the targets were invisible.

It is proposed to repeat the demonstration in a few weeks' time.

PART 'C'

Capt. KOLBIG has been taken on a succession of visits to Air and Army establishments and headquarters.

PART 'D'

The new organization for A.L. Sections provides for three Sqn Sections in W.A., with a Command Section. At present, 5 Aust A.L. Section has sufficient personnel for a Command Section and two only Sqn Sections. Furthermore, there are in W.A. four Squadrons which co-operate with the Army. It is submitted, therefore, that the establishment should provide for four Sqn Sections.

May the O.C., Command Section, nominate to MO 6 his officers from among those available? He has a panel of three names.

These, and other subjects requiring discussion, could be dealt with in a personal interview with MO 6 in Melbourne in the week between 4th and 11th Aug, and, if L.H.Q. has no objections, movement by Service aircraft can be arranged in this Section.

(Sgd). - Major
O.C., 5 Aust Comd. A.L. Section (AIF)

285-1-126

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 7188. MXY 440.

M06/DW

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

HQ 23 AUG 1943 G523-16-B

Quote in Reply 143018

ALLIED LAND FORCES HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA BARRACKS.

Melbourne, S.C.1.

23 August, 1943

Adv LHQ
(for G.III Air)

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Forwarded herewith is a copy of 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec's weekly report, for your information, retention and necessary action.

Alan Bourke
for Colonel,
Deputy Director of Military Operations.

ADV ... 24 AUG ... Time ... 20/8

CHECKED FOR POSTING

M06 for marking P/L

9/28

285-1-126

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND.

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Sec.(AIF),
AUSTRALIA.
14 Aug.'43

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No.10 - Week Ended 14 August, '43.

PART 'A'

Capt. KOLBIG admitted to 110 A.G.H. for diagnosis and treatment on 8 Aug '43. Illness later diagnosed as probably debility following on malaria.

PART 'B'

10 Aug - 14 Sqn and 85 Sqn :
Flight Commander, pilot and observer taken to 66 S.L. Bty H.Q. and B.O.R., later visiting three S.L. posns. Orbit beam system was in operation, with two Boomerangs intercepting the Beaufort. Exercise lasted three hours, and A/A Gp were very satisfied with the co-op. given.

12 Aug. - 35 Sqn.
Training of Instrument Operators, FREMANTLE, in the morning, and Gunlayers, ROTTNEST, in the afternoon postponed until 16 Aug.

The Close Support Demonstration - Exercise for 12 Aug. referred to in Report No.9 has been postponed until 25 Aug, owing to unavailability of aircraft.

PART 'C'

Suggested verbally to 3 Aust Corps that a programme of interchange of visits be arranged, R.A.A.F. officers visiting formations and units, 1 Aust. Armd. Div and 2 Aust Div, for 4-5 days, and officers from those formations and units visiting PEARCE, each visit being of two days duration. This was approved of by 14 and 25 Sqn. Comds, and Corps requested that a formal programme be submitted. This has now been done.

PART 'D'

In addition to the panel of three names submitted in my D.O. letter dated 9 Aug '43, it is desired to submit for consideration an additional name, viz, WX 29060, Capt. NICHOLAS, R.G. Age 25 years. Has passed Army Co-op. Course, CANBERRA. Member of 3 Aust. Air Support Control, so will shortly be a surplus officer. He would be glad of the appointment. He has acted here as a relief officer for two weeks, last April.

? ?
. . . . . Major.
O.C., 5 Aust Comd. AL Section
(A.I.F)

SECRET

TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 7183, MX 5101.

M06(6)/GT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

Allied Landforces HEADQUARTERS.

VICTORIA BARRACKS.

Melbourne, S.C.1,

6 August, 1943.

G 523.16-B

Quote in Reply No. 10674

Adv. L.H.Q.

(for G II Air)

5 AL Section.

1. Forwarded herewith are copies of reports Nos. 2 and 7 from the above section, together with the original Appendix "A" to report No. 7.

2. It is regretted that there has been delay in forwarding report No. 2.

ADV. LHQ. REGISTRY : 8 AUG 1943 TIME RECEIVED 1965 HOURS

for Lieutenant-General
Chief of the General Staff.

BF Bang.

43 AL 1 15

5 Aust. Comd. Air Liaison Section (AIF)
PEARCE.
26 Sep '43.

3 Aust. Corps (AIF) (for information)
H.Q. RAAF Station PEARCE
14 Squadron
25 "
35 "
85 "

VISIT OF OFFICERS AND INTELLIGENCE SERGEANTS:

2 AUST. DIV (AIF)

1. To further mutual understanding and knowledge between personnel of the two services, G.O.C., 3 Aust. Corps and A.O.C. Western Area approved in principle of a series of inter-service visits.

2. Visits have since been exchanged by representatives of 1 Aust. Armd Div and 25 Sqn.

3. Officers of 25 Sqn visited H.Q. and units 2 Aust. Div from 20 - 24 Sep '43.

4. The following representatives from 2 Aust. Div will be arriving at PEARCE by 1600 hrs 27 Sep '43. and will depart 30 Sep '43:-

NX 117621	Maj	A.H. OLSEN	18 Aust. Fd Regt (AIF)
NX 124628	Maj	R.C. CARROLL	54 Aust. Inf Bn (AIF)
NX1117624	Capt	K.W. WATHERSPOON	18 Aust. Fd Regt (AIF)
VX131567	Lieut	W.T. SIMMONS	56 Aust. Inf Bn (AIF)
NX 141620	W.O.II	L.C. LINDSAY	18 Aust. Fd Regt (AIF)
NX 118643	S/Sgt.	QUIGG, V.J.	HQ 5 Aust. Inf Bde (AIF)

5. 3 Aust. Corps has given permission for the above personnel to fly as opportunity arises during the visit.

6. The itinerary attached hereto has been drawn up after discussion with the Sqn Commanders concerned and should prove of value and interest to personnel of both services.

7. It is requested that the Sqns afford the visitors facilities for studying Air Force methods and problems.

8. The interest shown, and co-operation given by R.A.A.F. officers in arranging these visits, is most encouraging and is greatly appreciated.

.....Major.
Comd. 5 Aust. Comd. A.L. Sec (AIF)

ITINERARY 27 - 30 Sep '43.

27 Sep	1600	Arrive RAAF Station PEARCE and shown to quarters
	1630	Call on Station Commander
	1815	Meet Mess President (Officers and Sgts respectively)
28 Sep	0830	Visit 5 Aust. A.L. Sec. Talk on role of Air Liaison Sec and the organization and functions of RAAF units in the PERTH area.
	0900	Visit 25 Sqn (D.B.)
	1200	Lunch
	1300	Resume with 25 Sqn
	1515	Leave for 85 Sqn
		Mess at 85 Sqn.
29 Sep	0830	Visit 35 Sqn (Air Tpt)
	1000	Visit 25 Sqn (D.B.)
	1300	Visit 14 Sqn (G.R.)
	1830	Mess
30 Sep	0900	Call on Station Commander
	0915	Depart for own units.

Telephone No.....

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA

A.I.F. H.Q. 523.16-B

Please quote this Number when replying

[redacted]	AL 2	18

5 Aust. Command Air Liaison Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
25 Sep '43.

SECRET

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 16 - Week Ended 25 Sep '43.

PART 'A'

These reports, until instructions to the contrary are received, will be furnished direct to Adv. L.H.Q.

PART 'B'

Training of V.D.C. instrument operators with 35 Sqn co-operating on the morning of Sun 19 Sep was cancelled owing to bad weather.

On the afternoon of 19 Sep a drogue shoot was carried out [redacted] a heavy A/A battery.

On the morning of 22 Sep drogue shooting was again carried out by a heavy A.A. batt ry.

On both morning and afternoon of Thurs 23 Sep '43 training of instrument operators was successfully carried out by 35 Sqn (Fairey Battle).

PART 'C'

On Monday 20 Sep '43 Major ADAIR flew to GERALDTON in a DC 47 with a party of Air Crew, who were visiting units under command of 2 Aust. Div. Duties at PEARCE, arising from shortage of A.L.Os., prevented him from accompanying the Air Crew personnel on their five day tour and he flew back that afternoon.

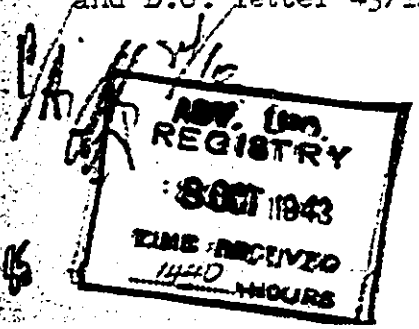
A return visit will be made to PEARCE by representatives of 2 Aust. Div on 27 Sep '43. They will depart on 30 Sep '43.

On 21 Sep Radar maintenance personnel of 14 Sqn visited A/A S.L. and Arty Btys, inspecting S.L.C. and G.L. equipment and procedure.

PART 'D'

Reference is again invited to Weekly Report No. [redacted] Aug 43 and D.O. letter 43/12/11 of 9 Aug '43.

.....Major.
Comd. 5 Aust. Comd. Air Liaison Section (AIF)



AIR LIAISON SECTIONS - REPORTS

5 AUST COMD AL SEC

Reference Weekly Report 15, Part A, para 1.

This matter was referred to DAAG(PS) who advised that it would be improper for this Headquarters to take any action regarding BARNETT at this stage as 3 Aust Corps have called for and have been furnished with a Confidential Report (which is an adverse one) and should promptly initiate the necessary action. The Section is under their command on the Order of Battle.

11 Oct 43.

P/A

TELEPHONES:
CENTRAL 7185
MX 5181

A.D.V. 285/1/145 LHQ
G523.16 B

M06(b)/AM. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

[redacted]
(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

167650
Quote in
Reply

28 SEP. 1943
HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
Melbourne, S.C.1, 27 Sep 43.

Adv LHQ
(For G.III Air) ✓

---

5 AUST COMD A.L. SEC.

Forwarded herewith is a copy of a weekly report from above Sec for your information and any necessary action.

Phoned M06 (LHQ)
Col Bunnie away
on visit to NT Force
and 3 Aust Corps
when unit Sec A.L. Sec.
withhold sending this
return OK 29/9

ADV ... REGISTRY
29 SEP 1943
TIME RECEIVED
900 HOURS

Phoned M06-
Col Bunnie explained
return 7 Oct this
Sec LHQ this. OK 6/10

J.J. Heenan Col
Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

RECEIVED
FROM

M06(2)

Col Bunnie
Frank Connell
Phoned for returned
to Kent Hills. OK 9/10

235/1/145.

MO5(b)/AM.

167650 28 SEP 1943

27 Sep 43.

Adv HQ
(For G.XXI Air)

---

5 AUST CORPS A.L. SIG.

Forwarded herewith is a copy of a weekly report from above Sec for your information and any necessary action.

Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

ADV. HQ
REGISTRY
29 SEP 1943
TIME RECEIVED
1500 HOURS

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND.

43 12 17

5 Aust. Comd A.L. Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
19 Sep '43.

L.H.Q. (MO 6)
MELBOURNE

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 15 - Week Ended 18 Sep '43

PART 'A'

1. (Confidential Report) Lieut. BARNETT, A.L.O. in this Section attended a three weeks course at the School of Army Co-operation, CANBERRA, from 2 Apr '43 until 22 Apr '43. H.Q. 3 Aust Corps received a copy of his Report and called for a Confidential Report from his C.O.
A copy of this Confidential Report is attached at Appx. I
This development, together with loss of Capt. KOLBIG, all at a time when the activities of the Section are increasing, intensifies the need for an early allocation of additional A.L.O.s.
Early attention to this problem is respectfully requested.

2. Capt. H.D. KOLBIG is posted to "X" List as from 9 Sep '43.

PART 'B'

Severe weather and shortage of aircrews in 14 Sqn prevented night flying in S.L. exercises during the period.
On 12 Sep drogue shooting was carried out by a Hy A/A Bty in co-operation with 35 Sqn, both morning and afternoon.
Lt A/A Shoot by a unit with fd formation, for 14 Sep was cancelled owing to the weather.
On morning of 15 Sep a Hy A/A Shoot was carried out.
Training of A/A instrument operators, target being a D.H. 82 from 35 Sqn flying over ROTTNEST was successful on 16 Sep.

PART 'C'

This has been a busy week of visiting.
On Monday, 13 Sep, four officers and two Intelligence Sergeants from 1 Aust Armd Div arrived at PEARCE. The itinerary drawn up by this section is attached at Appx. II.
A personal call by Maj. ADAIR on 14 Sep resulted in H.Q. 3 Aust Corps withdrawing its earlier refusal of permission for the visitors to fly, and on 16 Sep each of them flew in a Vengeance and a Beaufort.
On 16 Sep. Maj. HAWKINS and Capt. FITZHARDINGE, C.I. and S.I. respectively, School of Arty, NORTHAM, visited PEARCE, spending the whole day. In the afternoon they lectured and demonstrated an Air-Shoot on the sand model, before the Station Commander and air-crews.
On Monday, 20 Sep, Maj ADAIR is to take a party of air-crew to GERALDTON, visiting units of 2 Aust Div, in a five days' tour.
On Tuesday, 21 Sep, the "RADAR" Section, 14 Sqn, is being taken to the coastal defences, inspecting Army equipment, S.L.C. and G.L.
A cordial invitation from Brig Comd 1 Aust Armd Bde, for up to twelve air-crew Officers and N.C.O.s to take part in manoeuvres 20-25 Sep has had to be regretfully declined, owing to training and operational commitments, both of this Section and the Squadrons.
The Formations in W.A. have now become interested in Liaison and co-operation and a fertile field now awaits a lecturing tour by an A.L.O. and an R.A.A.F. officer - BUT we are now short of that A.L.O.

PART 'D'

Again it is desired to submit the names of officers, who, it is considered, would prove successful, with training, as A.L.O.s. It is considered that probably they would be available for the reasons shown :-

Name.	Arm of Service	
WX26497 Capt. G.H. Sherlock	M.I. W.A. L of C Area.	Headquarters Staff Disbanded
TX - Capt. E.W.H. Stephens	M.I. Second Aust Army	He desires the change
WX5523 Lieut. E.J.Stuart	2/16 Bn	Worn by malaria and unfit for tropical service in an Inf.Bn.

This request was previously made in Weekly Report No. 8 of 3 Aug '43 and D.O.Letter 43/I 2/11 of 9 Aug. '43.

(SGD) S. Adair
Maj.
Comdg. 5 Aust. Comd A.L.Sec (AIF)

5 Aust Comd AL Sec (A.I.F.)

43 0.1 7

CONFIDENTIAL 17 Sep '43

3 Aust Corps (A.I.F.)

WX 1596 LIEUT E.T.J.BARNETT.

1. Ref is made to 3 Aust Corps confidential memo G34/12/5 of - Sep 43, calling for a confidential report on the above named officer.

2. It is desired to report as follows:-

(a) Lieut BARNETT has displayed knowledge adequate to the duties he has been called upon to perform. These duties are not as comprehensive as those taught in the R.A.A.F. School of Army Co-operation, CANBERRA, as this Section, thus far, has not been employed with an AC Squadron.

(b) As a Liaison Officer, Lieut. BARNETT's shortcomings are personal and temperamental; and do not reflect on his technical efficiency as an army officer. He is dogmatic and inclined to argue at unnecessary length, also to act hastily without due consideration.

(c) Lieut Barnett does not get on well with the C.Os of 14 and 25 Squadrons who each have informed me that they would prefer some other officer to be attached tothem when the new organization of Squadron Air Liaision Sections is established.

3. It is considered that Lieut BARNETT would be more suitably placed either in an infantry training battalion, or, since he is a trained member of the Intelligence Corps, on the intelligence staff of a higher formation. I regard him highly as a soldier and a man, but NOT as a Liaison Officer.

(SGD) S. Adair
Major
Comd 5 Aust AL Sec (A.I.F.)

LIEUT BARNETT - To note:- (SGD) E.J.Barnett

Copy to L.H.Q. (M06)

ITINERARY - 13 - 16 SEP '43.

13 Sep	1800 hrs.	Arrive RAAF Station, PEARCE.
	1815 "	Meet President and Members of the Mess.
	1830 "	Mess (Officers and Sergeants Messes respectively).
14 Sep	0830 hrs.	Visit 5 Aust A.I. Sec. Talk on role of Air Liaison Sec and the organization and functions of RAAF units in the PERTH area.
	0930 "	Call on Station Commander.
	1000 "	Visit 25 Sqn (D.B.). Meet Sqns personnel and make preliminary inspection.
	1200 "	Lunch.
	1300 "	Visit 14 Sqn (Torpedo B.) View Sections and activities as arranged by C.O. 14 Sqn.
	1800 "	Mess
15 Sep	0830 "	View Station HQ especially Signals, Intelligence and Operations and Meteorological Sections.
	1200 "	Lunch
	1300 "	Depart for 85 Sqn (F) View activities under arrangement with C.O. 85 Sqn.
	1800 "	Mess at 85 Sqn.
16 Sep	0830 "	35 Sqn (Air Tpt) View activities under arrangements with C.O. 35 Sqn.
	1000 "	25 Sqn Detailed inspection under arrangements with C.O. 25 Sqn, including talk by I.O. on enemy and own Allied aircraft.
	1800 "	Mess
	1900 "	Depart for own units.

64

285 - 1 - 145

TELEPHONES:
CENTRAL 7188.
[redacted] 440.

/MA

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

C523.16-B
AHQ 6/20(1) 9/9/43

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

Quote in Reply 162413

HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,

Melbourne, S.C.1.

20 September. 1943.

ADV L.H.Q.

(For GIII AIR)

21 SEP 1943

5 AUST COMD A.L. SEC

Forwarded herewith is a copy of a weekly report from above Sec for your infm and any action necessary.

Alan Bourne
Lieutenant- General,
Chief of the General Staff.

P/E

ADV. L.H.Q.
REGISTRY
[illegible] SEP 1943
[illegible] RECEIVED
1943 [illegible]

Ops

TELEPHONES:
CENTRAL 7155.
MXY. 440.

/MA

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

[redacted]ote in
Reply

HEADQUARTERS.
VICTORIA BARRACKS.

162413

Melbourne, S.C.1.
September, 1945.

21 SEP 1945

ADV L.H.Q.
(For GIII AIR)

5 AUST COMD A.L. SEC

[redacted]

Forwarded herewith is a copy of a weekly report from above Sec for your infm and any action necessary.

Lieutenant- General,
Chief of the General Staff.

APPX I.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

1 AUST ARMD DIV.

Adv HQ
1 Aust Armd Div.

G. Circular No. 124.

Subject:- VISIT OF RAAF OFFRS TO 1 AUST ARMD DIV.

1. To further mutual understanding and exchange of knowledge between pers of the two services, visits between RAAF and formations of 3 Aust Corps have been approved.

2. The first of these visits will be made by one ALO and two RAAF Flying Offrs to 1 Aust Armd Div 6 Sep 43. It is desired that the visiting offrs have an opportunity of seeing the activities of the units visited, and much of interest and infm regarding the nature and function of this div.

3. Itinerary will be as follows:-

6 Sep	1200 hrs.	arrive HQ 1 Aust Armd Div.
	1230 "	Mess. Adv HQ 1 Aust Armd Div.
	1400 "	arrive 2/1 Aust Armd Tps W/Shops
	1600 "	depart for 2/11 Aust Armd C Regt
	1215 "	Mess. 2/11 Aust Armd C Regt.
7 Sep	Day	2/11 Aust Armd C Regt. View of activities under arrangements Adm Comd 2/11 Aust Armd C Regt.
	1700	depart for 3 Aust Mot Bde
	1815	Mess 3 Aust Mot Bde.
8 Sep	Morning	view activities of 3 Aust Mot Bde under Bde arrangements.
	1230	Mess 3 Aust Mot Bde.
	1400	depart for HQ RAA 1 Aust Armd Div
	1430	view activities of RAA 1 Aust Armd Div
	1815	Mess HQ RAA.
9 Sep	0900	Depart HQ RAA
	1045	Arrive Div Trg Centre
	1145	depart for HQ 1 Aust Armd Bde.
	1210	arrive HQ 1 Aust Armd Bde.
	1230	Lunch.
1230 9 Sep/		
	1600	10 Sep view units of 1 Aust Armd Bde.

4. HQs at which the RAAF party are scheduled to stay overnight are requested to make available accommodation for 4 offrs.

(signed) L.G. [illegible] Cpt for Lt.-Col.
GS 1 Aust Armd Div.

5 Sep 43.

Distribution:-
2/11 Aust Armd C Regt
1 Aust Armd Bde (3)
3 Aust Mot Bde (3)
RAA
"G" (3) &c.
AAGHQ
CRME
Div Trg Centre
Spares (3)

COPY/MA

SECRET

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND.

5 AUST. COLD. A.L. SEC (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
12 Sep '43.

43/AL 2/16

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 14 - Week Ended 11 Sep '43.

PART 'A'.

Capt. H.D. KOLBRIG, of this Section, had not visited any of the A.O.Bs from which Sqns based on PEARCE work, e.g., airfields at ALBANY, BUSSELTON and GERALDTON.

On Wednesday, 8 Sep, he left PEARCE in a Beaufort, spend the night At BUSSELTON and continued the next morning in the Beaufort on a patrol which should have ended about 1600 hrs at PEARCE. The last radio from the aircraft was at 1430 hrs. Fine weather, with a visibility of 20 miles prevailed during Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9-10-11 Sep. Catalinas, Beauforts and Vengeances searched during daylight on Friday and Saturday from GERALDTON to ALBANY, from the coast to 200 miles to seaward, each aircraft searchling a lane averaging 7½ miles wide. A night search was also made. On sunday, 12 Sep, the weather deteriorated, with low cloud, driving rain squalls and strong N.W. winds. Little hope now exists for the safety of the crew.

Capt. KOLBIG joined this Unit on 21 Jul '43 . He had served in the M.E. and in N.G., where had had flown in many operational sorties. He had married an Adelaide firl during his A.R.L. in July '43, whilst en route from Queensland to Western Australia. During his seven weeks' service in the Section, he had impressed me with his absolute reliability, sound judgement and knowledge of air liaison work. His pleasant personality had made hime very popular in this R.A.A.F. Mess. Capt. KOLBIG's death, which now must be presumed, is a blow to this Section, and to air liaison in 3 Aust Corps area, and intensifies the shortage of A.L.Cs. referred to previously as preventing the allotment of A.L. Secs to Sqns.

Personal effects and it are being dealt with in accordance with G.R.O. 178/42(5)

PART 'B'

Drogue shooting by Hy A/A successful morning and afternoon 6 Sep. Similar sortie for Lt A/A on 8 Sep abandoned owing to low cloud when half completed.

On 9 Sep a Tiger Moth flew morning and afternoon, training instrument operators of S.L.s and A/A Btys.

S.L. night flying has NOT been provided during the week, owing to shortage of crews in 14 Sqn.

PART 'C'

(1) Reference is made to Weekly Report No. 13 Part 'C' para (1) regarding the refusal by C.C.R.A. staff of permission for Maj. HAWKINS, G.I. School of Arty to visit PEARCE. Representations made to C.C.R.A. by Maj. ADAIR secured permission for Maj. HAWKINS and Capt. FITZHARDINGE to make a visit, which has now been fixed for Thursday, 16 Sep.

(2) The visit by pilots of 25 Sqn to 1 Aust Armd Div, also referred to in last week's report, was most successful. The itinerary provided by Div is attached as Appx. I.

(3) The return visit by officers and sergeants of 1 Aust Armd Div takes place from 14 to 16 Sep. Attached as Appx. II. is a copy of this Section's request to 3 Aust Corps for limited permission to fly.

Copps H.Q. on 12 Sep advised this Section by telephone that, for reasons which could not be given by telephone, approval to fly was refused, for this visit at least.

Comment is inadvisable - and superfluous.

PART 'D'

It is respectfully requested that an interim reply is given to my D.O. letter of 9 Aug. '45.

(Sgd) F.L.ADAIR Maj.
Comdg. 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec (AIF)

APPX. II

COPY/Ma

SECRET.

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF)

43-AL 1-6

AUSTRALIA,
11 Sep '43.

Headquarters
3 Aust Corps (AIF)

INTER-SERVICE VISITS

(1) It is desired to refer to 3 Aust Corps Memo G 45/8/4 of 30 Aug '43, and to report that the first visit, by F/Os NASH and LEE of 25 Sqn, to 1 Aust Armd Div, from 6 to 10 Sep, was most successful. Maj. ADAIR, commanding this Section, accompanied the R.A.A.F. party, which was guided by Capt. TRUMBLE. L.O. of 1 Aust Armd Div.

(2) A return visit is to be made by officers and N.C.Os. of 1 Aust. Armd Div from 14 to 16 Sep, their names being as follows:-

WX33466	Capt ROBERTSON J.M. 3 Fd Regt.
NX70753	" CRAIG R.S. H.Q. 1 Aust Armd Bde.
NX34674	" SWAN 2/11 Aust Armd Car Regt.
NX32846	Lieut. CARRUTHERS D. Adv H.Q. 1 Aust Armd Bde.
QX31798	Sgt. COOPER G.W. H.Q. 1 Aust Armd Bde.
--	Sgt. MUND M.H H.Q. 3 Aust Motor Bde.

(3) (a) In accordance with para (5) of 3 Aust Corps memo referred to above, permission is requested for each of the above named personnel to make a maximum of two (2) flights in the period 14-16 Sep. This would permit one flight with each operational Sqn at PEARCE.

(b) At least one of these flights would be over the area of 1 Aust Armd Div.

(c) No flight would be to seaward.

(4) It is desired to emphasise that keen disappointment will be felt by pilots if they are not enabled to return in kind the treatment extended to them by the Army. They travelled in and fired from the tanks and armoured cars, and the value of the visit to PEARCE will be enhanced if the approval requested above is granted.

(5) HQ 1 Aust Armd Div concurs in this request.

(Sgd) S.H. ADAIR.....Maj.
Comdg, 5 Aust Command Air Liaison Sec (AIF)

TELEPHONES
CENTRAL 7185
MX 5161

L.H.Q.
CHIEF 1943

G523.16 B
11/9

MO6(a)/PC.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MILITARY BOARD
(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

Quote in 155682
Reply

ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
Melbourne, S.C.1,

10 September, 1943.

ADV. LEC.
(For G III Air).

5 AUST CORD A.L. SEC.

Forwarded for your information and necessary action is a copy of a weekly report from the above Sec.

Alan Bourne
Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

ADV. HQ
REGISTRY
11 SEP 1943
TIME RECEIVED
1900 HOURS

MO6(a)/PC.

//////////////////////////////

10 September, 1945.

ADV. LHQ.
(For G III Air).

5 AUST COMD A.L. SEC.

Forwarded for your information and necessary action is a copy of a weekly report from the above Sec.

Alan Bourne
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

(COPY)

SECRET.

285/1/145.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - WESTERN COMMAND.

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF).
AUSTRALIA.

43/12/15.

4 Sep 43.

LHQ (MO 6).
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 13 - Week Ended 4 Sep 43.

PART 'A'

Nil.

PART 'B'

1. Omitted from Report No. 12 was an account of the demonstration, on 25 Sep, of bombing and ground strafing tactical targets. This was successfully carried out by six Beauforts in high and low level attack followed by front and rear gun shooting; two Vultee Vengeances dive bombing, and five Boomerangs firing cannon and machine guns. Sixty-four 250 lb. G.P. bombs were dropped, fuses comprising instantaneous, 1 sec delay, and extension rod (for fragmentation above ground).

2. Approx two hundred persons, mainly army officers, watched the demonstration and afterwards inspected the targets, consisting of a dummy tank made of armour plate for cannon fire, brushwood huts containing drums of a petrol-tar mixture, for incendiary bullets, a sandbagged Bofors position for dive-bombing with G.P., and high level formation stick-bombing. Both G.P. instantaneous and extension rod fusing were used in this. The low level bombing was by individual attacks on a field artillery troop position by six Beauforts using 250 lbs. G.P. bombs with 1 sec delay fusing.

3. The outstanding lesson for army personnel was that troops in prepared positions have little to fear from air bombing, while cannon and M.G. fire from the air, while more dangerous, is of very limited duration. M.G. fire from the air, while more dangerous, is of very limited duration.

4. S.L. Co-operation was carried out by 14 Son on the night of 2 Sep.

PART 'C'

1. The visit of the C.I. of the School of Arty to PEARCE to talk on aspects of Arty-Air Co-op in the M.E., referred to in the last Report was NOT carried out, Corps refusing him permission, holding that the Corps artillery A.L.O. was the proper person to make the visit. Apparently C.C.R.A. Staff did not appreciate that the whole purpose of the visit was a first-hand account operations. In any case, the arty A.L.O. was a

N S W

2. Thirty V.D.C. A/A S.L. personnel visited PEARCE on 29 Aug. On 1 Sep seventeen A.W.A.S. S.L. crew personnel also were shown around the aircraft.

3. On 4 Sep Maj. PERRY, acting G.S.O. (1) 1 Aust. Arm Div visited the Section to discuss final details for the visit of RAAF officers to that Formation on 6 Sep.

4. 3 Aust Corps accepted the proposal as submitted by this Section, and attached as an appendix is Corps memo to Formations. Particular attention is invited to para 5 thereof.

5. Capt. KOLBIG of this Section, until recently with 1 Aust A.L. Sec states that in First Aust Army area such restrictions as A.L.Os seeking specific approval from Corps to visit Formations and units under command, do NOT exist, and that, in an escorted visit to a RAAF Sqn, a flight would be normal courtesy extended by the Sqn. It is proposed to ask Corps to give specific permission to each Army officer visiting PEARCE under this scheme, when the names of the visitors are available.

PART 'D'

1. It is understood that Sections or (A.L.Os) in New Guinea A.L. Gp have a weekly conference. Obviously this would not be possible in AUSTRALIA, owing to distances involved, but the value would be considerable. It is felt that if ideas were pooled among Sections all would benefit. As it is, one feels that one is possibly missing-out on something which would be valuable.

2. Is there a solution to this problem? Possibly MO6 might embody any worthwhile idea arising from all weekly reports in a monthly circular letter to Sections.

3. Reference is invited to Weekly Reports Nos. 8 and 11 Part 'D', also D.O. letter dated 9 Aug '43.

(SGD.) J.H. ADAIR
Major.
Comd. 5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF).

Appx. to 5 Aust Comd AL Sec Report No.13
of 4 Sep 43.

SECRET.

30 Aug.'43.

1 Aust Armd Div
2 Aust Div.

INTER SERVICE VISITS.

1. To further mutual understanding and knowledge between personnel of the two services, G.O.C. 3 Aust Corps and A.O.C. Western Area RAAF have approved in principle of a series of inter service visits.

2. Visits by Army personnel will be to RAAF operational Station PEARCE, and by RAAF personnel to 1 Aust Armd Div and 2 Aust Div.

3. Formations will consider the suggested initial programme outlined below, indicating its acceptability or otherwise NOT later than 3 Sep '43.

4. Responsibility for detailed arrangements of visits is delegated to C.O. 5 Aust Comd Liaison Section stationed at PEARCE, who will contact Formations at an early date.

5. It should be noted that Army personnel visiting RAAF Stations under this arrangement are NOT authorised to fly without special approval of H.Q. 3 Aust Corps.

6. SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.

6 - 10 Sep. One A.L.O. and two Air Crew personnel RAAF to visit 1 Aust Armd Div and any unit in that formation.

14 - 16 Sep. Two to four officers from 1 Aust Armd Div to visit PEARCE. Two senior N.C.Os might profitably be added, these to live in the Sergeants' mess and associate with Sgt. Pilots and Observers. This should be of value to Intelligence Sergeants.

20 - 24 Sep. Visit to be paid to 2 Aust Div as for 1 Aust Armd Div.

28 - 29 Sep. Visit to be paid by 2 Aust Div representatives to PEARCE as for 1 Aust Armd Div.

_____ Brig
GS 3 Aust Corps.

COPIES TO: RAAF 5 Aust Comd Liaison Section
DA & QMG.

285/1/145
G523·16-B
- 7 SEP 1943

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

M06(a)/NM.

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

Quote in Reply

HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
Melbourne, S.C.1,

155182

6 September, 1943.

Adv LHQ
(For GIII Air)

5 AUST COMD A.L. SECTION

1. Forwarded for your retention is a copy of a report from 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec.

2. When replying please advise this Sec to send all reports to you.

Alan Bourne
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

TIME RECEIVED
190 HOURS

285/1/145

M06(a)/EM.

- 7 SEP 1943

153182

6 September, 1943.

Adv LHQ
(For GIII Air)

5 AUST CORPS A.L. SECTION

1. Forwarded for your retention is a copy of a report from 5 Aust Corps A.L. Sec.

2. When replying please advise this Sec to send all reports to you.

Alan Bourne
Lt
Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

Telephone No.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA

A.D.V. L.H.Q.
G523.16B

Please quote this Number when replying

43	AL2	21

5 Aust. Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
16 Oct '43.

SECRET

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 19 - Week Ended 16 Oct '43.

PART 'A'

Normal Section training was carried out, including P.T. parades for one and a half hours per day.

PART 'B'

On Monday, 11 Oct '43, Major ADAIR accompanied by 85 Sqn pilots, visited 3 Aust Corps School of Arty where an exercise was being held.

An Arty-Air School was carried out by 85 Sqn (Boomerang) on a miniature range on Thes 12 Oct '43.

On both the morning and afternoon of 14 Oct training for A/A Instrument Operators was carried out.

A successful air shoot was carried out by two Boomerangs at the Rockingham Arty Range on 15 Oct '43.

The Searchlight Co-op exercises for this week had to be cancelled owing to shortage of air-crews and unavailability of aircraft.

PART 'C'

On Sunday, 10 Oct a visit to 85 Sqn was paid by Major ADAIR to discuss future training programmes.

PART 'D'

Nil.

.....Major.
Comd. 5 Aust. Comd Air Liaison Sec (AIF)

43 · AL 2 22

5 Aust Cond Air Liaison Section (AIF)
ANGOLLA.
25 Oct '43.

Adv. H.Q.
BRISBANE.

SECRET

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 20 - Week Ended 23 Oct '43.

PART 'A'

Lectures were given by the clerks of this Section on their duties.

PART 'B'

My A/A shoots at drogue targets towed by 85 Sqn were successfully carried out on 19, 18 and 20 Oct.

On 18 Oct '43, Major ADAIR flew to LOORA in a Fox Moth to arrange an exercise with 2/11 Aust Armd C Regt in co-operation with 25 Sqn (D.B.)

The exercise took place in the DARLINGDARE area on 20 Oct and consisted of three sorties, Contact R, Tac R and Photo R at dawn, 1100 hrs and 1500 hrs.

The C.O, 2/11 Aust Armd C Regt has since written and expressed his appreciation and remarked that troops under his command benefited immensely by the exercise.

On both the morning and afternoon of 21 Oct '43, training for A/A Instrument Operators was carried out by 85 Sqn.

PART 'C'

On 19 Oct Lieut BARNETT lectured air crew personnel of 85 Sqn on the organization, equipment and tactics of an Aust Inf Div.

On 21 Oct, Major ADAIR attended the weekly 'G' conference at 3 Aust Corps H.Q. He was also present at a conference with C.O. and Os.C. A/A and S/L Ptys and F.S. Controller, held at A/A Gp H.Q.

On 21 Oct '43 he was asked by the G.O.C's aide-de-camp to make an appointment to see the G.O.C. 3 Aust Corps. This interview took place on 23 Oct, and, as a result, it is hoped that the G.O.C. no longer regards the attitude of the R.A.A.F. in N.A. as generally non-cooperative.

PART 'D'

Nil.

J. H. Adair

. . . . . Major
Cond. 5 Aust Cond Air Liaison Sec (AIF)

Headquarters Western Command
B 8130
B 3140
B 3143 (7 lines)
B 3171 (5 lines)
For Branches and Drill Halls see Department of Army in Telephone Directory.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES—WESTERN COMMAND

Please quote this Number when replying

[redacted]	AL 2	23

SECRET

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
1 Nov '43

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No 21 - Week Ended 30 Oct '43.

Part 'A'

Normal Section training was continued.

Part 'B'

On the morning and afternoon of 27 Oct, a lt A/A drogue shoot was carried out.

Part 'C'

On the 26 Oct '43 the weekly lecture to 85 Sqn pilots was given by Lieut BARNETT and dealt with the organization and equipment of a U.S. Inf Div, and organization and equipment of a Jap Div and Task Force.
Major ADAIR attended the Weekly 'G' conference at 3 Aust Corps H.Q. on 28 Oct 43.

Part 'D'
Nil

J. A. Adair
Major
Comd. 5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Sec(AIF)

SECRET.

9 AUST DIV — OCTOBER 1943

SORTIES AS CARRIED OUT BY 4 AC SQN RAAF - NADZAB

DATE.	SORTIE.	NATURE OF SORTIE.	FLYING TI.
1	1	TAC/R 20 BDE AREA.	1hr. 32mins.
2	1	" OF TAMAI IS. GROUP.	2hrs 30mins.
	2	" 20 BDE AREA.	2 " 25 "
4	3	" NORTHERN BDE AREA.	2 " 30 "
5	1	" NORTH OF SONG RIVER.	2 " 35 "
	2	" SATTELBERG-WAREO-BONGA.	2 " 35 "
6	1	" SATTELBERG-WAREO-BONGA.	2 " 35 "
9	2	" SATTELBERG AREA.	2 " 45 "
10	2	" SATTELBERG AREA.	2 " 35 "
	4	" SATTELBERG AREA.	1 " 55 "
11	1	" SIMBONG ALONG MAPE RIVER.	3 " 00 "
12	2	" BONGA-WARO RIVER.	2 " 50 "
13 X	1	" BONGA-LAKOIA AREA.	3 " 00 "
14 X	2	" WAREO-SATTELBERG TO KALASA.	2 " 35 "
15	1	" BONGA-LAKOIA AREA.	3 " 00 "
	2	" KUMAWA-LORING AREAS.	2 " 30 "
		SATTELBERG-FIOR-MASANGKOO-WARUO AREAS.	2 " 35 "
	3	" BONGA TO FORTIFICATION POINT.	2 " 55 "
16	1	" SATTELBERG-WARO-SONG RIVER.	2 " 45 "
	2	" KHULBUNG TO TIRIDORO.	2 " 40 "
	3	" COASTAL AREAS TO SIO.	3 " 20 "
	4	" COASTAL AREAS BONGA TO SIO.	2 " 25 "
		ARTY/R.	
1	2	ARTY/R REGISTER PALAKO VILLAGE. 569682	2 " 30 "
10	1	" WARO-SATTELBERG-WARUO R.	2 " 50 "
11	3	" 20 BDE AREA.	3 " 00 "
12	1	" TIRIDORO VILLAGE AREA.	3 " 00 "
13	2	" MASANGKOO-KORLING-KHULBUNG.	2 " 35 "
14	1	" PALAKO-MASANGKOO.	3 " 00 "
		PHOTO/R	
9	1	PHOTO/R SATTELBERG AREA (U/S).	1 " 57 "
10	3	" SATTELBERG AREA (U/S).	2 " 30 "
11	2	" SATTELBERG AREA. (U/S).	2 " 00 "
		MESSAGE/DROP.	
6	2	MESSAGE/DROP 20 BDE & 9 DIV H.Q's.	1 " 35 "
4	1	MESSAGE/DROP) ON TPS JIVARO. & SUPPLY/DROP)	3 " 24 "
		TAC/R.	
17	1	TAC/R COASTAL TRACK BONGA TO KHLORO. HDRS	3 " 00 "
	2	" COASTAL AREA SIO TO BONGA	3 " 30 "
	3	" SATTELBERG-WARO-SONG RIVER AREA.	2 " 45 "
	4	" KOLGI R.-QUELBUNG-TIRIDORO.	2 " 45 "
18	1	" ENEMY CONCENTRATIONS ALONG LINE OF JAP ADVANCE TO SCARLET BEACH.	3 " 00 "
	2	" SONG R. VALLEY AREA.	2 " 30 "
19	1	" SONG R. VALLEY AREA.	2 " 40 "
	2	" CARRY OUT TASKS DETAILED BY CHARLIE.	2 " 45 "
	3	" NORTH TO NADZAB POINT & INLAND TO PALAKO & WARO.	2 " 30 "
21	1	" SATTELBERG MASANGKOO TO SCARLET BCH2	" 55 "
22	1	" SATTELBERG MASANGKOO TO SCARLET BCH2	" 50 "
	2	" SATTELBERG WARUO ROAD TO TIRIDORO.	2 " 00 "
23	1	" ENEMY SUPPLY LINES DUMP AREAS WARO SIAUA.	2 " 50 "
	2	" SUSPECTED JAP MOVEMENT WARING TO SOR.	2 " 50 "
	3	" TRACKS INLAND NORTH WEST WARO. SEARCH AREA.	2 " 25 "

D.O.M.	SORTIE.		NATURE OF SORTIE.	FLYING TIME.
24	1	T.C/R.	ICCAM PARACHUTES DROPPED BY MEDM A/C.	2 hrs 10 mins
	2	"	MEDM MOVEMENT MARLO R.G.MALLI MARINGKAI.	2 " 55 "
25	1	"	SUSPECTED MEDM. MOVEMENT TAKOL BONGA MARMO.	2 " 30 "
	2	"	ARUA BONG RIVER TO SATELBERG & HEIDSBACH ROAD.	2 " 15 "
26 X	1	"	ARUA BATTLE BONG R. & HEIDSBACH SATELBERG.	2 " 40 "
28 X	1	"	SQUARE 6168.	2 " 50 "
29	1	"	COAST FROM BONGA TO MAID BAY TRACK BONGA TO BLUCHER POINT.	2 " 55 "
30 X	1	"	PILLBOX IN BONGA VILLAGE.	2 " 45 "
	2	"	REPORTED JAP CONCENTRATIONS SATELBERG AREA.	1 " 50 "

X DENOTES COMBINED ARTY AND TAC/R.

CONTACT R's.

3	1	CON/R	LANDING BEACH IS. GROUP	2 " 30 "
20	1	"	AREAS SQS 6168, 6268, 6370,	2 " 50 "
	2	"	TROOPS SQS " " "	2 " 25 "
21	1	"	TROOPS 629687. DROP MESSAGE AREA.	2 " 10 "

SUPPLY DROPPING.

19	1	S/D	9 DIV HQ-300 LIPS 1/25,000 series.	2 " 30 "
21	1	"	..SP's ON 9 DIV HQ.	2 " 30 "
20	1	"	..SP's FOR 9 DIV.	2 " 30 "
24	1	"	..SP's AND PHOTOGRAPHS.	2 " 55 "
29	1	"	DELIVER SUPPLIES TO 9 DIV FINSCHHAFEN.	2 " 00 "
30	1	"	DELIVER LIPS TO 9 DIV FINSCHHAFEN.	1 " 30 "

PHOTOGRAPHIC MISSIONS.

10	FINSCH 2/10	SATELBERG AREA.	66 Exps.	
11	FINSCH 3/12	SATELBERG AREA.	46 "	
23	FINSCH 4/15	SATELBERG AREA.	87 "	2 hrs 30 mins

INTELLIGENCE REGISTRATIONS CARRIED OUT BY 4 A/C SQN FOR 9 AUST DIV DURING OCTOBER 1943.

Target No.	Target.	Ref.	Sheet.	Date.	Time.
SUGAR 47	PALANKO VILLAGE	598682	LANGEMAK BAY	1/10	1515
50	BONGA VILLAGE		SATELBERG	4/10	1745
55	VILLAGE	3.6071	LANGEMAK R. 1"	5/10	1615
56	MARMO VILLAGE	586635	"	10/10	0810
57	UNNAMED VILLAGE	570725	"	10/10	0830
58	W/T STATION	598678	"	10/10	0855
59	BARRUO TRACK	540674	"	10/10	0915
60	HUT ON SPUR	551675	SATELBERG	11/10	1520
61	KIRILORO	593587	"	12/10	0830
62	NATIVE VILLAGES	597705	LANGEMAK R.	12/10	0850
63	NATIVE VILLAGE	606703	"	12/10	0905
64	FIOR VILLAGE		SATELBERG	13/10	0910
65	ILAMOKOO VILLAGE	549706	LANGEMAK R.	13/10	0930
66	RIDGE	634575	"	13/10	1520
67	VILLAGE	595968	SATELBERG	13/10	1550
68	HEIDT POINT	648765	LANGEMAK R.	14/10	0810
69	TRACK	590680	SATELBERG	14/10	1450
71	FIOR-PALANKO TRACK	599690	"	21/10	1150
72	FEATURE 2600'	579681	"	21/10	1200
73	ROAD JUNCTION	585666	"	21/10	1220
74	BRIDGE BONG R.	570708	"	22/10	1420
75	CHANEL TRACK	585667	"	23/10	1600
76	SUSPECTED BIVOUAC AREA	590672	"	23/10	1640
77	VILLAGE	547690	"	23/10	1700
78	COCONUTS	593681	"	24/10	1145
79	VILLAGE	599674	"	26/10	1535
80	TRACK JUNCTION	613684	"	28/10	0835
81	TRACK JUNCTION	605732	LANGEMAK R.	29/10	1145

Target No.	Target.	Ref.	Sheet.	Date.	Time.
82	TRACK JUNCTION	590728	MASAWENG R.	29/10	1800
83	BANANA GROVE	623702	SATELBERG	30/10	1010
84	SOUTH EDGE COCONUTS	654735	MASAWENG R.	30/10	1620
85	NORTH EDGE COCONUTS	652738	"	30/10	1640
86	KUMAI	655729	"	30/10	1655
87	TRACK	654720	"	30/10	1705
88	KUMAI	650717	"	30/10	1715
89	KUMAI	650710	"	30/10	1725
90	FOXHOLES TRACK JUNCTION	648730	"	30/10	1745

L.Y. Bowring

A.L.O. 45 AUST A.L. SECTION (AC)

Please quote this Number when replying
43 | AL 2 | 20

ADV. H.Q.
REGISTRY
15 OCT 1943
TIME RECEIVED
HOURS

L.1
C 523/10/23

Australian Military Forces—Western Command.

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Section (AIR)
AUSTRALIA.
10 Oct '43.

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 18 - Week Ended 9 Oct '43.

PART 'A'.

For information of Adv L.H.Q., it is desired to repeat the preamble to Report No. 1, addressed to L.H.Q. on 16 June last.

"This is the first of a series of Weekly Reports, each of which will consist of four parts, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'.

Part 'A' will be general, and will comprise subjects not appropriate for inclusion in 'B', 'C' or 'D'.

Part 'B' will deal with exercises completed and/or planned, with comments.

Part 'C' will refer to liaison contacts made, visits to units, lectures, etc.

Part 'D' will consist of recommendations or requests to Adv L.H.Q.

It will be realized that frequently one or more parts will return a 'nil' report ".

PART 'B'.

Two Instrument Operators' Exercises were carried out on Sunday, 3 Oct, but two scheduled for Thursday were cancelled owing to bad weather and lack of aircraft.

Searchlight practices were resumed on Tuesday 5 Oct, after a long period of inactivity owing to lack of aircrews. This position is considerably improved, and it is considered likely that the exercises will be back to the normal twice-weekly practices in the near future, and one per week is being held in the meantime.

PART 'C'.

Attached is a Syllabus of Training for 85 (Boomerang) Sqn, based at GUILDFORD Airfield. Attention is invited to the subject dealt with in the period under review. To date, the programme has been adhered to, and keen interest evinced by the pilots.

The C.O., having met Lieut-Col BINNIE, M.C., GSO 1 (Air) L.H.Q., in PERTH on the previous day, brought him out to PEARCE for a few hours on Sunday, 3 Oct. He was able to clear up some doubts and misconceptions held as to L.H.Q. SF 18355 of 20 Jul, i.e., it is now understood that the aforementioned memo was intended as an instruction to be acted on forthwith. This will be done when the necessary personnel and transport are available. In this regard please see Part 'D' following.

PART 'D'.

This Section holds, surplus to Establishment, one Car D.S. During the month of Sep it did over 1400 miles, notwithstanding that, when it was at the L.A.D. for overhaul, the 15 cwt utility was used on a 600 mile trip to and from GERALDTON, carrying aircrews.

Thus it will be seen that it is our most useful and economical vehicle. Col BINNIE expressed the opinion that it should be on the W.E. of the Comd Sec.

P/A 10

Unfortunately, a recently issued L.H.Q. Instruction requires all Cars D.S. surplus to W.E. to be returned by 15 Oct. This will hamper the activities of the Section considerably.

REQUESTED.:- Could it be arranged urgently, please, by means of an L.H.Q. signal to 3 Aust Corps, that this L.H.Q. unit be allotted either a Car D.S. or a Car Utility 6 Seater, in anticipation of W.E.

J. D. Adams

. . . . . Maj.
Comdg, 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec (AIF)

5 AUST COMD A.L. SEC - 1943.

Training Programme - Army Co-op - 85 Sqn.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
SERIAL	DATE	TIME	TYPE	SUBJECT	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR	REMARKS
1	28 Sep '43	1330-1530	Lecture,demo and exercise	Military Map Reading	Dunreath	Maj.ADAIR (ALO)	Mainly grid reference systems.Precis notes supplied,as in all following lectures.
2	1 Oct '43	1030-2330	Demonstration	Fd Arty Shoot Full Calibre	Arty Range-York	C.I.School of Arty. (Maj.HAWKINS)	Ref col (3),times are departure and return at Sqn.Tpt,ALO's car.Up to 4 pilots may attend,if available.Meals provided by School of Arty.
3	5 Oct.	1330-1530	Lecture,demo and exercise	Air-shoot procedure (Arty)	Dunreath	Capt COVENTRY (Arty-Air L.O.)	Blob-stick exercise on miniature Range (Sand Model)
4	11 Oct.	0800-2200	Ditto	"	Northam School of Arty.	C.I. (Maj.HAWKINS)	Ref col (3),times given are those of departure and return at Sqn.Tpt provided for up to 4 pilots.Meals provided at School of Arty.
5	12 Oct.	AS	FOR	SERIAL 3			
6	15 Oct.	1000-1100	Exercise (---)	Air shoot (Actual)	Ref Map YORK 1" to 1 mile. Targets vicinity sq.0468	Briefed by Capt. COVENTRY	2 a/c employed.1 pilot selects target,directs fire.On completion,other pilot selects another target and directs fire. (i.e.both impromptu shoots).On completion,both a/c return to base.Ground strip signals if radio fails.Pilots to carry Forms A55 & message dropping bags for use if needed.(If "HR"method used)
7	19 Oct.	1330-1530	Lecture	Organisation & Equipt.Australian Army.	Dunreath	Lt.BARNETT (ALO)	Precis notes supplied.
8	26 Oct.	"	"	Ditto,U.S.Army " Japanese	"	"	"

Forms ... Command } B 3147 (4 lines).
Ordnance Officer M] 100.
For ... Branches and Drill Halls see "Department of Defence in Telephone Directory."

G523.16B

Australian Military Forces—Western Command

Please quote this Number when replying

43	AL 2	19

5 Aust. Comd. Air Liaison Section (AIF)
[illegible]
Oct '43.

SECRET

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 17 - Week Ended 2 Oct '43.

PART 'A'

It is proposed to attach officers from formations and units under 3 Aust. Corps (AIF) to this Section in order to (a) give them experience in Air Force matters, (b) select by trial, officers suitable for further training as A.L.Os, and (c) use their services to ease the difficult position now existing in the Section due to shortage of A.L.Os.

PART 'B'

A heavy A/A drogue shoot was carried out on both the morning and afternoon of Wed 29 Sep '43 by 35 Sqn.

Training for instrument operators was successfully carried out on both morning and afternoon of Wed 29 Sep with 35 Sqn co-operating.

Training for instrument operators was again carried out on both morning and afternoon of Thurs Sep 30 '43 with 35 Sqn co-operating.

PART 'C'

Representatives of 2 Aust. Div visited PEARCE from 27 - 30 Sep G.O.C. 3 Aust. Corps/permission for them to fly in service aircraft, thus enhancing the interest in and value of the visit. Attached hereto is a letter and itinerary which covers the details of the visit.

R.A.A.F. H.Q. Western Area approved a suggestion from this Section that 85 (F) Sqn be given a course of instruction in Army Co-op duties. A programme has been drawn up, providing for two hours lectures per week, plus exercises. The first lecture, military map reading, was given on 26 Sep, to a full muster of pilots.

On 1 Oct, three pilots were taken to an all-day shoot at the School of Arty, [illegible]. This will be followed by a course of instruction in air shoot procedure, on miniature range, first at the Sqn on 5 Oct, again at the School of Arty (3 pilots) on 11 Oct. Finally, two aircraft will conduct an airshoot on 15 Oct '43.

PART 'D'

NIL.

[signature]

.....Major.
Comd. 5 Aust. Comd. A.L. Sec (AIF)

ADV. LHQ.
RECD. REGISTRY
8 OCT 1943
TIME RECEIVED
1440 HOURS

Telephone No.

A.D.V. L.H.Q. S 523.16 B

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA

Please quote this Number when replying

43	AIR2	1128

Adv. [illegible]

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Sec (AIR) 6/2
AUSTRALIA.
3 Dec '43.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 25 - Week Ended 27 Nov '43.

PART 'A'.

Capt. W.S. HANSON was posted to 52 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec from 46 Aust A.L. Sec (AC) vide L.H.Q. Signal MS64175 of 23 Oct '43. He has not yet arrived, although nearly six weeks have elapsed. Allowing 14 days travelling time and 24 days ANL, it is hoped that he will arrive within the next few days, thus permitting the C.O. Comd Sec to commence ANL on 15 Dec.

PART 'B'.

Both Hy and Lt A/A drogue shoots have been successful during the week. All drogues used for arty have now been dyed red, resulting in much better visibility on sunny days.

Searchlight exercises were missed this week owing to no aircraft being available.

Pilots of 85 Sqn (Boomerangs) were instructed in Tac/R methods at the weekly lecture to that unit.

PART 'C'.

G111 (Air) and Major ADAIR will visit 3 Aust Corps School (JW) near COLLIE on 29 Nov to arrange final details of close support exercise for 4 Dec, 25 Sqn (D.B.) co-operating. As the Sqn will be launching its second attack from A.D.F. BUSSELTON, Maj ADAIR is travelling by the 15 cwt utility to the A.D.F. on 3 Dec for briefing, interrogation and later conference with the ground troops. The round trip will total more than 300 road miles, but there is no alternative, air transport not being available at that date.

The weekly 'G' conference at H.Q. 3 Aust Corps was attended by the C.O. Comd Sec.

PART 'D'.

D/O Letter of 23 Nov '43 is acknowledged and appreciation expressed at efforts made to obtain suitable transport for this Section. Apparently this must wait until the new W.E. for Sections on the Australian Mainland comes out. It is understood that this will provide for a more suitable type of vehicle.

Maj.
Comd, 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec (AIR)

Telephone No.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA

V.

G 523.16 B

Please quote this Number when replying

43	AL 2	26

3 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIR) 2/6
22 Nov 43.

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ADV. LHQ. REGISTRY
27 NOV 1943
TIME RECEIVED
1150 HOURS

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No 24 - Week Ended 20 Nov 43.

PART 'A'

Nil

PART 'B'

1. On the morning of 14 Nov '43, a hvy A/A drogue shoot was conducted for the W.A.C.
2. 17 Nov '43. A hvy A/A shoot was conducted in the morning and one Lt A/A shoot in the afternoon.
3. Members of 87 Sqn carried out air shoots in conjunction with the School of Arty. Three sorties were used in this and included one A/A procedure method. Six pilots witnessed the shoots and considerable benefit was obtained by them from the constructive criticisms given by the CCRA, 3 Aust Corps and CI of School of Arty.

PART 'C'

4. 16 Nov '43. The C.O. of this Section, A/C [illegible] and the C.O. 25 Sqn, S/L SHARPE, flew to CCRA to attend a conference with 3 1 2 Aust Div and the C.O. 2/11 Aust Armd C Regt with a view to planning future exercises. A copy of the proposed programme agreed upon is submitted to 3 Aust Corps and H.Q. Western Area is enclosed as Appx 'A'.
5. 18 Nov '43. Maj Adv H attended the weekly 'A' conference at 3 Aust Corps H.Q.
6. 20 Nov '43. Capt NICHOLAS, AII(Air) 3 Aust Corps paid a visit to this Section.

PART 'D'

Nil

.....
Major
Comd. 3 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIR)

Copy No 7

5 Aust Command Air Liaison Section (...
AUSTRALIA.
17 Nov '43.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE AT H.Q. 2 AUST DIV.

16 Nov '43.

Present:	GSO I	Lt-Col WILLIAMS	(Army)
	C.O. 2/11 Armd C Regt	Lt-Col RENNICK	(")
	C.O. 25 Sqn, R.A.A.F.	S/L SHARPE	(R.A.A.F.)
	Acting Adj " "	F/O COLEBROOK	(")
	ALO	Maj S.H. ADAIR	(Liaison)

Decisions Reached.

(1) D.B. attacks will be made by 25 Sqn, R.A.A.F, on target provided by 2/11 Armd C Regt at the following times.
(a) 021030 H Dec '43
(b) 021500 H " "
(c) 031930 H " "
Known hereafter as "Zero (a)", "Zero (B)" and "Zero (c)" respectively.

(2) Target will be a triangle with each side 30 yds length.
(3) Target location, Ref Map TARCHE 1 in to 1 mile, 617258.
(4) Own tps, fwd elements, are 500 yds North of target. Their posn forms a crescent, with tips toward target.
(5) Identification signal for own tps. 3 white smoke generators will be ignited by tps at Zero - 1 minute. These will be located one (1) at each end of their front line and one in centre of front line.
(6) (a) ETA on target will be given from base to fwd tps by W/T expressed as (b) (i) "ETA confirmed" (i.e. as given above) or
(ii) "ETA plus .....minutes" or
(iii) "ETA minus .....minutes".
(c) Frequency 3870 KCs.
(d) R.A.A.F. call sign 621 (six two one).
(e) IF R/T required, R.A.A.F. call is "KANTO"

(7) BOMBS:- One (1) practice bomb (11½ lb stannic chloride) per sortie will be dropped.
(8) Photo/R. (a) The Sqn will take a 'pinpoint' (stereo pair) prior to the exercise.
(b) A copy will be furnished to the Regt.
(9) Marking of Hits:- 2/11 Armd C Regt will report result of bombing on rough sketch for infm of 25 Sqn R.A.A.F.

.....Maj.
Comd 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

Initialled

S/L R.A.A.F.

Distribution:

	Copy No.
H.Q. 3 Aust. Corps (AIF)	1.
H.Q. Western Area	2.
H.Q. 2 Aust Div	3.
2/11 Armd C Regt	4.
25 Sqn R.A.A.F.	5.
5 Aust Comd AL Sec	6.
NO (6) ADV L.H.Q. for infm.	7. (Per Weekly Report)
File	8.

43 AL 2 25

ADV. LHQ. REGISTRY 20 NOV 1943 TIME RECEIVED 1530 HOURS

5 Aust. Cond Air Liaison Section (AIF) AUSTRALIA.-
16 Nov '43.

Adv. L.H.Q. BRISBANE.

SECRET

G523-16-

- AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 23 - Week Ended 13 Nov '43.

PART 'A'.

1. Pending modification to control column of Vultee Vengeance aircraft, 25 Sqn is grounded, and as a result the exercise planned for 18 Nov with 2/11 Aust Armd Car Regt has been postponed until 2 Dec '43.

PART 'B'

2. Section training, including P.T, carried out as usual.
3. S.L. Co-operation was given on evening 11 Nov by a Beaufort from 14 Sqn. This was the first occasion for nearly 3 months; but, as the position as to serviceability and crews has improved and better weather can be expected, it is anticipated that the regular twice-weekly programme will become normal.
The exercise arranged for 25 Sqn with the Bn doing the 3 weeks course at the 3 Aust Corps School (Jnl) at COLLIE, 13-14 Nov, has been cancelled. It is hoped to conduct the exercise with another Bn during the next course.

PART 'C'

5. 8 Nov. One of the batmen-drivers gave a lecture on M.T. returns, maintenance, discipline, etc. Each member of the Section, in turn, has given a lecture and supplied full precis notes, on his own particular job. This should be of value when they are allotted to work individually in Sqn Secs.
6. 9 Nov. Weekly lecture to pilots of 85 Sqn. Subject, Air Shoots, normal and H.E.
7. LO (2) 2 Aust Div visited PEARCE to discuss prospects of Army-Air training during coming months. It was arranged that C.O. 25 Sqn and Maj. ADAIR fly to 2 Aust Div H.Q. on 16 Nov for conference with G.1 and Unit Comds.
8. 11 Nov. C.O. attended weekly 'A' conference at 3 Aust Corps H.Q.

PART 'D'.

9. The following is a copy of a memo received from D.A.A.G, 3 Aust Corps:-

" H.Q. 5 Aust. A.L. Cond.

VX111286 Lieut(T/Capt) [illegible] - 46 Aust A.L. Sec(AC)

Approval is given in L.H.Q. Sig. [illegible] 864175 of 23 Oct '43 for the reposting of the above mentioned officer from 46 Aust A.L. Sec (AC) to 52 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec.
Movement is being arranged by the Headquarters concerned."

10. In regard to the above, it is desired to make the following submissions:-

(a) 5 Aust. Cond A.L. Sec is responsible for the administration of 52, 53 and 54 Sqn A.L. Secs.

(b) Successful liaison depends very largely on the personalities of the A.L.O. and the [illegible] Sqn Cond, each vis-a-vis the other.

(c) It would be more satisfactory if H.Q. L.H.Q. initially posted an officer to the Cond A.L. Sec concerned, for subsequent allottment to the Sqn Sec considered most suitable by the Cond A.L. Sec. HQ L.H.Q. could then be informed of the final posting, for record purposes, if so desired.

CHECKED FOR INDEXING

11. Is L.H.Q. allotting the three Sqn Secs to R.A.A.F. Sons in U.K. or is that at the discretion of the Comd A.L. Sec? The latter would give greater flexibility in comd and administration, as R.A.A.F. Sons may be transferred to other areas at short notice.

12. When an R.A.A.F. Son is so transferred, will the Son A.L. Sec move with it or is it to remain for attachment to the incoming R.A.A.F. Son.

13. Advice on these matters of policy would be appreciated.

J. W. O'Connell

.....Major.
Comd. & Aust. Comd Air Liaison Section (AIF)

CHECKED FOR INDEXING

P/P

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43 AL 2 24

5 Aust Command Air Liaison Section(AI
AUSTRALIA.
6 Nov '43

SECRET

Adv. L.H.Q.
MELBOURNE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No.22 - Week Ended 6 Nov '43.

PART 'A'

Nil

PART 'B'

On the afternoon of 1 Nov a lt A/A drogue shoot was carried out.

Two exercises were carried out on 3 Nov, the first being a lt and the second a hvy A/A drogue shoot. All drogues are towed by Fairey Battles from 35 Sqn. Major ADAIR, accompanied by eleven R.A.A.F. officers, proceeded to ROCKLAND HILL to watch the exercise, which was followed by 4 Vultee Vengeance aircraft simulating a dive bombing attack on shipping and wharves at FREMANTLE. Hvy and lt A/A batteries in the area gained experience from the exercise.

Training of A/A Instrument Operators was carried out both morning and afternoon of 4 Nov '43, the aircraft being a DH 42 from 35 Sqn.

PART 'C'

On the afternoon of 2 Nov a lecture and exercise were given by Major ADAIR on Military Map Reading to Air Crew personnel of 85 Sqn (Boomerangs).

Major ADAIR attended the weekly 'G' conference on 4 Nov, after which, together with the GIII (air), S.O. Ops, Western Area, and new C.O, 25 Sqn, he visited 3 Aust Corps Jungle Warfare School, a journey totalling 300 miles, to arrange air co-operation for the final two days of a 3 weeks' course undergone in turn by each bn in W.A.

PART 'D'

Nil

Major.
Cond. 5 Aust Cond Air Liaison Section (AIF)

Subject: 4 (AC) SQN RAAF

G 523-16 B

Headquarters
NEW GUINEA FORCE
Nov 43

G/1312/Ops

Adv LHQ

(for G (Air))

1. Forwarded herewith for information report by OC 45 Aust Sqn AL Sec attached 4 (AC) Sqn RAAF covering operations of squadron Sep - Oct 1943.

Lieut-General
Commander NEW GUINEA Force

REPORT BY O C 45 AUST AL SEC - ARMY CO-OP
4 (AC) SQN RAAF - PAPUA SEP 43.

GENERAL

This report covers Army Co-Op as carried out by 4 (AC) Sqn, RAAF. During operation "POSTMEN" period 3 Sep 43 to 17 Sep 43 inclusive. Road Maps: Area MADZAB - LAE - MOROI. Maps: 1" Series.

1. The Sqn was operationally controlled by 5 AF (JS) and placed in support of 1 AUST CORPS, with 7 and 9 AUST DIVS: Each Div alloted 4 BOOMERANGS, 1 WIRRAWAY and in reserve 2 BOOMERANGS and 1 WIRRAWAY. 5 AUST DIV were given Sorties as demands of 7 and 9 AUST DIVS permitted.

2. Requests for Sorties were passed direct from 7 and 9 AUST DIVS to ALO on Flight Commanders. All requests were met, except on two occasions when the strip was U/S due to rain. All Sorties took off on time.

3. Role of 4 (AC) Sqn.

(a) Tactical reconnaissance.
(b) Artillery Reconnaissance.
(c) Photo reconnaissance.
(d) Supply dropping - limited to emergency supplies - WIRRAWAYS.
(e) Ferry and Reconnaissance by "G" Staff Officers.
(f) Specific strafing.
(g) Indication and "Leading In" of (P39's and P40's).
(h) Naval bombardment.

4. TYPES OF AIRCRAFT.

(a) A46 - BOOMERANG CAC - Armament - 2 - 20mm Cannons, 4 -.303 M Gs, R/T Communication - 4 Crystal frequency; Capable of carrying out missions as in paragraph 3, a,b,f,g, and h.

(b) A20 - WIRRAWAY - capable of missions as in paragraphs 3, a,b,c, d,e and h. V/T or R/T communication 2 - 11 Mcs frequency range.

5. AREAS - 7 AUST DIV.

North of the MARKHAM RIVER as far as BOANA to HEADWATERS OF ERAP, BUMU AND LEMON RIVERS, MARKHAM VALLEY ROAD to KLAIPIT and East to LAE.

AREAS 9 AUST DIV.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA, North to HEADWATERS OF BUSU, MUSU, BULU, BUMU, BULU RIVERS and BOANA VILLAGE, with special attention to COAST AND TRACKS - ROAD DEVELOPMENT and HIDEOUTS ETC.

Operations of 9 AUST DIV commenced 1500 hrs 3 Sep, when Strat/R was completed along the coast from SAIDOR via FINSCHHAFEN to LAE. The full co-operation commenced at 0615 hrs 4 Sep for 7 and 9 AUST DIVS when A/c were supplied for Tac/R - Arty/R and Naval Bombardment (or shore targets) at 0630 hrs, thence as required.

6. TACTICS.

All BOOMERANG A/c operated in sections of two. Escort A/c flew 1000/1500' above mission A/c. The escort A/c remained on fighter frequency and would pass any warning to the mission A/c as necessitated (Crystal control R/T allowed for this quick operation).

7. OPERATIONAL BASE.

TSILI-TSILI Lat 6° 5½" - Long 146° 21" - Height A S L 250' approx. Situated in the LOWER WATUT VALLEY: This airfield provided excellent facility for operating BOOMERANG and WIRRAWAY A/c. This strip is approx 130 miles from Sqn Base at MOROBE, PORT MORESBY. Service by S.A.N.A. Night landing facilities.

8. APPROACH TO TARGET AREAS - BOTH 7 AND 9 AUST DIV.

Along the UPPER MAMUT VALLEY TO MARKHAM RIVER was usually accessible, and little trouble from weather was experienced. Flying time to 9 AUST DIV AREA approx 20 minutes and 9 AUST DIV AREA approx 30 minutes. A/c were always in safe distance of radio fighter control A/C for early receiving of unidentified plots - as well as top cover fighter escort.

9. Both Divs A/c being based at the same operational base allowed for A/c to be employed in varying numbers depending on either DIVS requirements, stand by A/c were always maintained. The average time from receipt of request to A/c over TARGET AREA allowing for adequate briefing was usually 35 to 40 minutes. Stand by Pilot and air crews were kept fully briefed as situation progressed.

10. Proposed L.I.G's. In each case strips prepared by Division were not suitable for BOOMERANG A/c, and in the case of 7 AUST DIV, LINGAO strip was only used by 4 (AC) for MISSIONS. 9 AUST DIV prepared a "Final" strip at [redacted] . The Flight Commander and ADO landed on this strip in a WIRRAWAY on 13 Sep 43, the strip was inspected and cleared suitable only for operating light A/c. The advantages of operating where fighter escort is being provided and efficient Radar operation outweighs the time lost in travelling an extra 15 minutes to target (and possibility of "rendezvous" being missed with fighters). One RAAF A/C with each DIV, compensated for the lack of continuous personal liaison with "G" staff by the Flight Commander and ADO.

11. Tactical Possibilities.

(a) All briefing and interrogation appertaining to the Army's requirements were handled by the ADO's - Air Force "Combat" and allocation of A/c and pilots etc were mutually handled by Flight Commander. It has been found by experience that Rec/R can be successfully carried out only at heights not more than 200' - this applies to JUNGLE conditions: above 200' it is impossible in many instances to observe any movements or even tracks - that are so naturally well hidden.

(b) During Rec/R very few hits by A/c were received from enemy A.A. fire on L/G. Heavy A/A only opened fire when A/c was on its way home - usually 100/1000' up - flying on a reasonably steady course.

(c) Map Reading: At low level it is easy to pin point but pilots must go to 2500/3000' to allow accurate map reading in relation to surrounding features - this is largely due to map inaccuracies.

(d) During Rec/R information as to map errors and terrain observation were recorded.

(e) In some instances pilots were obliged to fly at sea level to allow observation actually in through jungle. This is mainly the case with the SAIDOR Coastal Area and NADZAB as the heavy growth is within a few feet of the shore line. In Kunai and Coconut Plantations observation is comparatively easy. Cooking fires, especially at meal times often lead to valuable information. The Jap causes suspicion by ducking the fire on approach of A/c.

(f) Rec/R pilots were always prepared for impromptu artillery engagements and established R/T contact with the artillery when opportunity was there.

(g) Results of each mission were dropped to the nearest Bn. Hq and Div Hq on the standard A55's. (See attached example). Mps (with reports) were dropped to Bde, and Div Hq the following morning, on days mission the next day (see appendix "C").

(h) Photo/R - vertical and oblique. This was limited to ONE/TWO A/c due to enemy activity: only 3 photo missions were completed.

11. (b) Processing etc was carried out at the forward operational base, weather permitting and depending upon the size of mission, prints have been delivered 5/6 hours after A/c returned to Base. A few extra hours to enlarge prints more than compensates for a hurried delivery - where contacts do not allow close detail study except stereoscopically.

12. ARTY/ AA COOPERATION.

Single gun ranging: No bracketing. Due to very weak R/T communication peculiar to the area - 85% shoots conducted one way R/T. On two occasions a third A/c acted as an air link to Battery but results did not justify its employment. R/T satisfactory immediately over battery or MEQ acts.

13. COMMUNICATIONS.

To allow immediate contact with each DIV 4 (AC) allotted to each DIV 1, F.7B/F.8 complete with accessories, operator and Cipher Officer - this Service was one of the Sqn's Observers who had had previous experience in the BURMA, WAU, MYITKYINA Campaigns. This Observer acted as "Liaison Officer" to the DIV on matters relevant to Army Co-op. This link proved very satisfactory as it allowed messages being passed direct to Adv Operational Base, without unnecessary channels causing delays - air to ground R/T has been poor to weak East of LAE, and to local operations beyond control. Enemy positions reported direct over R/T: Allied positions NOT reported on R/T - important observations were signalled to DIV Hq immediately A/c landed. Daily average - cipher MADZAB and HOPOI xx acts to TSILI - 2000 groups.

14. SMOKE DROPPING.

This role was not required during operation "POSTERN". (Max VL GP bombs were load carried under the main plane, maximum per bomb 250 lbs).

15. FILMING.

WINDSOR A/c carried stock cameras as required. The only outstanding trip was one TSILI to PORT MORESBY via LAE and DOBODURA on the evening of 24 Sep. A/c departed TSILI 2000 hrs and arrived PORT MORESBY 0130 hrs 25 Sep, owing to engines overheating on the G-in-C from the COC 7 AUST DIV.

16. BRIEFING.

This was only employed on two occasions - BOOMERANG A/c leading in flights of P39 and P 40 (USAC) at DIV3 request.

17. ARMED RECCE AND AVAILABLE TARGETS.

(a) The BOOMERANG were always employed in sections of two - the escort A/c on frequency "B" and fighter aircraft on frequency "A", "B" and "D". Section A/c operation proved most effective especially when ever replacements became necessary - the escort pilot had no difficulty in carrying on with the duties over areas he had been covering. On two occasions for 9 AUST DIV, the "escort" A/c acted as air link for the ABC R/T - Army/A which proved not secure RI-RI.

18. PHOTO RECCE.

A/c supplied but not employed - no targets.

19. GENERAL.

Fighter escort was provided by 35 F.G. (USAC) - S.A.A.F. Their co-operation and assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated.

A. G. Fraser

SECRET. [illegible]

SUMMARY of sorties carried out by 4.(A.C.) Sqdn.R.A.A.F. for the 7.Aust & 9.Aust Divisions, 3 to 30 Sept inclusive. 7 Aust Div area: Kiaiapit,North Markham River, Leron River,Roadto and Lae. 9.Aust Div area:Coast from Lae to North of FINSCHHAFEN, Headwaters of all rivers this area. Eventually int Lae.
Approx 63 Sorties for 7.Aust Div and 75 for 9.Aust Div.
Total Hours, 450. Total SORTIES, 255. TOTAL MISSIONS, 160.

DATE	No of SORTIES.	NATURE OF SORTIE.	FLYING TIME.
4.	16	NAVAL CO-OPERATION.	16 Hrs.10.
	5.	TAC/R & ARTY/R.	14 " .00.
5.	4.	TAC/R.	11 " .00.
6. xx. (A/C	5.	TAC/R & ARTY/R.	14 " .10.
7/ did not rtn)	3.	" " " ".	8 " .00.
8.	4.	" " " ".	11 " .30.
9.	5½.	" " " ". (1.Straffing)	15 " .20.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	1." .00.
	2.	SUPPLY DROPPING & TRAVEL.	1 " .50.
10.	2.	TAC/R. (Unsuccessful weather)	3 " .30.
11.	4.	TAC/R.	10 " .10.
	1.	TRAVEL.	1 " .00.
12.	4.	TAC/R & ARTY/R.	12 " .40.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	1 " .20.
	2.	L/C & TRAVEL.	1 " .20.
13/	7.	TAC/R & ARTY/R.	12 " .06.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	1 " .30.
	1.	TRAVEL.	2 " .18.
14.	5.	TAC/R.	13 " .42.
	1.	FLIGHT TRAVEL TO PORT MORESBY.	3 " .20.
15.	7.	TAC/R. & ARTY/R.	27 " .30.
	2.	TRAVEL(Gen.EISENHOWER)	5 " .30.
16.	4.	TAC/R & ARTY/R.	12 " .15.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	.45.
17.	2.	TAC/R	7 " . 12.
	1.	CONTACT/R	. 45.
	1.	TRAVEL.	2 " .00.
18.	3.	TRAVEL.	6 " .20.
19.	5.	TRAVEL.	5 " .40.
20.	2.	TAC/R.	7 " .20.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	.35.
	2.	TRAVEL.	4." .10
21.	2.	TAC/R.	4 " .00.
22	1.	NAVAL CO-OP.	4 " .40.
	5.	TAC/R.	16 " .20.
	3.	ARTY/R.	7 " .30.
	1.	TRAVEL.	2 " .00.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	1 " .00.
23.	2.	TRAVEL.	4 " .50.
	3.	TAC/R.	10 " .30.
	2.	ARTY/R.	8 " .30.
24.	1.	" ".	4 " .50.
	2.	TAC/R.	8 " .40.
25.	2.	" ".	7 " .20.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	1 " .20.
	2.	TRAVEL.	2 " .20.
	1.	ARTY/R.	5 " .30.
26.	2.	TRAVEL.	3 " .20.
	1.	ARTY/R & TAC/R.	5 " .20.
	3.	TAC/R. (1.Straffing mission).	9 " .00.
27.	1.	" ".	3 " .20.
	3.	" ". &ARTY/R.	15 " .50.
	4	TRAVEL.	6 " .30.
28.	4.	" ".	4 " .50.
	2.	TAC/R.	6 " .00.
	2.	ARTY/R & TAC/R.	10 " .50.
29.	2.	" ".	6 " .10.
	2.	TAC/R.	7 " .10.
	1.	TRAVEL.	1 " .00.
30.	3.	" ".	4 " .30.
	1.	PHOTO/R.	2 " .30.
	4.	TAC/R.	16 " .00.
	1.	TAC/R & STRAFF.	3 " .10.
	1.	TAC/R & ARTY/R.	5." .40.

SECRET 1 Nov 43

REPORT RE O C 45 AUST AL SEC - ARMY CO-OP
4 (AC) SQN RAAF - PAPUA OCT 43
PHASE 2.

GENERAL.

This report covers Army Co-op as carried out by 4 AC Sqn RAAF during the operations for 7 and 9 Aust Divs in the areas BOGADJIM RD - DUMPU and FINCHHAFEN during the period 18 Sep to 31 Oct inclusive.

1. Operational control as in Report No.1.

2. Co-operation for 7 Aust Div during this period continued, the aircraft being mainly employed along the BOGADJIM RD, DUMPU and YUALA, in the early stages at KIALAPIT. Special attention to villages and bridges along the MIMEDJIM & WAPIA and TARA RIVERS to the western and southern slopes of the FINNISTERRE RANGE Ref Maps 1" series MT KUBARI, DUMPU, MT OTTO, URUGUNA, BOGADJIM. The role of the squadron was similar to Phase 1 with the addition of straffing and Close Support bombing.

3. On all Tac/Rs information concerning terrain and approach for bombers etc was noted and has proved valuable. Pilots submitting numerous sketch maps of tracks etc. The importance of track notation in this theatre of war cannot be over emphasised

4. Straffing along the Bogadjim Rd and of numerous villages bridges, and river crossings either opportunity or specific targets such as MT etc have not been entirely economical employment of Army Co-op aircraft. The damage to aircraft and corresponding increased unserviceability from SA and MG fire became most apparent. This obtained mainly when pilots were allowed to strafe enemy sightings at will. Straffing has now been restricted to specific targets. It has been found that when pilots were briefed for Tac/Rs and to strafe opportunity targets the temptation is rather to look for straffing targets first and then complete the Tac/R. The Japanese fail so far to appreciate deflection shooting from ground and the majority of SA and MG hits are recorded in the fuselage and the manipplanes, seldom in the engine or pilots cockpit area damaged when on normal Tac/R flying. A straffing aircraft presents an easy target. During one stage it is evident the Japanese were tempting aircraft to strafe a specific target with a purpose of engaging the aircraft with heavy MG fire.

5. 7 Aust Divs flight moved to MADZAB airfield on the 8th Oct. six P-40 aircraft from 77 Sqn RAAF were attached for 14 days duty for top cover and specific straffing.

6. On 28 Oct the flight moved to DUMPU airfield and the result in considerable saving of engine has been effected.

7. CLOSE SUPPORT. During the RAMU VALLEY operations close Air Support given by Boomerangs and P-39s capable of carrying 500 lb bombs has been successfully employed with both 21 and 25 Bdes. Procedure adopted has been for Boomerang/aircraft to lead the attack.

Ground Preparation. F D Ls marked with Ground Strips (some times torchs, or newspapers etc) are placed at 20 yd intervals across the Bde or Bn front an arrow approx 100 yds behind the F D Ls to indicate the direction of the attack. On approach of aircraft to attack own tps put down mortar smoke screens to indicate the actual bomb line, safety margin of 500 yds in advance of Ground Strips. For straffing attacks mortar smoke is NOT used. Boomerangs circle the area thobe attacked and on the R/T describe the area for straffing planes. The attack is led in and cannon fire indicates the straffing line (after led in read over the indicating arrow) cover Boomerang remains on fighter frequency and No.2 Boomerang on Army Co-op frequency

/2

for direct comn with ground tps.

8. Co-operation for 9 Aust Div recommenced actively and has continued in the FINSCHAFEN area ~~XXXXXX~~ since the landing Ref v647692 on the 22 Sep. Tac/R, Arty/R, and Supply Dropping etc have been the main role and largely confined to the coastal area NORTH of FINSCHAFEN to CAPE KING WILLIAM and including AGO, WEIMEO, BONGA, LANGEMAK BAY, and LONG Island SATELBERG and JIVEVEANG Ref Maps Satelberg, Langemak Bay, 1:25,000 series LAE 4 miles to 1 inch (include TAMI Island). The landings effected on TAMI ISLAND were preceded by a very comprehensive Tac/R.

9. SUPPLY DROPPING. On two occasions when the A.I.F. were surrounded by the enemy especially in the case of "C" Coy 2/3 Pioneer Bn in the JIVEVANG area Wirraway aircraft successfully dropped supplies of hand grenades, Owen gun ammo, and operational instns from 9 Aust Div HQ. These supplies and instns were directly responsible for their relief.

Maps, A.M.F., and photos and the various other important documents have been dropped to Bde and Div HQs as required.

10. PHOTOGRAPHY. Again eliminated owing to possibility of enemy interception. (It is anticipated in early Nov Boomerang aircraft will be capable of photographic recce).

11. COMMUNICATIONS. See Appendix "A".

12. Missions carried out- Appendix No. 2

13. Casualties due to enemy action - NIL aircraft, One W/T operator at FINSCHAFEN.

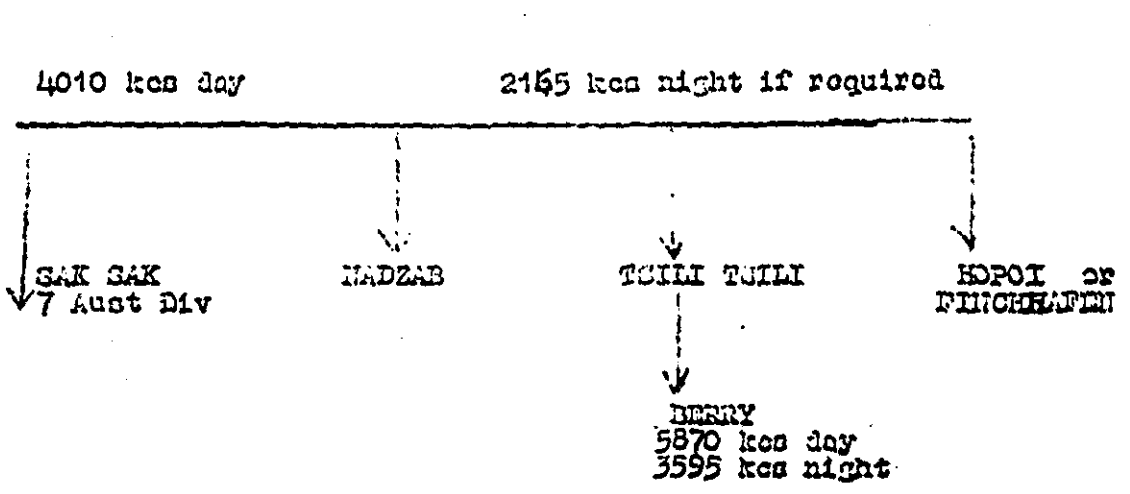
14. The pilots daily dropped to the most forward tps small bundles of the local paper and ~~the~~ comforts in small quantities as supplied by the A.C.F. Troops returning from the forward areas often expressed their appreciation to pilots for these amenities.

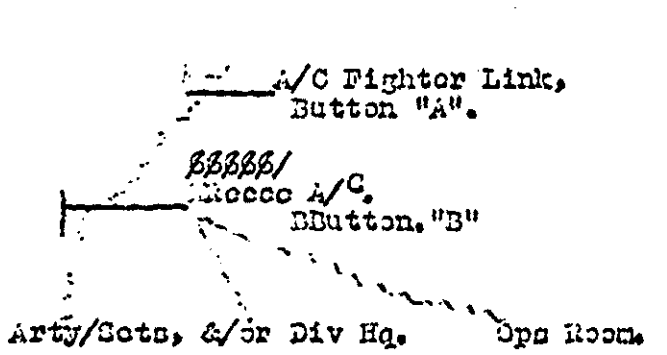
[signature] Maj
O.C. 45 Aust AL Section.
4 AC Sqn RAAF. PAPUA

Appendix "A"

SECRET

COMMUNICATIONS - R/T and W/T
FORWARD SETS TO BASE (GROUND LINK)
AIRCRAFT TO BASE AHD/OR DIV AHD/OR ARTY
PERIOD SEP - OCT 43.





9.Aust Div as above.

Fighter listening Set.

SECRET

OCTOBER 1943

7 AUST DIV

SORTIES AS CARRIED OUT BY 1 AC (RAAF) - NADZAB

DATE	SORTIES		NATURE OF SORTIE	FLYING TIME
1.	1.	Tac/R & Strafing	OUSAC RIVER, DUMPU	2hr 05min
2	2	" "	RAGIFUREA area.	1" 10"
3	3	" "	DUMPU, GOILO, BOIESI	1" 20"
4	4	" "	DUMPU, BEBEI, GUSAP	1" 40"
4	5	" "	RAMU, BOSIRUMPI, GURIA	1" 55"
5	6	" "	LUTUF, SIMBO	2" 10"
6	7	" "	BOMBARDMENT X Rep point Nos 6	1" 40"
6	8	" "	S/C occupd posts X Enemy Army targets Nos Rep points	2" 30"
7	9	" "	BOMBARDMENT RD, DAURONDA, MARAMAI. X Opposn. Tgts.	2" 35"
7	10	" "	BOMBARDMENT RD, LAE TOWNSHIP - SALAMAUA	2" 35"
9	11	" "	URIA,- RIVER, BOMBARDMENT RD, YOKOBI Street Nos 9 YOKOBI	2" 20"
9	12	" "	BOMBA - MUBUN - KWARENLANG	1" 45"
10	13	" "	DEFENCE AREA SURVEY URIA "	1" 55"
10	14	" "	BOMBING SURVEY, URIA R.	2" 35"
11	15	" "	DEFENCE AREA BOMBARDMENT RD.	2" 30"
12	16	" "	BOMBS WERE 887858 AND LEAD IN STRAFFERS	2" 45"
12	17	" "	URIA, SULEMAU AREA BOMBARDMENT RD. STRAF TGTS	2" 30"
13	18	" "	OBSERVN BOMBING & TAC/R AREA URIA RIVER	1" 40"
13	19	" "	LEAD IN BOMBS & STFS GUNS POST	1" 35"
13	20	" "	" 287557	2" 27"
14	21	" "	BOMBARDMENT RD.	1" 05"
14	22	" "	LEAD IN STFS	1" 30"
16	23	" "	KAMIRIRO, DAURONDA,	2" 35"
18	24	" "	BOMBARDMENT RD, DAURONDA (24 MP)	3" 00"
18	25	" "	AIRSTRIP, KAMEIRYO	2" 30"
19	26	" "	BOMBARDMENT RD LEAD IN STRAFES	2" 15"
21	27	" "	DAURONDA AREA LEAD IN STRAFFERS	2" 00"
21	28	" "	DARUA, WALI, LOFI, WAU, Bridges & Huts Strafed	2" 10"
22	29	" "	BOMBARDMENT RD, DAURONDA Huts & AT Strafed	2" 35"
23	30	" "	Supply Co AKMAU, BOMBARDMENT RD Strafing	2" 10"
23	31	" "	DAURONDA Strafing KOROPO	3" 05"
24	32	" "	KOROPO, ORCHARD and Strafing	2" 15"
24	33	" "	Strafing Pos KAMIRIRO PARIA	3" 10"
25	34	" "	Locdive Bombers & Strafing PARIA RIVER	2" 50"
26	35	" "	Located ROAD BLOCK DAURONDA.	3" 30"
26	36	" "	Track OLD MUMIP, CARACLAP	1" 50"

../2

	SORTIE			MISSION OR TARGET	FILM	
25	37	Tac/R & Strat		DARWIN, BOARDED,	2"	20 mls
28	38	"	"	DUMPU, BOARDED RD	2"	20"
29	39	"	"	KENDRA AREA	1"	25"
29	39	"	"	DUMPU AREA	2"	30"
30	40	"	"	LOCAL GUN POSITION DUMPU & KENDRA	2"	10"
30	41	"	"	GURUNDU-DUMPU	2"	20"
31	42	"	"	GUN POSITION & MOORING OTH LOST A/C	2"	60"
				ARTY/R		
23	1	Arty/R		DARWIN X20	1"	30"
				PHOTO/R		
10	1	Photo/R		25 Collyton Bridges, etc. BOARDING RD.	2"	60"
16	2	Photo/R		20 Verticals SURFIAM RIVER	1"	20"
				CONVOY R & MESSAGE DROPPING		
2	1	Con/R & V/D		LOCATE CONVOY Drop site	1"	40"
2	2	"	"	LOCATE 21 BOX HD	1"	15"
5	3	"	"	DUMPU AREA	1"	30"
7	4	"	"	21 & 25 BOX AREA	1"	20"
10	5	"	"	PHOTO DROP 21 & 25 BOX	1"	05"
11	6	"	"	22 & 25 BOX	1"	05"
27	7	"	"	RECO-DUMPU AREA	2"	25"

NOTE : Nearly all Tac/R developed to message dropping. A great deal of time was spent in terrain information, sketch maps and information for bombing attacks. This does not include Tac/R carried out by the CO and Flight Commanders.

[redacted]
O/C 45 AUST AC SQUADRON
3 NOV 43.

ADV. LHQ.

5 Aust Comd Air Liaison Sec (AIR)
AUSTRALIA.
30 Dec '43.

43 AL2 32

Adv L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No 29 - Week Ended 25 Dec '43.

PART 'A'.

19 Dec — The C.O., Maj ADAIR, left by air for A.H.Q. in Melbourne.

24 Dec — Instructions received from D.A.A.G., 3 Aust Corps to transfer Lieut. L.T.J. BARNETT from P.S.L. (Inf) to 5 Grn In. It has been arranged with 7 Grn In to make the transfer on 3 Jan '44.

This will leave a vacancy for an A.L.O. in 52 Sqn and Sec (14 Sqn), but it is possible that the C.O. of 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec, Maj ADAIR, will have recommendations to make.

PART 'B'.

22 Dec — Lt A/A practice carried out at 1000 hrs. Ty a/a practice (night, with drogue) was attempted at 2000 hrs, but was unsuccessful due to the searchlights failing to pick up the drogue.

23 Dec — Searchlight exercise carried out at 2000-2230 hrs.

PART 'C'.

21 Dec — Capts HANSON and PORTER, with Lieut BARNETT, accompanied G111 Air, 3 Aust Corps, to 3 Aust Corps Jungle Warfare Training School to meet the School Staff, and to arrange details of air co-operation exercise to take place on 28 and 29 Dec '43.

23 Dec — Capt HANSON and Lieut BARNETT attended weekly 'G' conference at Corps H.Q.

PART 'D'.

It is recommended that when important changes are made in the teachings at the School of Army Co-op, copies of their latest precis should be passed on to A.L. Secs based in Australia.

C.S. Hanson. Capt.
for Comd, 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec (AIR)

ARMY BRN
3 JAN 1944
CLERK
4 JAN 1944
Hours 0845

43 AL2 31

Adv H.Q.
2 Corps

SECRET

[illegible] Sqn - [illegible].

Weekly report no 20 - week ended 16 Dec '43.

PART 'A'

11 Dec '43. Capt A.P. [illegible] joined this Unit from 2/3 Pioneer In after attending [illegible] School of Army Co-op.

16 Dec '43 Capt W.[illegible] posted to this unit from 66 Army Air Liaison Sec.

This Section is now complete in its complement of officers, and the C.O. has decided to allot officers to sections, and sections to Sqns, in the following order:-

87 Sqn	(A)	73	Army air Liaison Section.		Capt [illegible]
14 Sqn	(T)	53	"	"	"	[illegible]
25 Sqn	(F)	74	"	"	"	Capt. [illegible]

The personnel of the old Section have been allotted to Cond and Sqn Secs, and promotions recommended where necessary.

16 Dec '43 L.R.T. for an Air Liaison Sqn received.

PART 'B'

15 Dec '43 Two A/A practices were carried out at 1100-1200 hrs and 1400-1600 hrs

16 Dec '43 Searchlight exercise was carried out at 2000-2330 hrs.

PART 'C'

16 Dec '43 The C.O., 2 i/c, DAIR attended the weekly 'O' conference accompanied by Capt [illegible] and Lt [illegible] who were introduced to the Staff.

16 Dec '43 Station Intelligence Officer, F/Lt [illegible], took Capts [illegible] and [illegible] to Western Area H.Q. and introduced them to the Staff.

PART 'D'

To date H.Q. received still has the transport for all Sections as one truck 3 ton (Jeep). As the C.O. of this Section has pointed out before, these are unsuitable for Air Liaison work in this area and it is his intention to take the matter up with G 1 (Air) and A.D. in MELBOURNE when he goes on leave on approx 19 Dec '43.

W S Ranson ..... Capt.
Adm Comd. 25 Aust Cond AL Sec (AIF)

ADV. LHQ. REGISTRY
24 DEC 1943
TIME RECEIVED
1900 HOURS

OPS.
24 DEC 1943
TIME RECEIVED
HOURS

43 AL2 29

5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
5 Dec '43.

G523/16-65

Adv G.H.Q.
BRISBANE

SECRET

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No. 26 - Week Ended 4 Dec '43.

PART 'A'

Nil

PART 'B'

1. The Close Support exercise by 25 Sqn (T) with 2 Aust Corps School (AW) in the COLLIE area on 4 Dec '43 was very successful. Five Vultee Vengeance aircraft operated. Aircrews were briefed from maps & air photos. The country is very rough with steep gullies and water-courses, and stereo pairs in the stereoscope proved invaluable in the briefing. The first target was a rock ford over a stream in a gully. The AOP was 100 miles from target. Led by the Sqn Comd, the flight bombed one minute late, owing to smoke from bush fires being mistaken, for one minute, for the smoke candles indicating own troops. However, the Smoke candles were soon identified, owing to their regular spacing.(In this regard, see Part D) Own tps, one bn, were tactically disposed, being held up on the forward slopes of a hill 400 yds from the ford. One bomb secured a direct hit on the ford, the remainder being within 30 yds.

The afternoon attack was duly on time, this time the target being of larger area, a hill side from which the enemy was firing across a valley at the flank of our advancing column on a hillside track. The target area was well covered & with live practice bombs. This exercise will be repeated each month, and it is hoped to drop 250 lb. H.E. bombs on approved burnt-off areas.

2. Wg & Lt A/A drogue shoots have been provided by 35 Sqn, with Fairey Battles.

3. D.A. exercises again have been suspended, owing to non-availability of Beaufort aircraft.

PART 'C'

4. The usual Monday lecture and road trip exercise to 25 Sqn (Boomerang) was given: Tac/R and Contact/R being the subjects. These pilots are very keen, and are looking forward to flying exercises in co-operation with the Army from Jan to Apr '44. H.Q. 2 Aust Corps has issued a directive on training policy, providing for bn, bde and div exercises, culminating in a two-sided Corps exercise in Apr. By then, it is expected that the three Sqn (Beaufort, Vengeance and Boomerang) will be sufficiently trained in Co-op to effectively operate in their appropriate roles.

PART 'D'

5. White Smoke generators or candles have been used here to indicate position of own tps to Close Support aircraft. This is quite effective in winter, but in summer burning logs, bushfires etc, tend to confuse the picture. Reports from the U.K. refer to successful use of orange smoke for this purpose.

6. Are coloured smokes used or available in AUST AREA? Early advice or assistance on this point would be appreciated.

[redacted]
..... Major.
Comd 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

ADV. LHQ. REGISTRY
17DEC 1943
TIME RECEIVED
1420 HOURS

43 AL2 30

5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
3 Dec '43.

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

SECRET

G523.16-43

AIR - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No 27 - Week Ended 11 Dec '43.

PART 'A'

Form 'ob' from Capt [illegible] received. It is dated 27 Nov, hence his early arrival is anticipated.

A pleasant surprise was occasioned by the arrival of copy of Movement Order for Capt [illegible], together with telephoned advice that he would arrive on 13 Dec '43.

He is to be posted to 54 Aust Gen AL Sec, allotted to 25 Sqn.

Capt [illegible], posted to 52 Aust Gen AL Sec, will be with 85 Gen (Boomerang) as his experience with an AC Sec will be valuable in the training of fighter pilots in AC duties.

PART 'B'

A Close Support exercise with 2/11 Armd Cr Regt, North of DARWIN, was flown by 25 Sqn (DB), at 0830/20th, 0914/20th and 1040/21st Dec '43. Missions were by five, three and six Vultee Vengeance aircraft respectively carrying 11, 11 practice bombs. After the last attack R/T communication was practised with the Armd Cs successfully up to a range of 15 miles.

Each sortie was flown on time and the bombing was accurate, one bomb being on the triangle target and remainder within 50 yds. The approach was at 12,000 ft, flat dive to 5,000 ft, peel off, drop bombs at 2,000 ft, pull out at 1500 ft with independent 'jinking' getaway.

After the final attack, the six aircraft did dummy strafing passes in front of the advancing Armd Cr.

A letter of appreciation, together with sketch of target with hits, has been received from the Regt.

PART 'C'

Weekly 'G' conference at H.Q. 3 Aust Corps (AIF)
Weekly lecture to Air Crews of 85 Sqn.

PART 'D'

With full strength of officers (three Gen Secs and one Comd Sec) the two 15 cwt vans now held will be insufficient transport.

These are held surplus to establishment and by grace of 3 Aust Corps H.Q, with no assurance of continuance. The position is unsatisfactory.

During Major [illegible]'s a...b. in [illegible] from 16 Dec '43 he proposes to discuss the matter with G1 (air) and staff Duties. Meanwhile it is hoped that the new TE referred to in a D/O letter from Adv L.H.Q. dated 10 Oct '43 will be available soon.

[signature]
.....Major.
Comd 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

ADV. LHQ. REGISTRY
17 DEC 1943
THIS RECEIVED
1520 HOURS