

AWM52

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

1/14/15 AIR LIAISON

5 Australian Air Liaison
Section (5 Aust AL Sec)

January - February 1944



1/14/15-0032

14 FEB 1944

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C-2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

Date and Time.—From 0001...1 Jan 44 To 2359...31 Jan 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PEARCE AERODROME	3 Jan 44	0600	WX1596 Lieut. ETJ BARNETT m/o of Section and transferred to 5 Aust Grn Bn as instructed by 3 Aust Corps H.Q.	
" "	24 Jan 44	1500	The C.O. 52 Aust Sqn AL Sec (Capt HANSOM) with a trained clerk moved to GUILDFORD AIRFIELD (85 Sqn, Boomerangs) to begin operations as from 25 Jan. This Section is at present deficient a driver-batman and a vehicle, there being a shortage of both in this area.	
" "			5 Aust Comd AL Sec will remain at PEARCE until accomodation is available at Western Area H.Q. Frequent liaison contacts to this H.Q. are being made.	
			The normal A.A. drogue shoots, searchlight, instrument operating exercises were carried out during the month.	See Appendices Part 'B'

WAR DIARY.

APPX 'A'
5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)AUSTRALEIA.
1 Feb '44Adv. L.H.C.
EPISWAGE.ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATIONWeekly Report No 34 - Week Ended 29 Jan '44.PART 'A'

This week saw the start of operations by the Sqn AL Secs as separate entities. Some weeks of guidance under 5 Aust Comd AL Sec at PEARCE has given the newly appointed officers sufficient knowledge of conditions, persons and policy in 3 Aust Corps area to enable them to join their RAAF Sqn, prepared to carry on with confidence.

52 Aust Sqn AL Sec (Capt HANSON) joined 85 Sqn (Doornburg) on 25 Jan '44. Capt HANSON is still deficient a driver-batman and a vehicle, there being a shortage of the latter in this area. The Comd Sec furnished him with a trained clerk, who, under the old Type 'A' organization had been the photographic clerk.

Capt HANSON entered his new scene of activity with energy, a visit two days after his arrival revealing him stripped to the waist, busy with hammer and saw, making cupboards and shelves for his office out of salvaged timber. He has been supplied with a full set of Mil Survey maps, sketching materials, drawing board, stereoscope universal, etc, from the Type 'A' Sec equipment still held.

Issues for the four Secs under the new NET are slow in arriving.

53 & 54 Aust Sqn AL Secs are based at PEARCE while their RAAF Sqn remain here. They use the facilities of the Comd Sec as they require.

For the present, 5 Aust Comd AL Sec must remain at PEARCE, no accommodation being available at H.Q. RAAF, Western Area. The pressure on accommodation there is shown by the fact that the Staff Officer (Ops) shares a small office with the Staff Officer (Trng). Navigation and Armament S.O.s. likewise share a small room. The problem was discussed with the A.O.C., Air Commodore BROWNELL, who suggested that, until room is available, frequent liaison visits would be sufficient.

Enclosed are reports from the Sqn Secs, together with a copy of the instruction issued regarding these reports.

PART 'B'

See Sqn Secs Reports.

Reference is made to 54 Aust Sqn AL Sec Report h/w regarding cancellation of Close Support Exercise 3/4 Feb. The Comd Sec took the matter up with 14 Sqn (Beauforts), who have agreed to co-operate on this occasion, the dates being altered to 5/6 Feb. The Army unit taking part will see low level stick-bombing in lieu of the usual dive-bombing.

PART 'C'

Major ADAIR attended the weekly 'C' conference at H.Q. 3 Aust Corps on 27 Jan '44. Three visits were made to RAAF H.Q. Western Area. Gen En and A.T.C. also were visited.

PART 'D'

Nil

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

APPLY 3
AUSTRALIA.
 24 Jan '44

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No 33 - Week Ended 22 Jan '44

PART 'A'

The early arrival of VX108125 Capt Ian H. BARNES is expected, a letter addressed to that officer having arrived on 22 Jan. This prompt posting is appreciated.

PART 'B'

Drogue Shoots by A.A. were carried out with 7 Communication Unit RAAF as follows:-

16 Jan, Metropolitan Area, successful, no hits.
 17 Jan, GERALDTON " " several direct hits.
 18 Jan, " " " " "
 19 Jan, Metropolitan " " no hits. (1000-1200)
 19 Jan, " " partially completed. Aircraft instructed

to return to base before completion as a USN aircraft on a similar mission was working in same area, so danger of both aircraft.

16 Jan '44. Instrument training (AA) was carried out by 7 Comm Unit, RAAF.

S.L. Co-operation during the period was cancelled due to the grounding of all Beaufort aircraft.

53 Aust Sqn AL Sec provided liaison in the foregoing exercises.

A Close Support exercise was carried out by 25 Sqn (S.D.) in co-operation with the battalion doing the three weeks course at the Jungle Warfare School at COLLEB. 54 Aust Sqn AL Sec (Capt PORTER) arranged the details and briefed the aircrews, in collaboration with the Sqn 'Ops' officer. Four missions were carried out in the mornings and afternoons of 17 & 18 Jan, strengths varying from four to six aircraft, using 11 1/2 lb practise bombs. Bushfire smoke made it difficult to see the smoke candles indicating own tps. Battle smoke probably would provide the same problem in operations. Target finding was good and attacks were on time, accuracy was NOT so good as on previous occasions.

85 Sqn (Boomerang) provided top cover and, immediately following the bombing, strafed with cannon and MG fire.

52 Sqn (Capt HANSON) briefed pilots for this phase.

PART 'C'

150 personnel of AEC have been at PEACE during this period. Three lectures on Army Co-operation were delivered to them by Capt HANSON, of 52 Aust Sqn AL Sec.

20 Jan '44 All officers attended weekly 'G' conference at H.Q. 3 Aust Corps.

PART 'D'

O.Rs. of the Sections again have requested advice as to their prospects of seeing service with an AL Sec in NEW GUINEA. This point was first referred to in Weekly Report No. 1 dated 16 June 1943.

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

SECRET

APPY 'C'

44 AL2 35

5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
16 Jan '44

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No 32 - Week Ended 15 Jan '44

PART 'A'

Nil

PART 'B'

- 10 Jan '44 A.A. practice carried out at 1400 - 1600 hrs. R/T failed due to faulty transmitter in A/C.
- 11 Jan Heavy A.A. night practice carried out at 2000-2200 hrs. Searchlights failed to pick up drogue.
- 11 Jan A.A. co-operation with searchlights for instrument training scheduled for 2000-2200 hrs cancelled due to grounding of A/C.
- 12 Jan Lt A.A. practices carried out at 1000-1200 hrs and 1400-1600
- 13 Jan Searchlight co-operation at 2000-2200 cancelled due to grounding of A/C.
- 14 Jan A.A. co-operation for instrument training at 1000-1200 hrs cancelled due to low cloud base.
- 14 Jan A.A. co-operation for instrument training at 1400-1600 hrs cancelled due to unserviceable A/C.

PART 'C'

- 13 Jan Capt PORTER accompanied by C.O. 7 Comn Unit attended the weekly 'G' conference at Corps H.Q.
- Capt PORTER and C.O. 7 Comd Unit visited the H.Q. of the Lt A.A. Bty which co-operated on 12 Jan.

PART 'D'

Air Board Armament Instructions require that an Indicator, comprising an arrow 40 ft long, with two discs 8 ft in diameter, be displayed near the target to be bombed with either H.E. or practice bombs to indicate that it is clear for bombing. H.Q. Western Area has directed that this be observed in future exercises. An indicator has now been made from salvage material, and will be used in exercises on 17 & 18 Jan. The Sqn Comd has requested that it be a minimum of 60 ft long. This will impose a handicap on this type of exercise, particularly in jungle warfare training.

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

SECRET

APPX 'D'

5 Aust Comd A.L. Section (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
9 Jan '44.

44 AL2 34

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No 31 - Week Ended 8 Jan '44.

PART 'A'.

3 Jan Lieut BARNETT marched out of Sec and transferred to 5 Aust Grn Bn as instructed by Corps H.Q.

PART 'B'.

3 Jan Lt A.A. practice carried out 1400-1600 hrs. Very successful shoot. Drogue hit three times and completely demolished.

5 Jan Hy A.A. practice carried out at 1000-1200 hrs. Fault in wired drogue prevented use of locating equipment.
Lt A.A. practice at 1400-1600 hrs.

5 Jan Searchlight Co-op carried out 2000-2230 hrs. New searchlight crews failed to pick up A/C.

7 Jan Sixteen army personnel from D.I.D. carried out a drill movement in a D.C.3 from GUILDFORD to PEARCE, landing at 1800 hrs.

PART 'C'.

4 Jan Capt PORTER visited Corps H.Q. to discuss arrangements for co-operation in next exercise with Jungle Warfare Training School.

6 Jan Capt HANSON attended weekly 'G' conference at Corps H.Q.

8 Jan G.3 (AIF), 3 Aust Corps, paid a luncheon visit to PEARCE and discussed future co-operation.

PART 'D'.
Nil.


Adm Comd, 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec (AIF) Capt.

SECRET.

52 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
30 Jan '44.

M.O. (6)
Adv L.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec)

WEEKLY REPORT NO. 1 - WEEK ENDED 29 JAN '44.

PART 'A'.

1. 25 Jsn '44. 52 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec (less batman-driver) moved from PEARCE to R.A.A.F. Airfield GUILDFORD, where it established its H.Q. Office accommodation (prefabricated hut) was provided by 85 Sqn. The Sec is thereby stationed with its allotted Sqn.

PART 'B'.

2. 24 Jan '44. 1000-1100 hrs. 85 Sqn Co-operated with a mobile Lt A.A. Bty. Dummy attacks were made on gun positions for training of gun crews.
3. Sqn commitments (undisclosed) will prevent 85 Sqn from participating in army co-operation until further notice from the Sqn Comd.

PART 'C'.

NIL. (Time devoted to fitting out new H.Q. office)

PART 'D'.

NIL.

... W.S. HANSOM. Capt.
O.C. 52 Aust A.L. Sec (AIF)

53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
29 Jan '44

44 04 1

SECRET.

M.O. (6)
Adv L.H.Q.
(Through 5 Aust Comd AL Sec)

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No 1 - Week Ended 29 Jan'44

PART 'A'

D.A.M.S., 3 Aust Corps has advised that Adv L.H.Q., by signal dated 8 Jan '44 has posted VX108125 Capt I.H. BARNES to this Section, movement to be arranged by N.G.F. Until his arrival, liaison with 14 Sqn R.A.A.F., 35 Sqn R.A.A.F. and 7 Communication Unit RAAF will be provided by 5 Aust Comd AL Sec.

PART 'B'

Droge Shoots by A.A. were carried out with 7 Communication Unit R.A.A.F. as follows:-

23 Jan'44 Metropolitan Area from 1000H to 1200H
27 " " " " " 1000H " 1200H
27 " " " " " 2000H " 2200H. This SL shoot was without droge, guns being "off phase" 180 degrees.

A.A. Co-op for instrument training was carried out with 7 Communication Unit R.A.A.F. as follows:-

28 Jan'44 Metropolitan Area from 1000H to 1200H
28 " " " " " 1400H " 1600H

PART 'C'

NIL

PART 'D'

.....MAJOR
For Comd 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF)

44 02 1

54 Aust Squadron Air Liaison Sec (AIF)

AUSTRALIA.

29 Jan '44.

MOB(6)

SECRET.

Adv L.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Comd AL Sec)

WEEKLY REPORT NO. 1 - WEEK ENDED 29 JAN '44.

PART 'A'.

Nil.

PART 'B'.

C.O. of 25 Sqn (DB) and Capt PORTER discussed the possibility of future exercises with the V.D.C. weekly schools which are being held at DONGARRA and ALBANY during the months of Feb and Mar.

Unfortunately the V.D.C. carry out their main exercises on Sundays, which means that only one day's close support exercise can be done by 25 Sqn owing to half the Sqn standing down over the week-end.

Maj ADAIR and Capt PORTER visited Capt JORDAN, C.I. V.D.C. Schools, on 25 Jan to prepare close support exercise on 13 Feb at DONGARRA.


Close support exercise with the Jungle Warfare School at COLLIE for 3 and 4 Feb has been cancelled due to 25 Sqn A/C being grounded.

PART 'C'.

Lt-Col PLOUGHMAN and Capt DAVIDSON-CRAIG of 1 Aust Armd Bde visited the sec on 27 Jan. It is hoped that in the future Army-Air co-op will be carried out with this Bde.

PART 'D'.

Nil.


O.C. 54 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF) .Capt.

APPX 1

RESTRICTED.

FILE NO. 11. A.

OFFICERS.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ROUTINE ORDER PART 11.

No. 3. 10th Feb., 1944.

5 AUST. COMMAND AIR LIAISON SECTION, (A.I.F.)
CORPS TROOPS,

(And 3 Squadron Sections, 52, 53, 54. SQUADRON A.L. Sections.)

LAST PART 11. ORDER NO. 2. SUB. NO. 7. ISSUED 12th JANUARY, 1944.

Sub. No. Army No. Rank and Name. Particulars, Casualties, Etc.

STRENGTH INCREASE.

8.VX.108125. Capt. I.H. Barnes,

Transfd. from 37/52. Aust. Inf.
Bn. N.G. Force.
1st Feb. 44.
(Auth. 3 Aust. Corps.
125/1223/5.)

STRENGTH DECREASE.

9.VX.108125. Capt. I.H. Barnes,

Posted to 53 Aust. Sqdn. A.L.
Section. 1st Feb. 44.

53 AUST. SQDN. A.L. SECTION.

STRENGTH INCREASE.

10.VX.108125. Capt. I.H. Barnes,

Posted from 5 Aust. Command
Air Liaison Section. A.I.F.
1st Feb. 44.

DISTRIBUTION.

D.F.O.
C.O. Unit. (2)
L.H.Q. 2nd Ech.
"A" Branch Mil. Sec.
Officers' Records D.R.O.
D.A. Mil. Sec. 3 Aust. Corps.
3 Aust. Corps Postal Unit.
W.A.L. of C. Area Fd. Postal Unit.
War Diary.
Card Index.
C'wlth Audit Insp.
Statistics.
Master File.
Spares. (2)
52 A.L. Sqdn.
53 " "
54 " "
Vic. L. of C. Area Records Office.
" " " Accounts "

John W. L. of C. Area.
Officer I/C. W. A. L. of C. Area.
Records Office.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF).

Date and Time.—From 0001 1 Feb '44 To 2359 29 Feb '44

[illegible]

SECRET

Copy No. 5

5 AUST. COMD. AIR LIAISON SECTION.

4 FEB 1944

MOVEMENT ORDER.

- To: 52 Aust Sqn Air Liaison Section (AIF)
1. In connection with your movement to a northern station :-
 2. You will emplane under 85 Sqn arrangements at GUILDFORD airfield on 7 Feb '44.
 3. On arrival at your destination you will establish temporary H.Q. with 85 Sqn under whose command you will come for local ops and adm. You will report your arrival to the local military authority.
 4. You will return to GUILDFORD under sqn arrangements.
 5. Personnel to move:-
VX 111286 Capt W.S. HANSOM
WX 27754 Cpl. GOREY, B.J.
 6. Equipment to be carried:-
Tropical Scale.
Office equipment as permitted by mode of travel.
(Main office equipment will be left at GUILDFORD under Sqn care).
 7. Unless inconsistent with local military orders, all communications will be addressed to 5 Aust Comd AL Sec. 5 Aust Comd AL Sec will submit all normal returns on your behalf. Any changes will be forwarded to this H.Q. by the quickest possible means.

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

DISTRIBUTION :-

	Copy No.
52 Aust Sqn AL Sec	1 - 3
3 Aust Corps	4
War Diary	5 - 6
File	7

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA

Please quote this Number when replying

44	AL2	39
----	-----	----

5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

ALBANY.
 8 Feb '44

 Adv L.H.C.
ALBANY

Weekly Report No 35 - Week Ended 5 Feb '44

PART 'A'

1. Weekly Reports No. 2 from 52, 53 and 54 Aust Sqn AL Secs are forwarded herewith.

PART 'B'

2. See Reports referred to above.

PART 'C'

3. Liaison visits paid to H.C. 3 Aust Corps (AIF), RAAF H.C. Western Area, and to No 8 Gp, V.S.C. The latter visit was to ALBANY on 5 Feb, to arrange a Close Support exercise for the end of Feb, 40 miles east of ALBANY. The GIII (air) and GIII (CW) were in the party. The GIII (CW) is experimenting with coloured smokes for indicating bomblines in featureless or confused country.

PART 'D'

Nil.



Major
 Comd. 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

SECRET.

LT 3 33

M.O. (6)

Adv L.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec)

52 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
4 Feb '44.

WEEKLY REPORT NO. 2 - WEEK ENDED 5 FEB '44.

PART 'A'.

1. With the approval of 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec and 3 Aust Corps, arrangements have been made for 52 A.L. Sec to move with a detachment of 85 Sqn to a more northern station. Sec will move under Sqn arrangements, leaving GUILDFORD airfield on 7 Feb '44, and returning in approx three weeks time.
2. The Sec is still less a batman-driver, a truck and other W.E.T. equipment. Arrangements have been made with the necessary authorities to obtain a batman-driver and a truck as soon as possible.

PART 'B'.

3. 1 Feb '44. 1030-1130 hrs. One A/C carried out co-operation with a mobile A.A. Troop. The pilot was unable to locate the guns.
4. For reasons stated in Report No. 1, the Sqn was unable to give any other co-operation this week.

PART 'C'.

5. No liaison carried out for purposes of air co-operation. Visits were made to Corps H.Q. and other bodies, in an endeavour to bring the Sec up to strength, and to bring the present personnel up to D.P.1 standard.

PART 'D'.

Nil.

AS Ransom
Capt.
Comd, 52 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec (AIF)

SECRET

MOVEMENT ORDER.

copy No 6
5 AUST. COMD. AIR LIAISON SECTION.

4 FEB 1944

To: 52 Aust Sqn Air Liaison Section (AIF)

1. In connection with your movement to a northern station :-
2. You will emplane under 85 Sqn arrangements at GUILDFORD airfield on 7 Feb '44.
3. On arrival at your destination you will establish temporary H.Q. with 85 Sqn under whose command you will come for local ops and adm. You will report your arrival to the local military authority.
4. You will return to GUILDFORD under sqn arrangements.
5. Personnel to move:-
VX 111286 Capt E.S. HANSON
WX 27754 Cpl. GOREY, B.J.
6. Equipment to be carried:-
Tropical Scale.
Office equipment as permitted by mode of travel.
(Main office equipment will be left at GUILDFORD under Sqn care).
7. Unless inconsistent with local military orders, all communications will be addressed to 5 Aust Comd AL Sec. 5 Aust Comd AL Sec will submit all normal returns on your behalf. Any changes will be forwarded to this H.Q. by the quickest possible means.

Jose
.....Major.
Comd. 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

DISTRIBUTION :-

	Copy No.
52 Aust Sqn AL Sec	1 - 3
3 Aust Corps	4
War Diary	5 - 6 ✓
File	7

44 04 2

53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF)

AUSTRALIA

5 Feb'44

SECRET.

M.O.(6)
Adv L.H.Q.
(Although 5 Aust Comd AL Sec.)

WEEKLY REPORT No 2 - WEEK ENDED 5 Feb'44

PART 'A'

1. VX108125 Capt I.H. BARNES reported for Duty on 31 Jan'44 and was posted as O.C. 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec with liaison duties to 14 Sqn R.A.A.F., 35 Sqn R.A.A.F. and 7 Communication Unit R.A.A.F.

PART 'B'

2. Drogue Shoots by units were carried out in conjunction with 7 Communication Unit R.A.A.F. as under :-

30 Jan	661 Lt AA Bty	Metropolitan Area	From 1000H to 1200H
2 Feb	227 Lt AA Bty	ROCKINGHAM	" 1000H " 1200H
2 Feb	227 Lt AA Bty)		
	& FREMANTLE	(ROCKINGHAM and	
	Fxd Defs) Metropolitan Area	1400H " 1500H

PART 'C'

3. On the 2 Feb'44 O.C. of this Sqn AL Sec accompanied Major ADAIR, Comd 5 Aust Comd AL Sec and Capt NICHOLAS, GSO 111 Air H.Q. 3 Aust Corps on a liaison visit to 3 Aust Corps Jungle Warfare school at COLLIE.
4. The object of the visit was to discuss details of the Air Co-operation requested for the school exercise 7/8 Feb'44.
5. At 1415H Thursday 3 Feb'44, O.C. 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec attended the weekly 'G' Conference with the remainder of the Section Officers.

PART 'D'

NIL.

John W. Blum
.....Capt.
Comd 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF).

51 Aust Squadron Air Division Sec (AIF)

AUSTRALIA
9 Feb 1945

NO (6)
AIR LIAISON

SECRET

(Thompson to 51 Aust Sq Sec)

RECEIVED HQ. 51 AUSTRALIAN DIV. 10 FEB 1945

PAGE 'A'.

(5) 3 A.D.C. 51 Aust Corps Tps has advised that the vehicle allotted to the Section is now available at the Vehicle Park. It will be collected on 10 Feb. A car has been loaned in lieu of a 15 Car which is not available at present.

(6) The first long trip will be next week-end to POMERAI and return, 500 miles, carrying A.D.C. car and clerk to an exercise. One can not be other than conscious of the fact that economy in tyres, petrol, oil and carrying capacity is being achieved by using such a vehicle for this type of work. The matter is to be taken up with the D.A.C. 51 Aust Corps. However, while the A.D.C. restriction on the use of cars not on U.S. remains, there is little hope of improvement.

PAGE 'B'.

(5) A close support exercise is to be carried out by 25 Sqn next week-end with the V.B.C. School at DOMCARIA.

(6) The close support exercise this week-end with the 51 Aust Corps Training Centre (TC), on this occasion will be done by Macquarie from 15 Sqn in a low-level stick-bombing attack. It was agreed to substitute for 25 Sqn, whose Venesances at present are grounded. All A.D.C. will fly in this exercise, as the use of multi-engine aircraft affords a valuable opportunity of seeing this semi-continuous and jungle country from the air and of assessing the pilot's problems.


PAGE 'C'.

(5) The C.I. of the V.B.C. School visited the Section on 8 Feb to discuss plans for the exercise referred to in para (4).

(6) Capt MORTER attended the weekly 'C' conference at 9.0. 51 Aust Corps.

PAGE 'D'.

511.


C.I. 51 Aust Sqn AL Section (AIF)

SECRET

82 Aust Comd A.L. Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA
13 Feb '44.

H.Q. (G)
Adv L.H.Q.
(Through 8 Aust Comd A.L. Sec)

ESPIONAGE REPORT NO. 3

Week Ended 12 Feb '44

PART 'A'

7 Feb '44. 0600 hrs. The Sec, less batman-driver, (not yet obtained) explained with detachment of adv party of 85 Sqn and proceeded to temporary northern station (vide Report No 2). Destination was reached at 1200 hrs, same day. As the movement is under R.A.A.F. arrangements, and secret, this Sec does not wish to disclose the destination, which is therefore left for Comd Sec to forward to L.H.Q. if desired.

The Sqn move is not yet completed, and the new temporary site is not known. It is not yet possible to predict what duties the A.L. Sec is likely to perform. Army troops in the locality consist of a small garrison unit and a Transport unit.

Apart from any duties which the Sec may perform in connection with the Sqn role, the benefits derived by the Sec are twofold, namely :-

- (a) Experience in field and tropical conditions ;
- (b) greater opportunities for getting to know all sections of the Sqn (combined quartering and messing, and sharing of difficulties) .

PART 'B'

No flying carried out. The A.L. Sec has helped the Sqn in provision of camp facilities.

PART 'C'

Liaison carried out with Garrison unit, which is approx 6 miles from the airfield.

PART 'D'

Nil.

W.B. Dawson
Capt.
Comd, 82 Aust Sqn A.L. Sec (AIF)

44 AL2 40

5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

AUSTRALIA
18 Feb '44

Adv. L.H.Q.
BRISBANE.

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No 36 - Week Ended 12 Feb '44

PART 'A'

1. Weekly Reports No 3 Part 'A' from 52, 53 and 54 Aust Sqn AL Secs are forwarded herewith.

PART 'B'

2. Please see Reports referred to above.

PART 'C'

3. Liaison visits paid to H.Q. 3 Aust Corps (AIF), RAAF, H.Q. Western area, and H.Q. CCRA.

PART 'D'

. Nil

[Signature]
.....
Comd 5 Aust

53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF)

AUSTRALIA.

12 Feb '44.

SECRET.

44/84/3.

M.O. (8)

Adv G.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Comd AL Sec.)

WEEKLY REPORT NO 3 - WEEK ENDED 12 Feb '44

PART 'A'

1. D.A.D.O.S. 3 Aust Corps troops, through 5 Aust Comd AL Sec, allotted this Section a Ford 1 ton W/T van on the 10 Feb'44. This vehicle has been issued in lieu of a truck $\frac{1}{2}$ ton as shown in W.E. 111 / 3D / 1 .
2. The above vehicle is of a heavier type than is normally required , but will now enable 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec to operate independently of 5 Aust Comd AL Sec , who have in the past provided a vehicle from limited resources.
3. It is hoped that when lighter type vehicles become available a 12 cwt or a 18 cwt will be issued thus saving running costs.

PART 'B'

4. 14 Sqn R.A.A.F. (Beauforts) co-operated with the 5 Aust Corps Jungle Warfare School, COLLIE, during the school exercise 7/8 Feb'44. Troops being exercised - 2/7 Aust Armd Regt.
5. Two targets were attacked and bombed each day and the low level bombing was extremely accurate on all targets.
6. These exercises in close country with air support are of great value to aircrew personnel as good map reading and timing of attacks are essential.
7. Drogue Shoots were carried out as under by 7 Communication Unit R.A.A.F. :-

6 Feb'44	660 Lt AA Bty	HARBOUR AREA	from 1000H to 1200H
7 Feb'44	22 Hy AA Bty	SOUTH BEACH	" 1000H " 1200H
9 Feb'44	25 Hy AA Bty	STATION 454	" 1000H " 1200H
8. A night shoot with 22 Hy AA Bty, scheduled for 2000H to 2200H 10 Feb'44, had to be cancelled owing to weather conditions being unfavourable.

9. During the week two attempts were made with searchlight co-operation, but the weather proved to be unsuitable and the flights were cancelled.

PART 'G'

10. On Thursday 10 Feb'44 Capt BARNES accompanied Major ADAIR to the H.Q. 3 Aust Corps weekly 'G' conference.

PART 'D'

11. Nil

.....*Laithum*.....Capt.
Comd 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF)

54 Aust Squadron Air Liaison Sec (AIF)

AUSTRALIA

12 Feb '44.

44 02 3

SECRET.

NO (6)

Adv L.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Comd AL Sec)

WEEKLY REPORT NO. 3-WEEK ENDED 12 FEB '44.

PART 'A'.

The Ford one-ton slotted to this section was collected from the Vehicle Park on 10 Feb and was in very good condition.

PART 'B'.

On Sunday 6 Feb Capt PORTER visited the V.D.C. School at DONGARRA to select targets and make preparations for the close support exercise with 25 Sqn(D.B.) to be held on 13 Feb.

The exercise is to be carried out in the sand hills 2 miles south of DONGARRA.

Owing to the sand being so white, it was decided that seven tent flies dyed red and placed on the sand in the form of an arrow should be used both for target and all clear to bomb signal.

Tent flies were obtained from Salvage and dropped from A/C in the target area.

PART 'C'.

Section Training was carried out on Wed 9 Feb. Arrangements are being made for a rifle shoot on the R.A.A.F. 30 yd range next week.

PART 'D'.

Nil.


O.C. 54 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF). Capt.

Telephone No.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA LINES OF COMMUNICATION AREA

Please quote this Number when replying

44	AL2	41
----	-----	----

5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
21 Feb '44

Adv. L.S.S.

AL2

ARMY - AIF CO-OPERATION

Weekly Report No 37 - Week Ended 19 Feb '44

Part 'A'

Weekly Reports from 52, 53 & 54 Aust Gen AL Secs are forwarded herewith.

Part 'B'

Please see Reports referred to above.

The Comd Sec and two Gen Secs have been practising for a rifle shooting match against member of 14 Gen P.A.A.F.

Part 'C'

Liaison visits paid to H.Q.s, 3 Aust Corps, RAAF H.Q., Western Area V.D.C. H.Q.

Western Area H.Q. has agreed to a request, outlined by this Sec and later confirmed by 3 Aust Corps, for Vengeance and Beaufort aircraft to co-operate in a V.D.C. exercise 300 miles from PERCH.

The S ns have taken up the idea enthusiastically and at the moment 25 Sqn has promised seven Vengeances, including one spare, while 14 Sqn expects to fly three Beauforts. All aircraft will have to re-fuel at ALBANY A.S.F. before each mission, and the problem of accommodating and feeding 28 personnel for 3 meals arises. All good training in mobility for the two Sqn concerned.

Part 'D'

M11

.....Major.
Comd, 5 Aust Comd AL Sec (AIF)

SECRET

44 04 4

M.O. (C)

Adv L.R. 1.

(Through 3 Aust Gen Al Sec)

SECRET REPORT No 4 - WORK PERIOD 19 Feb'44

PART 'A'

1. A rifle shoot was carried out by members of this Section on the 30Y's main range at 9.15 AM on 19 Feb, followed by a shoot on the own range.

PART 'B'

2. 7 Communication Unit supplied an aircraft for a week's co-operation with 15 Al Regt from 19 - 25 Feb, both inclusive. Owing to the distance involved it was decided to station the aircraft at WORTHAM airfield, there the time the maximum amount of time over the manoeuvre area.
3. Two flights were made daily, first from 1000 - 1145 hrs and the second from 1400 - 1545 hrs, during which time gun crews practiced gun drill and instrument work.

4. Dragoon shoots were carried out by the following units in conjunction with 7 Communication Unit AAGS:

15 Feb'44	25th Ly Al Regt	WORTHAM	1000H - 1200H
16 Feb'44	25th Ly Al Regt	WORTHAM	1000H - 1200H
17 Feb'44	25th Ly Al Regt	WORTHAM	1000H - 1200H
18 Feb'44	25th Ly Al Regt	WORTHAM	1000H - 1200H

5. Weather conditions on the 19th day did not allow co-operation exercises. It is hoped that the exercises will be able to be recommenced in the near future.

PART 'C'

6. The weekly 'U' conference was attended on Thursday 17 Feb with Major ADAIR and Capt PORTER.
7. After the above conference a visit was made to Lt-Col CHAPPLE, CO No 5 Group VDC, at ECUSMANSCOPPE and details of air co-operation for the forthcoming VDC exercise at WORTHAM RIVER (east of ALBANY) 25 - 27 Feb'44 were discussed.

8. It is hoped that permission will be granted by Air Board to drop live bombs and for aircraft to strafe on the target area. The area in question being flat scrubby plain and practically uninhabited.
9. If this permission is granted the exercise will be quite successful as it will tend to be more realistic, and teach a very good lesson in Air co-operation.
10. Details of the next exercise with 3 Aust Corps Jungle Warfare training centre on 28/29 Feb were discussed with Capt NICHOLAS, GSO 111 Air of 3 Aust Corps.

PART 'D'

11.

NIL

L. E. Hamer
Capt.
Comd, 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec(AIF)

54 Aust Squadron Air Liaison Section (AIF)

AUSTRALIA.

19 Feb '44.

44 02 4

MO (6)

Adv L.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Cand AL Sec)

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

WEEKLY REPORT NO. 4 - WEEK ENDED 19 FEB '44.

PART 'A'.

Nil.

PART 'B'.

- (1). On Sat 12 Feb Capt PORTER, clerk and driver-batman spent the night with 1 Aust Armcd Bde H.Q. at MOORA. The following morning they proceeded to the V.D.C. School at DONGARRA, to complete arrangements and observe results of the close support exercise being carried out by 25 Sqn (D.B.). Unfortunately the exercise was not a great success owing to three of the four A/C scheduled to participate being rendered unservicable one hour before take-off. Both the morning and afternoon missions were carried out by one A/C only.
- Owing to H.Q. Western Area R.A.A.F. not allowing practice bombs to be dropped in the DONGARRA area, only dummy attacks could be made.
- The return trip to PEARCE was made on Monday.

- (2). Preparations are being made for a close support exercise on 27 Feb with the V.D.C. School at BREMER BAY, approx 70 miles east of ALBANY, and 3 Aust Corps Training Centre (J.W.) on 28 and 29 Feb at COLLIE.

PART 'C'.

- (3). Capt NICHOLAS, GIII Air, 3 Aust Corps, visited the section on 15 Feb to discuss plans for the exercises referred to in para (2).
- (4). Capt PORTER attended the weekly 'G' conference at H.Q. 3 Aust Corps.
- (5). Section Training, which included rifle shoots on the 30 yd range in the morning and the 300 yd range in the afternoon, was carried out on 16 Feb.

PART 'D'.

Nil.

.......... Capt.

29 Feb '44
29 Feb '44

Adv LHQ
17 FEBRUARY

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

Weekly Report No 38 - Week Ended 26 Feb '44

1. PART 'A'

Weekly Reports No 5 for this period from 52, 53 and 54 Aust Sqn AL Secs are forwarded herewith.

PART 'B'

2. The first Co-operation exercise by an Army and an Air Force unit is of great importance, as the degree of success attained affects the staging of subsequent exercises with those same units.

This is well illustrated by the experience this Section has had with No 5 Group VDC and RAAF Sqn based at PEARCE. Last Easter an exercise was hastily staged between No 5 Group VDC and 25 Sqn RAAF. The VDC Comd had no time to decide on how he wished to employ the aircraft, so handed the AEO a "forecast of events" and asked him to write in the air action. The resulting exercise was regarded as most successful, by both Army and RAAF. Since then both units have been ready to co-operate, not only in exercise, but IN THE INITIAL PLANNING FOR IT, with happy results. Certain Staff officers of 3 Aust Corps have expressed the view that so much service from the RAAF would prove of greater value to the field army, and that it was a pity to expend it on the VDC. The answer to that, of course, is that

- (a) The RAAF gets full value in training in co-operation with ground troops,
- (b) No 5 Group VDC is prepared to let the RAAF fit its training requirements into the ground programme, while the field formations usually specify in detail what they require from the RAAF apparently without considering what the latter would like from the exercise.
- (c) The VDC is prepared to hold an exercise in a locality where the RAAF can get training in cross country navigation, target-finding and identification and actual bombing (11-1bs) and strafing. When asked to do dummy bombing and strafing of a regiment, the RAAF Sqn usually replies that no engine hours are available over and above its own training syllabus and operational tasks. When engine hours expended in an Army Co-op exercise can be "written off" against navigation, bombing and air to ground gunnery training then air co-op is easy to attain.

3. The foregoing is to indicate how it was possible to arrange for a total of twenty-two sorties for next Sunday, 27 Feb '44 with No 5 Group VDC in desolate country 100 miles East of ALBANY.

Giving ample notice, the Gp Comd, Lt-Col CHAPPLE asked if the RAAF would co-operate, what they would like to do, and how could he assist. A copy of the exercise and outline forecast of events was furnished. A conference of COs and ALOs, of 14 and 25 Sqn RAAF was held, air action written into the ground picture and the exercise was launched. Detail will be given in Part 'B' of next week's report.

PART 'C'

4. Two of the Sqn AL Secs hold Vans 1 ton with track-grip tyres in lieu of Vanc 15 cwt. These are most unsuitable for long runs on bitumen roads, but Staff Duties and DADOS (Corps Troops) recommended that nothing better was available. In desperation, the DA & QMG was interviewed and requested to provide Vanc 15 cwt with gear lever on steering column, to enable the complete Section, or the driver, ALO and RAAF passenger to travel together even if it meant taking vehicles from units whose need was less than ours. The DA & QMG agreed that the request was reasonable, and undertook to personally see that we got suitable vehicles. This should take about three weeks.

5. Normal liaison visits to Army & RAAF Staffs were made.

PART 'D'

X11

[Signature]
.....Major

SECRET.

52 Aust Sqn Air Liaison Sec (AIF)
AUSTRALIA.
28 Feb '44.

M.O. (6)
L.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Comd A.L. Sec)

WEEKLY REPORT NO 5 -- WEEK ENDED 26 FEB '44

PART 'A'.

The Sec is still located with the Sqn detachment at Northern Station.

The sqn det has completed its mission and is in the process of returning to Base.

The sec will return to base under sqn arrangements. Movement should be completed by 3 Mar.

The role of the sqn detachment did not call for any operational duties by the A.L. Sec.

PART 'B'.

Nil.

PART 'C'.

Nil.

PART 'D'.

Nil.


Capt
Comd, 52 Aust Sqn Air Liaison Sec (AIF)

53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF)

AUSTRALIA

4 Mar '44

42 04 5

SECRET.

H.O. (G)

ADV L.H.R.

(Through 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec)

WEEKLY REPORT No 1 - WEEK ENDING 20 Feb '44

PART 'A'

1. 53 Aust Sqn AL Sec joined with the 1st AL sections at PEARCE in a miniature range rifle shooting match against the guard of 1st Sqn RAAF, who won the match by a small margin. This match was most interesting and instructive to all units.

PART 'B'

2. 7 Communication Unit RAAF supplied aroptic towing aircraft for AA shoots as under:

22 Feb '44	102 1st AA Bty	SWANBOURNE	0900 H - 1000 H
23 Feb '44	(102 1st AA Bty)		
	(FIVE-MILE Fwd Bn).		1000 H - 1700 H

3. Four other scheduled AA shoots had to be cancelled during this week owing to bad visibility over the practice area. And also because of the unsuitability of the SWANBOURNE area. In this area it is found the aroptic towing aircraft are endangered by other aircraft flying in the vicinity.

4. In view of the above all further shoots normally at SWANBOURNE will be fired at MATTHEW'S BAY.

PART 'C'

5. The weekly conference at HQ 3 Aust Corps was attended by CO this Sqn AL Sec together with Major ADAMS and Capt PORTER.

PART 'D'

6.

END

La. Cameron

Capt.
53 Aust Sqn AL Sec (AIF)

SECRET

44

02

5

54 Aust Squadron Air Liaison Section (ALF).

~~AUSTRALIA.~~
28 Feb '44.

MO (6)

Adv L.H.Q.

(Through 5 Aust Comd AL Sec)

ARMY - AIR CO-OPERATION.

WEEKLY REPORT NO. 5 - WEEK ENDED 26 FEB '44.

PART 'A'.

Personnel from 54 Sqn AL Sec, in company with members of the other sections, participated in a rifle shooting match on the miniature range against the guards of 14 Sqn RAAF. The keenness engendered by the competitive spirit prevailing considerably enhanced the training benefits derived from the shoot.

PART 'B'.

Capt PORTER was engaged for most of the week in conferences with the flight leaders of 25 Sqn (D.B.). Details of the projected exercises with the VDC at PALLINUP RIVER (27 Feb '44) and the 3 Aust Corps Training Centre (JW) at COLLIE (28 and 29 Feb) were arranged.

PART 'C'.

Capt PORTER attended the weekly 'G' conference at HQ 3 Aust Corps with Maj ADAIR and Capt BARNES.

PART 'D'.

N11.

E. H. Jones
O.C. 54 Aust Sqn AL Sec (ALF).^C