

**Series: AWM95**  
**Australian Army commanders' diaries**

**Artillery units**

**Item number: 3/1/1**

**Item: 100 (A) Field Battery**

**Narrative**

**Annex**

**[3 Sep - 31 Oct 1957]**



TELEPHONE

SECRET

Australian



Military Forces

From: 100 (A) Fd Bty RAA  
BUTTERWORTH  
MALAYA

Please quote number hereunder

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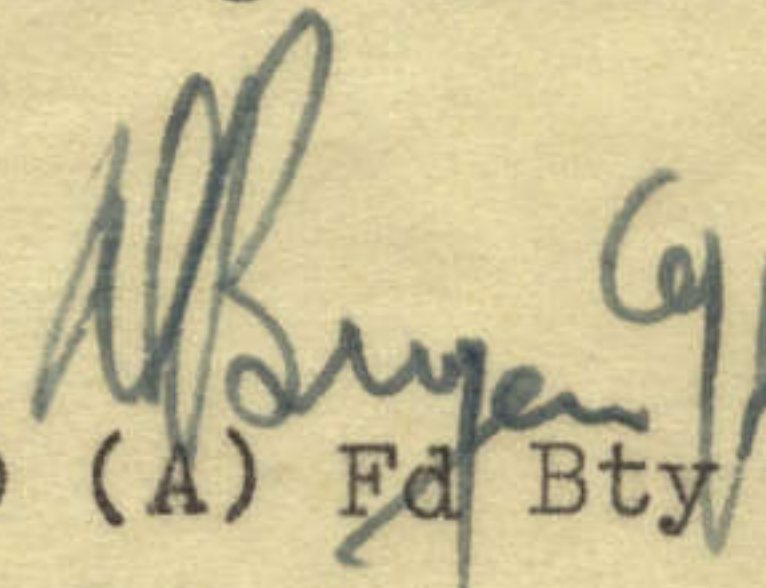
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to an individual

29 Jan 58

Military History Section  
Army Headquarters  
Victoria Barracks  
MELBOURNE

WAR DIARY - 100 (A) Fd Bty RAA

1. Attached is one copy of the WAR DIARY for period  
3 Sep 57 to 31 Dec 57. The <sup>comencing</sup> date 3 Sep being the date  
the unit received separate identity from 1 Fd Regt RAA.

  
Comd 100 (A) Fd Bty RAA Maj



C2118

SECRETWAR DIARY

100 (A) Fd Bty RAA

Month and Year September 1957

Commanding Officer *P. E. Seddon*  
Maj P.E. SEDDON

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	References to annexes
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The following is a list of officer appointments of A Fd Bty RAA

BHQ

BATTERY COMMANDER	Maj P.E. SEDDON
BATTERY CAPTAIN	Capt D.N. BRYAN
COMMAND POST OFFICER	Lt P.L. BOOL
ASSISTANT COMMAND POST OFFICER	Lt D. McPHERSON
SIGNALS OFFICER	Lt D.R.H. HARRIS
WAGGON LINES OFFICER	Lt N.F. De La HUNTY

A Tp

TROOP COMMANDER	Capt D.J. ASHMORE
GUN POSITION OFFICER	Lt N.H. HARDEN
TROOP LEADER	Lt A.D. STEWART

B Tp

TROOP COMMANDER	Capt B.N. MURTAGH
GUN POSITION OFFICER	Lt R.V. PORTER
TROOP LEADER	Lt S.R. GERAHTY



C2118

Month and Year

September 195~~8~~<sup>7</sup>SECRET  
WAR DIARY

100 (A) Fd Bty A

Commanding Officer *P. E. Seddon*  
Maj. P. E. SEDDON.

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	Reference to annexes
New Holsworthy	3	Stores checked and taken off A Bty charge.	
	5	Lecture by Maj SIMPSON on MALAYA	
	6	Long weekend leave . X Rays completed.	
	9	Dental treatment being carried out. Lecture for all officers by Mr LOVEDAY, Dept External Affairs at 3RAR	
	10-11	Range practices -- Anzac rifle range	Instr as Appx
	13	Bty Capt departed for MALAYA by air	
	17	Farewell parade to A Fd Bty RAA held at New Holsworthy. The parade was inspected by Colonel Commandant RAA and Minister For the Army. Officers were presented to Colonel Commandant and Minister for Army.	
	18	Inoculations completed	
	19	Sig Offr and advance party departed by air for MALAYA	



C2118

SECRET

100 (A) Fd Bty AA

Month and Year Sep/Oct 19<sup>57</sup>58Commanding Officer *P. E. Seddon*  
Maj P.E. SEDDON

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	Reference to annexes
New Holsworthy	20-24	Final arrangements made for embarkation . A F <sup>d</sup> Bty married pers and families embarked on HMT New Australia at No 1 DARLING HARBOUR SYDNEY 0930-1100 hrs	
HMT NEW AUSTRALIA		Main body embarked 1430 hrs GOC E Comd informally spoke with troops HMT NEW AUSTRALIA slipped moorings 1600 hrs passed through heads 1700hrs Salute fired from North Head	
	26	Trg commenced on board	Progamme attached
	27	Paludrine issues commenced	
	29	HMT NEW AUSTRALIA collided with MV FRANCE STOVE . Boat stations drill carried out <sup>b</sup>	
	30	HMT NEW AUSTRALIA anchored off THURSDAY ISLAND for repairs. Paludrine issues ceased.	
E THURSDAY ISLAND	Oct 1-2	Members of Bty assisted with repairs.	



C2118

SECRET100 (A) ED BTY RAACommanding Officer Maj P.E. SEDDON

Month and Year October 1957

T	Place	Date	Summary of events and information	Reference rto annexes
	THURSDAY ISLAND	3	HMT NEW AUSTRALIA sailed for SINGAPORE 1145 hrs. Message to all pers by Capt J. W. HART Master.	Copy of message
	HMT NEW AUSTRALIA	4	Trg continued -- Paludrine issues re-commenced	
		5	Ship proceeding at reduced speed	
		6	Fresh water in short supply , rationing commenced	
		7	Stand down -- Public holiday	
		9	Dis-embarkation order issued	Attached
		10	Arrived SINGAPORE 1200 hrs -- anchored in roads Adm	
	SINGAPORE	11	HMT NEW AUSTRALIA berthed at wharf Bty less married pers moved to NEE SOON BARRACKS whilst ship repaired	
	NEE SOON BARRACKS	12	Troops training at NEE SOON. Bty provided escort for 3 RAR baggage to KOTA TINNGI	
	SINGAPORE	14	Married pers and families moved to PENANG	



C2118

SECRET

100 (A) Fd Bty RAA

WAR DIARY

Month and Year OCTOBER 1957

Commanding Officer Maj P.E. SEDDON

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	References to annexes
SINGAPORE	14	By rail/air	
	17	HMT NEW AUSTRALIA sailed for PENANG with unmarried personnel	
PENANG	18	HMT NEW AUSTRALIA berthed at PENANG wharf 1730 hrs Bty disembarked and moved to BUTTERWORTH.	Bty Comds voyage report attached
BUTTERWORTH		Bty farewelled 105 Fd Bty RAA who embarked at 1500hrs	
	19	Stores issued to sub-accounts . Troops issued personal issues.	
	21	Training and settling in carried out	Programme attached
	22	Public holiday DEEPAVALI --half day organised sport, half day stand down	
	23	BC & Tp Comd B Tp Comd ACPO left for TAIPING and IPOH on recce of operational camps. BC attended Brigade SP arms conference at Bde CP IPOH	
	24	Party inspected operational camps at LINTANG and SALAK NORTH	
	26	Bty supplied guncarriage and detachment for funeral of member of 1 R LINCOLNS A Tp Leader represented the Bty	
	30	Bde Comd, Brig P.N.M. MOORE DSO, MC, inspected unit in training	
	31	BRA FARELF Brig D.WELSH ,DSO, visited unit training.	



A FD BTY RAA  
HOLSWORTHY

7 Sep 57

ADM INSTR 15/57 - CONDUCT OF RANGE  
PRACTICES 10-11-12 SEP 57

MISSION

1. A Fd Bty RAA will conduct range practices at the ANZAC RIFLE RANGE on 10-11-12 Sep 57.

EXECUTION

2. General Outline

- (a) All pers excl those required for essential Bty duties and for dental treatment will attend.  
(b) Practices will be conducted as follows:-  
(i) 10 Sep 57 - Rifle  
(ii) 11 Sep 57 - Owen and pistol  
(iii) 12 Sep 57 - Bren

Rifle Practices

3. (a) Practices 1-4 will be fired  
(b) Amn drawn 0800 hrs 10 Sep 57

Owen and Pistol

4. (a) Practices will be advised  
(b) Amn drawn 0800 hrs 11 Sep 57

Bren

5. (a) Practices will be advised  
(b) Amn drawn 0800 hrs 12 Sep 57

Co-ord Instrs

6. Appointments

(a)	Range Officer	-	Capt B N MURTAGH
(b)	OIC Butts	-	Lt N H HARDEN
	Asst	-	Lt D R HARRIS
(c)	OIC Mound	-	Lt R V PORTER
	Asst	-	WOII KENNEDY

Times

7. Reviewelle 0500 hrs  
Breakfast 0615 hrs (for all ORs, Bty Orderly Offr to supervise)  
Bty Parade 0650 hrs  
Embark 0657 hrs  
Depart 0700 hrs

ADM AND LOG

8. Feeding

- (a) Breakfast 4 Officers - Offrs Mess  
(0615) 11 WOs and Sgts - Sgts Mess  
All Living in ORs - OR.s Mess



(2)

Adm Instr 15/57 (Continued)

(b) Lunch (1) 4 Offrs  
11 WOS and Sgts  
85 ORS

(ii) Cpl TANNER to draw rations etc from  
respective messes.

9. Dress

Patrol Order with rifles.

10. Amn

- (a) Will be drawn by Capt MURTAGH
- (b) Amn party - Sgt OVENDEN plus 4 ORs from A Tp
- (c) Sgt OVENDEN will be responsible for issue of  
amn, collecting produce and return.
- (d) Range officer will submit AAF C7

11. Tpt

- (a) Provided by RHQ as per annexure A
- (b) No private cars will be taken.

12. Med

One med orderly to attend and travel with main  
party.

*R. W. M. [Signature]*  
MAJ  
BC A FD BTY RAA

Distribution

BHQ	2
A Tp	2
B Tp	2
1 Fd Regt	5 (CO, QM, Tpt, WO Caterer, RAP)
102 Lt Bty	2
Bty Comd	
Bty Capt	
Cpl TANNER	
War Diary	2
File	



Annexure "A" to  
A FD BTY RAA Adm Instr  
15/57 of 9 Sep 57

SCHEDULE OF TPT REQUIREMENTS

<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE OF REPORTING</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1.	10 Sep 57 11 Sep 57 12 Sep 57	0650	A FD BTY RAA	One (1) Lt Veh to remain range Bdr WALTERS to drive.
2.	10 Sep 57 11 Sep 57 12 Sep 57	0650	A FD BTY RAA	TCV for 100 personnel
3.	10 Sep 57 11 Sep 57 12 Sep 57	1000	102 Lt Bty Kitchen (Cpl TANNER)	One (1) Cocker 4 wheeled with army vehicle
4.	10 Sep 57 11 Sep 57 12 Sep 57	1530	ANZAC RIFLE RANGE	TCV for 100 personnel



*S. Bad*

OFFICER LECTURES ON THE SHIP.

1. I am not able to produce at this stage a complete training programme for the ship.
2. The following lectures will be prepared prior to embarkation:-

Capt MURTAGH	-	1. Personal hygiene 2. MALAYA and the CT
Lt BOOL	-	1. Revised procedures 2. Intelligence
Lt De La MUNTZ	-	1. Maint in the Tropics 2. Methods of Searching
Lt HANDEH	-	1. Harassing fire 2. The Jungle Base
Lt STEWART	-	1. Movement by Road 2. Patrolling
Lt PORTER	-	1. Troop operational camps 2. Navigation
Lt GEMANTY	-	1. Own Forces 2. Immediate Action Drills.

3. References:- Army School of Health Precis  
Artillery training publications  
Troop Commander's MALAYA Brief  
The Conduct of Anti-Terrorist  
Operations in MALAYA.

*[Signature]*  
MAJ  
BC A FD BTY RAA

DISTRIBUTION  
One Per Officer  
File  
Spares 2



BROADCAST BY CAPTAIN J.W. HART

S.S. "NEW AUSTRALIA"

3rd OCT 57

ATTENTION ALL SERVICE PERSONNEL AND ALL FAMILIES ON BOARD

SHIP'S MASTER ADDRESSING YOU

I am very pleased to be able to say that the vessel is now on its way to SINGAPORE, and it is hoped we will arrive at that port on the morning of Wednesday 9th.

I would like to thank you all most fervently and sincerely for your poise and calm during and after the serious collision on Sunday last.

Serious as it was it is providential that it was not a terrible lot worse, it was so near to being a dire tragedy.

The ready help which has been given to the ship by all ranks of all units, supplementing the work done by this vessel's crew and local shore labour, in completing the temporary repair in so brief a time has proved invaluable, and I wish to express my sincere appreciation



69  
1.11

→ CPO  
Was Diary

HQ Movement Control,  
Port of Singapore,  
Embarkation HQ,  
c/o GPO Singapore.  
Tel No. 29151 Ext 33.  
Ref No. P/100/17.

8 Oct 57.

Subject:- PROGRAMME HT "NEW AUSTRALIA" EX AUSTRALIA 10 OCT 57

10 OCT 57

1500 hrs Launch from JARDINE STEPS  
1600 " Vessel arrives EASTERN ANCHORAGE

11 OCT 57

0700 hrs Vessel Alongside  
0700 " Disembark as follows:

- 3 RAR (i) Escort 1 NCO 5 OR 105 Fd Bty
- (ii) HQ & Adm Coy
- (iii) A Coy
- (iv) B Coy
- (v) S Coy
- (vi) C & D Coy
- (vii) 2 Fd Tp

0930 hrs Shore leave - Families  
1015 " Disembark Personnel for NEE SOON T.C.  
1030 " Disembark Families for Singapore  
1700 " Vessel Leaves Quay.

Shore Leave - 0930 - 1300 hrs - 11 Oct 57.

Subsequent days under arrangements Ships Comdt - Aust Army.

Agreed DSTOFE 081200 GH

The above timings are subject to alteration at short notice.

Now STA involved  
Quarantine Authority

Riley

*[Signature]*  
for Lt Col, KSLI,  
Port Commandant.  
(P RILEY Capt).  
PLB/KRN.

Distribution:

GHQ FARELF

Q Mov 2  
HQ AUSTRALIA  
3 RAR Nee Soon

HQ FEAF

Q Mov 2

F.O.M.A.

HQ 17 GURKHA DIV/OCLEF SEREMBAN.

QMOV  
QMOV HQ FED DIV

HQ SINGAPORE Base District

QMOV  
MCO (Rail)  
DAFM  
OC No 1 Tpt Office  
200 Pro Coy RMP  
37 COY (WT) RASC

OC SHB Police, Gate No 2  
Deputy Controller of Immigration  
DSTOFE  
Joint Air Services Travel Centre  
Ships Commandant (4)

Internal

Port Commandant  
DAQMG Mov  
Staff Capt (P) ✓  
E.S.O.  
OC 68 RAF Mov Unit (Emb) (2)  
E.M.O.  
M.F.O. (2)  
RMP  
Chief Clerk.



Ship's Commandant

UNIT COMMANDERS REPORT  
VOYAGE SYDNEY -SINGAPORE  
25 Sept - 10 Oct 57

FAMILIES

1. The facilities provided were good. However the space, deck and lounge, allotted to families severely restricted troops training. I doubt whether trooping and the movement of families on the one ship would ever be entirely satisfactory.

ACCOMODATION

2. This was quite fair, although troop cabins had no natural ventilation. Most troops slept on deck and this fact probably led to a number of colds and influenza.

MEALS

3. These were generally of a high standard, well prepared and efficiently served.

SHIP'S STAFF

4. The necessity of a permanent ship's staff was proven time and time again.

TRAINING FACILITIES

5. These were extremely limited. Even physical training which is normally practicable on board ship was of little value because of lack of deck space. Training consisted entirely of lectures, P T and discussion groups,

PROVISIONING

6. I understand that the provisioning of normal canteen supplies was undertaken by the AACS. In many cases these have run out, no doubt occasioned by the delay in the voyage. It appears though that an adequate reserve was not provided.

ADMINISTRATION

7. (a) The unit orderly room was not satisfactory.  
(b) Ship's Standing Orders should include CB Orders.  
(c) If possible troop and family sick parade times should be amended to avoid overlap.

INFORMATION PRIOR TO EMBARKATION

8. It was not possible to make out a training programme prior to embarkation. Prior knowledge of the layout and facilities available for training would have been useful. Training stores such as blackboards, chalks, lectures etc, should be provided by the ship's staff.

DRESS

9. All ranks were warned to bring the minimum amount of khaki clothing as it is not worn in MALAYA. Because uniform was worn at all times on board it became most difficult to comply. Either dress regulations on board should be relaxed or the requirement for KD's be stated prior to embarkation.

IRONS

10. There was a grave shortage of irons. This may have been alleviated had earlier warning been given to troops and families prior to embarkation.

CO - OPERATION

11. The co-operation and kindness of all ship's officers was wonderful. This to a large extent made the voyage pleasurable in spite of many difficulties.

  
Maj  
BATTERY COMMANDER



TELEPHONE

Australian  Military Forces

From: A Fd Bty RAA  
BUTTERWORTH  
MALAYA

Address your reply as above and not  
to an individual

Please quote number hereunder

	68	406
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22 Oct 57

28 COMWEL Indep Inf Bde

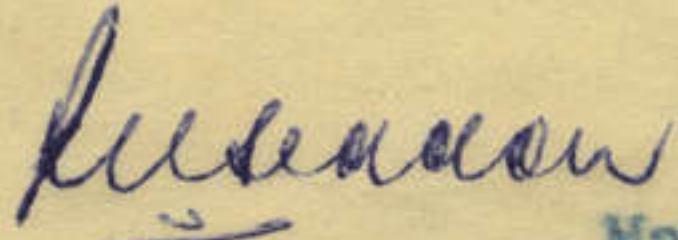
TRAINING PROGRAMME 21/26 OCT 57  
A FIELD BATTERY RAA

PART I

1. All ranks will fire, and zero where practicable, their personal weapon.
2. As far as possible all Q issues will be completed.
3. Troop training will chiefly consist of familiarization with equipments.
4. All equipments will be maintained daily.

PART II

1. As per Appendix A.

  
Maj  
Comd A Fd Bty RAA



PART II

Date	Nature of Event and aim	Troops taking part	General area	RV and time	Approx time of finish	Remarks
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
21 Oct 57	Maintenance Q issues and Troop administration	All		All day		
22 Oct 57	DEEPAVALI - All ranks will participate in organised sport Cricket, Soft ball Basketball, Badminton Swimming					
23 Oct 57	Zero weapons  Troop training and Maintenance	A Troop  B Tp BHQ	Short range	0630	1630	Rifle and LMG Lecture :-  1. Custody and safe handling of SA 2. HT English
24 Oct 57	Zero weapons  Tp training and maint	B Tp  A Tp BHQ	Short range	0630	1630	Rifle and LMG HQ- Lecture:- Road Mov in MALAYA



Appendix A (continued)

Date	Nature of Event and Aim	Troops taking part	General area	RV and time	Approx time of finish	Remarks
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
25 Oct 57	Tp trg and maintenance	All		0845 - 1045		
	Lecture - Friendly and enemy forces	All	Football field	1100 - 1230		Arranged by 28 Bde
	Zero weapons	BHQ	Short range	1400 - 1630	1630	Rifle and LMG
	Tp trg - incl hygiene instr	A Tp B Tp			1630	Lecture :- Protection and def of gun posns Road Mov in MALAYA
	Pistol practice	All officers	Short range	1630		
26 Oct 57	Tp trg and maintenance	All		0830 - 0945		
	Lecture - CT Org and Tac	All		1000 - 1130		Arranged by 28 Bde
	Zero weapons	BHQ	Short range	1400 - 1630		Rifle and LMG
	Hygiene lecture Maj FITZPATRICK	A Tp B Tp		1400 - 1500		Incl BHQ pers who fired on 25 Oct
	Organized sport	All		1500 - 1630	1630	

Internal Distribution

A Tp File  
 B Tp War Diary ✓  
 BHQ Spare



Australian  Military Forces

From: A Fd Bty RAA  
BUTTERWORTH  
MALAYA

Please quote number hereunder

	68	406 A
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Address your reply as above and not  
to an individual

22 Oct 57

28 COMWEL Indep Inf Bde

TRAINING PROGRAMME 28 OCT / 2 NOV 57  
A FIELD BATTERY RAA

PART I

1. All ranks will complete SA range practices on the BUKIT MERAH rifle range and MT Ambush instruction in the KEDAH area.
2. The priority for firing SA practices will be:-
  - (a) Those members who have not fired in the last six (6) months.
  - (b) Those members who did not complete the range practices at ANZAC Rifle Range in Sep 57.
  - (c) Remainder.
3. All ranks will attend the various lectures arranged by 28 Bde.
4. All Battery signallers will commence a course of instruction lasting seven (7) days.
5. Troop training will be directed towards proficiency in the skills required to perform operational tasks.

PART II

1. As per Appendix A.

  
Maj  
Comd A Fd Bty RAA



Date	Nature of Event and aim	Troops taking part	General area	RV and time	Approx time of finish	Remarks
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
28 Oct 57	Maintenance	ALL		0830 - 0945		
	Lecture - Special branch activities	ALL		1100 - 1130		Arranged by 28 Bde
	Troop training	ALL		1130 - 1230		
	Lecture - Planning and control of Ops in MALAYA	ALL		1400 - 1530		Arranged by 28 Bde
	Organised sport	All		1530 - 1630		
	Briefing on Op situation	All officers		2000		AGPO
29 Oct 57	SA weapon firing	A Tp	BUKIT MERAH Range	Trg Area G 0630		Rifle , LMG OMC
	NT Ambush	B Tp	KEDAH/PW	Start time 0630	1600	Move off from Bty area at 0610
	Tp training and Maint	BHQ			1630	BHQ Sigs to fire SA with A Tp
30 Oct 57	NT Ambush	A Tp	As for 29 Oct 57			
	SA weapon firing	B Tp	As for 29 Oct 57			
	Tp Training and Maint	BHQ				BHQ sigs to fire SA with B Tp



Appendix A to A Fd Bty RAA 68/406A (continued)

Date	Nature of Event and aim	Troops taking part	General area	RV and time	Approx time of finish	Remarks
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
31 Oct 57	Troop training and Maint SA weapon firing	A Tp B Tp BHQ		As for 29 Oct 57		All Bty Sigs commence one (1) week course under sig offr
1 Nov 57	Troop training and Maint	A Tp B Tp				Sig Course
<del>31 Oct 57</del>	MT Ambush	BHQ		As for 29 Oct 57		
2 Nov 57	Troop training and Maint	All		0830 - 1230		Sig course
	Organised sport	All		1400 - 1630		

Internal Distrubtion

A Tp  
 B Tp  
 BHQ  
 War Diary ✓  
 File  
 Spare



VISIT - Brig D. WELSH, DSO, BRA

31 Oct 57

Serial	Time	Event	Accompany during serial	Responsibility Appt Initials	Remarks
1	1510	BC meet at RAF BUTTERWORTH		BK	X2 required at BC's office at 1445 hrs BK inspect drivers dress and vehicle.
2	1515	BSM meet at flagpole. BSM precede throught visit at 10 paces and call parties to attention. Fly RA Standard. BC accompany throught visit.		BSM	
3	1516	Bty Comd Post and signal centre. BK, CPO and ACPO meet BRA. ACPO brief BRA on loc of OP Camps and OP Situation.		BK CPO ACPO	CPO will be prepared to discuss AUST equivalent of Displacement Calculator.
4	1521	Arms Kote. BQMS explain gen loc of Bty weapons (BHQ Tps) and gen outline of control of SA & SAA. Produce inspection issue and receipt books. Storeman in attendance for interview.	BK	BQMS Store -man	
5	1526	LAD. WO IC LAD brief visitor on layout and capacity of LAD. Some Cfn in attendance for interview.	BK WO IC LAD	WO IC LAD	
6	1531	View B Tp weapon training in rear of Troop office	Tp Comd B Tp	Tp Comd B Tp	
7	1545	Visit Sig course in rear of Q Store	Sig Offr	Sig Offr	
8	1550	Move to oval to view A Tp training		BK	X2 stand by outside Q Store at 1530 hrs - BK. BSM move to Sgts Mess.
9	1551	Visit A Tp Training	Tp Comd A Tp	Tp Comd A Tp	
10	1605	BSM introduce all available Sgts	BSM	BSM	Move by X2 from oval to Sgts Mess
11	1615	BK will assemble all available officers - introduced by BC		BK	Afternoon tea in officers mess
12	1630	Depart for MITCHELL PIER		BK	X2 at officers mess

Date: 31 Oct 57

*Richardson*  
Maj  
Comd A Fd Bty RAA