

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries

Miscellaneous units

Item number: 17/4/6

Item: Australian Observer Unit

Narrative

Appendix

[1-31 Mar 1953]

S E C R E T

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form 211b
(Adapted)

D. 4821/7.45 - C. 6546

Unit Australian Observer Unit Date and Time. — From 1 MAR 53 To 31 MAR 53.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
SINGAPORE	1 Mar		WO11 HICKS, an instructor at the FTO, is due to return to Aust by RAF Courier, ETD being 7 MAR. Replacement is not named as yet.	
	2 Mar.		Nil.	
	3 Mar.		WO11 McEACHERN submitted an application for compassionate return to Aust. His 12 months tour of Duty has expired and an accelerated return has been asked for due to the severe illnesses of his sister and mother.	
	4-5-6 Mar		Nil.	
	7 Mar		WO11 HICKS was not allowed to travel by the RAF Courier due to some argument between FARELF and FEAF as to payment of the air fare. Method of his travel is not known at present.	
	8-9-10 Mar		Nil.	
	11 Mar.		The following personnel are due to arrive on the RAF Courier from Aust on the 12 Mar: Cpl, REID, SIGMN PEACOCK, ADAMS, OWBRIDGE.	
	12 Mar.	1500	Sigmn OWBRIDGE, PEACOCK and ADAMS deplaned SINGAPORE. No information is available as to the whereabouts of Cpl REID. Sigmn ANSTEE released from TANGLIN Detention Barracks having finished his 14 days.	

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form 211b
(Adapted)

D. 4021/7.45-0.6546

Unit Australian Observer Unit. Date and Time.— From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
SINGAPORE.	13 Mar		3/953 WO11 HICKS J.M. embarked S.S. "MAETSUYCKER" for FREMANTLE and MELBOURNE. SINGAPORE Base District Mov Order 384 of 11 Mar 53 refers.	Mov Order not att.
	14-15 Mar		nil.	
	16 Mar		Maj I.D. CAMERON is on Attachment with Engrs LANDFOR, HONG KONG. Period is 9 Mar-2 May 53 and he will be visiting most of the Engr installations there.	
	17 Mar		Nil.	
	18 Mar		Army Melbourne signal gives ETD Aust of Cpl REID as 26 Mar. Capt WILLIAMSON left on a short visit to Police HQ KUALA LUMPUR.	
	19 Mar		Nil.	
	20 Mar.		Capt WILLIAMSON returned from visit KUALA LUMPUR.	
	21-22 Mar		Nil.	
	23 Mar		Letter received from the Chief Electoral Officer CANBERRA requesting a return of all army personnel by states at present posted in MALAYA. This is required for the forthcoming Senate elections.	
	24 Mar.		WO11 McEACHERN is promoted to WO1. This WO arrived in SINGAPORE from KLUANG MALAYA today in order to arrange return to Aust with FARELF. Interview was arranged by Capt WILLIAMSON	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.211a
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

D. 4001/7.45—C.6546

Unit Australian Observer Unit

Date and Time.— From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
SINGAPORE.			and the result is that McEACHERN will embark SINGAPORE on first available ship, probably early APR.	
	25 Mar		Nil	
	26 Mar		Sgt CAHILL A.D. arrived SINGAPORE to be accomodated here pending a decision as to his future employment. At present this member is on the "R" list i.e. is unallotted, and a decision is to be made by FARELF and Army Headquarters MELBOURNE as to whether member will be reposted to an Inf Bn in the Federation as a G.D. Sgt or will be returned to Aust. Member has served just over 1 year of a 2 year posting and has been reported as unsatisfactory by Units he has served with.	
	27 Mar		Information was received from Postings FARELF that 1/7001 Capt H.J.C. BECK was in SINGAPORE on leave prior to posting 1903 Air OP Flt KOREA. Neither they nor this Unit had any notification that this Officer was to arrive. So far he has not reported eithe to FARELF or the Observer Unit. It is considered that movements such as these should be notified beforehand. A signal was despatched to Army MELBOURNE asking that this be done in future.	
	28-29 Mar		Nil.	
	30-31 Mar		Capt WLLIAMSON absent fromm the Observer Unit on duty for these two days.	
			Strength State of the Observer Unit as at 31 Mar is attached	Appendix A.

STRENGTH STATE OF AUST OBSERVER UNIT MALAYA

AS AT 31 MAR 53.

(a) Officers.

3/355 Maj I.D.CAMERON - att CE LANDFOR HONGKONG.
1/112 Capt J.I.WILLIAMSON - att GHQ Signal Regt.
3/7509 Capt B.S.O'DOWD - On loan FARELF Trg Centre.
2/40036 Capt J.M.DeCOSTA - RAF HONG KONG

Total Officers - 5.

(b) OR On loan.

1/505 Sgt GRAHAM D W - FARELF Trg Centre.
3/2725 Sgt BURGESS A W C - " " "
2/3152 L/Cpl WEST K - GHQ Signal Regt.
3/901 Sigmn STRAUGHEN M - " " "
3/1789 WO1 MeeACHERN R E - 2 Station Wksps KLUANG.
3/2828 Cfn ZIEBELL I D - " " " "
2/3948 " POLGLASE J W J - " " " "
1/455 S/Sgt HINDS J A - 1 Station Wksps TAIPING.
4/608 Cpl HOOPER-HALL R - " " " "

Total OR On loan - 9.

(c) OR Att.

As for last list with additions:-

2/4075 Sigmn PEACOCK R L - Att GHQ Signal Regt
3/10810 " ADAMS A J - " " " "
1/1921 " OWBRIDGE W G - " " " "

Total OR Att - 18.

Total all ranks - 5 Offr 27 OR.