Series: AWM95 Australian Army commanders' diaries

Artillery units

Item number: 3/5/26

Item: 105 Field Battery

Narrative

Annexes

[1-31 Aug 1957]

UNIT HISTORY

Commanding Officer.... Maj B. L. BOCLE

Place	Date	Summary of Events and Information	Ref to Appendices
BHQ	6, 13	Bty Capt attended Bde Comd's Sp Arms conference at CP IPOH	
UTTERWORTH	20, 27	BC attended Sp Arms Conference	
OT TIME! OUT IT	2	At 0020 hrs Bdr SUTTON D. K., a member of BHQ was killed in a civilian car	
		accident near SUNGEI PATANI, KEDAH.	
	<u>lı</u>	Bdr SUTTON was buried in the Military Section of TAIPING Cemetery with	
		full Military Honours.	
	7	A Tp returned to BUTTERWORTH from SALAK NORTH.	
	47	BC returned from leave.	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
		CIGS F.M. SIR GERALD TEMPLAR, visited 28 COMWEL Indep Inf Bde Gp. BC and	
	28	OC A Tp attended lunch. CIGS expressed a wish to BC that his personal	
		congratulations be passed to all rams for a job well done in MALAYA.	
		A Tp fired 101 gun salute as part of MALAYAN Independence Day Celebrations	
		in PENANG.	-
		To supported 1 R LINCOLNS with HF tasks.	Report on Arty Ops
A Tp	1 - 5	Tp supported 1 K LINCOLNO WICH IN MACASO	Appx A
ALAK NORTH	Contractions of the person of the person	Constitution of the Consti	
BUTTERWORTH	8-31	Tp supported 2 RAR during training.	The same and the s
	Carried Section Sections of the Contract of th	The state of the s)Report on Arty Ops
ВТр	1 - 16	Tp supported 1 R LINCOLNS with HF tasks) Appx A
	16 - 28	To supported 1 LOYALS during Op SEAGULL WAX.	
	29 - 31	Tp in support 2 Fed Inf Bde. On call. No tasks were called for.	
		Comd 105 Fd Bty RAA	The same of the sa
	many many day on the same of t	action Maj	The state of the section of the sect
	(L	Comd 105 Fd Bty RAA	

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105 1 BITY RAA

REPORT ON ARTY OPS FOR THE MONTH OF. AUG. 57.

Appa C to 105 Fd Bly RAA Standing Ord s for Ops (MALAYA)

Serial	Tp or Sec	Period	Name or Type of op	Area of Gun	Unit/Fmn Supported	Type of Fire	Result of	Tac Info	No of Rds Fire
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(J)	(K)
1.	A Tp	1 - 5	OP SHARK NORTH	VD 949160	1 R LINCOLNS	HF	Not	NIL	402
2 (a)	ВТр	1 - 16	OP SHARK NORTH	VK 033810	1 R LINCOLNS	HF	Not	NIL	200
(6)	ВТр	16 - 28	SEAGULL WAX	VJ 770458	1 LOYALS	BC(OBS) BC(OU) HFT	Bee Annx A att.		3043
							Total		3645
							Progressive	Total	87054

Comd

d 105 Fd Bty RA

SECRET

Anx A to 105 Fd Bty RAA Report on Arty Ops for Aug 57

OP IN SUPPORT 1 LOYALS 18 - 24 AUG 57

- B Tp 105 Fd Bty RAA, in conjunction with 95 Fd Bty RAA and F Tp 1 SRRA, shelled an occupied CT camp at VJ 785380 following an air strike, from 1920 hrs on 18 Aug 57 till 0600 hrs 19 Aug 57.
- 2. Since the tgt was engaged after last light observation of fire was not possible. The area was subsequently searched by ground patrols from 1 LOYALS which confirmed that the fall of shot was 300 yards from the camp, which had been hurriedly evacuated.
- No casualties were caused and NO damage was caused to the CT camp.
- 4. From 20 24 Aug 57, fire, both observed and predicted, was continued on likely escape routes.

Comd 105 Fd Bty RAA

SECRET

B Tp 105 Fd Bty RAA TAMBUN 26 Jun 57

BRIEF FOR TP COMD - MALAYA

1. General Responsibility

- (a) The normal task of the tp is to fire HF into areas of suspected CT activity. The methods by which this is done vary from time to time according to policy laid down and the requirements of the inf bn being supported.
- (b) The following variations of HF have been emp by this tp on ops:
 - (i) Firing at suspected CT locs by day and during the period of darkness at irregular intervals with varying nos of guns.
 - (ii) Engaging CT comps, cultivations, etc., with concs.
 - (iii) Firing tp and bty cones observed by AOP at suspected CT locs and areas.
- (c) Other types of fire employed include:
 - (i) Observed fire from static and air OP
 - (ii) Smoke fired as an aid to direction finding.
- (d) In addition to the above tasks the tp may be called upon to do the following:
 - (i) Food checks on roads and new villages
 - (ii) Small local patrols
 - (iii) Tactical reserve for operations in an infantry
 - (iv) Garrison duties
 - (v) Internal Security duties
 - (vi) Ceremonial Parades

2. Liaison

(a) It is normal to obtain tasks from the IO of the infantry battalion being supported. As a general rule he
will also obtain ground clearance for you. Ground
clearance is obtained from the police; and it is imperative that you check that it has been obtained as
civilians may be working in the target area. If the
IO does NOT give you clearance it is your responsibility to obtain it directly from the police. The DSBO
at District Police HQ normally handles clearance. (105
Fd Bty RAA Standing Orders for Ops Sec 3 para 19a).

The method of obtaining air clearance is explained in para 19b of the above instruction.

3. Local Organisation in Camps

- It will be unusual if you can engage targets from your operational camp. Therefore if you have to fire for any great length of time from a gun position away from the camp you will have administrative difficulties maintaining two camps. Generally targets are engaged for periods NOT greater than 12 hours and then the guns return to the base camp. If it is necessary to occupy a gun position for more than a week it is best to vacate the operational camp, except for a small rear party, and live on the gun position.
- (b) I find the following allotment of duties, and division of responsibility most suitable for all conditions:
 - (i) Tp Comd - Operations Administrative policy and supervision Discipline Internal auditor of tp accounts Training Promotions and star grading Supervision of the preparation of all ledgers and records
 - (11) GPO - Guns, gun stores, records and maintenance, training of gun numbers. Accounts - Officers Sub mess Gunners Canteen Custodian Tp Funds Intelligence Officer TARA training and stores Local defence and security Calibration Supervision of gun fitter Tp custodian officer Handover/Takeover operational camps
 - (iii) TL - Transport, administration, records, maintenence, servicing, repairs, driver training POL accounting and records Signals, stores, administration training sigs and driver operators Ration accounting Supervisor of LAD vehicle mechanic Supervisor of Civil Labour Monthly inspection of technical equipment Weapon training Fire Officer Sports Officer

(iv) TSM

- Personnel administration, records Supervisor Tp Office Discipline Promulgation of Orders Duty rosters Ammunition - accounting indents storage preparation restrictions Accounts Sgts Sub Mess Kit checks and clothing issues Returns SA practices and weapon training Evacuation and replacement of stores and equipment Supervisor of hygiene duties and hygiene stores Supervisor of catering Supervisor of the Arms Kote Safe custody of weapons SAA etc. Medical stores, records (in absence of Medical Cpl)

- (v) TARA Sgt Fire NCO
 Intelligence Clerk
 Technical librarian
 Regimental funds stores incl
 Sports Stores
 Amenities
- (vi) Tp Adm Bdr Dhoby
 Rations
 Barrack Stores
 Tp Office Clerk

4. Basic Records, Registers and Returns

- (a) Operations
 - (i) Daily Tp Log
 - (ii) Records Sig Messages in/out
 - (iii) Daily SITREPS in/out
 - (iv) Gun programmes and task tables
 - (v) Equipment Histories
 - (vi) Cryptographic material
 - (vii) 105 Fd Bty RAA Standing Orders for Ops
 - (viii) Intelligence Summaries LOC STATS
 - (ix) 105 Fd Bty RAA Standing Orders for Security
 - (x) 28 COMWEL Bde Standing Orders for Ops
 - (xi) Notes on Supporting Arms conference.

- (b) Administration
 - (i) Telephone Log
 - (ii) Tp register NAAFI vouchers
 - (iii) Gnrs Canteen
 - (iv) Officers Mess NAAFI Account
 - (v) Sgts Mess NAAFI Account
 - (vi) Duty concession tobacco account
 - (vii) Personnel records
 - (viii) Instructions for Custody and Safe Handling SA Weapons
 - (ix) Higher Equipment Table
 - (x) Monthly Inspection of Technical Equipment
 - (xi) 105 Fd Bty RAA Barrack Standing Orders
 - (xii) Tp Comds instructions (ops and adm)
 - (xiii) Bty Comds instructions (ops and adm)
 - (xiv) Training instructions
 - (xv) Fire Orders 105 Fd Bty RAA Local
 - (xvi) Pay and Allowances MALAYA
 - (xvii) Miscellaneous A and Q directives
- (c) Stores Accounting
 - (i) Tp ledger and register of vouchers
 - (ii) Register of Loss and Damage Reports
 - (iii) Spot check register
 - (iv) TARA equipment ledger
 - (v) Regt Funds account ledger
 - (vi) Barrack Stores ledger
 - (vii) Signal equipment ledger
 - (viii) Transport ledger
 - (ix) Handover of Op camp ledger
 - (x) File of Loss and Damage Reports

(d) Miscellaneous Registers

- (1) Controlled Stores Receipt and Issue Book
- (ii) AF G1045 register

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- (iii) Wood Delivery
 - (iv) Key
 - (v) Individual Record of SA Practices
 - (vi) Consolidated Record of SA Practices
- (vii) Weapon and Ammunition Issues Transfers
- (viii) Palludrine Issues (combined with Roll Book)
 - (ix) Ammunition (25 PR) Receipt and Expenditure
 - (x) Ammunition (SAA) Receipt and Expenditure
 - (xi) Arms Kote Issue Register
 - (xii) Leave Entitlements and Roster
- (xiii) Civilian Employees Innoculation
 Vaccination
 Free from Infection
 Unit Passes
 Identity Cards
 Employment
- (e) The following records are maintained by the TSM:
 - (i) Roll Book
 - (ii) Duty Roster
 - (iii) Routine Orders
 - (iv) Guard Orders
 - (v) Arms Kote Orders
 - (vi) Leave Pass Book
 - (vii) Weekly Health Return (ADMS Form 1)
 - (viii) Unit Pass (for civ employees and other civs permitted to enter the camp for trading purposes etc.)
 - (ix) NAAFI Order Books
 - (x) Conservancy Certificates AF W1388
 - (xi) Certificate for personnel travelling by rail/ air in MALAYA indicating arms and ammunition carried
 - (xii) Free from Explosive Certificates
 - (xiii) Ammunition restrictions
 - (xiv) Loss of Identity Card Forms

- (xv) Ammunition Accident Report
- (xvi) Ammunition Defect Report
- (f) The following records are maintained and checked by the Tp Adm Bdr:
 - (i) Dhoby register
 - (ii) Dhoby issue and receipt book
 - (iii) Duplicates Contractors Receipt (Fresh rats)
 - (iv) Duplicates Dry Ration Indents (FARELF FORM 18)
 - (v) Duplicates of Free Cigarette Indent (FARELF FORM 18)
 - (vi) Duplicate Strength Return (FARELF FORM 47)
 - (vii) Unit Provision Account (AB 109)
 - (viii) Ration Issue Voucher (FARELF FORM 14)
 - (ix) Contractors Monthly Account (P 1922)
 - (g) The following records are maintained by the tp Tpt Bdr:
 - (i) Vehicle Record Book (AB 417)
 - (ii) Vehicle Log Book (AB 416)
 - (iii) Monthly Inspection of Vehicles (AB 406)
 - (iv) Tool Issues (AAF F78)
 - (v) Local Purchase POL (AF G827)
 - (vi) Work Ticket (AF G3518)
 - (vii) Record of Unit POL Issued (AF G825)
 - (viii) MT Stores issued (AB 108, G1033)
 - (ix) Unit POL issued for Stationary Motors (AB 108)
 - (x) Record of Indents for Spare Parts
 - (h) The following records are maintained by the tp Sig Bdr:
 - (i) Wireless Operators Log (B/Sigs/1)
 - (ii) Unit Maintenance Log (AF B2661)
 - (iii) Log Book Stationary Motors (AB 414)
 - (iv) Record of POL issues

- (j) The following returns are submitted to BHQ:
 - (i) Daily Strength Variation Vehicle State SITREP
 - (ii) Weekly Health
 Ammunition
 AF G827 used
 - (iii) Monthly Work Tickets
 Total milage of vehs
 SA practices completed
 Telephone account
 Dhoby
 POL used for Stationary Motors
 Clothing and Kit requirements
 Conservancy Certificate
- (k) The following repetitive orders are promulgated monthly:
 - (i) Instructions for the Safe Custody and Handling of SA weapons
 - (ii) Fire Orders
 - (iii) Discipline MT
 - (iv) Contamination of Water Supplies
 - (v) Inspection of Identity Cards and Uses
 - (vi) Use of Prophylactic Centres

5. Security

(a) Documents

The GPO is the custodian officer. All classified material, and there is a large amount, is registered, filed, and kept under lock and key. Application must be made to BHQ for downgrading and destruction.

(b) Civilian Personnel

The GPO is responsible that all civilians who enter the camp are in possession of a Field Security Pass. He also arranges for the screening and subsequent issue of passes to casual civilian employees such as the barber, bookseller, photographer etc. Permanent civilian employees are screened under BHQ arrangements

(c) Weapons

The security of weapons and ammunition is of paramount importance. Losses of either result in the court martial of the responsible person. Register all arms and ammunition held; make frequent 100% checks; promulgate orders for the Safe Custody of Weapons.

6. Training

External courses are available for TARA, dvr AFV and dvrs Cl II. NCO and OR training is normally co-ordinated by BHQ, but Tps can successfully conduct courses whilst on operations.

have been sucessfully completed.

It has been found advantageous to have personnel trained in as many trades as possible; some soldiers being traines as dvrs, dvr ops, TARA and gun layers. Our ultimate aim is to have all problem.

7. Handover of Operational Camps

Due to frequent redeployment, the handover/takeover of operational camps is a regular commitment. No periodic maintenance inspections are carried out by RE on operational camps, consequently, deficiencies in RE fixtures, and damage are discovered on handover/takeover.

Particular care must be taken that all deficiencies are recorded by the DCRE representative on AF G128 or AF G1001 (Inventory of RE Fixtures). Normally no stores other than RE fixtures are taken over. All other barrack and accommodation stores are on permanent issue to the troop from BHQ (see Tp ledger). A form (Appx F to 105 Fd Bty RAA Standing Orders for Operations) is sent to BHQ for onward transmission after handover/takeovers. At the end of each month I inspect the camp and submit a report (AF K1308) of damage caused by fair wear and tear to BHQ and this cuts down the deficiencies on handover.

8. Arms Kote

Due to the conditions of the emergency a stringent control is exercised on all small arms and ammunition.

When not in actual use all arms and ammunition are kept in the arms kote which has a person in attendance 24 hours daily. Bulk ammunition is also kept in the same building.

All arms and ammunition are checked in accordance with the following principle:

- (a) Arms 100% check daily by an officer or Sgt
- (b) Ammunition Daily if possible. At least 100% check weekly.

All issues from the arms kote are made on signature, and arms and ammunition are checked in on return.

9. POL

(a) Petrol is drawn from military/service pumps other than FEDERATION forces, or from authorised SHELL dealers on AF G827. The quantity drawn is entered on the AF G 3518. If an AF G827 has been used the details of vehicles are recorded on the reverse of the triplicate copy.

- C

Bulk petrol drawn for stationary motors is issued by the Tpt NCO on a AB 108. Receipts are entered in the appropriate log books.

Due to the rapid changeover of 300 watt charging sets and a corresponding changeover of log books it is advisable to keep a separate book, in addition to the log book, to record all POL issues to Sigs charging sets.

(b) Oils and Lubricants are drawn by BHQ and issued to the tps and this includes Kerosene for cleaning purposes. Issues are made to tps on AB 875 and by tpt NCO's on AB 108/Log book entries. Kerosene for fuel is drawn separately from BARRACKS STORES (RASC).

AFG 827

(c) These are accountable documents and a register is kept by the tp. The original and duplicates is kept by the service station and the triplicate is sent to BHQ as soon as possible. When the book is expended the book of quadruplicate copies is sent to BHQ for onward transmission to the issuing depot.

10. MT Records

Records similar to AUST vehicle records in the form of a vehicle log book (AB 416) and record book (AB 417) are maintained. Monthly (AB 406) inspections are carried out, and Annual Command Inspectorate of Vehicles by a REME team.

Transport Work Ticket (AF G3518) lasts for one month and is a record of trips, mileage, petrol and oil issues. A continuation work ticket may be used. Work tickets are closed off monthly and checked by an officer. They are then forwarded to BHQ for transmission to Command Secretariat. A milage return is submitted to BHQ monthly.

11. Telephone Accounting

A record of all trunk line calls is kept. This record takes the form of Appx D to 105 Fd Bty RAA Standing Orders for Operations. This record is submitted to BHQ monthly. Debit vouchers (AF P1926) are raised against members making private telephone calls. Telephone calls are made only on the authority of an officer or Warrant Officer. The telephone is NOT secure for classified traffic.

12. Spot Checks

During continuous operations it is almost impossible for BHQ to complete a 100% stocktake. In addition the bty is NOT on operational accounting and losses must be written off on CO's schedule. If losses are NOT periodically written off, but divulged only on the concentration of the bty the losses will almost certainly exceed the CO's power of write-off.

and it is quite easy to do a 100% stocktake monthly in this manner.

13. Ammunition

The normal method of indenting for 25 pr ammunition is by telephone to the nearest AF, (In NORTH MALAYA either 29 Coy RASC or 3 Coy RASC) Preferably at least 2 days notice should be given.

Produce is back loaded on delivery vehicles. Each box of cartridges is opened by an officer and certified Free from Explosives. A signed certificate to this effect is pasted in the lid of each box.

To simplify the inspection of cartridges the mill-board inserts and the cartridges should be reversed in the container when repacking produce on the gun position.

A reserve of 100 RPG HE and 5% smoke is held at all times even when NOT on operations.

Ammunition restrictions are promulgated by BHQ and each shell must be meticulously inspected for defects and banned lot numbers. Defects are reported in accordance with Appx E Form 2 to 105 Fd Bty RAA Standing Orders for Operations. Banned lot numbers are returned to the Ammunition Point.

When the shell is prepared on the gun position the lot number of each shell and fuze is recorded. The shell is stacked in the order which the lot numbers are recorded. In the event of a premature it is possibly to determine the lot number of the shell and fuze by counting back.

14. Rations

Arrangements for the supply of rations to operational camps are made by BHQ. Normally dry rations are drawn weekly by the tp from the nearest Supply Point and fresh rations are delivered daily by a civilian contractor.

The methods of indenting and accounting are as follows:

- (a) Indenting for Dry Rations and Free Cigarettes

 Two copies of the indent for Dry Rations (FARELF FORM 18) are submitted to the Supply Point 10 days in advance for a weekly period commencing on a Saturday. The indent for free cigarettes is submitted on two copies of the above form at the same time.
- (b) Indenting for Fresh Rations

 The contractor is informed verbally of requirements
 24 hours in advance. On Friday 48 hours in advance
 for Sunday and Monday.
- (c) Accounting

Quantities of fresh and dry rations drawn are entered daily in the Unit Provisions Account (AB 109), this gives a running total of overdrawn and underdrawn rations.

A ration Strength Return (FARELF FORM 47) is submitted to the Supply Point on Monday for the week ending the previous Friday.

15. NAAFI Supplies

NAAFI supply duty concession beer, cigarettes and tobacco for tp canteens. BHQ opens an account for officers and Sgts Messes and Gnr's Canteen at the nearest NAAFI to the operational camp. Supplies are drawn on indents signed by an authorised officer (Indent forms are available from NAAFI)

Consolidated accounts are sent to BHQ by NAAFI and payments are made by the various Sub-Messes. Regimental Funds pay the Gnr's Canteen Account and is reimbursed from cash. Cash books are maintained for each account at the tp and audited monthly by a tp officer. These accounts should be reconciled monthly with the BHQ account. To avoid holding a large amount of money for the Gnr's Canteen it is advisable to make a telegraphic transfer of money to the Regimental Funds Account BUTTERWORTH. Tp Officers and Sgts parent messes.

16. Amenties

Equipment for indoor and outdoor games and sports is purchased by Regimental Funds and issued to the tp.

Films are shown in the operational camps 2 nights per week. Arrangements are made with AKC by BHQ. Payments to AKC are made from Regimental Funds.

Social evenings in the Gnrs Canteen may be arranged with nearby units. A dart competition is the usual excuse for such an evening's entertainment.

17. Sport

Due to operational commitments it is impossible to arrange fixtures in any sport. However "friendly" matches are easily arranged and keenly contested.

(a) Cricket

Approach local Sports Clubs, planters clubs, schools, and other units for matches.

(b) Basketball

Approach Chinese village committees through the local resettlement Officer. The Chinese are very skilled and the game will be fast and keen.

(c) Football

Rugby and Soccer are popular in MALAYA. Opportunities to play usually occr in games between units. AUSTRAL-IAN RULES is only played by RAA - RAR - RAAF.

(d) Badminton

This game is extremely popular wherever you go in MALAYA. Games can be arranged with villagers, police, home guard and other units.

(e) Tennis

Lack of courts is the problem.

(f) Swimming

In some areas the workings of a tin mine provide a suitable swimming hole. Otherwise there is little opportunity.

- 12 -

18. Leave

Local leave is taken in the nearest sizable town when operations permit. Married accompanied men are granted 4 days stand down per month and we normally send them for 2 days each fortnight via the SDS vehicle from BUTTERWORTH. To prevent ill-feeling between the married and unmarried soldiers every effort must be made to give them a comparable amount of stand down.

leave" town so that you can brief your tps on bounds, dress, leave passes etc.

or all leave entitlements will NOT be consumed in the current year. On the average you will have 8 to 10 people on leave all year around.

In addition to passports, visas, etc., permission is necessary from HQ AUST Army Force for leave outside MALAYA.

The favourite leave centres are:

- (a) UNION JACK CLUB, SINGAPORE
- (b) SANDY'S SOLDIERS HOME, SINGAPORE
- (c) SANDYCROFT LEAVE CENTRE, PENANG
- (d) CAMP BUTTERWORTH

19. Dhoby

Dhoby is done in operational camps by a "dhoby-wallah" provided under contract by BHQ. He normally travels in to vehicles when we move camp and is provided with some accommodation stores.

He is bound by contract to do the following work free of charge to tps:

- (a) 2 bundles of clothing per person per week (one bundle of 13 items and one bundle of 14 items)
- (b) 1 sheet and 1 pillowslip per person per week

Most tps prefer to pay the dhoby \$10 per month for a "higher-standard" dhoby and speedy service.

You should pay constant attention to the standard of hygiene in the dhoby-ghat. If you don't you will have nicely pressed clothes that are dirtier than when you submitted them for laundering. A return indicating the number of bundles, sheets and pillowslips laundered is submitted to BNG monthly.

20. Charwallah

This gentleman is also provided under contract by BHQ. He will sell anything from a razor blade to a negligee. It is normal to place him near the gnrs canteen. He pays a monthly dividend to Regimental Funds for the privilege of operating his shop. In addition he sublets the swill contract and this is another source of revenue for Regimental Funds. It is normal to provide him with some accommodation stores (e.g., a tent if a building is not available). He travels in the vehicles when we move.

They have peculiar ideas on standards of hygiene so inspect them regularly. Also watch his prices; he will rob the tps if he can get away with it. - 13 -

21. Civilian Labourers

and sent to the tp while on operations:

Cook 1 Kitchen hand 1 Hygiene Dutyman 1

Civilians are administered and paid by BHQ. On employment food handlers are vaccinated, innoculated and X-rayed, and pronounced "Free from Infection" by a medical officer (FFI). It is BHQ's responsibility that they are medically re-examined monthly and certified FFI by a medical officer.

After six months continuous employment they are entitled to free medical treatment through the local MRS. FFI and innoculation charts should be displayed in the cookhouse.

(Prepared by Capt R. A. SUNDERLAND RAA)
OC B Tp 105 Fd Bty RAA

DISTR
A Tp
B Tp
1 Fd Regt RAA
100 (A) Fd Bty RAA (3)
Unit History (4)