

GUIDE TO READING UNIT DIARIES

ARMY FORM W.2010 (BOOKS OF 100)
Date of last A.F. W.2010 rendered: 24 Jul 1942 Number of sheets: 52/42

2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit) CASUALTY RETURN—OFFICERS AND NURSES

Detail of casualties to officers and nurses which have occurred since last return. The detail should include all battle casualties, accidents, admission to and discharge from hospital, casualty clearing station, etc. Promotions (acting, temporary, local or substantive), transfers, postings, attachments, etc., courts-martial, leave of absence, particulars of marriage and birth or death of children, alterations in next-of-kin with postal address, transfers to "X" list and any other items connected with an officer's or nurse's service.

Rank	Name and Initials	Corps	Nature and date of casualty	Date	Remarks (In the case of casualties from wounds or disease, any available information for compensation to relatives should be stated.)
Lieut	REID W R	2/48 Bn	Appointed Adj	25 Jul	
Lieut	LEVIN R W	do	Marched in	22 Jul	From A Tk Course
Lieut	BRIGHT M	do	do	22 Jul	do
Capt	WILLIAMS C P	do	Killed in Action	22 Jul	During attack on enemy
Lieut	THRENGOLD P B	do	do	22 Jul	posms at EL ALAMEIN
Lieut	JEFFRON L H	do	do	22 Jul	do
Lieut	GILL G T	do	do	23 Jul	Result of shelling. At EL ALAMEIN.
Lieut	KIMBER D G	do	Wounded in Action	22 Jul	During attack on enemy
Lieut	SMITH J W	do	do	22 Jul	posms at EL ALAMEIN.
Lieut	GOUDEN C D	do	do	22 Jul	Evacuated to 2/11 Aust Fd
Lieut	LEHNSURTER R W	do	do	22 Jul	Amb - X list
Lieut	ROBBINS P	do	Change of Address		

Next of Kin - Change of Address
Lieut. ROBBINS P do Next of Kin - Mother, Mrs. D.D. Robbins, New Address - 54 Northgate Street, UNLEY PARK, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(Date) 29 JUL 1942 (Signature of Commanding Officer) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)
Lt. Col. 26 Aust Inf Bde (Unit)
Form W.2010/2

Service records can only give you a limited amount of information. For example, they rarely tell you exactly where someone was wounded or killed and don't really give you any idea of what they actually did. This is where the unit diaries are important.

Unit diaries kept track of the daily activities of headquarters, formations and units and casualty lists. The appendices at the end of the diary may also include orders, reports, intelligence, photos, maps and sketches, but they are not always easy sources to read.

This guide will help you to understand Australian unit diaries from World Wars One and Two. It contains:

- I. Finding what you need
- II. Understanding casualty Lists
- III. Reading handwriting
- IV. Looking for keywords
- V. Where to go for more help

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Lieut	BRIGHT M	do	do	22 Jul	do
Capt	WILLIAMS C P	do	Killed in Action	22 Jul	During attack on enemy
Lieut	THRENGOLD P B	do	do	22 Jul	posms at EL ALAMEIN
Lieut	JEFFRON L H	do	do	22 Jul	do
Lieut	GILL G T	do	do	23 Jul	Result of shelling. At EL ALAMEIN.
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Lieut	SMITH J W	do	do	22 Jul	posms at EL ALAMEIN.
Lieut	GOUDEN C D	do	do	22 Jul	Evacuated to 2/11 Aust Fd
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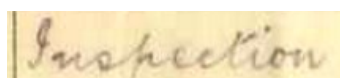
(Date) 29 JUL 1942 (Signature of Commanding Officer) 2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Unit)
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FINDING WHAT YOU NEED

READING HANDWRITING

[illegible]

1. Think of it like a coded message and start by finding words that you can read easily.
2. Use the letters in these words to start to read other words. You can even create an alphabet (by hand or with the computer).



c

= C

ch

= h

К

$$= t$$

и

 \mathbf{r}

M

$$= M$$

for

= p

9

= 1



= S

3. Some letters can look similar, eg. “r” and “n”, so look at the surrounding letters and think logically. “M a n c h” doesn’t make sense, but “M a r c h” does.
4. Remember that joining letters together might make them look like something different. Eg. “in” might look like an “m”.
5. Show the word to someone else, without telling them what you think the word is.

Tried all of the above and still stuck? The RSL Virtual War Memorial team is here to help. Turn to page 6, to find out how to get in touch with us.

LOOKING FOR KEYWORDS

2/45 Asut Inf Bn (Cont)		CASUALTY RETURN—OFFICERS AND NURSES		52/45		24 Jul 1942 Number of cases	
<p>(Detail of casualties to officers and nurses which have occurred since last return. The detail should include the name, rank, position, address, date of birth and of discharge from hospital or death of children, situation in respect with postal address, residence to "X" line and any other items connected with an officer's return.)</p>				<p>attached in this return.</p>			
Name	Rank and Status	Age	Position and date of vacancy	Unit	Remarks	<p>(Detail of names of casualties killed, wounded or missing and of children, position in respect with postal address, residence to "X" line and any other items connected with an officer's return.)</p>	
Lieut	ROSE ALAN ROBERTSON R V	2/45 Bn	Appointed Adj't	25 Jul			
Lieut	LYNN K V	do	Marchant in do	22 Jul	From A To Course		
Capt	WILLIAM ALAN DAVIES R V	do	Killed in Action	22 Jul	During attack on enemy posts at EL ALAMAIN.		
Lieut	THORNGOLD P B	do	Killed in Action	22 Jul	During attack on enemy posts at EL ALAMAIN.		
Lieut	NEWMAN R T	do	do	22 Jul	Result of shelling at EL ALAMAIN.		
Lieut	GRILL O T	do	do	22 Jul	do		
Lieut	DAVID GARDNER D G	do	Wounded in Action	22 Jul	During attack on enemy posts at EL ALAMAIN.		
Lieut	WATTS V G	do	Wounded in Action	22 Jul	During attack on enemy posts at EL ALAMAIN.		
Lieut	GOODMAN O D	do	do	22 Jul	Discharged to 2132 Asut Bn		
Lieut	LANDREVER R V	do	do	22 Jul	Amh - 2 List		
Adj't	ROBERTSON P	do	Next of Kin - Mother, Mrs. D. P. Robbins, Her address - 54 Yorkgate Street, GREAT FANK, NORTHAMPTON				

1. **Casualty** - this is usually associated with a list of the number of personnel who have killed, wounded or hospitalised due to illness.
2. **Attack** - this could refer to an action by the Australians or by the enemy.
3. **Engaged/contacted** - when the Australian forces fight with or are attacked by enemy forces
4. **Patrol** - when a group go out to scout or survey territory for signs of enemy. This will show up often in unit diaries for World War Two where Australians were fighting in environments like jungles.
5. **Enemy** - this is an obvious one, but very important for understanding both attacks, and the preparations that troops would make.

Unit Diary of the 2nd
Australian Light Horse
Regiment,
August 1915.

6/8/15, the Regt was required to make an
attack on QUINN'S Post. This was

UPPER LARUMA VALLEY

Activity in the UPPER LARUMA VALLEY has been confined mainly to minor patrol clashes,

On 25 Nov our patrol sighted fresh tracks and contacted an enemy occupied pill box in the area NE of PIAT-ERAPAIA. This position was later engaged by mortar fire and hits were observed. Another patrol in the same area discovered an enemy position in course of construction. It was later destroyed by artillery.

Further north, an Allied patrol encountered an undetermined number of enemy in the SISIVIE area. After an exchange of fire, our patrol advanced approximately 150 yards to the north, where an ambush of an estimated 14 enemy was contacted.

War Diary of the 2nd
Australian Corp General
Staff (Intelligence),
November 1944.