

**Series: AWM95**  
**Australian Army commanders' diaries**  
**[Vietnam]**

**Artillery units**

**Item number: 3/8/7**

**Item: 12 Field Regiment**

**[12 Fd Regt]**

**Narrative**

**[Duty Officer's log], Annexes**

**[1-30 Sep 1971]**



COVERING LETTER

Reference No.....

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

1. I enclose Commanders Diary (AF C 2118) (Adapted) as indicated at Part 2.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) [Signature] Capt  
ADJT 12 FD REGT RAA  
Appointment.....  
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

*Recd  
10/11/71*

**SECRET**

ORIGINAL }  
~~DUPLICATE~~ } Strike out where  
                  } not applicable

**COMMANDERS DIARY**

OF

Unit or Formation..... 12 Fd Regt RAA

From..... 1 Sep 71 To..... 30 Sep 71

**INDEX**

Narrative (AF C 2118)

ANNEXES

- \* A Duty officer's log
- \* B Messages connected with log
- C Operation orders and instructions issued
- D Operation orders and instructions received
- \* E Sitreps issued
- F Orders of battle and location reports issued
- G Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made
- H Administrative orders and instructions issued
- I Administrative orders and instructions received
- J Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns
- \* K Standing orders issued
- L Commander's policy and demi-official letters
- M Action reports (if required)
- N Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units
- O Periodical summaries of operations
- Z Top Secret Supplementary Diary

Enclosure Numbers

..... to .....  
..... to .....  
1 ..... to .....  
..... to .....  
..... to .....  
..... to .....  
2 ..... to .....  
..... to .....  
..... to .....  
3 ..... to 4  
..... to .....

\* Only to be included during operations.  
† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

† NIL  
† RETAINED  
† Despatched to  
on.....



## PART 3

# COMMANDERS DIARIES INSTRUCTIONS

### AIM

1. The aim of a Commanders Diary is to provide data on which to base future improvements in Army training, equipment, organization and administration, and to furnish historians with a record of the activities of units and formations in operational and non-operational periods in peace and in war.

### GENERAL

2. Entries are to be made daily on AF C 2118 (Adapted) each entry being initialled by the officer detailed to keep it.
3. Commanders Diaries will conform with the rules for drafting orders given in "Staff Duties (Australia)", Chapter 2, Section 12.

### RESPONSIBILITY

#### During Non-operational Periods

4. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled by commanders of all formations.

#### During Operational Periods (1)

5. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled in duplicate by:
  - a. Commanders of all formations.
  - b. Each branch of the staff at formation headquarters commanded by a brigadier or above.
  - c. Heads of services not below the rank of lieutenant colonel.
  - d. Personal staffs and officers holding special appointments.
  - e. Unit commanders.
  - f. Commanders of a detachment of a unit when so ordered.

### COMPILATION

6. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:
  - a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
  - b. Index as printed on cover.
  - c. Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
  - d. Annexes as shown in the Index.
7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be shown on the cover. If there has been a change of command since the last report, the date of assumption by the new commanding officer is to be included.
8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown on the cover. If there are no enclosures for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular headquarters, starting at B.

for operations form Annex "Z", "TOP SECRET" the document. It is to be prepared and disposed of as

### TENTS

ies as well as map references), establishment, equipment and orders given. the day's fighting, including company movements. mmander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

potential importance. to officers, men and equipment. ipment captured. employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

s and to save work as much information as possible is to uments issued and received, routine returns, etc. All l and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

he annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)



## DISPOSAL

13. **Original Commander's Diary.** This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered by the seventh day of the succeeding month direct to AHQ.
14. **Duplicate Commander's Diary.** This must be clearly marked as a duplicate. It is to be sent separately from the original to AHQ one month after the original has been despatched but not before the former has been acknowledged.
15. When overseas, both copies of diaries are to be sent through the Army Records organization in the overseas theatre but at different times.
16. **TOP SECRET Supplementary Diaries.**
  - a. The documents referred to in Paragraph 9 together with a list of them made out on AF C 2118 (Adapted) must be placed in separate cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted). All details must be filled in and the cover clearly marked in red: "ANNEX Z — OFFICER ONLY". It may be convenient to group the papers by appendices.
  - b. Supplementary diaries must be forwarded under the normal rules for TOP SECRET correspondence, to AHQ. The inner envelope must be plainly marked:

TOP SECRET

ANNEX Z to

Commanders Diary of.....(Formation or Unit)

From.....to..... (Dates)

- c. The duplicate supplementary diaries must be despatched as shown in Paragraph 14 as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt ~~MA~~

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1				3RAR Operation "CUDDLY CREEK" continues in AO INGLEWOOD. 4RAR Operation "NORTH WARD" continues in AO BIRDSVILLE. Artillery Deployments: A Fd Bty Sect FSB CENTENERY - YS660698 Sect NUI DAT 104 Fd Bty Sect FSB DEBBIE - YS443893 Sect FSB ROBIN - YS434765	
2		01	0705	Further to air strike on camp at 6065; A Bty CENTENERY active - immediate air strike called.	
3			0835	C Coy 4RAR eng. Sect A Bty NUI DAT on GR338648 - 18 rds. GR330655 - 6 rds in blocking role on old camp site. Sweep conducted at completion of Arty and and naval gunfire - neg results.	
4			1220	104 Bty celebrated 6th Birthday - spec meal flown out to DEBBIE and ROBIN. FSB ROBIN fired a 6 gun salute (SMK) at 1220 hrs.	
5			1410	GS02 Ops reports 2 rds landed in hamlet AP LONG CAT - no damage received. Size of shrapnel indicated 5" rds. Hamlet was on line GT from USS O'CALLAHAN to two tgts fired (ref Ser 3) NGFLO advised rocket booster on rds malfunctioned.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
6		01	1501	C Coy 3RAR in contact GR611675. 7 or more en seen. Sweep conducted. Neg results.	
7		1540		DEBBIE fired on GR410890 - birthday salute.	
8			2220	155s CARMEN (B Bty 5/42 US) active on GR434580 ILL - contact. Neg results. Claymores detonated accidentally.	
9		02	0530	FSB CENTENERY advised poss probe on perimeter - sweep conducted first light loc fresh footprints but no owner.	
10			1057	JADE advised air strike at GR473506 for Sector. Air strike went in without clearance from Arty Tac or Kanga - normal!	
11			1230	Capt Gilbert, FO with D Coy 4RAR to be withdrawn with fever - replaced by Capt Lynch.	
12			2045	Black Horse request DEBBIE fire on GR415960. Agent report - several hours old - 2 large elms of VC. BC 104 Bty auth 30 rds - NFI.	
13			2115	A Bty Centenery eng movt on wire with 30/50cal. Mors in loc using self illum. Pers saw people running across rd to N. Cav mov out of base to investigate what appears to be a body. Eng pers running. Flare ship requested airborne 2320. Results: Sweep next am revealed neg results.	



This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

## COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
14		03	0945	C Coy 4RAR eng 2 cave entrances & living area at GR336648 which were uncovered by NGF yesterday. A Bty expended 59 rds and some went into cave entrances. NFI.	
15			1515	Debbie lay on GR384932 for SAS insertion. RAAF advised GR for SAS insertion changed to 390924 - not fired.	
16		04	0715	Possum - rd recce - reported a body at GR553554. Ac could not contact coastal surveillance - ac received ground fire at 0720 - 4 armed pers N of Grid - Bushrangers reacted to eng area at 0740 hrs . Results UNK.	
17			2150	155s CARMEN (B Bty), eng GR427525 ill in sp of 302 RF Bn - 2230 EM. Neg results.	
18		05	1054	B Coy 3RAR contact GR686722 - A Bty Centenary eng. EM 1119. Results nil.	
19			1710	105mm Debbie active on GR399889 Intel tgt 10 rds FFE auth.	
20		06	1620	Ni shoot Bushrangers on GR496679. A Bty NUI DAT will fire illum - commenced 061943.	
21		07	0810	104 Bty ROBIN lay on SAS extraction at GR379845. Timings 0845 EM (Not fired).	
22			1024	7P1 B Coy 4RAR in contact at GR440835 sighted 1 en who returned fire and departed rapidly. NFI.	
23			2052	155s CARMEN active on GR516593, 520591, 520589 in sp of VC contact. EM 2100.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt AA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
24		07	2115	Base patrol 4RAR contact GR398670 - Sect A Bty NUI DAT fired ILLUM on GR390679. Movt heard to front - trip flare ignited - sweep to be conducted first lt. - Neg results.	
25			2115	105mm active from ROBIN on GR421687. Light sighted by Cav and SAS. 21 rds expended - lts extinguished - EM 2140.	
26		08	2215	9Pl C Coy 4RAR eng movt to front at GR398880 - neg results.	
27		09	1105	104 Bty ROBIN lay on GR334751 timings 1330 - 1430 for SAS insertion, not fired.	
28			2030	Stand to (practice) A Bty NUI DAT eng ZU9355.	
29		11	1630	9Pl C Coy 4RAR loc an occupied bunker system at GR401899. Pl withdrew NE, eng with arty from DEBBIE. Ammo resup to be conducted AM 12th, 360 rds.	
30			2100	Ref Ser 29 Sitrep. 105mm 400 rds, 81mm 200 rds on area 200 x 200m worked over. 9Pl reported voices and 2 bunkers 20m in front incl female voices, Fresh cut timber. Believe bunker rebuilding for 274 Regt.	
31		12	0800	Rds expended by DEBBIE on bunker system and area: 545HE 105mm 334HE 81mm.	
32			1715	Further to bunker contact. 9Pl search revealed offensive smell, some meat & blood in area. 1 bunker received 2 direct hits & partially caved in.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
33		12	1735	4Pl B Coy 4RAR contact 1 en at GR420894. En withdrew - nil results.	
34			2315	104 Bty ROBIN eng 1 en on perimeter. Movt was to S approx 160m - eng with .50 cal MG - nil results.	
35		13	1400	<p>Redeployment of A Bty:</p> <p>Situation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3RAR will be withdrawn to NUI DAT on 15 Sep and will redeploy to an area E of XUYEN MOC on 18 Sep.</li> <li>A Bty will close Centenary on 15 Sep and redeploy a sect on 18 Sep.</li> </ol> <p>Execution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sect A Bty to deploy by air to FSB Shirley, YS7669. TTBR ASP 18 Sep.</li> <li>Strength of fire base to incl Sect of APC and Sect of Mors.</li> <li>Recce Party to mov to NUI DAT 3 in APC PM 17 Sep to proceed to FSB SHIRLEY AM 18 Sep.</li> <li>Air mov of guns to commence 180830.</li> </ol>	
36		14	1130	D Coy 4RAR in contact GR513871 contacted 2 en who withdrew SE. 104 Bty Debbie fired 45 rds - neg results.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt 1A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
37		15	1045	105mm ROBIN eng GR526823. En sighted by VR ac. 1 pers in black ran into scrub Nil results.	
38			1055	A Bty NUI DAT reported 2 VN on perimeter wire Route 2. Appear to be looking for something. CP advised MPs picked them up - no ID cards - brought to NUI DAT, later released.	
39			1140	11Pl D Coy 4RAR in contact at GR515867 eng 2 en mov E to W - en returned fire. Results: 1VC KIA(BC), 1 AK47, 1 pack CIA.	
40			1300	A Bty CENTENERY closed down - returning to NUI DAT.	
41			1400	A Bty (6 x guns) complete NUI DAT. 3 x guns required in action tonight.	
42		16	0900	From LO BARIA: 2 x 155s going into Horseshoe area WEF 20 Sep.	
43		17	1130	From BARIA: Sector reports VC Bn sighted at GR225680 - 105mm ONG TRING eng!!! No further info - (bn probably disappeared).	
44			1140	XUAN LOC reports a Regt Gp at GR360938 & a bn size unit 480927. NFI (Stunned silence.)	
45		2015		At 2000 hrs DEBBIE saw white light Bg 2000m range 200m. Eng with 76mm HE & 30 cal. NFI.	
46		18	0810	Mors going into GR7979 in sp 3RAR.	



This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
47		18	1155	A Bty Sect FSB SHIRLEY advise 1 gun ready GR725675.	
48			1520	A Bty Sect ready SHIRLEY GR72426752 accurate to better than 50m E & N.	
49		19	0325	From DUC TANH - Ngai Giao hamlet is being mortared DT requested ILL from ROBIN - clearance granted by District Chief at 0345 - ROBIN eng GR466796 and 473804. Ammo expended - 11 rds - Mor base plate suspected 400m NE of Ngai Giao. Xa Bang village was also hit by several B40 rds. 4 landed inside compound 3WIA not serious.	
50			0410	End of ILL msn ROBIN.	
51			1200	Sect A Bty deploys from NUI DAT to FSM MAREE at YS600818 commencing 1500 hrs. Sect returns from SHIRLEY to NUI DAT PM 20 Sep.	
52			1255	A Bty ND lay on msn GR344700 for 4RAR insertion - not fired.	
53			1400	A Bty Sect SHIRLEY "Cease Firing."	
54			1550	"MAREE" now secure ready to commence Air Lift.	
55			1745	A Bty MAREE has 1 gun in action at GR599817.	
56			1853	MAREE ready Bty Grid 599817.	
57			2015	Duty NCO reports <del>bg</del> auto SA fire at 191955 bg 4000m. 637 RF Coy sentry firing on own tps at GR425650 - 2 friendlies WIA.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
58		20	0705	Contact at GR461821 elms of 1Tp A Sqn 3 Cav contact force approx 20 en. En initiated contact with RPG fire. Results 1 en KIA (BC), 1 AK47 CIA. 1 Aust WIA (remained on duty.)	
59			0859	Sect A Bty SHIRLEY cease firing.	
60			1242	FSB MAREE ready theatre grid E759953.2, N1181826.5.	
61			1330	Contact at GR511856, 11Pl D Coy 4RAR contacted 15 en moving N - S. 11Pl fired first. En were dressed in NVA greens and armed with AK47s. A US pink team was employed during contact received ground fire - no damage. Results: 1 en KIA (BC), 1 AK47, 1 NVA Pack, 2 CHICOM grenades CIA. MAREE fired in sp contact rds brought in to 300m from fwd tps. Check firing ordered for pink team. Pink team took 20 mins to get organised - meanwhile en withdrew to N & NE. BC 104 Bty slightly <sup>upset</sup> <del>cheered off</del> to say the least. 60rds expended.	
62			1550	Ammo resup for ROBIN and DEBBIE 160 rds each. Expenditure today 277 rds.	
63			1630	Ammo holdings HE ROBIN 435 rds, DEBBIE 463 rds.	
64			1707	Int report from Sector; Unk VC unit at 222739. Request H&I fire. (1) Out of range. (2) Sector LO told to request thru Arty LO in future.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
65		21	0130	BC 104 Bty reports CAMMY active. Poss inbound mors. SA also firing. 104 Bty DEBBIE laid on for ILL. Not fired pending definite request/tgt info.	
66			0140	XUAN LOC requested 5 rds HE FFE on GR453924 and 455930. DEBBIE fired msn.	
67			0230	BIEN HOA active on GR455925 & 452930 - fired without clearances!	
68			0235	4RAR has cleared 105mm from BIEN HOA.	
69			0700	104 Bty DEBBIE has a U/S Gun. Lever Breach mech damaged - LAD notified.	
70			0856	D Coy 4RAR in contact GR510857. DEBBIE active GR512864.	
71			0905	1 Aust WIA, 1 Aust KIA.	
72			0910	Another Aust wounded. Sitrep fired on by large en gp. Approx 15 pers in bunker system.	
73			0940	D Coy receiving heavy RPG fire. Ammo state DEBBIE: 491HE.	
74			0947	Bushrangers and pink team eng en 50m in front of Inf.	
75			0948	En breaking N, Bushrangers chasing.	
76			0952	Pink Team has taken ground fire and is pulling out.	
77			1015	Sp Tp A Sqn 3Cav in contact GR637873 eng 1 en mov E to W. Results: 1 en KIA, 1 AK47 CIA.	
78			1020	A Bty MAREE laid on GR525860 requested by BC 104 Bty in sp of D Coy contact.	



This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
79		21	1045	MAREE now active on GR51178641 Dn 6400 R400. DEBBIE active on GR525860.	
80			1103	D Coy 4RAR still in contact. New Pink Team having trouble finding friendly tps.	
81			1120	11P1, 12P1 D Coy 4RAR broken contact - now withdrawing to coy loc. US ac eng bunker system.	
82			1122	6P1 B Coy 4RAR in contact GR487832. 1 VC KIA, 1 AK47 CIA.	
83		1130	1130	D Coy 4RAR in contact again area GR510857.	
84			1145	4RAR want wall to wall napalm on contact grid. JADE getting wheels in motion. 6P1 B Coy following a telephone line after contact; may lead to another bunker system.	
85			1210	Napalm strike on GR510857 at 1225 hrs.	
86			1213	ROBIN laid on GR478837.	
87			1305	Cas State 1 KIA, 4WIA. 1 WIA dusted off, 3WIA (comfortable) and KIA yet to be dusted off.	
88			1330	CO has given BC 104 Bty an allocation of 200 rds between DEBBIE and MAREE for fire in depth.	
89			1335	BC 104 Bty reports en have heavy wpn which they have been firing at ac.	



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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
90		21	1410	DEBBIE active GR499826 in sp B Coy 4RAR contact.	
91			1455	MAREE laid on GR511864.	
92			1500	D Coy 4RAR loc half buried body vicinity of GR511856 considered killed as a result of 11Pl contact 20 Sep.	
93			1535	Air strike 550lb bombs into GR500870.	
94			1545	D Coy 4RAR moving in toward bunker system.	
95			1550	B Coy 4RAR in contact. ROBIN eng GR501836. Coy taking heavy casualties. DEBBIE advised ammo resup on the way.	
96			1620	Sitrep: B Coy receiving light mortaring.	
97			1626	D Coy 4RAR in contact again. 1 cas at this stage.	
98			1600	(Late Report). Sabre ac has 6 en in open in vicinity D Coy contact - 4 en KIA.	
99			1637	D Coy has 8 cas at this stage. B Coy 4 - 5 cas (not confirmed).	
100			1650	DEBBIE received ammo resup 120 rds, further 120 to be delivered.	
101			1655	Sitrep: B Coy has 7 WIA hit from N and E. Suspect large camp in area.	
102			1700	D Coy has 1 KIA, 3 WIA.	
103			1703	Ammo State: ROBIN has 581 HE.	
104			1707	B Coy 4RAR in contact again.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
105		21	1718	D Coy 4RAR advised they had to pull back out of bunker system to evac cas. Once fully out, the system will be hit with Arty & Air.	
106			1720	D Coy has 3 KIA - 4 WIA.	
107			1726	DEBBIE received resup 120 rds - total now held 730.	
108			1734	B Coy now has 13 WIA ref ser 104.  Sitrep D Coy:  11Pl, 12Pl with Coy HQ went into bunker system. En eng with heavy volume of SA fire mainly directed at MGs. En have very good fire lanes and are well entrenched. Bunker system loc GR513857.	
109			1756	BC 104 Bty will adjust MAREE and DEBBIE onto bunker system. Opening grid 513861.	
110			1845	D Coy 4RAR in heavy contact - DEBBIE eng GR510850 - MAREE laid on. D Coy surrounded by en.	
111			1905	ROBIN eng GR500844 - suspected mor base plate.	
112			1930	ROBIN EM GR500844. Now eng GR500830.	
113			2000	DEBBIE and MAREE still active in area of D Coy. ROBBIN still active GR500830 EM 2046.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt AA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
114		21	2050	ROBIN active GR490830.  Ammo State: MAREE - 650 HE, ROBIN - 441 HE, DEBBIE - 686 HE.	
115			2205	Ammo State: MAREE - 631 HE, ROBIN - 354 HE, DEBBIE - 629 HE.	
116			2230	D Coy 4RAR has lost one complete set of codes. All codes for Sep now compromised. Resup of 60 rds being flown to DEBBIE by Albatross Code word for start "HI - FI."	
117			2300	EM for A Bty MAREE on GR513861. HE on posn: 475.	
118			2330	DEBBIE now at rest. Ammo resup now complete.	
119			2350	<sup>Firing</sup> BC 104 Bty intends DEBBIE on bunker system vic GR513861 later in ni - ammo holding 617 HE.	
120		22	0001	DEBBIE eng GR513864.	
121			0140	EM - Ammo holding now 470 HE.	
122			0805	D Coy 4RAR has movement on perimeter loc GR511855.	
123			0955	JADE ac 07 reports new bunker system at GR494866 (400m SSW of <sup>e</sup> Coy 4RAR).  Pers seen - eng by JADE.	
124			1145	V Coy 4RAR to be inserted by air into approx GR522842 in sp of D Coy. Start time approx 1215 hrs.	



This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
125		22	1206	MAREE now active on LZ prep V Coy 522842.	
126			1310	V Coy complete at LZ.	
127				Results of contacts 21 Sep:  5 Aust KIA, 24 WIA (3 remained on duty).  7 En KIA (BC), (2 poss) KIA, 5 KBA, 2 AK47s CIA.	
128			1345	From BC 104 Bty:  V Coy is moving to D Coy's loc. FO D Coy (Capt Gilbert) will adj arty as close as poss to his loc this afternoon.  On AM 23 Sep V Coy and D Coy will advance into area of bunker systems moving arty forward as they advance.  Request use of Possum ac between 0830 and 1200 hrs 23 Sep to act as relay and general arty control.	
129			1645	A/S going in on GRs505866, 504867, 501871, on station 1655. Results UNK.	
130			1842	Sector requests clearance for 105mm from GR396626. Not known how and when 105s arrived that GRID - Arty LO BARIA to be advised!	
131			1915	104 Bty ROBIN advised one gun out with broken stub axle - replacement AM 23.	



This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

## COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
132		22	2102	Clearance passed on H&I for DUCHEAN. Sector sent request at 1950 hrs completed at 2005 hrs. Start time first Serial 1930 hrs!! Wonder why clearances are late?	
133			2300	Ammo State as at 222200: MAREE - 789; DEBBIE 824; ROBIN 530.	
134		23	0715	R&M gun flying to ROBIN at 0830 hrs. <del>us</del> gun is being backloaded.	
135			0800	Plan for assault on bunkers: a. DEBBIE and MAREE adjusted in close to V & D Coys 4RAR. b. V & D Coys to advance to bunkers GR513557 behind barrage from DEBBIE and MAREE. c. H Hour - 0900 hrs. FO C/S24 Capt Gilbert.	
136			0930	V Coy commenced assault on bunkers. Ammo holdings: MAREE 711, DEBBIE 710.	
137			1023	ROBIN now has 3 guns in action.	
138			1051	V Coy 4RAR within 100m of bunkers.	
139			1305	BC 104 Bty advises progress slower than expected - expenditure of ammo could well exceed 500 rds allotted.	



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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF-C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
140		23	1505	BC 104 now on ground. He has rested MAREE and DEBBIE. Inf not yet reached bunkers; may have missed them.	
141			1655	Ref today's Op: V Coy bypassed the bunker system. Has now returned to start point to try again. MAREE laid on.	
142			1700	MAREE reports a premature rd 1000m out. Doesn't wish to condemn ammo, as heavy rain may have caused it.	
143			1716	Maj Robbins 4RAR reports that at 1530 hrs what was described as a blind rd fell in 2Pl V Coy lines. Reported by Pl Comd Lt Campbell. Investigation to fol.	
144			1745	BC 104 Bty reports V Coy 4RAR have found 12 packs so far, and are continuing search.	
145			1824	From XUAN LOC - a VC coy size force is attacking CAM MY from 4 directions. NFI.	
146			1845	From SAS Ptl 24; request DF HE and ILL on GR642877. Cleared.	
147			2100	3RAR elms at GR584886 have arty falling 1000/1500 m away bg 1400 checked with XUAN LOC and agreed guns from Hall firing GS 6492, 6090, 5497. Checked fire on any arty across our border. To request clearance in future.	



## AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

## COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

### REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1027786



## COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

### REFERENCE MAP.

COMMANDING OFFICER, Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				Visits for September:	
				1. Mr P LUCOCK MP visited FSB ROBIN on 23 Sep 71.	
				2. Admiral Sir Victor Smith CB, CBE, DSC on 24 Sep 71. Met by BC 104 Bty at Courtenay Hill.	
				3. ADMS HQ AFV Lt Col Fleming visited 12 Fd Regt RAP on 24 Sep - met by RMO Capt D. Rossi.	



# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				<p><u>Commanding Officers' Monthly Summary</u></p> <p>1. It has become apparent that the enemy force encountered on 21 Sep was HQ and 3 Bn of 33 NVA Regt, and that this force was preparing a new base within easy access of DUC THANH and Route 2. It is surprising that the enemy "jumped the gun" on 1ATF withdrawal, because he was obviously not expecting the quick, strong 1ATF reaction once his presence was suspected. The redeployment of 3RAR and A Bty guns from SHIRLEY and NUI DAT were good examples of flexibility in resources of 1ATF. The enemy move, although he was quickly "run off", augurs not so happily for Vietnamese forces in the coming months, because they don't have the same capacity as does 1ATF in this type of situation.</p> <p>2. At the end of the month, the Regiment was poised to transfer AASWCC responsibilities to Sector HQ at BARIA. Although the Vietnamese personnel who will operate it have been well trained at NUI DAT by us, there is a big weakness in Vietnamese fire support co-ordination, and it is likely Vietnamese guns, mortars and demolitions will proceed without bothering to seek air clearance from their AASWCC. This risk may be aggravated by the additional</p>	



This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF-C2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Apr. 1969

## COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR SEP 71 REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				artillery tubes that have suddenly started to appear in the Province without any warning - 2 x 105mm at FRENCH FORT on Route 2, 2 x 155mm at the HORSESHOE and another 2 x 155mm likely to arrive any day at NUI DAT in the area adjacent to JWTC!	
				3. The sudden increase in Vietnamese artillery has led to suggestions, notably by the Province Senior Advisor, that the US pl of 155mm guns at CARMEN be dispensed with, so that all US formed units will have left the Province. 1ATF has had to lobby at HQ TRAC and 23rd Arty Gp for the US guns to remain, at least until November, to help protect the final withdrawal of 4RAR Group from NUI DAT. It is expected, but not guaranteed, that the 1ATF view will prevail.	
				AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE 25 Aug 71 - 24 Sep 71: HE 4463, WP 101, ILLUM 145, SMK 12. TOTAL 4721 rds.	
				ARVN Trg for officers commenced 25 Sep 71. 3 offrs were taught daily in observation of fire and Artillery Fire Discipline. To date training is restricted because of inclement weather (Wet Season). Sect A Bty (NUI DAT), was used for the training.	



File No: R569.1.52

12 Fd Regt RAA  
NUI DAT SVN

8 Sep 71

See Distribution List

12 FD REGT OP INSTRUCTION 5/71  
TRANSFER OF AASWCC TO VIETNAMESE OPERATION

Introduction

1. When 1 ATF leaves Phuoc Tuy Province, the need for an Artillery and Airstrike Warning Control Centre (AASWCC) will continue. Hitherto the AASWCC for the Province has been equipped and manned by units of 1 ATF and currently is the responsibility of 12 Fd Regt. It is proposed to transfer this responsibility to the Sector HQ.

Aim

2. To transfer the responsibility for manning and operating the AASWCC in Phuoc Tuy Province from 12 Fd Regt of 1 ATF to Sector HQ at Baria on 1 Oct 71.

Execution

3. Personnel. By 1 Oct 71, at least five (5) Vietnamese allocated for AASWCC operations by HQ 3 (ARVN) Corps will have been trained by 1 ATF at Nui Dat.

4. Equipment.

a. The equipment required for the AASWCC consists of:

- (1) Two (2) AN/GRC 524 (VHF/FM).
- (2) Two (2) ARC 51 BA (UHF).
- (3) One antenna for each of the above types of radio.
- (4) One rectifier.
- (5) Two 12 volt 200 amp/hr wet cell batteries or equivalent.

b. Initially the equipment will be transferred by 12 Fd Regt to 1 ATF LO BARIA unless provision is made from US or ARVN sources.

c. The disposal of equipment, on the withdrawal of 1 ATF LO will be the responsibility of HQ 1 ATF.

5. Timetable. The timetable for the establishment of the AASWCC at Sector HQ Baria is to be as follows:

- a. By 23 Sep 71 - antennae to be erected and AASWCC to be fitted with maps and data boards.

/b.



2.

- b. 29 Sep 71 - One pair of radios to be installed and tested by arrangement with Nui Dat AASWCC and 161 (Indep) Recce Flt.
- c. 010500H Oct 71 - Responsibility for operation of AASWCC Phuoc Tuy Province to be assumed by Sector HQ at Baria.
- d. 1 Oct 71 - Second set of radios to be installed in sector HQ by 1000 hrs.

6.

Procedure.

- a. The relocated AASWCC will have the call sign Phuoc Tuy Arty.
- b. HQ 1 ATF (Arty Tac) is to pass air warning data to Phuoc Tuy Arty AASWCC on the regimental command net through the Artillery LO (callsign 92). Data is to be for 1 ATF operations only.
- c. Air warning data for other guns and mortars in the Province will probably be produced in the Tactical Operations Centre (TOC) of Sector HQ.
- d. US Advisory team at Sector HQ have undertaken to arrange for a dedicated radio-relay link between Sector TOC and Paris CRC at Ton Son Nhut. This link will be used for notification of trajectories over 5000 feet or within 30 nautical miles of Ton Son Nhut and Bien Hoa air bases.

7.

Advisory Capacity.

- a. A team of one NCO and two (2) gunners are to be attached to 1 ATF LO team for the purpose of assisting in the establishment of the AASWCC and operating procedures within Sector TOC. This attachment is to commence on 29 Sep 71 and is to continue until approximately 7 Oct 71.
- b. Four (4) signallers provided by 12 Fd Regt for 1 ATF LO operations in Sector HQ from 1 Oct to mid-Dec 71, are to be trained in AASWCC duties.

8.

Responsibilities

- a. Signals Supervisor is to:
  - (1) Assemble and test the duplicate pair of radios and antennae to be installed in Sector HQ on 29 Sep 71.
  - (2) Supervise the installation of the above equipment in Sector HQ and subsequently the installation of the second pair of radios on 1 Oct 71.
  - (3) Liaise with the Artillery LO over the execution of the above tests.
- b. Artillery LO is to:
  - (1) Liaise with Sector S3 over the establishment of the AASWCC.
  - (2) Supervise the installation of all equipment, maps and data boards. Vietnamese personnel who have been trained in AASWCC duties will be available to assist him in this task.

/c.



c. BC HQ Bty is to:

- (1) Nominate and train personnel mentioned in para 7 above.
- (2) Notify HQ TRAC of the date of transfer of responsibility.
- (3) Exercise overall co-ordination of the transfer, between  
1 ATF and Sector HQ.

*for* *P. Pearson* *Major*  
(B.R. TOPFER)  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
12th Field Regiment RAA

*AOD*

Distribution:

2IC  
BC 104 Fd Bty  
BC HQ Bty  
Arty LO Baria  
Lt Dunn  
BSM HQ Bty  
Sigs Supervisor  
QM  
Bdr Lee  
Commander's Diary (2)  
File  
Spare (5)

For information:

HQ 1 ATF (6)  
OC 1 ATFLU (4)  
104 Sigs Sqn  
  
161 (Indep) Recce Flt  
9 Sqn RAAF  
35 Sqn RAAF  
JADE FAC USAF



19 Sep 71

12 FD REGT ADMIN INSTR 13/71  
MOVEMENT NUI DAT - CAMP 500 VUNG TAU  
12 FD REGT LESS 104 FD BTY

General

1. This instruction details the procedure for:
  - a. Movement of the Regiment less 104 Fd Bty to Camp 500 9 - 16 Oct 71.
  - b. Occupation of Camp 500.
2. A separate RTA instruction is to be issued.
3. This instruction is in four parts:
  - a. Part 1. Movement aspects.
  - b. Part 2. G aspects.
  - c. Part 3. A aspects.
  - d. Part 4. Q aspects.

PART 1 - MOVEMENT ASPECTS

4. Movement is to be in two phases as shown in Annex A.

Movement Phase 1

5. OM is to bid for:
  - a. 8 x 5ton and 2 x semi trailers for each movement day, vehicles to arrive for loading the previous day.
  - b. Tiltbed trailer to shift both 0 Dozers 10 Oct.
6. Transport Supervisor is to:
  - a. Ensure 10 x 5ton vehs available each movement day from Regt resources.
  - b. For phase 1 allot transport resources and establish control point at Twin Towers. Vehicles may be despatched in convoys of not less than six vehicles and are to turn around as quickly as possible.
  - c. Arrange for light vehicles less (HQ Bty X and Z with trailers) to move 9 Oct 71.

Movement Phase 2

7. Orders for movement Phase 2 are to be consistent with any tactical requirement given by the CO and are to be given as follows:

- a. A Fd Bty. BC A Fd Bty.
- b. Arty Tac. BC HQ Bty.

/2.



GS ASPECTS

Communications

8. Arty Tac is to close 16 Oct at time to be notified. HQ Bty is to open a set on Task Force Command Net at Camp 500 as Arty Tac closes.
9. 104 Fd Bty are to establish communications with Arty IO Baria as Arty Tac closes.
10. Enterprise is to close at 1600 hours 8 Oct. A direct line is to be left from Arty Tac to A Fd Bty and 104 Fd Bty.

Camp Comdt

11. From 17 Oct BC HQ Bty is to act as Camp Comdt responsible in particular for:
  - a. day to day running of Camp 500;
  - b. detailing duties;
  - c. supervision of picquet system;
  - d. camp hygiene;
  - e. issuing any local camp orders.

Layout of Camp

12. See Annex B.

Local Defence Sector 3

13. BC A Fd Bty is appointed Local Defence Commander Sector 3 wef 0800 hrs 9 Oct 71 until Sector 3 abandoned 16 Oct 71. RSM is Assistant Local Defence Commander for this period.
14. A Fd Bty is responsible for Kiri and Husky wef 0800 hrs 9 Oct 71.
15. 104 Fd Bty is responsible for Kcala until Sector 3 is abandoned 16 Oct 71.

Gun Ammunitions

16. The following level of gun ammunition is to be held by all Sections in Nui Dat unless CO orders otherwise:

- |    |          |     |
|----|----------|-----|
| a. | HE       | 600 |
| b. | Illum    | 40  |
| c. | WP       | 100 |
| d. | Splinter | 18  |

17. One first line of HE is to remain boxed unless the operational situation dictates otherwise.
18. Boxes and packing material are to be retained for all "Ready to fire" ammunition.

/3.



19. 'A' Fd Bty holdings at 16 Oct are to be returned to the AP at Vung Tau under arrangements made by the RSM.

Small Arms Ammunition

20. The total holding at Camp 500 is to be one full magazines per man (SLR, M16 and pistols) .
21. All surplus small arms ammunition in Nui Dat is to be disposed of by the RSM according to HQ 1 ATF instructions.

Air Clearances after closing Arty Tac

22. 104 Fd Bty is responsible for obtaining all air clearances for guns and mortars from Arty LO Baria callsign 92.

Destruction of Classified Information

23. Areas are to be checked as follows to ensure no classified information is left in abandoned areas:

- a. Adjut, 10 Oct - RHQ and HQ Bty areas.
- b. BC A Fd Bty, 16 Oct - Kiwi area.
- c. BC HQ Bty 16 Oct - Arty Tac.

A ASPECTS

Arty Tac Pers

24. The phase 2 Arty Tac personnel are to be taken on strength HQ Coy 1 ATF from after evening meal 8 Oct. RHQ is to produce MOB 3.

Closing Of Messes

25. The Regimental Offrs' and Sgts' Messes and HQ Bty OR Mess and Club are to close after evening meal 8 Oct. Phase 1 personnel are to be issued C Rations for 9, 10 Oct 71.

Messes Camp 500

26. Offrs' and Sgts' Messes are to be established including bar facilities.
27. OR Canteen is to be set up by HQ Bty.

Dress

28. See Annex C.
29. Dress on leave is to be civilian clothes.

Audit

30. Regimental audit is to be conducted of Regt accounts at 30 Sep and completed by 8 Oct.

Leave

31. Policy is to be notified.



Closing of RHQ Orderly Room

32. Orderly Room is to close 0800 hrs 10 Oct and reopen Camp 500 later 10 Oct.

Duty Free Liquor and Cigarettes

33. 2000 cigarettes are allowed to Australia free of custom duty.

Sub-Units should lodge firm orders now through Regt Funds. No liquor is to be taken in personal gear on HMAS Sydney.

Stocktake

34. The cut off date for the Regt Stocktake is 20 Oct 71. A separate instruction has been issued.

Packing of TWET Stores and Mess Property

35. Boxes are to be made at Nui Dat and held by sub-units for all stores to be moved to Australia.

36. The following box numbers are issued:

QM/RHQ	1	- 200
HQ Bty	201	- 400
A Fd Bty	401	- 600
LAD	601	- 800

Accommodation Stores

37. The following is to be taken:

- a. Beds or stretchers.
- b. Large wardrobe between two or single wardrobe per person.
- c. Mess hall stores for all ranks.
- d. OR Club stores as decided by HQ Bty.
- e. Offrs/3gts Mess stores as decided by PMCs.
- f. Office stores as decided by Adjt, QM, BC HQ Bty, OC LAD, and BC A Fd Bty for phase 2.
- g. RAP stores as decided by RMO.
- h. Kitchen equipment as decided by WO Caterer. Note refrigeration will be provided in kitchen.
- i. QM is to ensure adequate garbage bins are taken.
- j. QM is to take four surplus connexes for storage of ASCO supplies.

38. Unwanted accommodation stores are to remain in situ. QM is to check RHQ and HQ Bty on 10 Oct 71, and the whole of Sector 3 on 16 Oct 71 to ensure only unwanted stores remain.

39. QM is to arrange for one marquee and four 11' x 11' tents to be located in Camp 500 as reserve accommodation.

/5.



- 3 -

Movie Screen and Projectors

40. HQ Bty and A Fd Bty are each to take a screen to Camp 500.
41. QM is to ensure availability of two projectors.

Stores-Arty LO Baria

42. Stores currently held are on FIA from 104 Sig Sqn. QM is to arrange for LO to be issued from 104 Fd Bty account by 5 Oct and 104 Sig Sqn stores returned. This may necessitate increasing 104 Fd Bty holdings from A Fd Bty holdings.

Amenities-Refrigerators/TVs

43. QM is to arrange return on 8 Oct 71. Any surplus 110 volt refrigerators are to go to Camp 500 with sub unit stores.

Rationing

44. Phase 1 personnel are to be issued C Rations for 9, 10 Oct 71.
45. No change to normal rationing for A Fd Bty and 104 Fd Bty for period 9 - 16 Oct 71.
46. Camp 500 is to be on fresh rations from and including breakfast 11 Oct 71.

Fire

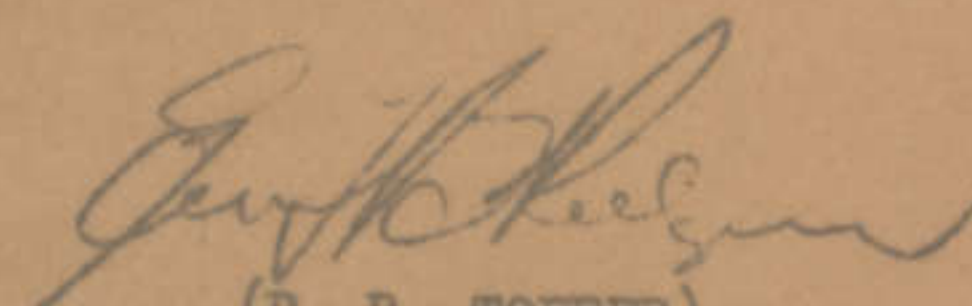
47. Brief fire orders are to be included in Camp Orders issued by HQ Bty.
48. QM is to ensure that approx 40 fire extinguishers are taken.

Maintenance Stocks

49. QM is to leave 104 Fd Bty with 30 days maintenance stocks.

Laundry

50. To be advised for Vung Tau. Laundry accounts Nui Dat close 1 Oct 71.

  
(B. R. TOPFER)  
Lt Col  
CO

- Annexes: A. Movement Phases.  
B. Camp Layout.  
C. Dress.

Distribution:

HQ 1 ATF

Internal:

CO

/6.



2IC  
Adj't  
QM  
RSM  
A Fd Bty (6)  
104 Fd Bty (6)  
HQ Bty (6)  
LAD (2)  
Caterer  
RAP  
File



ANNEX A TO  
12 FD REGT R553/1/8  
DATED 19 SEP 71

Phase	Date	Sub-Unit	Offr	WO/Sgt	OR	Total
1	9 - 10 Oct	RHQ/HQ Bty	7	19	117	163
		LAD (10 Oct)	1	3	8	
		A Fd Bty (10 Oct)	1	1	6	
2	16 Oct	RHQ/HQ Bty	5	1	10	109
		A Fd Bty	7	11	75	

Total All ranks - 272



ANNEX B TO  
12 FD REGT RAA  
R553/1/8  
DATED 19 SEP 71

LIVING ACCN

Sgt		Sgt
Sgt	Sgt	Sgt
Offr		Sgts Mess
Offr	Offr	LAD
Offrs' Mess		Rgt Q
A Bty Q		Rgt Q/ RAP
HQ Bty Q	CO/2IC	RHQ

→ IN

A Fd Bty		HQ Bty/A Bty Ord Rm
A Fd Bty	OR	OR Canteen
A Fd Bty		HQ Bty
A Fd Bty		HQ Bty
A Fd Bty	OR	HQ Bty
A Fd Bty		HQ Bty
HQ Bty		HQ Bty
HQ Bty	OR	HQ Bty
		HQ Bty



DRESS CAMP 500

Dress

1. Field Dress is to be the dress of the day.

Headdress

2. Headdress is to be worn at all times except when customarily removed indoors, when removal is specifically ordered or when travelling in a vehicle not fitted with a roof or canopy.

Shirts

3. Members are permitted to remove shirts when within the unit area between 0630 hrs and 1830 hrs. Shirts are to be worn to all meals. Shirts which are designed to be worn inside the trousers are to be tucked in at the waist; these shirts are not to be modified and worn outside the trousers. Shirts are to be buttoned in the front except that the neck button is left undone.

4. Shirt sleeves may be rolled between 0630 and 1830 hrs daily.

Shorts

5. The wearing of shorts within the unit area is permitted in lieu of green trousers between 0630 and 1830 hrs daily.

Badges of Rank

6. Badges of rank are to be worn at all times. Badges of rank (WO and NCO) may be worn on a brassard on the right shirt sleeve or on a strap on the right wrist.

Boots

7. When boots are worn with jungle green trousers, sock tops are to be concealed. Sock top are to be rolled over boots when wearing shorts.

Weapons (Unit area and 1 ALSG)

8. Members are to be in possession of their personal weapon at all times. Rifles are to be carried at the shoulder position.

9. All weapons are to be in the state of readiness of "UNLOADED" within the unit area.

10. On leaving the unit area, weapons are to be "LOADED".

Thongs

11. Thongs are permitted only in the barrack room, SAL blocks and on the beach.



12 Fd Regt RAA RAP  
NUI DAT SVN

1 Oct 71

See Distribution List

MONTHLY SICK REPORT  
MONTH ENDING 30 SEP 71

	HQ	A	104	LAD	3CAV	17 Const	1 Fd Sqn	1 Armd Regt
Malaria	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	No Records kept
Gastro - Intestinal	5	2	1	1	6	3	20	Unit RTA during
Eyes	1	1	Nil	Nil	2	7	2	this month.
Ears	10	5	4	Nil	6	6	6	
Nose and Throat	3	1	1	Nil	5	7	4	
Skin	4	4	1	Nil	9	10	24	
Puo	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil	
Psychiatric	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Surgical	1	1	3	Nil	6	Nil	2	
Other Medical	6	3	Nil	1	2	11	18	
Injuries	5	5	4	2	14	10	5	
Respiratory	2	1	3	Nil	3	4	2	
Total	38	23	17	4	56	59	83	
Gonorrhoea	—	—	—					
NSU	1	1	1					
Others	—	—	—					

RMO Comments:



(D. G. ROSSI)  
Capt  
RMO 12 Fd Regt

Distribution:

HQ AFV (For ADMS)  
HQ 1 ATF (For SMO)  
3 Cav Regt  
HQ Bty  
A Fd Bty  
104 Fd Bty  
1 Fd Sqn  
17 Const Sqn  
12 Fd Regt LAD

For Information:

CO  
2IC  
RMO  
Commander's Diary (3) ✓  
File



# GERM JOURNAL

W  
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EDITION

VOL 2

No 1 (ONLY)



(a)

From the BC on the occasion of the Battery's birthday.

On 1 Sep, 104 Fd Bty celebrates its 6th birthday. Since its formation in 1965, the Bty has had a short but distinguished career. Now in its second tour of Vietnam the Bty is continuing the proud traditions of the Royal Regiment.

Late last year, while at JTC Cunengra, I had a long talk to Col Greville, who was the CO of 4 RAR during 104 Bty's first tour in Vietnam. He told me that the Bty had provided first class support for his battalion and he added that we had something to live up to. I'm happy to say that you have lived up to the excellent reputation of 104 Bty. You have when called on, provided very close and accurate support to the infantry, despite difficult working condition and shortage of mem. We have however a further period on operations before we go home and so we cannot afford to 'rest on our Laurels'; but must continue to provide the high standard of support that the infantry have learnt to expect from 104 Bty.



(K.F. TOWNING)

Maj

BC 104 Fd Bty

NB. It is intended, given your support, to produce this paper each fortnight. It would therefore be appreciated if those of you who enjoy this publication would put pen to paper and help to make the next production a success. I would like to thank all the contributors, notably Sgt Casey & Bdr Plaizier and also Bdr Hegerty for his work in putting the articles together and having the paper produced.

I would also appreciate comments on the title of the paper. To the older members of the Battery it has significance and therefore you will probably want to keep it. Any comments can be addressed to the Editor (Yet to be named) and will be published in the next addition. I suggest you bear in mind that while tradition is a good thing, it is not always wise to stick with the past. Will the title still have significance in years to come.



(N.D. GRAHAM)

Capt

BK 104 Fd Bty



## FOREWORD

"To best competition, be it"

- MLC Desk Calendar

I was graciously asked to write a short foreword to this sixth birthday issue of your lapsed, unnamed Battery periodical. While it gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to join the ranks of your anonymous unpaid contributions, I must admit to feeling a certain sympathy at present with the title that was previously used, because of a 'germ' I seem to have acquired recently in the rarefied atmosphere of Arty Tac. Nothing, it seems, is sacred.

At this point I am reminded that a parallel can be drawn between the history of this periodical and that of the Battery itself. For, just as publication is now to resume after a lapse of some little time, so the Battery's recent six years of continuous existence can be viewed as but a resumption of its history, because 104 Battery was apparently alive and well at least during World War 2. As you all make a dive for your history books, or say "So what!", according to how this news affects you, I hasten to add that research into the Battery's earlier history is already being undertaken even more urgently than the search for a title for this publication. I wonder Why?

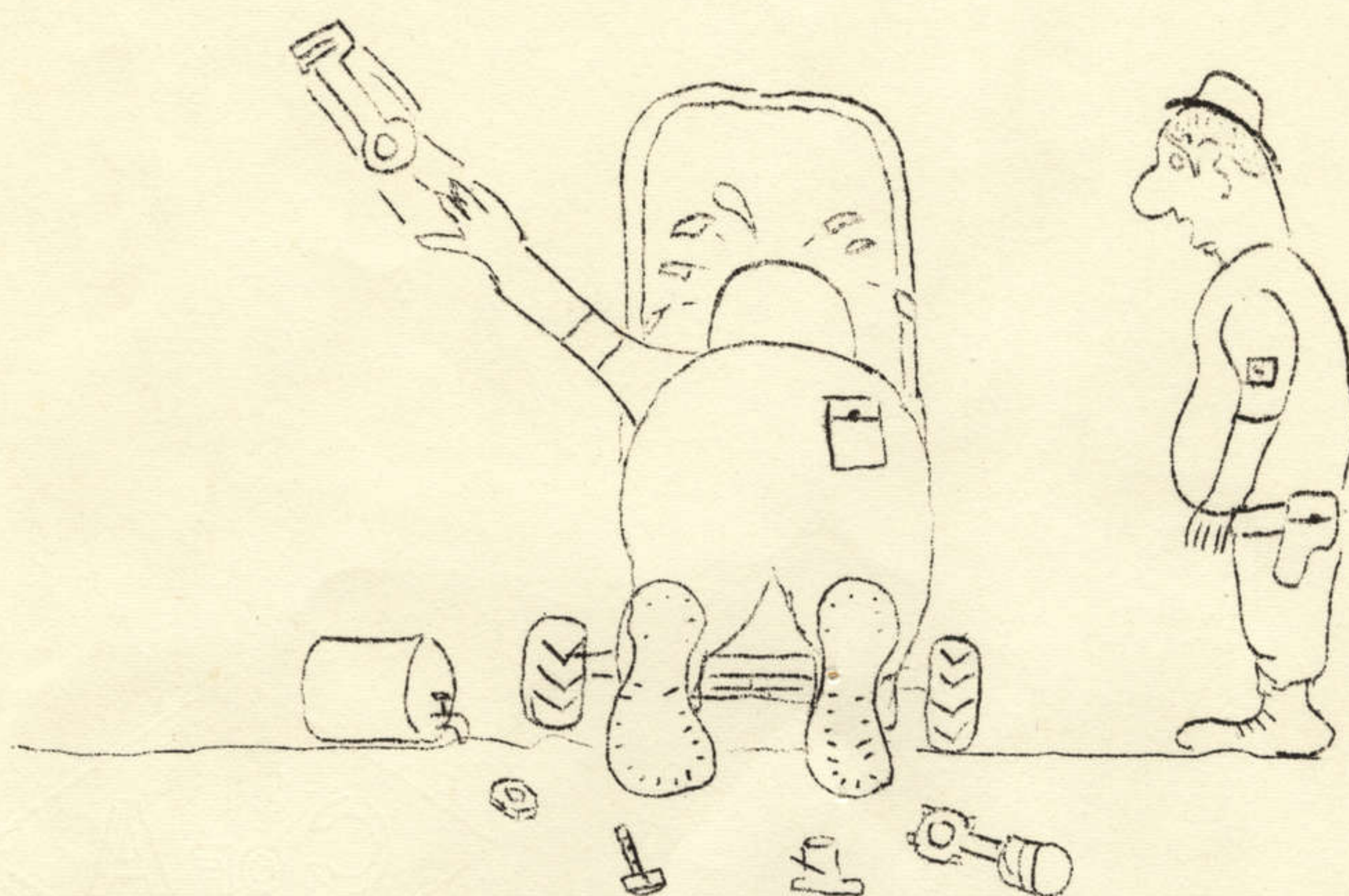
Be that as it may, we can all safely assume that the origins hath of the Battery and its periodical are lost in the mists of antiquity, to the satisfaction, I trust, of present Battery members, and hopefully, to the confusion of everybody else. On that note, I ~~have~~ pleasure in proceeding to the sole reason I was asked to write this foreword at all - namely, to wish your publication well on the occasion of its rebirth. That I do most heartily, and I am sure it will achieve the success it deserves. May it always occupy its own niche beside those two eminent representatives of the Regimental underground press, 'The Roadrunner' and 'The Graham Road Gazette'.

But success, of course, depends on you. Your editor must have your material with which to work; and I must scotch here and now the persistent rumour that your editor plans to finance his publication expenses, to say nothing of his War Service home, by selling your used 'goffer' cans as building materials to the lost tribes of the Amazon, in return for certain remuneration of an unspecified nature. This is simply not true. It is pure coincidence that you have been asked to send in your poems, essays, novels, operettas and paintings in the same neatly labelled sandbags that are used to backload empty goffer cans. So take my advice, Stop writing to your wife, your girl friend, your mother-in-law and even Armed Forces Radio if need be, but keep those contributions rolling in to your friendly Battery editor.

On that stirring note, I hope the editorial management has at last drawn some encouragement from this foreword, because I expect never to be invited to write a foreword to anything again. I am often asked - what is the secret in writing successfully about nothing? To that, I invariably reply - not to try too hard. Now, lest I be accused of not taking my own advice, as usual, I hasten to conclude these remarks with one simple question. Would you like to see yourself in print on these pages? Don't answer that - read on.

-- The Big Boss aka The ~~Star~~ Wheel.





SOME PRICK PUT SUGAR  
IN ME TANK, COBBER

---

WE'VE ALL HEARD OF SUPERMAN AND HIS, "UP, UP, AND  
AWAY"  
WELL NOW ITS THE PHANTOM LAWNMOWER, "CRANK UP  
AND AWAY"



MAD DOG GOS

The night sentries of the strong point were changing, the 3 guns and two mortar tubes were layed on GR 43467656, 2 APC 'beasts' were loaded with cannister and the bar of the Sgts boozier at Nui Dat had just opened. (The latter being info to boost morale).

(Back to our story) Gnr Gosby, commonly known as 'Mad Dog Gos', because of his daring exploits and his everlasting courage and nerves of steel, was patiently waiting for his brew to boil. The reason he was patiently waiting was because he was using the new Stoves Gasoline Mk 3 Aust. If he had been using a Stoves Gasoline Mk 2 Aust he would have been impatiently waiting because this model takes 5 seconds longer to boil brews.

His brew boils, his boils brew and his rusty trusty slur falls in the mud. He curses! 'FLOP IT'.

His mates look on with awe; for they realise that once 'Mad Dog Gos' loses his temper anything could happen - AND IT DID!!! 'Mad Dog Gos' could stand the boredom no longer. He decided to go on a one man AO patrol. 'WHAT A MAN'.

Two long minutes later, armed with his rusty trusty muddy slur, 7000 rounds of 7.62 mm, 3 bayonets, 15 M26 grenades, 10 claymore mines, 20 hand flares, 1 81mm mortar tube, 9 80mm mortar rounds, 3 months rations 18 filled water bottles, one hand spike from an M2A2 and his book of quotations of 'Chairman Mac', he was ready to go.

Desperately, yet fruitlessly his mates attempted to persuade 'Mad Dog Gos' to stay within the safety of the barbed wire fence. Three times 'Mad Dog' tried to jump over the wire but his load was too great. He checked his rear and found that the 'Superman Comic' in his left pocket was the item that had overloaded him.

With great willpower he disposed of the item and cleared the wire. His mates with tear filled eyes, saw him disappearing through the mist into the distant rubber. The saddened men seperated and headed for their fartars, believing that they would never see 'Mad Dog' again.

Brigadier Hank, 'Mad Dogs' closest mate walked into his tent heavy hearted and empty headed. Lo and behold (READY FOR IT) there, in front of him, sitting at the table, re-heating his brew, with a stupid grin on his face was,,,,, 'Mad Dog Gos'.

"Hell 'Mad Dog'!!" Hank exclaimed, "What are you doing back so soon"?

"Flop it"! cursed 'Mad Dog' "It started to floppin rain".

He leaned back in his chair and sipped the brew he had re-heated on his Stoves Gasoline Mk 3 Aust. The plastic spoon Aust Mk 1, which he had forgotten to remove from his cup, shot past his teeth, along his tongue and into his throat. 'Mad Dog' coughed, sparted and spluttered, finally he collapsed dead on the ground, and the boys still whisper his name every now and then, saying, 'Mad Dog Gos' would have lived if he hadn't died.'

.... /2.



THE SECO'S ODE

Listen to me everyone  
To what I have to say  
I have advice to guide you on  
And carry you through the day.

There is a man within our team  
Who's there specially for you  
So if you have troubles or problem  
Here is what you do.

Call the Seco by his name  
If you have any fears  
No need to yell or shout too loud  
For he is always near.

His shoulder's there just for you  
He'll never let you down  
His face is always lit with smiles  
You'll never see a frown.

Just tell him what your problems are  
And he will understand  
He'll give you all his good advice  
And lend a helping hand.

Pray listen to me everyone  
The Seco's a busy man  
So he's working to a roster  
He'll fit you in when he can.

So now to end this praising tale  
I'll conclude if I may  
A busy roster written below  
He can't see you that day.

MON  
TUE  
WED  
THURS  
FRI  
SAT  
SUN

THREE BRAVE MEN

Come one, come all  
Listen to this mighty tale  
Of three brave men who answer the call  
They challenge the impossible and never fail  
The BSM with his cropped red hair  
Answering the phone with style and flair  
And here's Gray Gray Williams, he's in a flap

.... / 3.



Because Gnr Oliver just drew F.T.A. on the map  
Bdr Rogers he's looking pale to day  
Working all night to fix up diggers pay  
Now that I've introduced the infallable three  
Lets take a look at the men and the room  
Thats supposed to be orderly.

0800 a new work day has begun  
BSM takes up a fighting stance this is going to be fun  
'Right men here's the scoop'  
We have A 4's to our right, Mob 3's to our left  
Enterprise won't answer me, must be deaf  
Ration Returns from Rob and Deb wernt in  
Gnr Oliver empty this bloody bin  
Right-O who drew this on my desk  
Can't I have one day of bloody rest  
Gnr Agius your left pocket button's undone  
Ah yes a brand new work day has truely begun.

There sits Gray Gray behind the big desk  
Working long hours he's doing his best  
File this File that  
Get Oley to shake out the mat  
Answer the phone and radio too  
Take this down to Mal or Super Q  
Picking up after Oliver gives him the drags  
Working like this he must be a reg

Click dash, click dash  
Buck's fingers are ruined from the type writer he has to bash  
Click dash space here space there  
Buck's a reg but he don't care

Right through the day and into the night  
These 3 brave men continue to fight  
Never in the history of men at war  
Has a verse like this been such a bloody bore

Super Bat

#### LAUNDRY NEWS

Laundry women Baria: "You like these sheets starched"?  
Super Q 104 Bty: "No thanks we do that ourselves".

#### PUBLIC NOTICES

Contrary to the popular belief Gnr Oliver (Super Bat) does not wear a  
cape and cowl whilst carrying out his batman tasks.

Super Bat

To Vung Tau Virgin  
"Thanks for nothing"

.... /4.



CO's REPORT

Thanks to the new wonder drug (No Sweat Pills) 104 Fd Bty is at last operational.

FOR SALE

1 by Orderly Room in immaculate condition:

- a. New Paint (6 years ago)
- b. White ants (No extra cost placed on for these)
- c. 2 Typewriters (US from overwork on A 4's)
- d. 3 Tables (US from fat NCOs sitting on em)
- e. Rice Paddy Floor (Easier to plant rice than sweep)
- f. Bukoo complaints (from dirty grotty grubby gunnies)
- g. 1 Fan (which has been hit by plenty of shit)
- h. 1 Telbphone (Guaranteed to ring every 3 seconds)
- i. 4 Rubbish tins (Most used filing trays in Orderly Room)

SITUATIONS VACANT

Due to an early pull out of 1/70 & 2/70 Nashos (who can't hack the pace) various positions will become vacant. Applications for the following vacancies to the BSM by 20 Sep 71:

Battery Tannoy: soon to be vacated by Gnr Clothier.

Battery Hygiene & Sanitary Engineer: A much sort after position but no one can handle such responsibility.

Battery Lawnmower Pusher: Easy job, easy hours, like 2 hrs a week as the mower doesn't like being away from LAD too long.

Worst dressed dig: A position requiring training practise and the right attitude. Only Sigs need apply.

BSM's No 1 Assistant: Also doubles as postie.

ENGAGEMENT NOTICE

With pleasure I'd like to announce the engagement of my daughter Suzie to the undaunting, deboinair, sophisticated Maxwell(SMART) Vandyke.

Mr WONG

A recce party of certain rotund senior NCOs & WOs led by a wiry officer inspected the new area, comments heard during the grand tour were:

1. Puff! puff. my gawd it's miles to the mess (200 yds)
2. Oh no! I won't be able to walk that far every day.

..../5.



3. "You won't catch me going through that jungle." (3 inch grass)
4. "We'll get wet boots crossing this creek"
5. "Christ no barbed wire, no strong points, we'll get over run, we'll get attacked, they'll be over the road before we know it."

OVERHEARD:- Whew! I've had a bloody hard afternoon, I just cleared 5 blokes.

It's rumoured that a certain Sgt Cook lost 2 picquets the other night, and they wern't the star type.

Whoopee! The fire support bases finally got chips (real ones) after 2 balls ups, the first lot were backloaded by a helpful Seco, the second lot were donated to the N-G= (whoops I mean nigels) by helpfull RAAF gunners. Good on you echelon keep up the good work.

Let it be known that a certain sig bdr will hereafter be known as 'Lightning' which has nothing at all to do with his prowess with a sledge hammer, but a lot to do with his lightning mouth, lightning temper, lightning mind and mostly his beaut lightning short stories. Good on yer 'Lightnen'!

The BSM almost had a coronary the other morning when he came across 'El Swavo' who is a certain tall signaller. His boots were undone, trousers tied in a knot, no breast pocket, torn shirt, no epulets, and a mongrel womb broom. By the time the BSM got to the epulets he was purple and speechless and walked away defeated.

FLASH! No more R & R unless you extend - from the friendly rubber tree. Get that Mum Roll on working pal.

The BQ has been walking around starry eyed for the past few days, he got a letter from the BG signed love & kisses (Watch it you two)

Any person who has a spare trunk kindly give it to the BG as he wants to pack his beloved mower for RTA.

Amendments to FSB Standing Orders: 1. Plimsol's may be worn whilst engaged in organised sport but they must be kept to wimbledon standard as no replacements will be made. 'There are none in country'. Shoe whitner available at Battery Q Store.  
2. The wearing of sand bags & Ho Chi Mhin Sandles must cease forthwith.

.... /6.



Its rumoured that Foxtrot's No 1 has sent away for a correspondence course in Italian, Good on yer Blue!

Something funny is going on with Delta detachment almost all of them have extended, it must be Ted's underarm deoderant.

The Batteries 6th gun will in future be known as 'AFOSATROTA'.

Nobody extended off Echo, hows yah bum now pal? Try mum roll on.

Well the last fire support base has been built and once again the boys worked splendidly as a team except for the Sigs who couldn't make up their stupid bloody minds as to were to sleep 'Idiots'! Nobody moves hutchies after working for 3 hours on them.

Its rumoured that the BG is to be presented with a chrome plated crank handle and the BSM with a brown fan.

The Western Union boy is aptly named, nobody calls up in the middle of the night to find out how many telegrams can be sent for 50¢. Good on yer Hughie!

Its rumoured that we've got 2 good buisnessmen in the Bty, anyone with a watch to sell see Joe or Lou.

Heard in the CP during last weeks Stand Too. "I told you we would get hit, I knew it, I knew it."

If super sig keeps it up we'll have comunications with England soon.

Even at Taronga Park Zoo the penguins don't get \$250 a week.

..../7.



SCENE:- Vung Tau Wharf:

Customs Official: "Where do you think your taking that yellow heap of shit"

BG: Punch...\*!?\* "What do you mean heap of shit? That's my good mower"

Customs Official: "Are you donating it as a war exhibit".

BG: Punch...\*!?\* "No! I'm going to crank it up in Townsville."

Customs Official: (with 2 Black Eyes): "Well sir, I've come to the conclusion that it's a good mower after all. No duty required."

BG: "Well done cobber"!

Port Adelaide don't worry, Blue is safe & secure in FSB Debbie. Blue don't worry, Port Adelaide is safe & secure in Port Adelaide.

Good try Kevin, you almost hid yourself with that 12 foot bund, but alas the BKs not that bad at map reading.

Who was the square chin bloke that was cursing & swearing because he was dragged out to Robin.

Charlie detachment should feel proud for their father to be, it's hard to do when you don't leave the R & C Centre, Eh! Dick!

How on earth did the BK know that Robin had red breasts?

Heard in the shower:- "You reckon you're short because you need a ladder to get into your boots, I'm so short I have to stand on a box to talk to Scotty."

20 calls themselves the professionals but they forgot to say professional what? 20A could offer plenty of suggestions but they would never get past the censors.

During the tour we have had a number of contestants for the position of Battery Mouth, but congratulations Mal due to your constant practice & obvious training you have won convincingly.  
N.B! Be carefull of a size 14 GP.

.... /8.



The proprietors of the 'Hi Fi' Coffee Lounge have extended a cordial invitation to all members of 12 Fd Regt on return to the Liverpool area.

THIS WEEKS HIT PARADE

Tip toe through the tulips	Hans
Amore amore	Blue
Working for the man	Max
Proud Mary	Anon
Nowhere man	BC
Rubber ball	BQ
Universal soldier	Faul
Communicationbreakdown	Flash
Teachers pet	Buck
San Quentin	Kinsella
Little old wine drinker me	Ablues
Green green grass	BG
Don't fence me in	Hunter
Macarthur Park	Hockings
Hair	Ben
Ring of fire	Pal
There's a tear in my eye	Tim
I don't know the gun was loaded5	Anon
Its too late baby	4/69
These boots are made for walking	FO's
When the war is over	Rear details
Green beret	Mal Pearce
Please, Mr Postman	Aggy
Please release me	Howard
19th Nervous breakdown	BSM (from 18th Nervous breakdowns)
	18th intake
Mashed potato	Tucker

Heard from our friendly rubber tree:  
Today (28-8-71) a certain Major handed in his flack jacket & helmet. How many road convoys to go?

Wanted Ad: Any person with spare salem cig. rettes see 'Blackie' He has a market in Vungers.

GUESSING COMPETITION

1. Who is the slim chap who flits around wringing his hands?

.... /9.



2. Who goes bush without a weapon?
3. Who flies around wearing a flack jacket taking pictures?
4. Who commands convoys wearing a bush hat under a helmet & it's not Lawrence of Arabia?
5. Who says: "Have you anything further for me, over"?

The first correct entry opened by our judges will not be final & there will be plenty of correspondence entered into, however the final winner will recieve a free trip with all expenses paid: 28 days in Vung Tau jail for slander.

"Bens bunglers" (as sig sect will hereafter be known) done it again, the new super sig had to straighten them out again even after their superb effort of mobile aircels, mobile sleeping pits & a few mobile tempers.

Heard on the grapevine that a certain sig bdr was presented with a sam 7 by flash.

Who can hack \$5.60 a day?

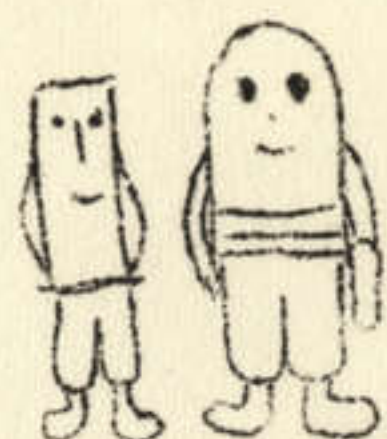
Who was the GPO who ordered ready then blushed during the 5 minute pause to shot - beetcha ha!

Nobody sends a clearing patrol out at midnight.

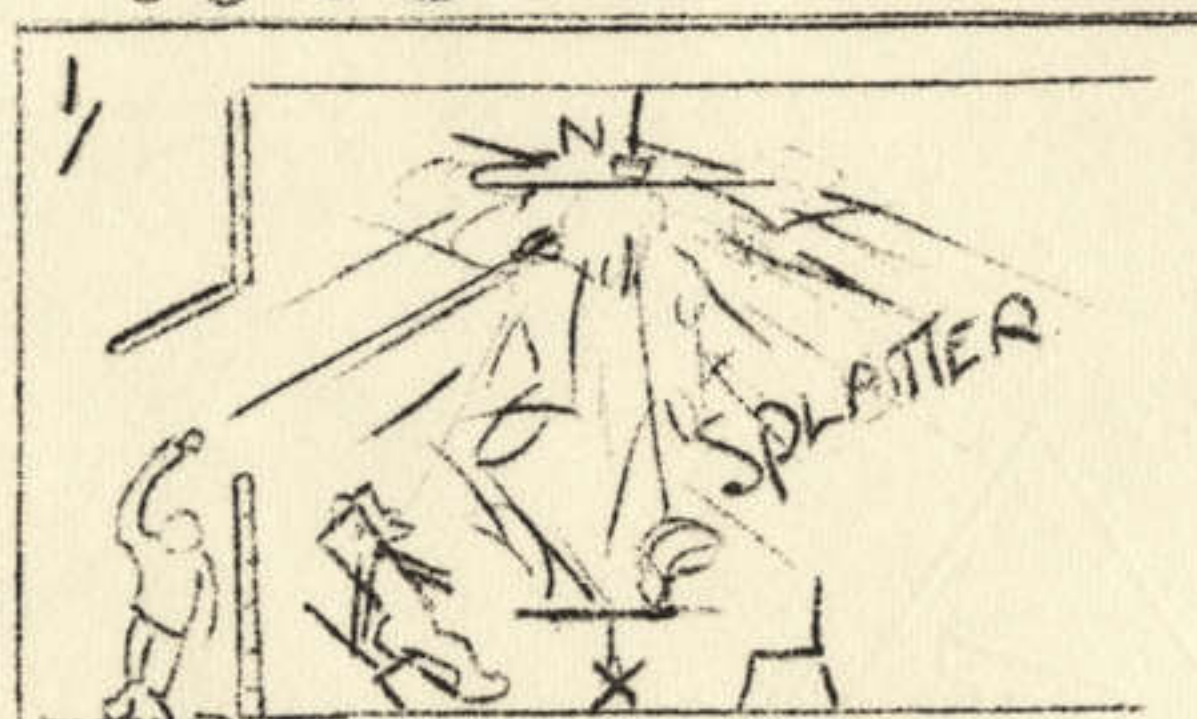
#### HAIL PROJECTIONSITS

Projector run hot  
Projector run cool  
Films broken running off the spool  
Diggers crying out in pain  
Rerun the bed room scene again  
Through heat sleat rain and snow  
4 brave men run the show  
Buck Olie Bob and Paul  
Do their best, give their all  
Beer cans to the left beer cans to the right  
100 beer cans to be picked up each night  
Next time you go to the movies my friend  
Think of us and just watch the flick  
Right till the end.

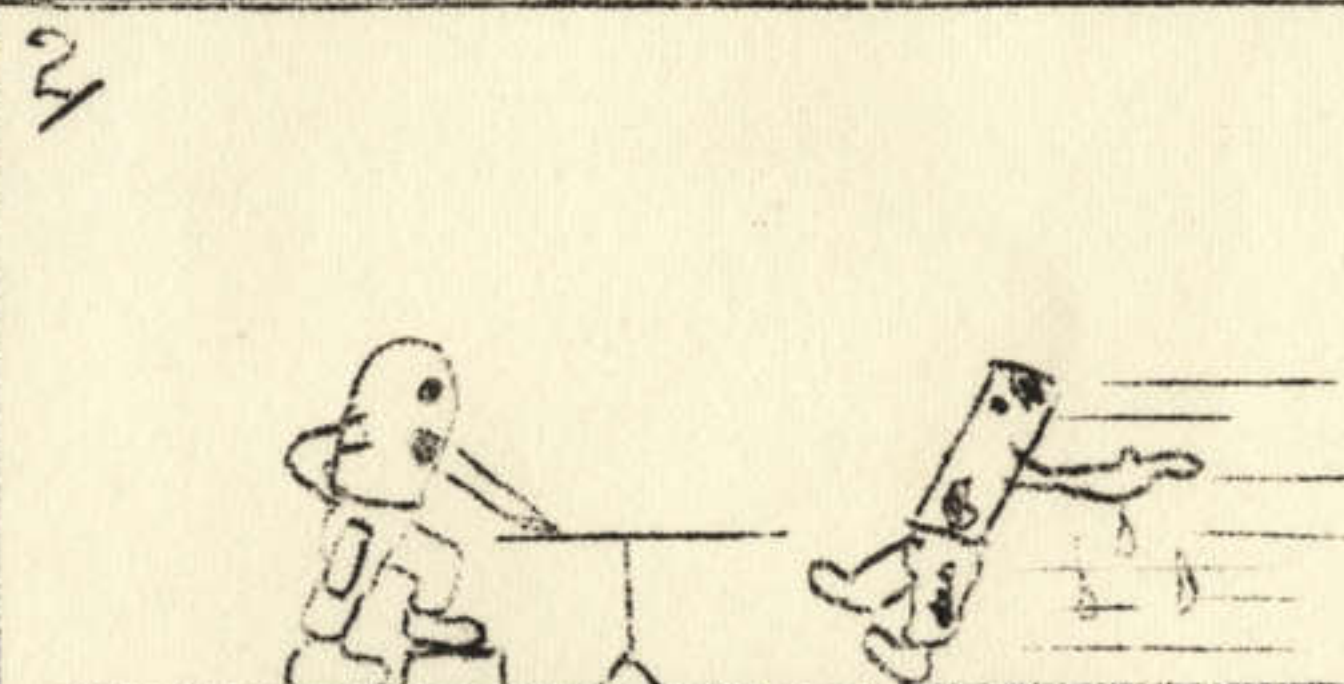




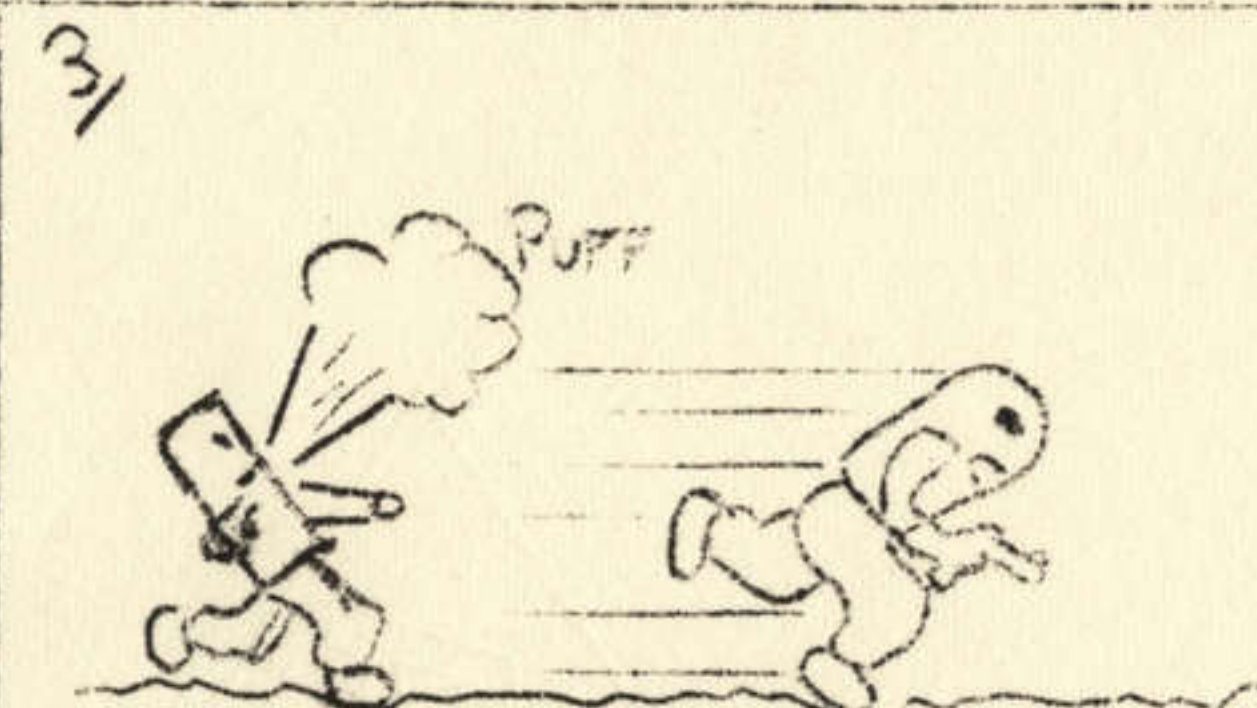
# THE ADVENTURES OF BULLET HEAD AND HIS PAL CARTRIDGE CASE



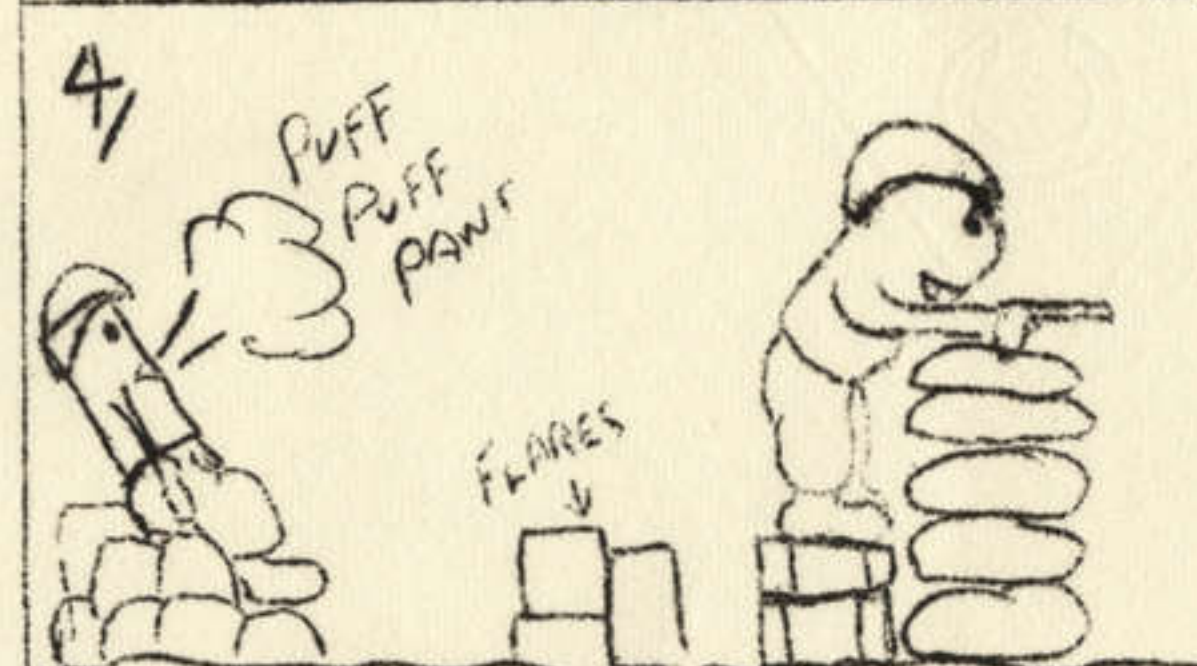
OUR SCENE. CART'S OFFICE WITH AN OPEN WINDOW



BULLETS OFFICE  
CART "THE SHIT HIT THE FAN" BULLET



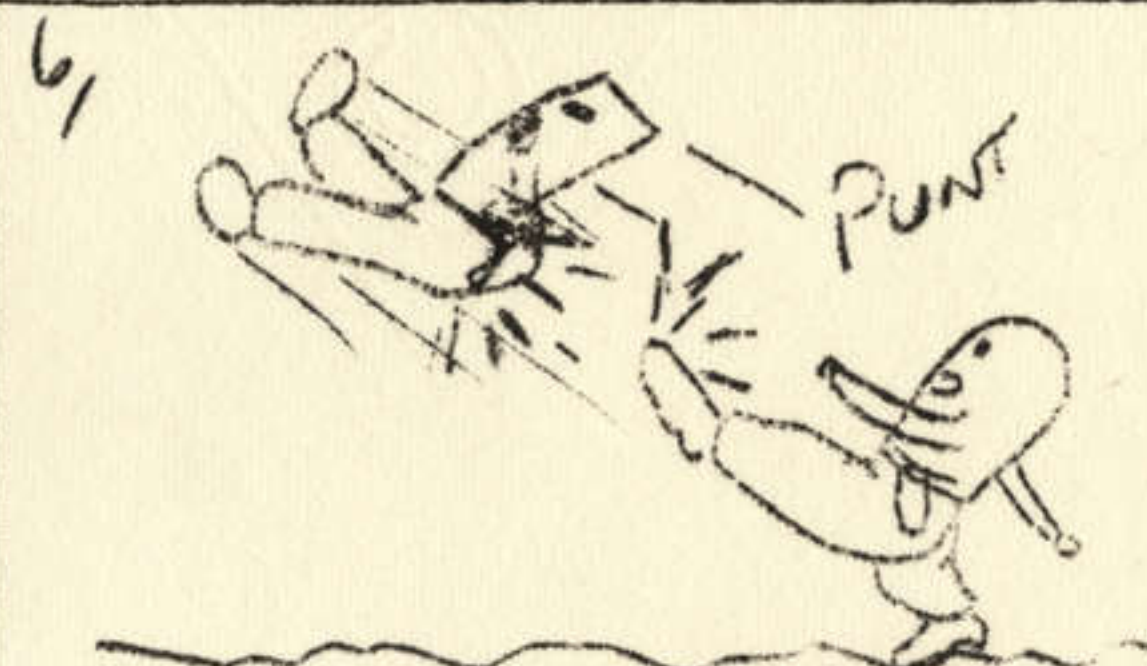
BULLET "STAND TO QUICK INTO THE AMMO BAY"  
CART "BUT BULLET"



BULLET WELL WERE ARE THEY CART  
CART "WELL PANT THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN PANT TRYING TO TELL YOU"



CART "SOMEONE THREW SHIT INTO MY FAN THE ONE IN MY OFFICE!"



YOU DICK HEAD CARTRIDGE