Series: AWM95 Australian Army commanders' diaries [Vietnam]

Engineer units

Item number: 4/1/2

Item: 3 Field Troop

Narrative

[1-25 May 1966]

TELEPHONE



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Quote in Reply

R273-1-2

ADDRESS

1 Field Squadron RAE BARIA 26 Jun 66

1 ATF

COMMANDERS DIARY

- 1. Herewith Commanders Diary for 3 Fd Tp from 1 25 May 66. 1 Fd Sqn RAE will now submit a Commanders Diary.
- 2. The delay in submission is regreted.

W.W. LENNON

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Quote in Reply

TELEPHONE

R273-1-2

ADDRESS

BARLA 1 Field Squadron RAM

26 Jun 66

1 VIII

will now submit a Commanders Diary. Herewith Commanders Diary for 3 Fd Tp from 1 - 25 May 66. 1 Fd Sqn RAE

The delay in submission is regreted.



MONTH AND YEAR ... May . 66 ...

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION. 3. Fd. Tp. RAE.

COMMANDING OFFICER. Capt. A.H. MacGREGOR

			1		
Place and grid reference	date	Time		Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	1 May	Sun	1.	No enemy activity overnight	
			2.	Internal tasks Security, local administration, hygiene and kitchen duties only	
			3.	External tasks (a) Construction of toilets (b) Concrete apron for well (c) Water point experimentation—sedimentation will be used but a large 10,000 gal tanks is required for the clean water once the sedimentation process is complete. (d) Plant - Dozers 3 shifts - ALSG area Grader access road FEL at pit - trucks carted gravel	
			4.	Tp Offr recalled to BIEN HOA by DAQMG for liasion. He will go tomorrow.	
	2 May	Mori	1.	No enemy activity overnight	
			2.	Internal tasks Security, local administration, hygiene and kitchen duties only	
			3.	External tasks (a) Construction of thilets (b) Concrete apron for well (c) WP - have been told by med that water is excellent quality. The delivery can commence tomorrow. (d) Plant - Dozers 3 shifts - ALSG area Grader access road FEL at pit - trucks carted gravel	
			4.	Tp Offr went to BIEN HOA Summary of all mistakes and unsatisfactory designs made for scale accommodation and passed to SORE 11 HQ AFV	A

MONTH AND YEAR May . 66....

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION...3. Fd. Tp. RAE...

COMMANDING OFFICERAPT. A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	3 May	Tue	1. No enemy activity overnight	
			2. Internal works Security, local admin, hygiene, and kitchen duties only	
			3. External takks (a) Construction toilets (b) Revovery rate test for well - 400 gals/ hrs (c) Operate WP - requirement only 2000 gal per day at present easily satisfied but requirement is to grow to 12,000 gal per day - extra equipment will be required. (d) Plant - Dozers 3 shifts - ALSG Grader access road FEL at pit - trucks carted gravel	
			4. Report for SORE 11 on water facilities in use and available in the AUST Army Force VIETNAM. A requirement for 1 ATF will be 40,000 gals per day to be delivered in 10 daylight hours. The source will be filthy muddy water and no AUSTRALIAN equipment is designed to do this the task.	

MONTH AND YEAR May .. 66.....

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION .. 3. Fd. Tp. RAE ...

COMMANDING OFFICER. Capt. A.H. WacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No		
VUNG TAU	4 May	Wed	1. No enemy activity overnight			
			2. Internal works Security, local admin, hygiene and kitchen duties only			
			3. External tasks (a) Construction toilets (b) Operation of water point and preparation of further facilities (c) Erection of tentage for ALSG (d) Plant - Dozers three shifts - ALSG+area Grader acess road FEL at pit trucks carting gravel			
			4. AFV arranged to get POL line unit from US sources - one sixthe of this line unit would be ideal for the WP. It contains one pump capable of pumping from the source to the sedimentation tanks and from the storage tank to delivery the storage tank (it is of 10,00 gallon capacity), three jerry can filling points, one bulk filling point and an abundancy of 4",3" and 2" piping. A bid was made for the WP at 1 ALSG to have EXAME one sixth of the POL point.			

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION..3. Field. Troop. RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER CART. A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No		
VUNTAU	5 May	Thu	1. No enemy activity overnight			
			2. Internal tasks Security. local admin, hygiene and kitchen duties only.			
			3. External tasks (a) Construction toilets (b) Operation of WP and preparation and assembly of POL line unit to be used in the WP. (c) Unit stocktake of stores (d) Plant - dozers three shifts - ALSG area Grader access road FEL at pit - trucks carting gravel			
			4. As stated in 3 (b) the POL unit was received and vouchered to 17 Construction Squadron for they are to take over the operation of the WD once it is fully operational.			
	1	1				

MONTH AND YEAR May . 66

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION...3. Field Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt. A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	6 May Fri	1. Noenemy activity overnight 2. Internal takks Security, local admin, hygiene and kitchen duties only. 3. External tasks (a) Construction toilets (b) Operation and construction of WP (c) Erection tentage 1 ALSG area (d) Flant - Dozers - three shifts - ALSG area Grader access road FEL at pit - trucks carting gravel 4. No troop stores have arrived recently. The Troop Officer is to return tomorrow. His main task in BIEN HOA was to clean up the area 3 Fd Tp occupied. The arrangement made for 173 Bde Engr Coy to level the area (for it is all plant work) was classed as not satisfactory. It was reiterated that now the task and responsibilities for the movement of the stores is a Movements problem.	

MONTH AND YEAR May .. 66

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION...3.Field.Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER..Capt.A.H.WacGREGOR

	The state of the s		
date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
7 May 6	6 Sat	1. No enemy activity overnight. 5 RAR was alerted and clearing patrols sent out but no contach made.	
		2. Preparation of stores for on movement to TF area.	
		3. External Tasks (a) Operation of WP (b) RAEME - repair of ALSG generators (c) Transport - hauling of gravel into ALSG area (d) Plant - 3 Tp TD 15Bs preparing ALSG area Grader working on access roads Michigan FEL at the gravel pit	
		4. TpOffr moved down from BIEN HOA	
		5. Three personnel still remaining in BIEN HOA to operate the WP AND assist with stores. Still NO projected date for movement of stores. One pallet of Kingstrand hut destroyed in movement by mishandling	
		7 May 66 Sat	7 May 66 Sat 1. No enemy activity overnight. 5 RAR was alerted and clearing patrols sent out but no contach made. 2. Preparation of stores for on movement to TF area. 3. External Tasks (a) Operation of WP (b) RAEME - repair of ALSG generators (c) Transport - hauling of gravel into ALSG area (dP Plant - 3 Tp TD 15Bs preparing ALSG area Grader working on access roads Michigan FEL at the gravel pit 4. TpOffr moved down from BIEN HOA 5. Three personnel still remaining in BIEN HOA to operate the WP AND assist with stores. Still NO projected date for movement of

	WW.			
.66	May	VEAR	CT/ A	HUMOM
-44	WELL.	 YEAH	AND	MONTH

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION...3. Field. Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt. A. H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure N
VUNG TAU	8 May	Sun	1. No enemy activity overnight	Take.
			Preparation of stores for on movement to TF area.	
			3. External Tasks (a) Operation of WP (b) RAEME - repair of 1 ALSG generators (c) Transport - hauling of gravel to ALSG area (d) Plant - 3 Fd Tp TD15Bs preparing living area Grader - working on access roads Michigan FEL at the gravel pit	
			4. Heavy rain proved the necessity for an extensive drainage system in the lower areas. Many of the stores areas were flooded.	
			5. Electricity was restored to the W side of the camp today. This allows fresh rations to be stored and used again on this side of the camp.	

MONTH	AND	YEAR.	May	66	
LIONTH	WINT	TEMPLE	7 0 0 0 0 0		

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION. 3 Field Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt AAHAMacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAAU	May 66	Mon	1. No enemyAactivity evernight 2. Internal works (a) Preparation of stores for a movement to TF area (b) RAEME - preparation of vehicles for forward move. 3. External works (a) Latrines for ARU, 1 Coy RAASC and 1 Div Ord Coy (b) Plant - 3 TD 15bs preparing ALSC area Michigan operating the pit Grader - maint of access reads (c) Transport - hauling gravel to 1 ALSC area 4. 17 Const Squad resumed responsibility for the operation of the gravel pit 5. 17 Const Sqn preparing to take over WP in 1 ALSC area	

HTMON	AND	YEAR May 66	REFERENCE MAP	
-------	-----	-------------	---------------	--

UNIT/FORMATION.... 3 Field Troop RAE

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	10 May	Tue	1. No enemy action overnight 2. Internal works (a) Preparation of stores for on movement to TF area (b) Preparing of new troop site. 3. External works (a) Plant - 3 x TD 15Bs in ALSG area Michigan - servicing Grader - maint of access roads. (b) Transport - hauling gravel to ALSG area 4. 17 Const Sqn assumed responsibility for the ALSG WP. 5. Plant operators have shift work reduced from three shifts to two shifts per day. This has the plant operating from 0600 hrs to 2200 hrs per day. 6. Troop moved to new location - remaining equipment must be in new location by 1100 hrs 11 May 66.	
	11 May	Wed	1. No enemy activity overnight 2. Internal works (a) Preparing stores for on movement to TF area (b) RAEME - servicing vehicles (c) Removing remainder of stores to new troop location. (d) Const of latrines and showers in new location 3. External tasks (a) Plant - 3 x TD 15 Bs levelling 1 ALSG area Michigan servicing Grader - maint of access roads	

HTMOI	AND	YEAR May. 66	REFERENCE MAP	
-------	-----	--------------	---------------	--

UNIT/FORMATION... 3 Field Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	11 May	Wed	1. No enemy activity overnight 2. Internal tasks (a) Preparing stores for on movement to TF area (b) RAEME - servicing vehicles (c) Removing remainder of stores to new troop location (d) Const of latrines and showers in new location 3. External tasks (a) Plant 3 x TD 15Bs levelling 1 ALSC area Michingan servicing Grader - maint of access roads (b) Transport - Remaining stores from old to new location 4. ESM 'VERNON STURDEE' berthed - stores for 3 Fd Tp were manifested but manner more were aboard. 161 Recce Flt and some 1 ALSG stores are in position.	

HTMOM	AND	YEAR.		May	66							
-------	-----	-------	--	-----	----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION... 3 Field Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
NUNG CAU	12 May	Thu	1. No enemy activity overnight 2. Internal tasks (a) Preparing stores for on movement to TF area (b) RAEME - servicing vehicles (c) Removing remainder of stores to new troop location (d) Const of latrines and showers in new location 3. External tasks (a) Plant 3 x TD 15Bs levelling 1 ALSG area Michigan servicing Grader - maint of access roads (b) Transport - remaining stores from old to new location	

MONTH	AND	VEAR.	May	66	
MONTH	HIMI	I FAMIL O			

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION... 3. Field. Froop. RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt. A. H. MacGREGOR

-					
	Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
	VUNG TAU	13 May	Fri	1. No enemy activity overnight 2. Internal tasks (a) Preparation of stores for on move to TF area (b) Servicing of all vehicles, plant and eqpt (c) Training - refresher programme on weapon handling, mine warfare and boobytra 3. External tasks (a) Flant - 2 x TD 15Bs levelling in 1 AISG area Michigan - servicing Grader - servicing (b) Transport - servicing 4. Shift work for plant operators reduced to one shift to comply with AISG working to the servicing of t	

ONTH	AND	YEAR.	May.	66.		REFERENCE	MAP		
------	-----	-------	------	-----	--	-----------	-----	--	--

UNIT/FORMATION... 3. Field Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	14 May	Sat	1. No enemy activity overnight 2	
	15 May	Sun	1. No enemy activity over night 2. Internal takks (a) Preparation on stores for on movement to TF HQ (b) RAEME preparation of all vehicles (c) Development of defence pesitions in area 3. Stand down for half a day from 1200 hrs.	

MONTH AI	VD YEAR	May	.66.				
----------	---------	-----	------	--	--	--	--

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION. 3 Field Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt A.H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	16 May	Mon	1. No enemy activity overnight	
			2. Internal works (a) Preparation of stores for on movement to TF area (b) RAEME - preparation of all vehicles (c) DP1 A and Q check (d) User trials on new rucksack webbing frames. (e) Weapons chekk (f) Development of defensive positions	
			3. Stand to at 1900 hrs because of int report of build up of hostile forces. VUNG TAU has been placed off limits to all personnel.	
			4. Vehicle and plant parts have still not arrived from AUSTRALIA - one member of RAEME returned to BIEN HOA for these.	
			5. Dates and planning figures released for forward movement to TF area. This has helped greatly by giving everyone a definite idea of what is happening	
		2		

MONTH	AND	YEAR	.Ma	y.66	5.			
-------	-----	------	-----	------	----	--	--	--

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION...3 Field Troop RAE
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt A.H.MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date Ti	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU 17 1	May To	 Noenemy activity overnight Internal tasks (a) Preparation of stores for advance party to move. (b) RAEME - preparation of all vehicles (c) User trials on new webbing A frames and rucksacks (d) Weapon check - frequency of weapon checks due to the losses of weapons amongst other units (e) Developing of defensive positions RAEME (101 Inf Wksps) conducted a survey of all technical equipment to gain some idea of the scalling of parts necessary. This should have been done 12 months ago. Items that were to be on the courier have still not arrived this location 	

MONTH	A ATTO	TOTAL A TO	May	66	
MONTH	AND	IEAR.			

REFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION...3. Field. Troop. RAE

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt. A. H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	18 May Wed	1. No enemy activity overnight 2. Internal tasks (a) Preparation of stores for advance party to move. (b) RARME - preparation of all wehicles; preparation of 114's on two vehicles (c) User trials on new webbing A frames and rucksacks (d) Preparation of ARVN range for test firing and zeroing of weapons 3. Two AB 160 series dump trucks were returned to 2 Comp Ord Coy as UNSVC. One TD 15B was transfered to 17 Const Sqn as an above entitlement holding. This action was taken on orders from DADOS. 4. Two dump trucks were to come from 17 Const Sqn but because of misunderstandings these vehicles were not ready for delivery. 5. Signal away by 2 Comp Ord Coy to hurry all outstanding urgent indents from 3 Fd Tp. 6. Master track pins for TD 15Bs to be replaced. These are not carried on Ord scaling and no other units in the area carry these thems. A signal was sent off requesting these be issued priority one, so that dozers can move forward an expected date. 7. 2IC 1 Fd Sqn joined 3 Fd Tp and will remain with them until arrival of 1 Fd Sqn.	

MONTH	AND	YEAR.	. May	. 66.	 	RI
	-					all the

EFERENCE MAP....

UNIT/FORMATION . . 3. Field. Troop. RAE

	,		COMMANDING OFFICER. Capt. A.H.	MacGREGOR
Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure N
VUNG TAU	19 May	Thu	1. No enemy action overnight	
			2. Internal tasks (a) Preparing stores for move with advance party (b) RAEME - maint of all vehiclesz (c) General troop training	
			2. Range practice and zeroing of rifles with assistance of 1 TF armourer. Four rifles L1A1 were found to be unservicable and one GPMG M60. The rifles have been 1045 to 101 Inf Wksps and new rifles issued to replace them. The troops holdings of rifles in now nil.	
			4. The AB 160 dump trucks from 17 Const Sqn were ready for pick up by 1000 hrs.	

HTMON	AND	YEAR.	May .	66	REFERENCE	MAP							
-------	-----	-------	-------	----	-----------	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

UNIT/FORMATION.3 Field Troop RAE

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure N
VUNG TAU	20 May	Fri	 No enemy activity overnight Internal tasks (a) Preparing stores for move with advance party (b) RAEME - maint of all vehicles (c) General troop training Change in probable date for movement forward of vehicles. Now no anticipated move before 30 May 66. Advance party 1 Fd Sqn expected in 25 May. They are to live in 3 Tp lines. 17 Const Sqn waterpoint has used all the alum allotted to it. 21 Sup Pl has not yet awquired the alum asked for by 3 Fd Tp on 7 May 66. 	

MONTH	AND	YEAR.		May.	66	
LIONTII	TITITI	T TIME O	T (8	2 2 MO	0 0 0	

UNIT/FORMATION 3 Field Troop RAE

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt A.H.MacGREGOR

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	21 May	Sat	 No enemy action overnight Internal tasks (a) Preparation of stores for on movement to TF area (b) RAEME - maint of generators in the area (c) Restocking of ammo and explosives for coming operation (d) Issue of explosives, ammo and rations for the soldiers going on the operation. Three days rations had to be issued instead of the usual two, this lead to the need for re-issue for Sup Bl before the troops could go out The first amendment to the operation order was received at 1830 hrs. This was a change in the timings for the move of the troops. VUNG TAU is still off limits to all AUST forces. Request for courtmartial proceedings to be dropped against Spr VAN HAM. 	
	22 May	Sun	1. No enemy activity overnight 2. Internal works (a) Preparation of stores for on movement to TF area (b) RAEME - maint of generators in troop area (c) Restocking of ammo and explosives for coming eperations 3. Half day stand down.	

MONTH AND YEAR. May 66 REFERENCE MAP.....

UNIT/FORMATION. 3 Field Troop RAE

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure N
VUNG TAU	23 May	Mon	 No enemy activity overnight Internal tasks (a) Continued packing of stores. Two vehicles packed and placed on the stand by to move. (b) RAEME - maint of vehicles OC and 40 left on first operation with 5 RAR. The move was delayed 2 hours by the shortage of helicopters The troop (rear detail) moved from its present location to an area below 101 Inf Wksps. This is the fifth movement of the troop while it has been in the VUNG TAU 	
			The state of the s	a.sea.

MONTH AN	VID YEAR		May	66		,
----------	----------	--	-----	----	--	---

REFERENCE MAP.....

UNIT/FORMATION. 3 Field Troop RAE

Place and grid reference	date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU	24 May	Tue	 No enemy activity overnight Internal tasks All tasks are internal for 3 Fd Tp rear. They include cooking, security, duty drivers, storemen, clerk GD for orderly room and RAEME personnel on maintenance These duties devour the 17 personnel left in 3 Ed Tp rear. No external tasks will be done and all plant is idle in preparation for move fwd. 300 lbs of explosives was sent to 3 Fd Tp fwd on an operational demand. Preparation were made fo receive the advance party of 1 Fd Sqn in the present 	
			3 Tp area. Extra tents were erected. Nine personnel arrive en 25 May and nine personnel on 28 May. 6. One member was evacuated and replaced today - medical reasons.	

66	·	
Ó	Ş	6

REFERENCE MAP......

UNIT/FORMATION. 3 Field Troop RAE

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt. A. H. MacGREGOR

Place and grid date Time reference	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure No
VUNG TAU 25 May Wed.	 No enemy activity overnight Internal takks All tasks are internal for 3 Fd Tp rear they include cooking, security, duty drivers, storeman, clerk GD for orderly room and RAEME personnel on maintenance. These duties devour the 17 personnel left in 3 Fd Tp rear. For medical reasons another member of 3 Fd Tp fwd was ev acuated and replaced by a member in the rear party. Fd Sqn adv party arrived today and hence 3 Tp is under command. It was agreed that henceforth the comd diary submitted by 3 Tp will sease - 1 Fd Bqn taking the responsibility. Some stores arrived from BIEN HOA toaday. All the troop TET is not in loc at VUNG TAU as yet. Many tons of engineer stores e.g. PSP are yet to be dispatched by movements. It is now 5 weeks since 3 Tp rear was ordered to be ready to move from BIEN HOA by air. Many of the pallets at this stage will be rotten since they are made of flooring from locally bought timber of low quality. The stores are now being moved on vehicles by sea so that some of these pallets who he unsatisfactorily assembled and may have to be repacked on 4' x 4' pallets which now available - however only 3 of 3 Tp personnel are in BIEN HOA and they are working on the Water Point. 	