

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Artillery units

Item number: 3/6/23

Item: 1 Field Regiment

[1 Fd Regt RAA]

Narrative

[1-28 Feb 1970]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No.

THIS DOCUMENT IS DECLASSIFIED AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE. BY AUTHORITY, THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, CANBERRA.

ORIGINAL }
~~DUPLICATE~~ }

Strike out where
not applicable

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 1 Fd Regt RAA

From 1 Feb 70 To 28 Feb 70

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
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on.....

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

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

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) *[Signature]*

Appointment **CAPT**
ADJT 1 FD REGT RAA
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Retd 23/3/70

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

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

tential importance. officers, men and equipment. ment captured. employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

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

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

(continued on back cover)

SECRET

COMMANDERS DIARIES

VE C 310 (Vqbrhcg)

LVKLT 3

COLLECTING TELLER

LVKLT 1

IFB REGT

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.

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 FD REGT

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 1 | Note | 1ATF continues Operation TOAN THANG IV in the TAOR. RHQ remains at NUI DAT, 101 Fd Bty FSBP PEGGY (YS4383), 105 Fd Bty at NUI DAT, 161 Fd Bty = One section at NUI DAT, one section at the HORSESHOE, B/2/13th US Arty at FSPB PAT (YS6182), C/2/35th US Arty at NUI DAT, 131 Div Loc Bty has one radar deployed at NUI DAT and one at the HORSESHOE and the 30 inch searchlight of Bty 29 5/2 (SP) (AW) US Arty remains at the HORSESHOE. The Dusters of 5/2 (SP) (AW) US Arty remain Op Con to 1ATF and are based in NUI DAT and the 2 X 8" of A/7/8 US Arty remains at NUI DAT. | |
| | 2 | 0145 | A number of 131 Bty radar personnel and four members of 101 Fd Bty were affected by gas from an unknown source in the vicinity of the NUI DAT radar. The matter was investigated on the spot by the DCRE, Srg/Svy Officer and the Battery Guide 101 Fd Bty, and the only conclusive result was that the gas was NOT CS. | |
| | 2 | 1100 | The two 8" howitzers of A/7/8 US Arty departed NUI DAT by road for BIEN HOA. They were escorted by Dusters to PHU MY 5. | |
| | 2 | 2100 | The HORSESHOE Section of 161 Fd Bty fired in sp of contact by 3 Pl A Coy 6 RAR at YS455583. Results of contact were 2 BT leading south. | |

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 FD REGT

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 02 | 2135 | 161 Fd Bty engaged grid 388658 as a result of C Coy 8 RAR having sighted lights in the area. Results:- Unknown. | |
| | 03 | Note | The Commanding Officer visited PHU LOI and lunched with the Commander 23rd Artillery Group. He then visited Lai Khe to witness the ceremony of changeover of Commanders, 1st Inf Div Artillery. | |
| | 3 | 1730 | The Commander, 1ATF, fired the last round of 105 Fd Bty's second tour in SVN. | |
| | 4 | 0800 | 105 Fd Bty departed NUI DAT by air for SAIGON and Australia being the first battery to have completed two tours of duty in SVN and the first battery to fire more than 70,000 rounds in a 12 month tour. | |
| | 4 | 1500 | 106 Fd Bty arrived at NUI DAT by air from SAIGON and commenced its second tour of duty in SVN. | |
| | 4 | 1708 | 106 Fd Bty fired their first mission. They also fired several targets in the H and I programme. | |
| | 4 | 1930 | 101 Fd Bty fired in support of a contact by Aslt Pnr Pl 6 RAR at grid 431856. Results:- Unknown. | |

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 5 | 1100 | B/2/13 US Arty fired in sp of contact by 11 Pl D Coy 5 RAR at grid 546776. The enemy withdrew west with nil result. | |
| | | 1800 | The 24 hour TET cease-fire commenced. | |
| | 6 | 0740 | B/2/13 US Arty fired in sp of contact by A Coy 5 RAR at grid 582896, near the company resupply pad. Results :- Nil | |
| | 8 | 1405 | B/2/13 US Arty fired in sp of contact by A Coy 5 RAR at grid 566897. The contact was with a platoon sized element and the Light Fire Team was also utilized. Results of contact were 2 VC KIA and 1 Aust WIA. | |
| | | 1600 | 101 Fd Bty fired in sp of contact by 3 Pl W Coy 6 RAR at grid 385867. Results :- 3 VC KIA | |
| | | NOTE | 106 Fd Bty continued its work up program with a trial air move from PELICAN HEIGHTS to KOALA Pad. The move was not completed, as the CH47 was called away to another task, but all the relevant lessons were learned. The batterys' morale remains high and it is firing regularly in both H&I missions and course shooting. | |
| | | 1727 | B/2/13 US Arty fired in sp of contact by B Coy 5 RAR at grid 558888. Contact was with a squad sized element and the result was 1 VC KIA (BC). | |

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION¹ FD REGT

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 9 | 2027 | 101 Fd Bty fired in sp of contact by 11 Pl D Coy 6 RAR at grid 443887. Result - 2 VC WIA (BT). | |
| | 10 | 1420 | B/2/13 US Arty fired in sp of contact by Aslt Pnr Pl 5 RAR at grid 526783. 5 enemy were engaged and 2 packs, a quantity of documents and 30lbs of rice were captured. | |
| | | 1650 | B/2/13 US Arty fired in sp of contact by 12 Pl D Coy 5RAR at grid 547785. 6 enemy were contacted with 2 KIA (BC) and 2 WIA (BT). | |
| | 11 | 1500 | Maj Gilroy and party departed NUI DAT by air for FSPB PAT as advance party for 106 Fd Btys' deployment. | |
| | | 1910 | The HORSESHOE Section of 161 Fd Bty fired in sp of contact by 7 Pl C Coy 5RAR at grid 587668. 7 enemy were contacted, resulting in 6 VC KIA (BC) and 1 VC WIA (BT). | |
| | 12 | 0700 | C/2/35 US Arty departed NUI DAT by road for RANG RANG. | |
| | | NOTE | 106 Fd Bty came out of action at NUI DAT at 0800 hrs and deployed by air to FSPB PAT. The move proceeded as scheduled and the battery was complete in PAT by 1400 hrs. | |

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 1 FD REGT

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | 12 | NOTE | Simultaneously with 106 Btys' move, B/2/13 US Arty returned by air from FSPB PAT to NUI DAT and then deployed by road to the HORSESHOE. The battery reported two guns ready (on theatre grid) at 1500 hrs and conducted a registration at 1600 hrs. All guns were complete at the HORSESHOE by 1600 hrs. At 1537 hrs, the HORSESHOE Section of 161 Fd Bty came out of action and returned by road to NUI DAT. 161 Bty reported "Bty ready on theatre grid" in NUI DAT at 1700 hrs. | |
| | 12 | 0900 | Two 8" howitzers of Battery A, 7th Battalion, 8th (US) Artillery arrived at NUI DAT by road from BIEN HOA. They deployed in HUSKY Compound and registered at approximately 1100 hrs. | |
| | 12 | 1730 | 101 Fd Bty fired in sp of contact by 10 Pl D Coy 6 RAR at grid 432874. Result : 1 VC KIA (BC). | |

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/~~FORMATION~~ 1 FD REGT

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | 13 | 2015 | In sp of contact by 655 RF Coy at grid 454738, 161 Fd Bty engaged grid 456735. Following that, 101 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty fired a Regimental Mission on grid 466735 and the 2 x 8" howitzers of A/7/8 US Arty engaged grid 473720. Results of contact were negative friendly casualties and unknown en casualties. | |
| | 14 | NOTE | No contact missions were fired by Task Force Artillery in the 24 hour period. | |
| | 15 | 1900 | In support of contact by C Coy 8 RAR at grid 458564, B/2/13 US Arty fired on grid 469569. Subsequently, 161 Fd Bty engaged grid 443563, the Dat Do 155s engaged grid 460546 and A/7/8 US Arty engaged grids 455560 and 421542. Results: 3 Aust WIA, 8 VC(KIA), 22 definite drag marks with heavy blood trails. | |
| | 16 | NOTE | 161 Fd Bty deployed by air from NUI DAT to FSPB PAT (YS6182) and, simultaneously, 106 Fd Bty deployed by air from PAT to NUI DAT. Both moves proceeded as scheduled: 161 Bty reported 6 guns ready on theatre grid at 1000 hours; and 106 Bty were ready in NUI DAT at 0950 (66Guns). | |
| | 16 | 1830 | Two 175mm guns of A/7/8 US Arty arrived at NUI DAT by road from BIEN HOA, They were deployed in HUSKY compound with the 8 inch howitzers. | |

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/~~FORMATION~~ 1 FD REGT

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 17 | NOTE | Nil contact missions were fired in the 24 hour period. | |
| | 18 | 0700 | Capt RATCLIFF departed NUI DAT by air for SAIGON and AUSTRALIA. | |
| | | 0700 | HMAS VENDETTA arrived on station and was fired on observed targets in the southern region of the LONG HAIS. Firing observed by NGLO. | |
| | | 1100 | A/7/8 US Arty, B/2/13 US Arty and the 155s of DAT DO fired in sp of contact by C Coy 8 RAR vic grid 475523. Contact was with an estimated squad of VC and resulted in 1 VC PW, 2 Aust KIA, 7 Aust WIA (Dusted off), one APC destroyed by RPG-2 fire. | |
| | | NOTE | Following the above contact, artillery was fired by all the above units at selected targets in the LONG HAIS for about four hours. All fire was controlled by the FO C Coy 8 RAR; Lt A.J.RIVERS RNZA. | |
| | | NOTE | TPS-25 Ground Surveillance Radar deployed at HORSE-SHOE by road from LONG BINH at 0900 hrs and was in action by 1300 hrs. | |
| | 18 | 1510 | B/2/13th US Arty and A/7/8th US Arty fired on base camp at grid 473417. The mission, based on PW report and visual sighting by Bushrangers was adjusted by airborne and ground observers with negative results. | |
| | | NOTE | An extensive H and I programme was fired into the LONG HAIS during the night; interdicting likely escape routes and base areas. | |

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/~~FORMATION~~ 1 FD REGT

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 19 | 0127 | One soldier was wounded by schrapnel from friendly artillery; believed to be the Dat Do 155mm guns of III Corps. | |
| | 19 | 0905 | Three guns of 106 Fd Bty deployed by road from NUI DAT to HORSESHOE to provide close sp for HORSESHOE Coy and elms of 8 RAR in the LONG HAI. B/2/13 US Arty de parted HORSESHOE by road for PHU LOI at 1000 hrs. Section of 106 Fd Bt y at HORSESHOE reported ready on theatre grid at 0955 hrs. | |
| | 20 | NOTE | The remaining three guns of 106 Fd Bty came out of action at NUI DAT at 1400 hrs and deployed by road to the HORSESHOE. The battery reported six guns ready on theatre grid at 1516. | |
| | 22 | 1010 | Three guns of 106 Fd Bty came out of action at the HORSESHOE and deployed by road to NUI DAT. The section was in action at NUI DAT at 1100 hrs. | |
| | 23 | 2350 | HORSESHOE section of 106 Fd Bt y engaged grids 457610 and 464610 in sp of ARVN contacts. Negative results. | |
| | 24 | 0215 | HORSESHOE section of 106 Fd Bty engaged grid 466638 in sp of ARVN troops. Description of target was suspected base plate. | |
| | 25 | 0121 | The 8" howitzers of A/7/8 US Arty engaged and sank a sampan at grid 399532. | |

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revit 1 Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1970

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 FD REGT

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL BECK

| Place and grid reference | Date | Time | Event or information | Annex letter and enclosure number |
|--------------------------|------|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | 28 | NOTE | One section of 101 Fd Bty deployed by air from FSPB PEGGY to FSPB WILTON (5406 7679) commencing at 1100hrs. Section reported ready on battery grid at WILTON at 1200 hrs. | |
| | | 0730 | One 8" howitzer of A/7/8 US Arty departed NUI DAT by road for LONG BINH. | |
| | 28 | 1855 | WILTON section of 101 Fd Bty fired on grid 550695 in sp of contact by 2 Pl and 3 Pl A Coy 6 RAR at grid 550695. Results were 10 Aust WIA and en cas unknown. | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |