

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Artillery units

Item number: 3/6/3

Item: 1 Field Regiment

[1 Fd Regt RAA]

Narrative, Annexes

[1-31 May 1966]

COMMANDERS DIARY

SECRET

[3/6/May 66]

1st FD REGT RAA.

1 - 31 MAY 66

SECRET

COVERING LETTER

Reference I

118 1. 4

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)

A. Raya

Appointment

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Capt

Adj't

SECRET

ORIGINAL AMERICAN

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation..... 1st Field Regiment RAA

From 1 May 66

To 31 May 66

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

* Only to be included during operations.

† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

**NIL
RETAINED
Despatched to**

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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

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment

1 orders given.

he day's fighting, including company movements.

nmander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

o officers, men and equipment.

pment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

; and to save work as much information as possible is to
uments issued and received, routine returns, etc. All
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.

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

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 66

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt
Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
MASCOT	1 May		A salute was fired in honour of the arrival of Vice Admiral Paul H RAMSEY, Deputy Chief of US Naval Operations. The salute was fired by 102 Fd Bty RAA, commanded by Lt G REED.	
HOLSWORTHY	1 May		12 Fd Regt RAA was officially formed. The Regiment is commanded by Major R J A A RIDDLE RAA, and consists of 102 Fd Bty, commanded by Major G FITZGERALD RAA, 107 Fd Bty commanded by Major D QUINN RAA, and a restricted RHQ and HQ Bty. AHQ Raising Instruction 18/66 dated 18 Apr 66 refers.	
VUNG TAU Republic of VIETNAM	4 May		HMAS SYDNEY, carrying the advance parties of 1 Fd Regt RAA and Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA anchored at VUNG TAU. The Regimental advance party was commanded by Capt I G DARLINGTON RAA and consisted of 22 all ranks. The Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA was commanded by Capt J TOWNLEY RAA and consisted of 19 all ranks. Both parties disembarked early in the morning of the 5th and moved into a transit area adjacent to the National Police Basic Training Centre.	J1
VUNG TAU	5 May		The advance party moving by air, commanded by the Quartermaster Capt D HAYES RAA arrived at VUNG TAU and joined the ship borne group. This brought the Regimental Group to a strength of two officers, six sergeants	J2

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

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	5 May		and thirty six other ranks. 131 Battery detachment received a draft of one Officer and fifteen ORs.	
VUNG TAU	6 May		The two AN/KPQ1 radar sets were brought into action; it was found that they had not reacted kindly to the sea trip.	
HOLSWORTHY	6 May		The Operational Instruction for Operation HARDIHOOD was received, in which arrangements for the reception in VIETNAM were stated. The Commanding Officer noted that 1 Fd Regt would have wider operational commitments than other Australian Forces; currently this involved working with US Forces throughout SOUTH VIETNAM. The presence of the third battery, 161 Fd Bty RNZA may enable the Regiment to carry out all tasks given to it without placing too heavy a burden on its resources.	
VUNG TAU	8 May		One locating radar was made serviceable and was placed on its vehicles for quick deployment if necessary.	
VUNG TAU	9 May		Both radars became unserviceable and remained so until the 16 May; difficulty was also experienced with the BUCHWELL Generators.	
HOLSWORTHY	9 May		Major R J A A RIDDLE RAA arrived at KOKODA Barracks to take command of 12 Fd Regt RAA. Pre-embarkation medical examinations, following completion of the	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt ^{RA}

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
HOLSWORTHY	10 May		innoculation programme for those members accompanying the Regiment to VIETNAM were commenced.	
VUNG TAU	10 May		Major General K MacKAY, MBE the Commander Australian Forces in VIETNAM visited the Regimental area accompanied by the Commander 1 ALSG, Lt Col D L ROUSE. He toured the area and then lunched with the officers.	
CANBERRA	12 May		The Commanding Officer 1 Fd Regt, Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO and the Commanding Officer 12 Fd Regt, Maj R J A A RIDDLER, visited the DRA Col D H CROMPTON. Among the topics discussed were the operational obligations of 12 Fd Regt and its manpower situation, and the role and use of 1 Fd Regt while in VIETNAM.	
HOLSWORTHY	12 May		On his return to the Regiment the Colonel received a pair of brass trumpets from Messrs BOOSEY & HAWKE of LONDON, which he then presented to 1 Fd Regt RAA.	
HOLSWORTHY	13 May		The CRA 1 Div, Brigadier E J HOWARD, visited the Regiment to bid farewell to 1 Fd Regt prior to its departure for VIETNAM. He saw members of 103 Fd Bty and HQ Bty firing on the small arms range. The continual changes that have occurred in the allocation of personnel to aircraft flying to VIETNAM between the 18th and 24th May has been a source	

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

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RA

Lt Col R M C Cubis, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
HOLSWORTHY	13 May		<p>of irritation to the Regiment.</p> <p>Including the LAD, 171 all ranks will move with the main body. The BOEING 707 Aircraft of QANTAS that have been chartered to move the Task Force carry 114 passengers. There is no apparent reason why all these should not be lifted in two successive loads; in fact the group has been broken into four different flights; each travelling 48 hours apart. The size of the various parties has been changed five times in the final ten days, and each alteration requires that new nominal rolls be prepared by the Regiment. The constant changes also meant that the soldiers were required to alter and re-alter their personal arrangements for taking leave of their families and the settlement of their domestic affairs. While appreciating the magnitude of the task of moving the Task Force, it appears that the lessons learnt from the despatch of Australian Forces overseas during the last eight years have not been fully applied to the techniques currently used in such operations.</p>	
HOLSWORTHY	14 May		<p>For the last two weeks the weather has been splendid; warm sunny days and cold clear nights.</p> <p>With the monsoon having started in VIETNAM, we will miss HOLSWORTHY.</p>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Rgt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
HOLSWORTHY	16 May		<p>Lt General Sir John NORTHCOTT CB, KCMG, presented the STANHOPE Gold Medal for Bravery for 1965 to Lt B J CAMPBELL RAA on behalf of the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society, which made the award. Before the presentation Lt General Sir John NORTHCOTT addressed the members of the 1st and 12th Field Regiments who were assembled on parade. The guests were entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.</p>	
VUNG TAU	17 May		<p>During the night a prowler was disturbed in the unit area; he fled when the picquet fired two warning shots into the ground.</p>	
RAAF Base RICHMOND	18 May	2359	<p>The Commanding Officer, Lt Col R M C CUBIS MVO, the BC 103 Fd Bty, Major N GAIR, the Adjutant, Captain I G A MACINNIS and the RSM, WO1 A J SNEDDEN left RICHMOND RAAF Base on a chartered QANTAS 707 Aircraft together with the first flight of the main body of the Regiment. After stops to refuel at TOWNSVILLE and MANILA the plane arrived at SAIGON Airport shortly after 1100 hours, local time. The party was met by Major P N O TEDDER, BC 105 Fd Bty, which has been serving in the theatre since September 1965, and the BC HQ Bty Captain I G DARLINGTON who travelled from AUSTRALIA in HMAS SYDNEY. The remainder of the journey was made in C130s of the USAF to VUNG TAU Airbase, a trip of 20 minutes. The Regimental Area is separate</p>	J3

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C Cubis, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	20 May		<p>from the rest of the Australian Force. The latter is sited amongst the sand dunes on the EAST coast of CAP ST JACQUES, about one mile from VUNG TAU. The Regiment is some four miles away, about 1000 yards NORTH EAST of the Airport runway, in a less than desirable neighbourhood. Anti-clockwise from the Airbase lie the Police Training College, a VIETNAMESE para-military camp, a cemetery, and a petrol dump. Interspersed with these are single storey hovels and waste ground. RVN personnel, both military and police, frequently move along the road bordering the camp, and recruits from the Police Training School come to the outskirts and wave to us in a friendly manner while they micturate against the wire.</p> <p>Following reports received, the Commanding Officer became concerned that the Regimental area, Airbase, and the POL and ammunition dumps might be mortared, and he wished to have a CB capability. The POL contains some two and a quarter million gallons of fuel. Finally an area to the NORTH was given for free fire, and, with Major GAIR, BC 103 Fd Bty, effecting liaison with the Airport, three guns of 103 Fd Bty were made ready, these being all that could be manned because of the man power shortage with a large part of Regimental strength still to arrive. The guns were</p>	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBBS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			brought into action at the NE corner of the camp with two radars sited in rear.	
VUNG TAU	21 May		The Commanding Officer visited HQ 1 ATF and conferred with Brigadier O D JACKSON, OBE, the Commander 1 ATF, who had just returned from a visit to the 173 (US) Airborne Bde who are engaged on the operation of clearing our intended base area. The only previous occasion that the Commanding Officer and the Commander had met was in 1946 at CANBERRA at the Royal Military College, when the former was a Staff Cadet and the latter an Instructor. Owing to doubts about the validity of the clearance given for the free shooting zone and to the fact that forces of the Republic of SOUTH VIETNAM were likely to be setting ambushes in the area, shooting rights were cancelled, and the guns stood down. A rifle bullet slightly off line could easily kill an innocent by-stander, or set the petrol dump on fire. We are trying to get shotguns to ease the local defence problems thus raised.	
			The second draft arrived, consisting of 66 all ranks of 103 Fd Bty and 131 Div Loc Bty Detachment. The draft included Lt J H GRIGGS, GPO 103 Fd Bty	J4

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Bty RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	21 May		<p>and Lt D G RULE Section Commander 103 Fd Bty. Also included was WO2 B H TAYLOR, BSM 103 Fd Bty and formerly a TSM in 105 Fd Bty when the Commanding Officer was BC 105 Fd Bty.</p> <p>At Stand To this evening, the lack of space caused the new arrivals to crowd in shoulder to shoulder with those of longer residence and the men resembled a square in a position more akin to that of preparing to receive cavalry. The Commanding Officer noted that, when viewed from the flank, the sight bore overtones of INKERMAN, or the first MARNE. The proceedings were watched with apparent pleasure by a large crown of VIETNAMESE. This Stand To is held as an administrative check on personnel, equipment, paludrine and to accustom members to operational routine. The Premier of SOUTH VIETNAM, Marshal KY passed with a large escort and returned the salute of the troops who were called to attention. After discussion between the Commanding Officer and Captain J TOWNLEY, it was agreed that the designation of Captain TOWNLEY's command as "Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA was cumbersome and misleading even though technically correct. Letters sent from SAIGON to the Detachment were received by 131 Battery at HOLSWORTHY and had then to be redirected to VUNG TAU.</p>	

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

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBLO, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	22 May		<p>A recommendation has been made to HQ 1 ATF that it be re-designated "1 ATF Locating Troop RAA", taking its designation from the unit of which it is a part, in the same manner as a LAD.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer has been disturbed to find, during the few days that he has been in VIETNAM, that the Regimental advance parties have wantonly been called upon to provide work parties and to detach men by the Australian Logistic Support Group, (sometime known as the Surf Life Saving Group). This has seriously impaired the work of the advance party in preparing for the arrival of the main body of the Regiment. The arrival of the Commanding Officer, and the assumption of operational command by HQ 1 ATF have, between them, eased this situation considerably.</p> <p>In contrast to this it is pleasing to note the name of some of the officers of 1 ALSG who have been most considerate and helpful to the junior Regimental Officers of the advance parties; Major SINCLAIR and 2Lt GRAHAM of the 1st Australian Re-Inforcement Unit, Major BYTH of 17 Construction Squadron RAE, and Captain BLAND, RAAOC. Despite considerable and frequently unnecessary difficulties (e.g. being called upon quite recklessly and at very short notice to supply soldiers and then to see the</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CULLS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	22 May		<p>same soldiers mal-administered when provided; the failure to be allotted even a fair proportion of the inadequate available supply of timber, tentage and other accommodation stores) Capt I G DARLINGTON, the OC advance party and Captain D HAYES the Quartermaster, have coped very well indeed and have made excellent arrangements for the reception of successive Regimental drafts as they have arrived. HQ 1 ATF, and in particular, Major R R HANNIGAN have been most helpful and the camp, although squalid and generally below the standard befitting a RAA unit, is quickly improving under the energetic direction of the RSM, WO1 A J SNEDDEN.</p> <p>The monsoon was heavy today, rain falling between 1330 and 1400 hours, 1700 and 1800 hours and again during the night.</p> <p>Protestant and Roman Catholic church services were held at 1600 hours.</p> <p>The Battery Commander 105 Fd Bty RAA, Major P N O TEDDER RAA and officers of the Battery, visited the Commanding Officer and discussed arrangements with him and with Major N GAIR, BC 103 Fd Bty for the forthcoming operation, Operation HARDIHOOD, in which 105 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty RNZA are to support the 173 (US) Airborne Bde in its task of clearing the area of the future TF location to the NORTH of PHUOC LE, near NUI DAT.</p>	

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

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt R.A.

Lt Col R M C CUBIS MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p>They also discussed administrative arrangements and procedures in connection with 105 Bty's coming under command of 1 Fd Regt on the 6th June. The Commanding Officer commanded 105 Fd Bty in 1958/59, and notes that it is six years since 105 Fd Bty left 1 Fd Regt to form 4 Fd Regt at WACOL.</p> <p>Both radar sets of 131 Div Loc Bty Det became operational and were deployed in the Regimental area in accordance with the orders of the Commanding Officer 1 Fd Regt.</p>	
VUNG TAU	23 May		<p>Last Night's rain has stopped and the day is dry, though overcast with heavy cloud.</p> <p>The third draft of the main body arrived this afternoon, 45 strong, and included the Second in Command, Major A McDermott.</p> <p>The Regiment sent a message of good wishes to 5 RAR on the eve of the Battalion's air movement into the operational area, and into its first engagement since it arrived in VIETNAM.</p> <p>A signal was received requiring the Regiment to provide a Liaison Officer to accompany various staff officers in connection with the selection of a free shooting zone for 103 Bty's training, but nothing eventuated and we</p>	J5

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Rgt RAA
Lt Col R M C CUBI , MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		<p>are still waiting news of permission to shoot.</p> <p>5 RAR flew out of VUNG TAU to the operational area passing over the Regimental Area as they did. It was impressive to see groups of ten and twenty IROQUOIS helicopters simultaneously lifting troops, when we are used to having two at a time.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer and Captain TOWNLEY, OC 1 ATF Loc Tp RAA decided on an initial counter bombardment plan. On deployment one radar AN/KPQ 1 is to be situated in the gun area; the other at Tactical Headquarters; this will permit one to operate should the other be under fire. A CB fire plan based on selecting probable and likely enemy mortar positions inside an annulus is being prepared. The annulus circles the TF area; its outer limit is approximately 5,000 yards from the forward edge of the battle area and the inner limit is the limit of direct observation by OPs.</p> <p>Targets are grouped in threes, (more as extra US Artillery move in) and allotted, one to each Battery; the group is given a nickname. On ordering the nickname, batteries will engage their individual targets.</p> <p>CB targets appear likely to figure prominently in selecting harassing and interdiction targets for night firing owing to the VC habit, resulting</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBI., MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		<p>from their negligible survey resources, of sticking closely to tracks, creeks and houses etc., for both the movement and siting of mortars.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer has discussed the CB policy with the Commander and a vigorously active policy has been agreed upon. The Commander concurred with the Commanding Officers' recommendation to fix an optimum limit of range to our guns of 7,000 metres. This is to prevent the VC from siting their weapons and installations beyond the maximum range of our guns where we would be unable to hit them. By limiting our range to 7,000 we still have something up our sleeve.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer is concerned at the state of the guns of 105 Bty which result from excessive firing at charge seven. It has been recommended that these guns return to Australia with 105 Bty in September, and that 101 Bty bring new guns with it when it arrives. This had previously been discussed and agreed with the DRA Col CROMPTON and the Commanding Officer 4 Fd Regt RAA, Lt Col R G GARDINER RAA. This policy will produce reasonably matched Australian guns in the theatre although the New Zealand guns of 161 Fd Bty RNZA are likely to be mis-matched.</p> <p>Calibration is becoming an urgent necessity. The Regiment sought</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RA

Lt Col R M C CUBI, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		<p>permission to calibrate in August 1965 but this was refused and therefore none of our guns have ever been calibrated. To take all 18 guns out of action for calibration is impossible. The Commanding Officer intends to select the three ^{battery} standard guns from 101 Bty when it arrives and to calibrate them absolutely. Subsequently each Battery will comparatively calibrate its guns against the Battery standard. In this manner only one Battery need be out of action at a time. 105 Bty has had its guns instrumentally calibrated by US methods but the results are reported to be entirely unsatisfactory. Major TEDDER believes that the US Artillery also has little faith in this method.</p> <p>Initially 105 Bty is to be placed in direct support of 5 RAR and 161 Bty in direct support of 6 RAR when the Battalion arrives in June. 103 Bty is to act as a general support battery and the Commanding Officer has earmarked the Battery Commander to produce a working plan for the Fire Support Co-ordination Centre (FSCC). The FSCC is, to us, a new institution and is characteristic of this strange theatre where the skies are black with aircraft and units have to queue up in turn to fight. The FSCC co-ordinates the employment of guns, battalion mortars, close support</p>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		<p>aircraft, and the thousand and one Army aircraft that wander about on reconnaissance, VIP, casualty evacuation, tasks etc. These latter are expected to provide the greatest trouble. The FSAC consists of a representative of the RAA, the Air-Liaison Officer (USAF) and the Army Aviation Officer. Word has been received that the RAAF is contributing a Group Captain and assorted other officers for the control of the RAAF's aid to the war in the shape of seven or eight CARIBOU. The prospect is daunting and fraught with awful pitfalls. Our experience is that the USAF are excellent people to work with, but that our own airforce are, to put it mildly, difficult. As a result we are seeking to get the FSAC functioning well and early, before the RAAF can get here and dis-organise matters. The Commanding Officer, who is charged with the responsibility for constructing the FSAC has removed himself from the detailed working, and has appointed Major GAIR to carry this out. To have an officer of Major GAIR's commonsense, tact and flying experience is most fortunate, and the Commanding Officer is confident that Major GAIR is beyond doubt the officer best qualified to get the thing going. The Commanding Officer retains arbitrary powers on behalf of the Commander; Major GAIR cannot be</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Rgt 14A

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		<p>expected to do this job all the time, and the need for a Liaison Officer, surplus to the Regiment's normal establishment, is now a necessity should the general support battery be committed. The Commanding Officer had foreseen this need while in Australia, but had been refused on the grounds of the manpower ceiling in the theatre.</p> <p>The tentage situation is still appalling, although it is understood that the Commander has managed to convince CANBERRA of the need for adequate cover. It is understandable, although still exasperating, that in Australia, it is difficult to comprehend the nature of this country, its climate, and the way that operations are conducted. The Commanding Officer was shocked to learn, as was the Commander, that soldiers are expected to pay cash for contraceptives. This appears to be the standard practice with US Forces. Whatever its moral rectitude it is an ^{un}impractical and unrealistic procedure. Furthermore there are no Prophylactic Aid Centres here, despite contrary assurance given to the soldiers in their briefings in AUSTRALIA. HQ 1 ATF are attending to the matter but at present the supplies of prophylactics are totally inadequate. To alleviate immediate needs, and in an attempt to avert the almost inevitable outbreak of VD in</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Pgt RGA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		<p>such circumstances, the Commanding Officer has bought a supply at his own expense. He intends to submit a TS4 for re-imbursement, and hopes that it is necessary for the claim to go to CANBERRA for approval so that he may buy a joyful fight with the awful civilians who run the Army's financial affairs.</p> <p>The camp, and the officers, are rapidly being sorted out by the RSM. The Commanding Officer received a veiled rocket for getting a cup of coffee from the urn outside the kitchen - "May I get your batman, Sir?" Later, when seeking sympathy, the Commanding Officer was assured that he was lucky; an average of some four rockets a day were received by most other officers.</p> <p>This evening, at about 8 pm a hapless US Second Lieutenant, only eight days out of his YOs Course in the United States, wandered into camp after walking from the Airport. He was not very sure where he was going, or what he was doing, so we gave him some beer and put him to bed. Our relations with the Airport are very good; this is the second time in three days that they have directed US Artillery Officers to us. We feel that this must confuse other Corps as representing another piece of black magic.</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAR

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		<p>On the previous occasion, the junior staff of HQ 1 ATF were somewhat astonished to learn that the Artillery Commander II Field Force, Colonel SAYES had met the Commanding Officer before they themselves.</p>	
VUNG TAU	25 May		<p>A very pleasant day, the weather cloudy with fine patches, but not as hot as usual and only light rain in the mid afternoon.</p> <p>Major GAIR had discussions with one of our US Army friends at the Airport regarding the establishment of the FSAC. Our relations with the Americans are harmonious to a high degree and they have been most helpful.</p> <p>The final draft of the main body arrived; 18 for HQ Bty and 9 for the LAD. J6</p> <p>The Regiment is now complete with the exception of three first line reinforcements who are due on the 13th June and go to the Re-Inforcement Unit, and two men who have been left behind, subject to medical clearance.</p> <p>We heard today of the first death by enemy action of a member of 5 RAR.</p> <p>An unfortunate young man received gunshot wounds in the stomach, and, although evacuated by helicopter in a "Dust-Off", died in hospital. It is anticipated that the newspapers in AUSTRALIA will be seething, for he was a National Serviceman. Fortunately we are out of touch here; the Commanding Officer hopes that the disturbing influence of ill-considered</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA
Lt Col R M C CUBIS, AVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			and emotional comment does not reach our soldiers until we are settled and ready for it.	
VUNG TAU	26 May		The Commanding Officer, Major GAIR, Captain DARLINGTON, and Captain TOWNLEY departed by helicopter for a liaison and reconnaissance visit to HQ 173 (US) Airborne Bde, which is engaged in clearing operations for the establishment of the Task Force base camp. Three OP Officers and three signallers of 103 Bty went forward separately for attachment to 105 Bty parties now operating with 5 RAR in the area NORTH and EAST from NUI DAT.	
NUI DAT.				
GR 4367 sheet No 6442/4, 1:50,000			The Brigade HQ was situated in a rubber plantation, (GR 4369). The rubber had not been touched for a year, but it was comparatively cool under the canopy. Brigadier General SMITH, the Commanding General, was affable and helpful. The party later visited 105 Bty and 161 Bty, which were operating under command of 319 (US) Artillery Bn, commanded by Lt Col NORDEN. The gun area was shocking. Situated on an open slope, immediately SOUTH of the rubber plantation were 105 and 161 Batteries, two Batteries of 3/319 (US) Artillery Bn and a 4.2in Mortar Battery, all in an area about 260 yards by about 100. The overcrowding was appalling, and the area insecure in the extreme. After a very interesting visit the party returned.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBR, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p>in the late afternoon, leaving the OP parties to return on the next day.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer then visited the Commander to express his misgivings about the gun area. The Commanding Officer was extremely happy to hear of the award by Her Majesty The Queen of the DSO to Lt Col L BRUMFIELD, formerly Commanding Officer 1 RAR, and the MC to Captain HILL.</p>	
VUNG TAU	27 May		<p>This morning the Commanding Officer visited the Commander to discuss future gun positions and some other matters. He re-iterated his concern at the inadequacies of the gun position at present occupied by the 173rd Bde Artillery, and submitted for consideration the possibility of improving the situation notwithstanding the fact that the ANZAC Batteries were under command of a foreign force. The Commander considered the matter too delicate and was of the opinion that the threat was more apparent than real; although exposed to the SOUTH and EAST, the position was well protected in the most dangerous - NORTH, NORTH EAST, and WEST.</p> <p>The Commander assured the Commanding Officer that, on our deployment, our guns would not be obliged to use this position. He said that, although the inadequate infantry component of the Task Force prevented adequate protection of the gun area and similar groups, and, perforce, the Regiment</p>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR..... MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP.....

UNIT/FORMATION..... 1 Fd P^gt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	27 May		<p>must assume responsibility for its own protection, the final area would derive a certain protection from the siting of the other elements. He also assured us of night protection from an APC troop. The Commanding Officer had noted the particular area concerned from the air during his reconnaissance on the previous day and had requested the Second in Command, Maj McDermott to assess it today. Major McDermott, accompanied by the Regimental Survey Officer, Lt B J Campbell, carried out a detailed reconnaissance and was able to give the Commanding Officer valuable information this evening, prior to the Commander's reconnaissance tomorrow. A little intelligent anticipation is a useful precaution, particularly for gunners living in an infantry ridden army. As a result, on tomorrow's reconnaissance the Commanding Officer will press to move our projected gun area to the EAST and seek the cover afforded by a near-by rubber plantation. He will also emphasize the need to make adequate space provision for the US 155mm SP (M109) Bty, which is to join us at the end of June. In passing, the Commanding Officer notes that, by December 1966 the Task Force Artillery will consist of the following units:-</p>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA
Lt Col R M C CUBIS, AVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	27 May		<p>1 Fd Regt RAA comprising 103 Fd Bty RAA 105 Fd Bty RAA 161 Fd Bty RNZA</p> <p>A composite US Artillery Bn with 155mm SP (M109) Bty 175mm SP Bty 8in 'Persuader' Bty</p> <p>1 ATF Locating Troop (detached from 131 Div Loc Bty) and one 81mm mortar (which the Commanding Officer is now seeking in order to provide illumination for the gun position)</p> <p>In addition the FSCC is a Gunner responsibility and there are rumours of a topographical survey unit (whatever that is) joining us, apparently on the grounds that on some solemn list of tasks and roles, appear the words "Assistance in Artillery Survey". They will be useful to man weapon pits.</p> <p>On his return Major McDERMOTT reported that after flying to the Brigade Landing Zone he moved to the projected area with a protection party from 105 Bty. In the area there is sparse cover, and no timber. The area is suitable and could be protected. It is however, rather tight, and this supports the Commanding Officer's desire to spread across the road into</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt PAA
Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	27 May	the rubber plantation.		
	2030	The GSO2, Major HANNIGAN called and he appreciated the Commanding Officer's suggestion that the Gunners be given three map squares to play with. We will foster the projected US Artillery Battalion and share the area with them.		
		The Commanding Officer accompanies the Commander on his reconnaissance tomorrow afternoon. The Commanding Officer intends to visit BIEN HOA the following day in order to arrange further deployment details with II Field Force Artillery whence will come the US Composite Artillery Battalion.		
VUNG TAU	28 May		The Second in Command gave planning figures to the DAA & QMG for the supply of ammunition. Based on the experience of 105 Bty over the past eight months, the assessment of the average daily expenditure was somewhat less than ten rounds per gun; the contact rate, based on the experience of 105 Bty in Operation SILVER CITY was forty rounds per gun per day. We suggested a proportional break up of ammunition by types viz 80% HE, 10% Controlled Variable Time, 5% White Phosphorus, and the balance to be coloured smoke.	
		The last OP party of 103 Bty, Captain P ASPINALL, and Bombardiers PLANT		

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, JO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	28 May		<p>and SIMMONDS, who were unable to fly out with the others yesterday evening, returned via the 173 Airborne Bde road convoy this morning in 5 RAR transport. Lt GRIGGS, GPO 103 Bty returned this evening after spending two days and a night with 105 Bty.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer joined the Commander's reconnaissance party at HQ 1 ATF at 1400 hours. The game of fighting for decent areas is rather like that of snakes and ladders. Last evening, we thought the battle won. With three grid squares to choose from it was certain that we could choose reasonable areas for the six batteries for whom we must find a home. Alas, in making provisional dispositions by map, the artillery was given an irregular area of which, perhaps, 30% was useable, the remainder being unacceptable because of paddy fields and isolation. The benefits of Major McDERMOTT's reconnaissance of yesterday now become apparent, for the Commanding Officer was able to state unequivocably the points for and against certain areas. No one else had carried out detailed reconnaissance. As a result the Commander decided on certain readjustments which, the Commanding Officer trusts, will bring some batteries out of the swamps. It really is a most difficult problem; the land, the swamps, technical</p>	1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBI, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	28 May		<p>considerations, the monsoon and the shortage of infantry combine to restrict all of us and cause us to close into a tight group. The Commanding Officer would be more at ease if only the Australian Army could learn to appreciate that the function of Artillery is to provide fire support to the infantry and armour, not to man defensive positions. We sometimes feel that our friends from other Corps consider a Field Regiment as being basically an Infantry Battalion equipped with 105mm guns. We have already been obliged to accept a situation in which we protect ourselves because there is no one else to do it. This, of course, we can do, and do well, but others must appreciate that the time and effort that we spend defending ourselves is done at the expense of our primary purpose - fire support of the infantry. The Commanding Officer feels that inadequate provision has been made for the reception of the US Composite Artillery Bn. This will be pursued.</p> <p>The reconnaissance proceeded without incident. The party called at HQ 173 Airborne Bde. Their area was dismal. The Americans have apparently not learnt the importance of digging ditches round tents, and the floor of the Operations Tent was a sea of mud.</p>	

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

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAR
Lt Col R M C CUBI, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	28 May		<p>The pilot of the helicopter nearly ditched as he took off for the 5 RAR platoon position on NUI DAT. We circled the hill several times before contacting the platoon by wireless, and then landed in a paddy field. The Sappers found a small disused quarry and a well; both of these could prove useful. A section of the platoon secured the area of the landing and protected us on the reconnaissance. Although we had a good view from the hill, the examination of the area could hardly be described as detailed; more valuable information was gained from the helicopter. The area does not look pre-possessing. Apart from the hill itself, the ground is flat to the WEST, with many paddy fields, and is only slightly more undulating to the EAST, with rubber plantations. The soil is red clay, heavy and wet, which sticks to boot and shovel and smells rather unpleasant when turned.</p>	
VUNG TAU	29 May		<p>A cold morning, following drizzling rain overnight; at lunch time it warmed to our normal steamy heat.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer attended the Commander at 1400 hours and submitted a paper regarding the function of the Fire Support Control Centre. The final gun area was decided. Generally we have not done as well as the</p>	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	29 May		<p>Commanding Officer would have desired, but the shortage of infantry leave the Task Force Commander no choice; we must make the best of it. Representatives from II Field Force Artillery will call tomorrow and the Second in Charge will carry out another detailed reconnaissance in the afternoon. We shall be squeezed up but ought to be able to function.</p> <p>A personal letter received by the Commanding Officer this evening from a 'Q' Movements Officer at Eastern Command indicated that three of our soldiers departed for VIETNAM, tight. The Commanding Officer is preparing a suitable reply. Even more hilarious is a solemn castigation from some awful public servant regarding certain inadequacies of the Regiment's 'A' accounting in Eastern Command. The form enclosed provided space for the Regiment's explanation and for the expression of the babu's opinion as to the acceptability of the explanation; needless to say the Commanding Officer is preparing a suitable answer to this too.</p> <p>Of great concern to the Regiment at the moment is our security during the first few days of our deployment. We are instructed not to fire into the village to our SOUTH and yet this is the very area in which we can anticipate the VC positioning mortars for a 'hate' of the TF position.</p>	

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AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Ed Regt RAA

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	29 May		<p>We can shoot, it is true, but the gross danger of causing civilian casualties is such that other arrangements must be made.</p> <p>This evening an announcement was made on Radio AUSTRALIA to the effect that the mail from personnel serving in VIETNAM was now being received regularly in AUSTRALIA. Up to the present time letters have been taking up to a month to reach their destination, although those from AUSTRALIA have been arriving steadily about five days after posting. Much needless worry was caused both to families who received no news and to members who felt that all the letters that they had written had been cast into a bottomless pit. The importance of ensuring an absolutely reliable flow of mail, in both directions, has always been appreciated by the Army but this has not prevented the same old errors reoccurring. When 1 RAR moved to this theatre they had the same problem. The situation was righted, but it seems that the arrival of the Task Force has brought about a relapse less than twelve months after the remedy.</p>	
VUNG TAU	30 May	0900	<p>The Commanding Officer and Second in Command met at HQ 1 ATF for discussion with Colonel SAYES (^{Deputy} Commander II Field Force Artillery) and two of his staff officers regarding the disposal of the US Batteries intended to join</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, VO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	30 May		<p>us in the next six months. The disposals proposed by the Commanding Officer were generally acceptable other than the fact of the tight perimeter had impelled the positioning of the 8in and 175mm Batteries too close to our own troops. At a discussion between the Commander, Colonel SAYES and the Commanding Officer, Colonel SAYES volunteered to site the two heavy batteries beyond our perimeter to the NORTH WEST in an area now occupied by HQ 173 (US) Airborne Bde (Grid Square 4369). This pleasant surprise was received with gratification for it solved a very difficult problem - (space and concussion). Colonel SAYES was quite happy that the batteries could protect themselves while the Commander offered to wire and mine the perimeter.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer, after considerable thought, cancelled the projected detailed reconnaissance of the new gun area intended for this afternoon. He considers the use of drawing attention to a future area of occupation too great and liable to attract VC intervention in the form of booby traps, mines etc. He discussed the matter with HQ 1 ATF suggesting that a co-ordinated Task Force mass reconnaissance on one agreed date closer to occupation, might well be a more provident course.</p>	

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AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA
Lt Col R M C CUBIS, JO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	30 May		<p>Fortunately, as a result of reconnaissance by the Commanding Officer and the Second in Command, we can wait until the day before the occupation when some security could be provided for GPO reconnaissance.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer also pointed out to the Commander the higher probability of the VC quietly moving mortars into backyards of houses in the village some 1,500 metres to the SOUTH, loosing off a few rounds, secure in the knowledge that we would not shoot back at innocent civilians. The Commander promised to give consideration to the use of frequent infantry patrols, possibly on a stand-by basis, to clear the village. In the meanwhile he trusted that RVN forces in the village, when posted, would keep the VC out. The Commanding Officer trusted the Commander appreciated that the Regiment has no inclination to sit quietly and be shot at while we have considerable fire power in our control.</p>	
VUNG TAU	31 May		<p>A warm day with no rain. The Commanding Officer has, with regret, not dispatched either the first or second drafts of his reply to the solemn and preposterous report on the 'A' audit of the Regiment; the receipt of which has been previously noted. It derived from an inspection of Regimental 'A' matters carried out in late April, when we were in the midst</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	31 May		<p>of loading and preparing for VIETNAM. The report, irrelevant, futile, and rather discourteously expressed, demanded an explanation as to why civilian employees (typists etc) were transported to and from work in unit vehicles - this is an area notorious for its lack of public transport while at the same time requiring a cheque payable to the Receiver of Public Monies representing the money paid by these staff members for this service. To send such a matter to a Regiment on active service is incredible. A conference was held this morning to decide the final draft of Provisional Standard Operating Procedures.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer discussed re-arrangements of the gun area following the necessity to change the location of the APC Squadron. As a result we shift slightly to the EAST. In the long term this will be an advantage to us, but the local defence problem is considerable. We shall now be occupying a perimeter area of the size normally held by an infantry battalion with about half a battalion's strength and one tenth of a battalion's small arms. On the other hand, being Gunners, we have something worth defending - our guns; while an infantry battalion only has ground to defend. Fortunately we hear that splinter rounds (canister) is</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR..... MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION..... 1 Fd Regt RA
Lt Col R M C CUBIS, AVO
COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	31 May		<p>shortly to be available, and we shall seek some. The first few weeks in the new area are likely to be quite dicey, and possibly the worst that the Regiment will face during its time here.</p> <p>Everyone is sick of the slum we are living in and is anxious to move to our new location. There has been a little too much petty crime - four or five soldiers being late back from leave and one case of a Lance Bombardier being rude to a Sergeant. The Commanding Officer does not like this and the sooner we get to the war the better.</p>	

ANNEX J

NOMINAL ROLL

22 APR 66

29065	Capt	I G DARLINGTON
A510924	Lt	K B MELLOR
29089	Sgt	F R PERRSON
311144	Sgt	T MELVIN
54013	Sgt	B N PHILP
342849	Cpl	P J SHANAHAN
2781536	Gnr	M S CARTER
215225	Gnr	G R DAVIES
216097	Gnr	R G DALE
216117	Gnr	P J EMERSON
16130	Cfn	A B FRASER
216192	Gnr	R R FURTNER
216344	Cfn	A C HANLON
2412253	Gnr	I A JONES
2782218	Gnr	L KING
2781379	Gnr	A R McKENZIE
2781510	Gnr	R J PITTS
216137	Gnr	W C SANDERS
215366	Gnr	A G SINGER
2781517	Gnr	M TOLLENS
2781526	Gnr	T A WESTBURY
2781429	Gnr	M J YOUNG

1 FD REGT RAAFLIGHT ROLL - 4 MAY 66

2629	Capt D L HAYES
54154	Capt P C ASPINALL
29940	Sgt R M ROTHERO
24868	WO2 R L BILSBOROUGH
15293	Sgt R D GRAY
214723	Bdr J V GILDEA
13756	Bdr B McVINISH
36982	Bdr E TAYLOR
27231	Gnr J D ROBERTSON
2781413	Gnr M D SMITH
29820	Gnr M W NARRAMORE
311253	Cpl M C BOLTON
35925	Bdr J R WHITEHEAD
54309	LBdr R E HENDERSON
53252	Bdr L O TAYLOR
213407	Bdr F J SIMMONS
42542	Cpl D A NORTON
215218	Bdr B W PLANT
54365	LBdr E R BROCKWELL
2781618	LBdr J GREAVES
43602	Gnr G A MARTIN
55060	Gnr W J HOLMES

1 FD REGT RAAFLIGHT ROLL - 18 MAY 66

2495	Lt Col	R M C CUBIS, MVO
311485	Maj	R N GAIR
235167	Capt	G H BINDLEY
17083	Capt	I G A MACINNIS
335162	Lt	D J HEAZLEWOOD
250211	2Lt	M I ALLEN
22261	WO1	A J SNEEDEN
28351	WO2	D C NOLAN
4298	WO2	K J COULSON
27760	SSgt	C B CURRAN
213913	Sgt	N H DIBLEY
28711	Sgt	K G DAVIES
37405	Sgt	D E SPARK
37486	Sgt	M P DEAR
53585	Sgt	G C NYBO
15930	Bdr	L W SPROULES
15972	Bdr	D D ROSE
61530	Gnr	T A HOSKIN
61601	Gnr	R C CUTLER
4410844	Gnr	M R ROGERS
42636	Gnr	W A FORRESTER
216220	Gnr	H WOUTERS
2781378	Gnr	R P McFARLANE
2781371	Gnr	T J LAWRENCE
1200462	Gnr	R F DEWHURST
3786838	Gnr	P J BLACKMAN
3411466	Gnr	A H STEWART
216243	Gnr	P J BROWN
61606	Gnr	D R COCKER
5411483	Gnr	G A McDERMOTT
38430	Gnr	L E GRIERSON

103 FD BTY RAAAnnex J 4.FLIGHT ROLL - 20 MAY 66

235277	Lt	J H	GRIGGS	A2104484	Lt	D G	RULE
22232	W02	B J	TAYLOR	13543	Sgt	K H	BORGGES
25835	Sgt	D R	BEGG	35584	Sgt	W J	GALLAGHER
15233	Sgt	R	MATHESON	5410842	Bdr	G S	SMAILES
212563	Bdr	S	GALEA	213291	Bdr	K	TUCKER
212551	Bdr	B A	THOMSON	54292	Bdr	N L	HOWARD
212509	Bdr	D R	ROTHERO	213135	Bdr	C J	FLATTERS
214755	Bdr	K C	CHESTER	43318	Bdr	M R	SWALLING
14976	Bdr	B F	RANSON	16530	Gnr	K J	WALTON
1731387	Gnr	G	ALLAN	215870	Gnr	A A	ACHMAT
216067	Gnr	B J	BAILEY	18110	Gnr	J L	BURNS
1410998	Gnr	N	BUZZA	2781588	Gnr	R J	CHALMERS
5713627	Gnr	C J	CRAPP	216051	Gnr	GG	CAVE
216150	Gnr	C	CHAPMAN	37718	Gnr	A J	DICKSON
216112	Gnr	R A	ELLIOTT	2782105	Gnr	N J	GLOVER
216165	Gnr	B B	GOLDING	2782629	Gnr	M E	HICKEY
215941	Gnr	R A	HAMILTON	2781370	Gnr	N J	KING
16763	Gnr	N	LESINA	2781660	Gnr	R D	LEWIS
6708335	Gnr	J M	MCNALLY	55025	Gnr	P	MANUCCI
4401486	Gnr	G J	MADIGAN	43720	Gnr	J R	MAGUIRE
216166	Gnr	R J	MARNEY	2781387	Gnr	K W	MILLER
43675	Gnr	C T	NAYDA	2782419	Gnr	P C	NORRIS
1213715	Gnr	B K	O'LOUGHLIN	2781405	Gnr	G R	PRATT
1411056	Gnr	E L	PHILLIPS	2782840	Gnr	A	PASSMORE
2782822	Gnr	C J	REEVES	38431	Gnr	P R	RICHARDSON
5713711	Gnr	M R	ROBERTS	216717	Gnr	S J	RANDALL
216343	Gnr	J R	SIMPSON	55059	Gnr	M	SCOTT-MALCOLM
38410	Gnr	M P	SLEVIN	2782382	Gnr	R K	SCHIEB
2786887	Gnr	J R	SKINNER	3786846	Gnr	R J	SHIELDS
1411006	Gnr	K J	WALSH	216004	Gnr	A L	WARREN
3786802	Gnr	D E	WATERFORD	5411485	Gnr	K H	WORMALD
15878	Cpl	B E	MORTIMER	215890	Pte	J P	ROCKSTROH
1200267	Pte	R D	STODDART				

1 FD REGT RAAFLIGHT ROLL - 22 MAY 66

17009	Maj	A	McDERMOTT
215827	2Lt	B J	DEAN
5601	WO2	AWP	SQUIBB
26227	SSgt	D R	WOLFE
214325	Sgt	D M	LAWLER
29618	Sgt	P J	DURN FORD
6646	Bdr	P R	STEEL
3787356	Gnr	D L	EATON
54517	Bdr	D M	LEWIS
53146	Bdr	R J	BUXTON
54411	Bdr	D P	GRATWICK
37370	Sgt	M	SUMMERHILL
15014	Bdr	R J	WHITE
54076	Bdr	W H	CROSS
3411015	Bdr	A J	LOCKE
43730	Gnr	J R	DUFF
38412	Gnr	V L	BLAZELY
3411538	Gnr	C J J	KIESLER
2411235	Gnr	E J	LYON
38471	Gnr	B A	COYLE
3787093	Gnr	P	BUZZA
54249	Gnr	B W	DILLON
215934	Gnr	R A	SPRINGFIELD
216194	LBdr	J R	KILLIAN
4410812	Gnr	E D	MADIGAN
670257	Gnr	L J	McGHEE
42977	Cpl	R F	MUNDY
3411520	Pte	R	WHITEHEAD
1410994	Gnr	K R	PROUD
1200374	Gnr	J W	STEPHENSON
1200469	Gnr	E	NORRIS
38022	Gnr	R	STEVENSON
2782221	Gnr	J W	KILBOURNE
2781433	Gnr	B	BANNERMAN
4717394	Gnr	D I	McDONALD
6708244	Gnr	P G	HAMMOND
216188	Gnr	J E	SMITH
54832	Gnr	P J	PROSSER
2781436	Gnr	R	BESIER
2781355	Gnr	R E	GAGAN
2781315	Gnr	V E	CHAPMAN
5713635	Gnr	R K	EGGLESTON
1200454	Gnr	G A	WHITE
61680	Lt	MG	LANGLEY
216101	Gnr	B J	YOUKOFF

1 FD REGT RAA

FLIGHT ROLL - 24 MAY 66

235174	Capt	G K McCREADIE
29641	Sgt	D G BESTWICK
36248	Cpl	S G SEINOR
18663	Cpl	G F TREVOR-HUNT
342911	Cpl	M J KUSTERNIG
1731376	Cfn	RTP WARD
38305	Cfn	R W COURT
2412275	Cfn	D ANDERSON
16711	Pte	B J PINCHIN
54192	LBdr	C H SHIER
14336	Sgt	D PHILLIPS
54451	Gnr	LWA DEJONG
2782184	Gnr	V J HARTMAN
3411534	Gnr	R A HORN
2781655	Gnr	JHG GRUENINGER
54985	Gnr	A A PENN
215270	LBdr	B V MENSFORTH
2781616	Gnr	L R GRANT
4717729	Gnr	P W McCARTHY
378370	Gnr	A P KELLETT
378021	Gnr	G R PEACOCK
4717551	Gnr	P G OWEN
3787340	Gnr	S R WILLIAMS
55099	Pte	R GOWLAND
37564	Pte	P W SCHAFER
1200058	Gnr	K P QUINNELL
61597	Lt	B J CAMPBELL