

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

**Service Corps units**

**Item number: 10/4/2**

**Item: Detachment 176 Air Despatch**  
**Company**

**Narrative**

**[1-30 Jun 1966]**



## COVERING LETTER

Reference No S2

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)

 Capt
Appointment OC Det 176 AD Coy RAASC  
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)**SECRET**ORIGINAL  
~~DUPLICATE~~Strike out where  
not applicable**COMMANDERS DIARY**

OF

Unit or Formation Det 176 Air Dispatch Coy RAASCFrom 1 Jun 66To 30 Jun 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

## Enclosure Numbers

to .....

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† NIL

† RETAINED

† Despatched to

on .....

\* Only to be included during operations.

† Cross out whichever is not applicable.



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

ENTS

s as well as map references), establishment, equipment

orders given.

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officers, men and equipment.

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employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to  
ments 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)



COMMA **DISPOSAL** DIARIES

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.

## COMPILED

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) 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 shown.

8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown in the index. If there are no annexes, an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are required for a particular formation, they are to be entered in the index.

or operations from Annex Z, TOP SECRET document. It is to be prepared and despatched as follows:

## ANNEXES

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

orders given.

a day's fighting, including company movements, and with regard to equipment, losses, etc.

and equipment.

and equipment.

and equipment.

employed in the area not accounted for. The date of

and to show work as much information as possible is to be given. The date of receipt and despatch is to be given.

be received, but need not give a précis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)



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

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Rev 1, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION Det 176 AD Coy RAASC

RAASC

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R. WOOLMER

MONTH AND YEAR June 1966

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM XA BINH BA 1:50000

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
Vung Tau 299475	1	0030Z	1AD Sect unloaded and loading USAF ac at 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. Remainder of unit engaged in administrative and defence duties 1 Coy RAASC.	Cal
Vung Tau	2	0030Z	1 AD Sect detached to Saigon for assistance to 11 MC Gp in unloading and loading MAC ac from Australia. 1 AD Sect assist 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	Cal
Vung Tau	3	0030Z	1 AD Sect assist 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. Remainder of unit engaged in administrative tasks 1 Coy RAASC. OC unit discussed provision of AD equipment with Comd 1 ALSG. Comd stated that unit must be capable of air dropping up to 30 tons of supplies at any one time.	Cal
Vung Tau	4	0030Z	1 AD Sect detached Saigon to assist unloading and loading MAC av from Australia. Unit has submitted indents to DADOS HQ 1 ALSG for 30 G12 D paras and 30 A22 cargo bags.	Cal
Vung Tau	5	0030Z	Resupply task for 1 TF. 1 AD Sect loaded 18 tons 105 mm How ammo in 5 sorties Chinook RW ac. Further 12 tons of ammo having been prepared for air loading was not required. This load subsequently moved by road by 1 Coy RAASC on 6 Jun 66. RAAF C130 courier ac unloaded by 1 AD Sect, total wt of stores 2800 lbs.	Cal
Vung Tau	6	0030Z	1 AD Sect detached Saigon for unloading MAC ac. 1 AD Sect assist 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	Cal

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m



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

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**COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE**

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Rev 1, 1965

UNIT/~~FORMATION~~ Det 176 AD Coy

RAASC

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R. WOOLMER

MONTH AND YEAR June 1966

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM XA BINH BA 1:50000

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
Vung Tau	7	0200Z	7 Pers disembark HMAS Sydney, unit stores and vehicles unloaded. Unit accomodation stores not on vessel, therefore move of unit to airfield will be delayed for unknown period. 1 AD Sect assist 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. Unit OC discussed future employment of unit with Comd 1 ALSG. From this discussion it was confirmed that the unit will only be required to supply 1TF in an emergency. Unit OC pointed out that in time, morale may suffer from wrong employment of trained AD personnel. Comd 1 ALSG agreed to some degree, and stated that present employment should continue and that the matter should be reviewed periodically.	
Vung Tau	8	0030Z	1 AD Sect detached Saigon for duties MAC ac. 1 AD Sect employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. Unit raised demand to HQ 1 ALSG for stored and parachute building and concrete packing area for location Vung Tau <del>XXXX</del> airfield.	
Vung Tau	9	0030Z	2 AD Sects employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	
Vung Tau	10	0030Z	2 AD Sects employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. Trouble is being experienced with size 5 MF fork lift tractors. Rear wheel nuts and studs have been found to be loose. 1 Div S&T Wksps to submit defect reports through RAEME channels.	



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

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Rev. 1 Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR June 66

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM XA BINH BA 1:50000

UNIT/FORMATION Det 176 A.D. Coy  
RAASC  
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R. WOOLMER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
Vung Tau	11	0030Z	1 AD Sect detached Saigon for duties MAC ac. 1 AD Sect employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn	Q
Vung Tau	12	0030Z	1 AD Sect detached Saigon for duties MAC ac. RAAF Courier C130 ac unloaded, 28,000lbs . Admin duties for 1 Coy RAASC	Q
Vung Tau	13	0030Z	1 AD+Sect employed 8th Aerial Port Sqn. Remainder of unit employed administrative duties 1 Coy RAASC.	Q
		0630Z	Re-supply by RAAF RW ac carried out for 1 TF. 6 sorties SAA total wt 9376 lbs. Further 2 loads 3026 lbs not taken due to bad flying conditions. This weight moved forward by road 14 Jun 66.	
Vung Tau	14	0030Z	1 AD Sect detached Saigon for duties MAC ac. 1 AD Sect employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. Submission made by OC unit to OC 1 Coy RAASC for AHQ (DST) for drivers to be added to unit establishment for domestic vehicles. Vehicles are at present operated by Despatchers Air which may not be satisfactory if unit is committed to a heavy air re-supply programme.	Q
		0430Z	1 member of unit arrived by MAC ac. Unit now at full strength.	
		0500Z	HQ 1 ALSG ordered that all Aust troops entering town of Vung Tau are not to carry weapons.	
Vung Tau	15	0030Z	2 AD Sects employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	Q

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 June 1966

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM XA BINH BA 1:50000

UNIT/FORMATION Det. 176 AL Coy  
RAASC  
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R.  
WOOLMER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
Vung Tau	16	0030Z	1 AD Sect employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. 1 AD Sect detached Saigon for duties MAC ac.	Q1
Vung Tau	17	0030Z	2 AD Sects employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	Q2
Vung Tau	18	0030Z	2 AD Sects Employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	Q3
Vung Tau	19	0030Z	General rest day - minor improvements to defensive works.	Q4
		1000Z	RAAF courier ac unloaded.	
Vung Tau	20	0030Z	2 AD Sects employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn. OC unit discussed unit move to Vung Tau airfield with airfield 2IC (US Army). It is now stated that airfield perimeter fence is not to be extended to include proposed unit area. The defence of the area is beyond unit capabilities. This matter taken up with Comd 1 ALSG who suggested further approach be made to US Army. It may be possible however to allocate an area within 1 ALSG complex to unit.	Q5
		1000Z	Employment of unit discussed with OC 1 Coy and Comd 1 ALSG. It was proposed that efforts be made to establish partial air resupply to 1 ATF to enable vehicle drivers some rest and allow more time for vehicle servicing. Comd 1 ALSG did not agree to this and stated that the unit may never be used in correct role. Comd 1 ALSG also stated that consideration may have to be given to conversion of unit to a transport unit platoon.	Q6



COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR June 1966

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM XA BINH BA 1 :50000

UNIT/FORMATION Det. 176 AL Coy  
RAASC  
COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R.  
WOOLMER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<del>XXXXXX</del>			OC 1 Coy and unit OC raised objections to this but to no avail	
Vung Tau	21	0030Z	2 AD Sects employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	
		0100Z	Small quantity of unit accn stores collected ord ex 'Boonaroo'. Unit still	
			unable to leave 1 Coy area and be domestically self contained.	
Vung Tau	22	0030Z	2 AD Sects employed 8 th Aerial Port Sqn.	
		0600Z	OC unit discussed relocation of unit with comd 1 ALSG. It was agreed	
			that airfield area is unsuitable for several reasons. Unit is now to	
			remain in ALSG complx and be sited near 161 Independant Reconnaissance	
			Sqn and will combine with <del>this unit</del> this unit for domestic purposes.	
Vung Tau	23	0030Z	2 AD Secs employed 8th Aerial Port Sqn.	
		0830Z	RAAF UH-1B used for 1 ATF re-supply. 3 sorties. Fresh rations, bread	
			milk, ice cream - 3845 lbs. Further 1600 lbs NOT taken as ac had	
			insufficient fuel left.	
Vung Tau	24	0030Z	2 AD Secs employed 8th Aerial Port Sqn.	
		1330Z	HQ 1 ALSG directed that one size 5 Massey Ferguson tractor be taken	
			forward to 1 ATF. NO operator required. Eqpt loaded on to 2½ ton	
			truck and transported by unit to 1 Coy RAASC as loan stores.	



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 June 1966

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM XA BINH BA 1:50000

UNIT/FORMATION Det 176 AD C  
RAASC

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R.  
Woolmer

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
Vung Tau	25	0030Z	General rest day. Unit size 7 fork lift allocated on a daily basis to 55 AESS until further notice.	AW
Vung Tau	26	0030Z	It is believed that the Minister <sup>of</sup> the Army visited area. Despite wide publicity prior to the event, the Minister did NOT visit unit area and did NOT speak with OC or any troops.	AW
		0045Z	2 AD Secs employed 8th Aerial Port Sqn.	AW
		1045Z	RAAF Courier arrived. Unloaded by 1 AD Sec. 110 bags mail also unloaded by sec from USAF ac.	AW
Vung Tau	27	0030Z	1 AD Sec employed 8th Aerial Port Sqn.	AW
		0200Z	Re-supply to 1 ATF by RAAF RW ac. Milk and ice cream. Two loads total weight 1850 lbs. Further detachment of unit personnel to other units on temporary basis. Unit now has detached the following: 1 Sgt Clerk to PX, 1 Cpl Clerk (Pte) to 87 Tpt Pl, 1 Cpl Clerk (Pte) to Ops 1 Coy RAASC.	AW
Vung Tau	28	0030Z	2 AD Secs employed 8th Aerial Port Sqn. Repairs to size 7 fork lift completed by Det 1 Div S and T Wksps.	AW



