

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Service Corps units

Item number: 10/4/4

**Item: Detachment 176 Air Despatch
Company**

Narrative

[1-31 Aug 1966]

PART 1

COVERING LETTER

Reference No

5

To: OIC, Military R

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

2. Please return receipt below

(Signature)

Sept. 19

22-9-66

RZ

Appointment

OC Det 176 AD Coy RAAS

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

SECRET

**ORIGINAL
DUPLICATE**

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation Det 176 Air Dispatch Coy RAASC

From 1 Aug 66 To 31 Aug 66

To 31 Aug 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

00

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

TENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

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 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)

~~COMPILED AND 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.

~~During Operational Periods~~ **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:

~~During Operational Periods~~ **TOP SECRET**

~~During Operational Periods~~ ANNEX Z to

~~During Operational Periods~~ Commanders Diary of (Formation or Unit)

~~During Operational Periods~~ 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.

~~During Operational Periods~~ COMPILATION

b. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:

- a. Cover sheet (AF C 219) (Adapted).
- b. Order of battle sheet.
- c. Daily operational report.
- d. Annexes or sheets as required.

3. All details of the unit or formation in which the diary was kept must be included, including the names and addresses of the commanding officer and his staff. If there have been changes since the last report, the diary must be forwarded to the commanding officer.

4. The annexes and other documents are to be numbered consecutively on the cover. If they are numbered and captioned on the reverse side of the annexes, the numbers should be continued on the reverse side of the cover.

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT INFORMATION Det. 176 A Coy
RAASC

MONTH AND YEAR August 1966

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA 1:50,000

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R. Woollmer

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	1	0800 Z	2 AD crews unloaded/loaded RNZAF Courier and RAAF Caribou ac Saigon/Vung Tau. Remainder unit domestic duties.	Qd
	2	0030 Z	2 AD Crews to SAIGON for US Army instruction. G13 para packing. Remainder unit work on flood prevention unit area.	Qd
	3	0030 Z	2 AD Crews AD training para packing SAIGON.	Qd
		0300 Z	RAAF Courier ac unloaded. Remainder of unit domestic and beach patrol duties.	Qd
	4	0030 Z	Re-siting and moving of accn in unit area to avoid rain water.	Qd
	5	0030 Z	Domestic duties unit area.	Qd
	6	0010 Z	1 AD Crew detached BIEN HOA for loading duties ammo RAAF Caribou ac.	Qd
		0800 Z	Ammo loading Caribou ac completed.	Qd
	7	0030 Z	Rest day.	Qd
	8.	0030 Z	2 NCO's commenced weapons course 7 days.	Qd
		0300 Z	RAAF Courier ac unloaded/loaded. Remainder of unit work in unit lines.	
	9.	0030 Z	OC visited HQ AFV and 1 LOG COMD to discuss packing G12D paras. 1 Pte Despatcher Air detached to assist Area Chaplains in driving, other duties etc. Remainder work unit area.	Qd
	10	0030 Z	Unit area improved.	Qd

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION Det 176 Al Coy
RAASC

MONTH AND YEAR August 1966

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA 1:50,000

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R. Woolmer

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	11	0030 Z	2 AD Crews employed erecting para store at 2 Comp Ord Depot.	Qd
		0400 Z	Comd 1 ALSG directed that the unit provide personnel to layout, erect and operate a transit camp for TF personnel. OC raised the point that this is a prostitution of a technical unit. The unit is unlikely to be required in this theatre and steps should be taken to remove or replace the unit with personnel who are urgently required, such as Engr tradesmen, clerks, cooks and others in short supply.	
	12	0030 Z	4 Pers employed shotguns for re-supply convoy. 2 AD Crews erecting para shelter 2 Comp Ord Depot.	Qd
	13	0030 Z	6 Pers employed shotguns for re-supply convoy. 2 AD Crews erecting para shelter 2 Comp Ord Depot. Air OP for re-supply convoy. 2 NCO's employed Loadmaster duties RAAF Caribou ac.	Qd
	14	0620 Z	RAAF Courier ac unloaded/loaded.	Qd
	15	0030 Z	AD Crew para stacking 2 Comp Ord Depot. 6 Pers employed shotguns road re-supply convoy.	Qd
	16	0030 Z	12 Pers para packing G12D, SAIGON. 2 Pers Assistant Loadmasters CARIBOU. Remainder employed unit area.	Qd
	17	0030 Z	6 Pers employed shotguns for road re-supply convoy.	Qd

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION Det. 176 A Coy
RAASC

MONTH AND YEAR August 1966

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA 1:50,000

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt D.R. Woolmer

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	17	0800 Z	12 Pers para packing SAIGON.	Qd
	18	0030 Z	6 Pers employed shotgun duties. 10 Pers para packing SAIGON.	Cd
		0800 Z	Instructions received from HQ 1 ALSG that unit is responsible for setting up and operation of a transit camp. Unit is to produce 1 Offr, 1 Sgt RD, 1 Sgt Clerk, 1 Pte Clerk, 2 Pte Cooks and 1 Pte Dvr. Eqpt 1 x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton vehicle. All accn stores used are to be from Q account this unit.	
	19	0030 Z	8 Pers employed shotgun duties.	Qd
		0800 Z	Preliminary work commenced on Transit Camp, indents submitted and request for Engineer work. The area to be used is at present occupied by Edn Centre, conducting a language course. This will be absorbed into the Transit Camp.	
	20	0030 Z	8 Pers employed shotgun duties. Unit informed of requirement to prepare 1 days rations and POL for airdrop to 1 ATF as buffer stocks. Unit queried HQ 1 ALSG to determine the method of air drop most likely to be used.	Qd
	21	0600 Z	RAAF Courier ac unloaded/loaded. Remainder of unit rest day.	Qd
	22	0010 Z	11 Pers to 2 Comp Ord Depot as work party. Remainder unit area.	Qd
	23	0030 Z	13 Pers shotguns for re-supply convoy.	Qd

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR August 66

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA 1:50,000

UNIT/FORMATION Det 176 Al Coy

RAASC

Capt DR WOOLMER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24	0030Z	There are marked signs of deterioration of morale in the unit. This problem was not unforeseen and has been pointed out to OC 1 Coy RAASC and Comd 1 ALSG on numerous occasions. It is, as a result of unemployment in the units correct role and misemployment of technical personnel. There appears to be no likely quick remedy to this problem which may become acute if not checked.	Q1
	25	0030Z	21 personnel employed shotguns on 2 re-supply convoys.	Q1
	26	0030Z	8 personnel employed shotguns on re-supply convoy.	Q1
	27	0030Z	22 personnel employed shotguns on 2 re-supply convoys.	Q1
		0200Z	HQ 1 ALSG advise that stores required for transit camp may not be available for 7 - 10 days.	
	28	0030Z	9 personnel employed as shotguns for re-supply convoy.	Q1
	29	0030Z	6 personnel employed shotguns for re-supply convoy.	Q1
		1100Z	RAAF Courier ac unloaded/loaded 21,000 lbs.	
	30	0030Z	10 personnel employed shotguns on re-supply convoy.	Q1
		0800Z	Request for airdrop engr stores received from 1 ATF. Approx weight calculated at 200000 lbs.	
		1545Z	Stores commenced arriving in unit area for packing	

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..... August 66

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA 1:50,000

UNIT/FORMATION Det 176 AD by RAASC

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt DR WOOLMER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	30(Cont)	1930Z	1 ATF when informed of weight of stores to be air dropped reduced the quantity to 25%.	
	31	0800Z	Packing completed for air drop 45000 lbs.	Q1
		0815Z	Air drop cancelled.	