

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Artillery units

Item number: 3/8/2

Item: 12 Field Regiment

[12 Fd Regt]

Narrative

[Duty Officer's log], Annex

[1-30 Apr 1971]

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, the relevant papers should be grouped as annexes starting at B.

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

ITEMS

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment

d orders given.

ne day's fighting, including company movements.

mander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

o officers, men and equipment.

oment captured.

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)

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.

Commander's
 diary.

CONFIDENTIAL

File No: R569.1.52

12 Fd Regt RAA
NUI DAT SVN

28 Apr 71

See Distribution List

12 FD REGT OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION 2/71
CHANGE IN ALLOCATION OF CALLSIGNS
AND TARGET NUMBERS

Introduction

1. On the changeover between 107 Fd Bty and 104 Fd Bty, the allocation of callsign and target number blocks is to revert to those used prior to the arrival of A Fd Bty in SVN.

Change of Callsign

2. After 107 Fd Bty ceases operations on 5 May 71, the following callsign blocks are to be adopted:

A Fd Bty	- 10
104 Fd Bty	- 20
US Bty	- 40 (no change)
HQ Bty (FOs only)	- 31, 32, 33.

3. The change is to be effected at 050300H May 71.

4. The HQ Bty FOs are to be allocated callsigns as follows:

a. Capt Lynch	- 31
b. Lt Sheedy	- 32
c. Spare	- 33 (to be used by 2Lt Main until 16 May 71)

Change of Target Numbers

5. After 107 Fd Bty ceases operations, prefixes and target number blocks listed in Section 3 of 12 Fd Regt Standing Operating Procedures for operations in Vietnam will be adopted. The block allocated to 161 Fd Bty RNZA becomes spare. The change of numbers for current targets is to be made as follows:

a. Targets recorded within a battery. The prefix and first digit are to be changed e.g. ZQ2124 becomes ZP1124.
b. Targets recorded within the battery but later upgraded. The first digit is to be changed e.g. ZT1649 becomes ZT2619.
c. Targets originated by Arty Tac. No change.

/d.

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2.

- d. Targets with a number in the 3000-3999 block. If any of these targets are still required, Arty Tac is to be informed and directions will be given on renumbering.
6. The change is to be effected at 051200H May 71.
7. The acting BC and FOs from HQ Bty with 2RAR are to use the prefix ZQ and block 2000-2999 from 051200H May 71.

Miscellaneous

8. The following callsigns are to be used as indicated from 050300H May 71.

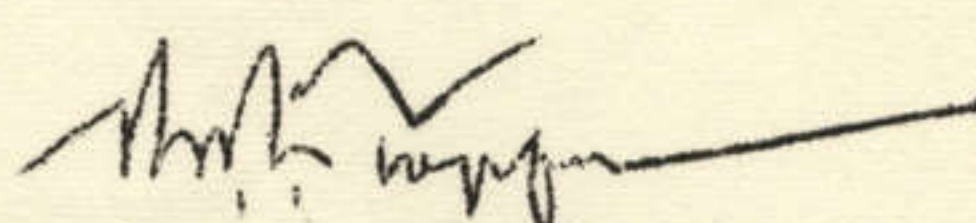
a. Regimental Air/Admin Net.

(1) A Fd Bty	Sect	10
	Sect	10A
	Echelon	93A
(2) 104 Fd Bty	Sect	20
	Sect	20A
	Echelon	93B

b. For reference only

RSM	94
BSM A Fd Bty	16
BSM 104 Fd Bty	26

9. Local Defence Net. 161 Fd Bty RNZA will continue to use C/S 30 until relieved by A Fd Bty. 104 Fd Bty will adopt C/S 20 on assumption of responsibility from 107 Fd Bty.


(B.R. TOPFER)
Lt Col
CO

Distribution:

2IC
QM
Adjt
RMO
RSM
A Fd Bty (10)
104 Fd Bty (10)
107 Fd Bty (5)
161 Fd Bty (RNZA) (2)
C Bty 5/42 (US) (2)
Det 131 Div Loc Bty (2)
Arty Tac
AASWCC
Sigs Supervisor
Enterprise Switch
Commander's Diary (2)
Spare (5)

For information:

HQ 1 ATF
2RAR/NZ Bn
3RAR
104 Sigs Sqn
161 Recce Flt
67 GL Sect
(2)(Attn GS02 Ops and GS02 Air)

Internal:

CO
BC HQ Bty

CONFIDENTIAL

File No: R569.1.52

12 Fd Regt RAA
NUI DAT SVN

29 Apr 71

See Distribution List

12 FD REGT OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTION 3/71
NATO MET MESSAGE - CHANGE IN FORMAT

Reference: A. Directions for the use of Artillery Instruments No 5 (1969).

Introduction

1. The NATO agreement standardizing the format for reporting meteorological data used for manual gunnery computation is STANAG 4061. The format is set out at Annex A to chapter 1 of Reference A. It is not the one at present in use in Vietnam. The new format is to be adopted by US Artillery in MR111 at 010001H May 71.

Changes

2. The only significant change in the format from the one at present in use takes place in the date - time group section of the identification line. STANAG 4061 format records date-time group as YYGoGoGoG where:

- a. YY is the day of the month.
- b. GoGoGo is Greenwich mean time of the start of the period of validity to the nearest tenth of an hour.
- c. G is the number of hours for which the message is valid. US Artillery does not predict this period 12 Fd Regt will therefore always receive G as Zero (0).

3. Copies of the proforma on which to record the message are enclosed together with an explanatory sheet which has the same content as Annex A to Chapter 1 of Reference A.

B. Pearson
for (B.R. TOPFER) Major
Lt Col
CO

Enclosures: 1. Explanatory Sheet.
2. Proforma.

Distribution:

		<u>Encl 1</u>	<u>Encl 2</u>
A	(4)	4	10
104 Fd Bty	(4)	4	10
107 Fd Bty	(2)	2	10
161 Fd Bty RNZA		1	10

Internal:

CO
BC HQ Bty

For information:

HQ 23 Arty Gp LBN
5/42 (US) Arty Bn LBN
Metro Sect 5/42 (US) Arty Bn NDT
C Bty 5/42 (US) Arty Bn (FRIENDSHIP)

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1	YS 561750	01	0001	1 ATF continues Operation PHOI HOP in the TAOR	
2	YS 561750		0013	MARJ engaging. Many lights sighted	
	YS 572738		0026	BETH engaging. EM 0040 hrs	
	YS 565728		0051	BETH engaging EM 0109 hrs	
	YS 584738		0018	BETH engaging EM 0135 hrs	
	YS 586722		0406	MARJ engaging	
	YS 572738		0709	BETH engaging	
	YS 565705		0724	BETH engaging	
	YS 582738		0740	BETH engaging	
3			0815	Ammunition at BETH 360 rounds, MARJ 133 rounds	
4			0900	Sects at BETH again operating as two fire units	
5	YS 366895		0927	LINDY to engage. 5 Pl B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) in contact	

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt R

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
6	YS 584721	01	1225	Marj engaging periodically until 1700 hrs	
7			2020	Sect A Fd Bty and 161 NZ Fd Bty at BETH engaging targets in area Eastings 58 - 60 Northings 73 - 74 A & Is	
8	YS 540748		2303	BETH engaging. 2 Pl A Coy 3 RAR in contact. EM 2342 hrs. Neg results	
9			2400	A & I missions were fired on 20 targets	
10	YS 544720	02	0726	BETH laid on but not engaged. 3 Pl A Coy 3 RAR in contact	
11	YS 562757		1050	BETH engaging. 2 Pl & 3 Pl A Coy 3 RAR reported sounds of movement to their East	
12	YS 584722		1330	MARJ active on fire plan "NEVER KNOW". Preparation for assault by C Coy 3 RAR on bunker system. EM 1350 hrs for units BETH & MATJ. H hr 1400 STgts	
13	YS 557752		1351	BETH engaging DN 1100 A 500. 2 Pl A Coy 3 RAR in contact. Results human	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RA

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				flesh found.	
14		02	2400	A and I missions were fired on 23 targets. Result of contact commencing 31 1445 Mar.	
15		03	0900	Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Daly, KBE CB DSO arrives NUI DAT. CO attends briefing of current situation.	
			1005	CGS arrives MARJ accompanied by TF Commander. Met by Capt FLOYD	
			1040	CGS arrives BETH accompanied by TF Commander. Met by Maj WILLIAMS	
			1125	CGS arrives HORSESHOE accompanied by TF Commander. Met by Maj MASTERS.	
16	YS 453794	03	1923	LINDY engaging. Agent report of 10 VC in area. NFI.	
17			2400	No contact missions fired during 24 hour period. A & I missions were fired on 20 targets.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
18		04	0900	CGS visits RHQ and meets representatives from all sub units. CGS toures RHQ RAP talks with soldiers and staff of RHQ.	
19			1828	MARJ engaging. Mark mission : YS 584746 and YS 560734.	
20	YS 461922		1745	LINDY laid on. Illumination 9 Pl C Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn sighted 20 persons. Grid not engaged due to civil access. Prolonged delay in obtaining clearances from XUYAN LOC Sector. Clearance was eventually obtained at 2218 hours to illuminate YS 467911. However, by this time the pl had withdrawn to avoid the possibility of a clash with friendly troops.	
21			2400	No contact missions were fired during the 24 hour period. A & I missions were fired on 43 targets.	
22	YS 541719	05	0840	BETH laid on Dn 6400 A 600. Did not engage.	
23	YS 589734		0850	MARJ laid on. Did not engage.	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt R

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
24			1315	NGFLO engaging intelligence targets with HMAS BRISBANE.	
25			1355	Sect A Fd Bty MARJ established communications on 107 Fd Bty internal net to give support if required to B Coy 2 RAR/NZ(ANZAC) Bn who are to operate in NE area of AO LISA, out of range to LINDY.	
26			1500	EM for HMAS BRISBANE for first area engaged: YS 648786, YS 651786, YS 676776 and YS 632755. 40 rounds expended.	
27			1850	Sect 161 NZ Fd Bty BETH are to return NUI DAT Wednesday 07 Apr 71.	
28			2021	HMAS BRISBANE engaging suspected staging areas YS 5564, YS 5766 and YS 5866. Unobserved fire. 36 rounds expended.	
29			2400	No contact missions fired during 24 hour period. A & I missions were fired on 40 targets.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF-C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt h

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
30		06	1030	TF Comd visiting HORSESHOE. Inspection visit accompanied by CO	
31			1056	C Coy 3 RAR one en GR 544714. No artillery fired. En camp found 15 sleeping places.	
32			1200	ARU changed freq after interfering with Regt net.	
33			1350	Fire plan "EASTER PRESENT" from BC A Fd Bty in sp of move of C Coy 3 RAR into bunker system. Firing units MARJ & BETH, 5 on call tgts. Not engaged.	
34			1437	Clearances from PARIS held up due to language problem with Vn operator. Delay of 25 minutes when both clerk and DO could not get Vn operator at PARIS to understand request for clearance. Eventually spoke to an American.	
35			1500	Received copy VC fire plan from Int. Actually a hard tgt list for 74th NVA Arty Regt captured by 1st US Cav Div in BEARCAT Sector.	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt R

MONTH and YEAR APR 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
36		06	1705	NDP SUSAN established with DFs ZT 4050 - 53 for 17 Const Sqn until 31 Aug 71.	
37			2310	BETH reported 21 blinds. Fuze lot checked. NFI.	
38			2400	No contact missions fired during 24 hour period. A & I missions fired on 20 tgts.	
39		07	0620	BETH active ZQ 2167 suspected en movement.	
40			0930	Sect 161 Bty at BETH out of action.	
41			1015	Sect 161 Bty at BETH, moving now for NUI DAT.	
42			1015	Bushranger 73 reported rounds impacting GR 358651. Not our or sector artillery. NFI.	
43			1105	Cav escort DUC THANH to MARJ for R & M gun and return.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt R

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
44		07	1120	Mark mission fired from MARJ GR 610870.	
45			1249	Sect 161 Bty ready NUI DAT.	
46			1330	OP 4 re-open OLSEN. JUDY open GR 658045 with 3 x 155mm.	
47			1430	MARJ advised agent report at GR 5075 1 x VC coy moving East. NFI	
48			1630	Ref Ser 43; Gun remaining overnight at MARJ.	
49			1708	Mark mission from BETH on GRs 569711, 568695, and 556691.	
50			1732	Mark mission from MARJ on GRs 563744 and 570727.	
51			2400	No contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A & Is fired on 43 targets.	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
52		08	0759	Route clearance obtained for return convoy MARJ - DUC THANH - NUI DAT.	
53			1420	E 92 G (MCT) operating in area YS 4584 from 10 Apr - UFN. Arty sp requests on 107 Bty internal.	
54			1445	BETH laid on 540711 in suspected en loc EM 1505. NFI.	
55			1535	MARJ laid on 564842 in sp SAS extract. Not engaged.	
56			1900	Suspected HQ D445 engaged by Sect 107 N/D, Sect 161 N/D and Sect 161 HORSESHOE. Observed by air OP. 160 rounds fired. EM 1950. Location YS 4670. Sweep conducted next day. NFI.	
57			2241	C Coy 3 RAR in contact 534722. No arty fired. Heard movement only.	
58			2400	No contact missions fired during 24 hour period. A & Is fired on 50 targets.	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAR

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP _____

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
59		09	1045	161 Recce Flt informed on 107 Bty internal freq for ac requiring arty fire in AD CHRISTINE.	
60			1048	Cavalry & Infantry sweeping area of YS 4670. NFR.	
61			1059	1 Pl A Coy 3 RAR in contact GR 563700. BETH engaged. 2VC and 1 animal sighted. 81mm also engaged.	
62			1524	3 Pl C Coy 2 RAR op con 3 RAR contact at GR 544702. Minor contact, no arty fired.	
63			1625	Sect 161 Bty NUI DAT active GR 488703 suspected en bunkers. NFI.	
64			1641	Albatross 04 allotted 30 rds practice air observation with Sect 161 Bty N/D.	
65			1915	A Bty allotted new internal freq due to jamming of old freqs.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF-C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt R

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R YOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
66		09	1955	Airburst reported by ac NE of DUC THANH. Not DUC THANH or our arty. Sector informed. NFI.	
67			2000	Allocated new Regt freqs to allow us communications with ac.	
68			2400	One contact mission fired in the 24 hour period. A & Is fired on 30 targets.	
69		10	0915	US Iroquois Dustoff 3 flew across 107 Bty firing block after receiving air warning. RAAF informed. NFI.	
70			1440	A Fd Bty having comms problem. Vn on Bty internal net. Allocated 23P, probably from another province.	
71			2026	Sector contact GR 524542. CARMEN fired. NFI.	
72			2030	Movement GR 572688. BETH engaged. NFI.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF-C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RA

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP _____

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		10	2400	No contact missions fired in the 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 44 targets.	
73		11	0700	107 Bty NUI DAT cease firing for move to LINDY.	
74			0835	Agent report D445 with 1000m of GR 583804. MARJ informed.	
75			0845	LINDY ceased firing for move to NUI DAT.	
76			0925	LINDY now back in action.	
77			1000	Call Sign LINDY now 10A. NUI DAT now 10.	
78			1055	C/S 10 now back in action NUI DAT.	
79			1400	FP HAWK TRIP allotted 80 rounds.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt R

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
80		11	1800	Int report D445 suspected loc GR 570797. MARJ informed.	
81			1955	String 22 sensor activated. NFI.	
82			2107	BETH engaged movement GR 555685. NFI.	
83			2110	Doubtful report from HOA LONG on 55 VC heading W through rubber GR 413651.	
84			2400	No contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 30 targets.	
85		12	0005	String 20 sensor activated. Seismic Dn of movement NW. 2 RAR informed. NFI.	
86			0515	ARU I56 contact. ZP 1806 fired by C/S 10, NUI DAT. Sweep found 1 pkt cigs. GR 455629.	
87			0850	SAS require illum when fired close as possible to overhead continuous until they give EM or check firing.	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP _____

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
88		12	1030	MARJ at priority call to 2 RAR from 121500. Continue in sp 3 RAR.	
89			2000	302 Bn mors fired into YS 4854 without clearances. Sector investigated - NFI	
90			2015	HOA LONG fired 60mm mors on lights at GR 428642. NFI.	
91			2100	String 21 sensor readings now being ignored as life of string almost up.	
92			2400	One contact mission fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 69 targets.	
93		13	0525	Suspected loc D445 within 1000m of GR 549784. MARJ informed. NFR.	
94			1300	Training shoot for RAAF Block E47 - 50. N69 - 71.	
95			1457	LINDY fired Mark mission GR 350710 & GR 370710	
96			1500	3 Pl ARU located bunker system 25 x 25m at GR 448639. No arty fired. NFI.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C2119 (Adapted).

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

MONTH and YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
97		13	1700	A ptl from DUC THANH sighted at 449701 in AO CHRISTINE. G2 told them to move out.	
98			2400	No contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 30 targets.	
99		14	0832	I 32/3 found bunker system 570709. No arty fired. 12 bunkers to be destroyed.	
100			0900	Suspected loc D445 within 500m of GR 546819. MARJ informed. NFR.	
101			0930	Training shoot for RAAF pilots.	
102			1045	ARU extracted from AO WINNIE till 18 Apr 71.	
103			1200	MSF have 60mm & 81mm at GR 644634.	
104			1440	47 PF found bunker system GR 633707. Contacted unk number of en. CIA cooking utensils, rats & clo.	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

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REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
105		14	1945	LO Party for LONG THANH trg now at 2 RAR. They are inserting tps into AO for tonight.	
106			1947	A Coy 3 RAR movement on wire 577682. BETH active. Now a contact. A gp of en moving. Sweep in morning. NFI.	
107			2006	2 squads VC sighted by sector 155. CARMEN active. 30A requested for illum but could not fire as cannister impact grid was not clear.	
108			2154	Flashing light 369662 seen from NUI DAT LP. Regt msn C/S 10 & 30 total 5 rds FFE. NFI.	
109			2400	One contact mission fired in the 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 25 targets.	
110		15	0820	Suspected loc D445 within 1000m of YS 563781.	
111			1000	B53 US Spec Forces inserted into AO WINNIE training block.	

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REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
112		15	1700	A&K Pl 2 RAR contacted 20 VC moving SE - NW. Results 1 pack CIA, clo, food and docus. Arty fired cut-offs. NFI.	
113			1750	Aslt Pnr Pl 2RAR contacted approx 3VC moving N-S. Results 1VC possible WIA. LINDY active. Illum on GR 472863. 1VC later found to be KIA.	
114			2400	No contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 30 tgts.	
115		16	0840	Aslt Pnr Pl 2RAR contacted 1 en GR 478870. Small bunker system located and destroyed. Guns laid on 487863. NFI.	
116			1120	TF Comd & CO visit MARJ - inspection visit.	
117			1435	MARJ laid on GR 552883 for SAS ptl 24 insertion.	
118			2011	1 Pl A Coy 3RAR movement & light engaged. BETH fired 105mm & 81mm on YS 579692. Results unknown. Sweep first light.	

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COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
119		16	2115	3PL A Coy 3RAR movement engaged. MARJ active firing Illum on YS 572680. NFI.	
120			2400	Two contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 30 targets.	
121		17	0017	CARMEN fired in sp of Vn contact GR 510560. NFI.	
122			0800	Grave dug up produced body hit by SA and arty, GR 574718 - 8Pl CCoy 3RAR.	
123			0845	Aslt Pnr Pl 2RAR contacted 1 en. Result - 1 VC KIA. Mors from LINDY active. GR 491869.	
124			1017	Fire plan FIRM REMINDER on intel tgts, firing units Sects 107 Bty and 161 Bty at NUI DAT, 10 serials. Timings 171000 hrs to 180900 hrs.	
125		17		KERR Committee visit to 1 ATF. Visits to HQ 1 ATF, 104 Sig Sqn, 2 SAS Sqn, 1 Fd Sqn, 8 Fd Amb, 107 Fd Bty. Held discussions with WOs groups. Visited 1 Armd Regt, 3 Cav Regt, meets returning ambush ptl, visit FSPB MARJ.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		17	Cont.	Members of Committee: Hon Mr Justice Kerr, CMG. General Sir John Wilton, CB, DSO. Mr S Landau. Commissioner E C Deverall. Mr H T ROGERS. Mr P FOGARTY. Capt J Davidson (RAN). Col W F Burnard. Gp Capt J M BLACKWELL (RAAF). Miss S J FIRTH. Mr G STORY.	
			0920	KERR Committee arrived NUI DAT.	
126			1532	SAS ptls 14, 12 & 34 extracted.	
127			1605	Unidentified gunships reported at Sector. No record of them here. RAAF no record. Sector informed they are probably US ac. NFI.	
128			1625	Dustoff ac shot down YS 476507 while extracting 302 Bn casualties. Ac caught fire. Results 2 Aust KIA, 4 WIA, 1 US KIA, 1 Vn KIA, 4 WIA. 1 UA-1H destroyed.	
129			2400	One contact mission fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 10 targets.	
130		18	0930	KERR Committee visiting MARJ.	

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COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
131		18	1140	KERR Committee return to 1 ALSG.	
132			1200	30 nautical miles arty restriction around BIEN HOA & TAN SON NHUT now in force. All arty within this area must go to PARIS for clearance.	
133			1500	Complete compromise of all codes. Change to be made in 4 to 5 hours. 104 Sig Sqn arranging. Codes lost in Dustoff crash on 17 Apr.	
134			1520	NDP REBECCA abandoned at 1200 hrs by 1 Fd Sqn.	
135			2005	Sector contact 1 squad VC. 1 VC KIA. NFI. GR 263617.	
136			2025	BETH engaged GR 592722 for TA2. Lights and 2 shots. Results unknown.	
137			2140	MARJ engaged oxcart movement GR 579772. Neg results.	

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REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
138		18	2235	Delay in clearance for LINDY due to difficulty of getting X/L ground clearance. Communications to be improved.	
139			2400	One contact mission fired in the 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 10 tgts.	
140		19	0010	1 Pl C Coy 3 RAR light engaged. BETH engaged GR 589710. Results unknown.	
141			0500	HMAS BRISBANE on station. Firing on intel tgts in NUI DINKs up till 1200 hrs. Results unknown.	
142			1220	LINDY active GR 511838 contact for C/S 42A/2RAR. 1 en seen on track. 1 VC KIA.	
143			1500	MARJ laid on 585855 for SAS insertion.	
144			2123	Sector given 10 rds FFE from HORSESHOE on VC sighting GR 519566. Results unknown.	

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REFERENCE MAP _____

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
145		19	2215	New sensor strings String 23 492636 String 24 577663 String 25 556666 String 26 647634 3 RAR and 1 ATF informed.	
146			2400	Two contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 15 targets.	
147		20	0725	Early morning VR Possum reported tunnel entrance 458889. TAs investigated. Neg results.	
148			0930	3 Pl A Coy 2 RAR located bunker system. 4 en contacted and withdrew W. LINDY & MARJ laid on. Bunkers destroyed. LINDY engaged 534860.	
149			1305	LINDY active 530890 contact A Coy 2 RAR. 6 en sighted. Results 3 VC WIA.	
150			1400	1 Pl A Coy sighted 2 en and engaged. Results 1 VC KIA.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
151		20	1340	& 7 Pl C Coy 2 RAR contacted 5 en moving N. En withdrew N. Neg results. MARJ & LINDY laid on 544816 & 535870 previously engaged.	
152			1500	8 Pl C Coy 2RAR contact bunker system. 8 - 10 en engaged by bushrangers. MARJ active 550819. 8 Pl withdrew for Dustoff of 3 casualties. C Coy being deployed for tomorrow's attack.	
153			1935	MARJ firing illum GR 560810 for B Coy 2RAR. NFI.	
154			2120	FO C/S 13 adjusting as close as possible to C Coy loc near bunker system GR 558807. MARJ adjusted onto bunkers.	
155			2255	Resupply to MARJ at 210730. 2 x CH47 HE, 1 x Illum.	
156			2400	Six contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on six targets.	
157		21	0010	LINDY engaged GR 526817. Single shots heard. Results unknown.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
158		21	0013	MARJ engaged GR 526818 for above single shots only.	
159			0023	MARJ engaging bunker system grids 540825 and 555795 A&Is.	
160			0055	LINDY engaging A&Is bunker system GR 535805 GR 535805.	
161			0237	MARJ engaging A&I bunker system 564806. Results unknown.	
162			0830	C Coy 2 RAR moved into bunker system GR 559806. No en found. 1 x Claymore, pool of blood and cooking utensils found. 11 bunkers, 18 months old.	
163			2400	No contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 30 targets.	
164		22	1020	MARJ laid on GR 583745 for SAS extraction.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
165		22	1110	LINDY engaged GR 538853 in sp contact. MARJ laid on GR 530850. 1 Pl A Coy 2 RAR contacted 20 - 30 VC moving N - S. Bushrangers engaged also. Results: 1 Aust WIA, 2 packs CIA, 1 claymore, some documents.	
166			1200	Regt freq changed due to interference by TF net.	
167			1735	MARJ laid on GR 492848 in sp 3 Pl V Coy r RAR. Results: 1 VC KIA.	
168			1950	MARJ active GR 523739 illum for movement on 2 Pl B Coy 3 RAR's perimeter. Results suspected animals caused noise.	
169			2155	BETH engaged GR 549688 flares sighted. NFI.	
170			2330	HUSKY Picquet reports flashing light 150m Dn 4600. Suspected fire fly. NFA.	
171			2400	One contact mission fired in 24 hour period. Nil A&Is.	

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REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
172		23	0900	Maj Gen D VINCENT, CB, DSO, Adj General arrives NUI DAT.	
173			0925	Charlie Horse ac flew over demolition after air warning passed. TFMA Duty Offr informed and warned of consequences.	
174			1000	LINDY engaged suspected movement GR 535852. Neg results.	
175			1030	Adj General and TF Comd to visit MARJ at 1130 hrs. MARJ informed. Met by Capt FLOYD.	
176			1035	C Coy 2 RAR located heavily used NW track at GR 548832; investigating further.	
177			1120	Regt freq changed due to static interference.	
178			1140	Casevac for MARJ. Soldier with sprained ankle. Adj General informed. Dustoff complete 1150.	

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REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
179		23	1605	LINDY engaged GR 537853. Observed by C/S 19A. A&I	
180			1610	Priority sensor in area C/S 19A wants to engage. Mission cancelled.	
181			2400	Nil contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 12 targets.	
182		24	0745	SAS enquired if arty fired on GR 415845. Answer DUC THANH fired GRs 419830, 420833 and 424834 around time queried.	
183			0803	Cease fire ordered to 30A.	
184			1115	30A now ready in NUI DAT.	
185			1900	SAS allotted targets ZT 4216, 4217, 4218 for PH 13.	
186			2015	MARJ engaged 533848 illum for movement on 9Pl CCoy 2RARs perimeter. Results: later suspected to be pigs.	

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REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
187		24	2110	CARMEN engaged 430520 illum in sp contact. No bodies but sector believe 3 VC KIA.	
188			2340	DUC THANH fired 81mm mors without clearances. LO did not know about it till later and has talked to Vns about this.	
189			2400	Nil contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 20 targets.	
190		25	0700	Communications very poor. SSgt Flanagan liaising with 104 Sig Sqn to fix.	
191			0915	SAS worried about Thai arty being too close to Ptl 11. Grids checked and they are quite safe. Bearcat told not to fire.	
192			0950	MARJ laid on 585855 for SAS extraction.	
193			1035	DUSTOFF for LINDY 1 Aust PUO. DUSTOFF ac arrived in 10 mins.	
194			1108	CARMEN fired without clearances. Adjusting targets before clearances passed.	

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REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TOPFER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
195		25	1115	Communications still bad. 104 Sig Sqn still fixing.	
196			1515	104 Sig Sqn advise our sets over heating. Can only fix by changing sets regularly.	
197			2030	Sensor activation String No1. Seis & Mag no direction, no arty fired on information.	
198			2130	MARJ engaged GR 529751 movement on B Coy 3RARs perimeter. Illum fired. Neg results.	
199			2400	Nil contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 28 targets.	
200		26	1400	Bushrangers LZ prep for insertion B Coy 2RAR. GR 430788.	
201			1401	C/S 19A calibrating N/D, LINDY & MARJ in blocks E52 - 55, N81 - 82.5, E35 - 38 & N73 - 75.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
202		26	2020	LINDY active 422794 light. NFI.	
203			2050	80B active 686763, white light. Results light extinguished.	
204			2130	MARJ active 514759 movement on 4 Pl B Coy 3RAR's perimeter. Results movement ceased. Sweep in morning. Results negative.	
205			2230	HOA LONG hunting party out shooting again. 161 Bty standing to. TF DO informed. DC to be informed.	
206			2400	Nil contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 34 targets.	
207		27	0600	BETH received cease firing from C/S 29.	
208			0615	From Maj Masters; more shots from HOA LONG hunting party. This is Stand-to time. CO & TF DO informed. Hunting party has permission of DC, but they will be warned to keep clear of 161 Bty area.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
209		27	1000	Advance party C/S 42 arrives FSPB FRIENDSHIP.	
210			1005	C/S 20 Ready Sect Grid 61058105 alt frontage 70 alt 100 at FSB ZIGGIE.	
211			1500	Survey Stat. ZIGGIE theatre orientation only. FRIENDSHIP theatre grid.	
212			2400	Nil contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 30 targets.	
213		28	0830	Theatre Grid for ZIGGIE 60998099. Alt 100 Frontage 70.	
214			0850	ZIGGIE laid on GR 552899 for SAS extraction.	
215			0905	C Bty moving to FRIENDSHIP now.	
216			0945	Ptl from JWTC contacted 8 VC at 354646. C/S 30 allotted for arty sp. Bush rangers engaged, arty not required. Results; 1 VC KIA. Three interconnecting camps located. 3 pistols, 1 x M16, med eqpt and docus. CIA.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
217		28	1145	MARJ gives cease firing.	
218			1312	C/S 84B / 2RAR in contact. LINDY active 500853. Results; 1 VC KIA (BT).	
219			1530	GRs 535791 & 527788. DFs for FRIENDSHIP passed to C/S 29. Tgt Nos allotted ZQ 2969 & 2970.	
220			1550	C/S 20A now in NUI DAT.	
221			1632	LINDY engaging GR 513833 in sp contact 2 Pl V Coy 2RAR. Results; 1 VC KIA(BC).	
222			1940	LINDY engaged GR 466788 illum with DUC THANH for Vn contact. Results; 1VC WIA.	
223			2130	VC CIA above informed of 7 VC in bunker GR 454804. LINDY engaged with 10 rds FFE 50% delay.	
224			2147	DUC THANH request 155mm on 402805. Allotted 5 rds FFE from C/S 4D illum also.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
225		28	2400	Four contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 11 targets.	
226		29	0700	3 Vn called tgts for DUC THANH. Required TF Comd approval as they were in civil access area. DC gave his. TF Comd approved.	
227			1055	C/S 40s adjusted tgts for BETH ZQ 2980 - 603687, ZQ 2981 - 596677, ZQ 2982 - 611673.	
228			1605	1 x Sect A Bty closed down until 300600 Apr 71.	
229			1745	From PARIS, check fire as all arty above 6000 ft within 30 nautical mile limit.	
230			1950	LINDY active. Movement for TA 23 GR 490905 illum. Sweep in morning - negative results	
231			2000	C/S 40 active FP PLUTO 5 tgts area E59 - 61, N88 - 90. Results unknown.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
232		29	2315	CAM MY requested LINDY fire illum GR 452920. Sweep conducted in morning. Negative results.	
233			2400	Nil contact missions fired in 24 hour period. A&Is fired on 35 grids.	
234		30	1000	C/S 40 adjusting 3 more DFs for ZIGGIE.	
235			1043	C/S 10 (N/D) engaged A&I GR 341666.	
236			1220	Tgts Nos adjusted by C/S 40. ZU 2986 GR 615817; ZU 2987 GR 600810; ZU 2988 GR 612804.	
237			1430	C/S 80B ready GR 599702.	
238			1530	Airstrike in sq 7488 observed by JADE.	
239			1615	JADE trg shoot into E34 - 36, N68 - 69. C/S 10 allotted 30 rds total.	

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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
240		30	1615	SAS ptl 31 inserted GR 384883.	
241			2029	C/S 40 engaging movement on perimeter with SA. NFI.	
242			2117	BIEN HOA cleared for JUDY 155mm on GRs 626924 & 623937.	
243			2120	C/S 19s Rhito cancelled due to clash with sniffer area E48-58, N78-89.	
244			2220	Comms bad. 5 x 524 sets tried without improvement. Have adequate comms 125 Set.	
245			2400	Regt freq changed according to SOIs. Good Cooms. Nil contact missions fired in 24 hour period. Nil A&Is. Monthly ammunition state for Apr 71. Period 25 Mar 71 to 24 Apr 71. Observed sp fire HE 322 rds, WP 28 rds, Illim 364 rds, Splintex 2 rds. Unobserved sp fire HE 117 rds, Illum 130 rds. Harrassing Fire HE 3910 rds, WP 71 rds. Training HE 295 rds, Smk 19 rds, WP 48 rds, Illum 7 rds. Totals HE 8600; Smk 19, WP 147, Illum 501; Splintex 2.	