Series: AWM95 Australian Army commanders' diaries [Vietnam]

Artillery units

Item number: 3/8/4

Item: 12 Field Regiment

[12 Fd Regt]

Narrative

[Duty Officer's log], Annexes

[1-30 Jun 1971]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No.....

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

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

Please return receipt below

(Signature)

Appointment.

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL -DUPLICATE Strike out where not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

12 Fd Regt RAA Unit or Formation 30 Jun 71 1 Jun 71 From

INDEX Narrative (AF C 2118) ANNEXES Duty officer's log

Messages connected with log Operation orders and instructions issued Operation orders and instructions received Sitreps issued Orders of battle and location reports issued Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made Administrative orders and instructions issued Administrative orders and instructions received Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns monthly sick Report

Standing orders issued Commander's policy and demi-official letters

Action reports (if required) Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units of overtheen. to 5-14-14-1

Periodical summaries of operations

Top Secret Supplementary Diary

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

01 to 195

..... to to to to to to to to 1144 to 30 Jun

..... to to to

..... to † NIL

RETAINED

† Despatched to On.....

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.

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

NTENTS

nes as well as map references), establishment, equipment nd orders given.

the day's fighting, including company movements.

mander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

to officers, men and equipment.

ipment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

ss and to save work as much information as possible is to cuments issued and received, routine returns, etc. All ed 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)

1 BP Coy-274/65-55m

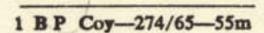
DISPOSAL

- 13. Original Commander's Diary. This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise order 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(I	Dates)

c. The duplicate supplementary diaries must be despatched as shown in Paragraph 14 as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.



AF – C2118 (Adapted) Revised Apr. 1969

"COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION ...

12 Fd Reg AA

ONTH and YEAR	JUN ·	1971	REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R	POPFER
Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(b)	(c)	(q)	(e)	(f)
			Operation Briar Patch III continues with 3RAR.	
			A Fd Bty deployed Sect at FSB ZIGGIE YS610810	
			Sect at Nui Dat.	
			Operation BHOWANI JUNCTION PHASE I commenced with 4RAR	
			104 Fd Bty deployed Sect at FSB JANE YS445845	
			Sect at Nui Dat.	
			C Bty 5/42 US in general support 3 guns at Nui Dat.	
	01	0820	No3 gum A Bty out of action. Rebuilt gum to replace No3 and full sight test	
			to be carried out - 1115 hrs No3 back in action.	
		0930	USS LARSON will be on station 0600 hrs 02 Jun to 03 Jun. Ship will also be	
			"ON STATION" 8 + 9 Jun both, mounting 5"/38.	***************************************
		1305	Sect A Bty ZIGGIE laid on GR555715. 8/C/3RAR sighted 7 armed en. Elms of TA	
			following up. En sighted GR555726. ZIGGIE active 1310 hrs. EM 1442 hrs. NFI.	
		2112	Contact at LONG DIEN 81mm active GR439580. 155mm C Bty Nui Dat cleared air or	
			2 tgts. 155mm CARMEN active 1 tgt at 2125 hrs. Results 1 VC WIA CIA.	
		2300	FSB JEFFERIES (US Arty) opened at GR874996, 011000 hrs.	
	Place and grid reference	Place and grid reference (b) (c)	Place and grid reference (b) (c) (d) O1 0820 O30 1305	Place and grid reference (b) (c) (d) (e) Operation Briar Patch III continues with 3RAR. A Fd Bty deployed Sect at FSB ZIGGIE YS610810 Sect at Nui Dat. Operation BHOWANI JUNCTION PHASE I commenced with 4RAR 104 Fd Bty deployed Sect at FSB JANE YS445845 Sect at Nui Dat. C Bty 5/42 US in general support 3 guns at Nui Dat. O1 0820 No3 gun A Bty out of action. Rebuilt gun to replace No3 and full sight test to be carried out - 1115 hrs No3 back in action. O930 USS LARSON will be on station 0600 hrs 02 Jun to 03 Jun. Ship will also be "ON STATION" 8 + 9 Jun both, mounting 5"/38. 1305 Sect A Bty ZIGGIE laid on GR555715. 8/C/3RAR sighted 7 armed en. Elms of TA following up. En sighted GR555726. ZIGGIE active 1310 hrs. EM 1442 hrs. NFI. 2112 Contact at LONG DIEN 81mm active GR439580. 155mm C Bty Nui Dat cleared air or 2 tgts. 155mm CARMEN active 1 tgt at 2125 hrs. Results 1 VC WIA CIA.

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.

12 Fd Reg AA

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
6		02	0815	3RAR to relinquish control of HORSESHOE at 031400 - 1ATF to handover	
7		***************************************	1000	HORSESHOE to Sector HQ at 101200. USS LARSON - ON STATION. Tgt grids E47 - 49 N50 - 54.	
8	GR359881		1310	C/S12 in contact at GR359881 - C/S20, 104 Bty JANE, fired 9 rds on with-	
				drawal routes. 4 VC approached from NW. Result 1VC KIA (BC).	
9			1910	Approval granted for Survey pair (2Lt J EVANS) to go to Nui Chau Chan and	
				Courtenay Hill (YS450903) on 3 Jun 71.	
10		••••••	2025	XUAN LOC requested 1ATF arty to fire 10 rds Fire For Effect on VC Coy in the	
				open at GR423916, GR431919. 2 rds FFE allotted on each grid. NFI.	
11		03	1030	LAY ON MISSION 104 Bty (JANE) SAS insert patrols 23 and 11 on GR378801 and	
				GR391817.	
12			1630	A Sqn 3 Cav advised rest of tracks to be withdrawn PM today to be redeployed	
				at Courtenay Hill.	
13			1925	VC SIGHTING - GR474510 - 479510. 155 CARMEN enaged. 6 rds expended. NFI.	
14			2130	XUAN LOC LO passed on that SVN intel report to hand gave GR515930 and	
				534928 as two locations of a number of VC. ARVN requested we engage. Request	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION....

12 Fd Regt

t A

MC	NTH and YEAR	JUN	71	REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TC	PFER
Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(a)	(b)	(c)	(q)	(e)	(f)
				(cont) not approved. FSB JANE was preparing to fire large no of rds for H&I.	
				Intel rating A2.	
15			2151	105mm and 81mm active at JANE. 12 Grids H&I. EM2245 hrs 250 rds expended.	
16		04	0730	LO BARIA (Lt T NOLAN) advised two ARVN students Lt LANG & 2Lt TINGH will live	
				at Nui Dat while training in the AASWCC.	
17			1310	SAS Lay On Mission for A Bty (ZIGGIE) on GR582901 and XUAN MOC on GR721617.	
				Timings 1340 & 1420 respectively - mission not fired.	
18			1943	C/S40 C Bty report heavy illumination and tracer 4000m from their loc (Nui Dat)
		,		CP reports ARVN firing from VAN KIEP National Training Centre.	
19		05	0500	Operation OVERLORD commences. The fol deployments are to take place:	
				a. HQ 1 ATF deploy in Courtenay GR YS450903	
				b. Arty Tac - split. Arty Tac Main deployed with HQ 1 ATF	
				c. A Fd Bty deploy in FSB PAMELA YS483922. 1 Sect by air from FSB ZIGGIE	
				and 1 Sect by road from Nui Dat	
				d. 1 Sect 104 Fd Bty deploy by air from Nui Dat to FSB TRISH YS525885	
				e. 1 Sect 104 Fd Bty deploy from FSB JANE to Nui Dat	
		1			

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION...

12 Fd Regt A

MC	ONTH and YEAR	JUN	71	REFERENCE MAP	PFER
Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				f. C Bty 5/42(US) deploy from Nui Dat by read to FSB CHERIE YS455905.	
				All deployments to be completed by 051600.	
20			0725	C Bty 5/42 ready on Bty Grid FSB CHERIE.	
21			0805	Lay on 105 PAMELA A Bty - NFI.	
22			1220	Control of Regt Net passed to Arty Tac Main. Loc YS450904 C/S95A.	
23			1350	B Coy 3RAR located possible bunker system at GR494938 - investigating - NFI.	
24			1400	Arty Tac Rear is responsible for fol clearances: GROUND (1) SAS (2) 3RAR REAR	(3)
				Territorial Forces (4) Eastern boundary of Task Force Area (EAST of XUYAN MOC)	•
				Air Clearances: Monitor all requests for air clearances, pass air data to	
				Kanga, Jade and Paris if nec. Pass Arty Tac Rear's air clearance to Arty Tac	
			#-	Main.	
25			1843	Arty Tac Rear: to operate on separate radio net with C/S 92 (LO BARIA),	
				20 (104 Bty Nui Dat), 32A (FO HORSESHOE). Rear to monitor Rear Net and pass	
				all transmissions to Arty Tac Main by direct line.	
26			2005	From BC, all clearances in AO Lisa south of 80 Northing cleared by 4RAR Rear.	
27			2105	Sect 104 Bty (TRISH) on Theatre Grid E762604 - N1189289.	
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"COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.

12 Fd Reg AA

Reference annex letter or enclosur	Event or Information	Date Time	The state of the s	Place and grid reference	Serial
(f)	(e)	(c) (d)		(b)	(a)
	Call on Regt Net, probably VC quote "Uc Dai Loi number 10," unquote.	2340			28
	Lay on mission, SAS insertion. A Bty (PAMELA) on GR588915 - EM 0915.	06 0900			29
	Ammo restriction - Fuze MT50, M564 restricted for overhead fire.	1620			30
	BC A Bty reports 5/B/3RAR heard warning shots in the area of GR513939 -	1752			31
	1810 hrs en sighted. 1 en moving South. PAMELA active at rear of bunker				
	system 300 metres from own troops. Mors cleared to fire on cut-off route.				
	Results unk.				
rs.	TRISH (Sect 104 Bty) active on GR547907 - movement on perimeter - EM 1958 hrs	1930			32
	Lights seen on ridge behind CAM MY. Lights moving out of CAN MY towards air	1950			33
	strip.				
	From CO: All DF tgts should have Regt Tgt Nos (ZT).	2215			34
et	C Bty firing PLUTO - second timing - check fire to commence firing at correct	07 0330			35
	timings.				
	CHECK FIRE by BC A Bty on A Bty PLUTO - dead shrapnel falling in infantry	0440			36
	location - cancelled 0444.				
* See	* \$/B/3RAR contact bunker system GR505934. 2WIA - Bushrangers and Dustoff	0656			37
attache	requested. 105 PAMELA cleared - BC A Bty requested to use 104 Bty TRISH				

enclosure.

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION...

12 Fd R RAA

МС	ONTH and YEAR	JUN	71	REFERENCE MAP	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)
				(cont) due insufficient HE ammo of one Lot No. Approved by 29 - granted by	
				CO - 104 Bty cleared on Grid 517937.	
38		07	0730	104 Bty new firing danger close.	
39			0735	Elements of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt moving to area of contact: engaging and	
				destroying bunkers.	
40			0756	Elements of A Sqn 3 Cav Regt receiving small arms fire from the East.	
41			0801	From 2IC - 160 rounds will arrive FSB TRISH in 10 mins.	
42			0822	8/B/3RAR in heavy contact.	
43			0925	Ammo holdings increased to A Bty - 800 HE, Sect 104 Bty - 600 HE.	
44			0930	Amme resupply state PAMELA received 270HE, TRISH received 360HE - 360 HE	
				on vehicles at NUI DAT for PAMELA - CO ordered one CH47 load for TRISH and	
				PAMELA.	
45			0940	Ammo resupply as follows: PAMELA 240 by air, 540 by road; TRISH 390 by air.	
46			1025	5/B/3RAR receiving continuous fire.	
47			1029	Ammo convoy departingNUI DAT at 1045. 2IC will accompany convoy - Comms Regt	
				Net fwd.	
48			1035	Further to Ser37 (2WIA) one confirmed KIA (Aust) - 2Lt I G MATHERS - FO with	See

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION

12 Fd Regt . A

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
48	(cont)			B Coy 3RAR - 2Lt R MAIN despatched to PAMELA to replace 2Lt MATHERS. (See	
				attached enclosure).	
49		07	1105	5/B/3RAR in contact again. ALBATROSS 07 shot down ac through canopy - ac	
				caught fire. 2RAAF (KIA) 1 (AUSTARMY) WIA. Dustoff requested.	
50			1110	3 x CH47 loads of ammo ordered by TF Comd for TRISH.	
51			1145	3 x CH47 of ammo approved; will arrive within 60 mins - CH47s will be on	
				stand-by for ammo resupply from NUI DAT all PM 7 Jun.	
52			1155	TF Comd departs for 3RAR - to recon withdrawal of troops from contact area -	
				area to be suppressed by arty fire.	
53		•••••	1207	5/B/3RAR in contact again.	
54			1402	6/B/4RAR in contact GR547914.	
55			1603	Ammo expenditure C Bty (CHERIE) on Fire Mission GR514947 - 157 rds. Mission	
				commenced at 1352 hrs.	
56			1705	From 5/42 Bn - 200 rds HE resupply for C Bty departed LONG BINH for NUI DAT -	
				ETA 1830 - 1900. Escort required from DUC THANH for move to CHERIE.	
57			1915	2/8 Bn (US) contact GR542963 - results 1 en WIA.	
58			1915	Check firing 105s PAMELA for Dustoff - cancel check firing 1926 hrs.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION....

L 12 Fd Reg. AA

M	ONTH and YEAR	JUN	71	REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TO	OPFER
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		07	2211	C Coy 3RAR requested illum on GR509905 - ZT3140 for TA11 contact - movement	
				and eqpt jangling also moaning heard. 105s PAMELA cleared by FCC 4RAR. Check	
				fire ordered by BC 104 Bty as canisters were landing in his area. 81mm from	
				TRISH were used instead of 105s from PAMELA. 81mm mors from TRISH given Rest	
				and EM. Survey for mors at TRISH was incorrrect. 81mm PAMELA laid on - only	
				10 rds on posn.	
60		08	0100	A Bty Fire Plan PLUTO 1 commenced 0220 rds complete.	
61			0833	2Lt Main now with B Coy 3RAR to replace 2Lt Mathers (KIA).	
62			0914	ARVN Arty & Infantry voice interference on Regt Net. LO XUAN LOC investigating	8•
63			0934	SAS lay on Ptl 15 - 404926; Ptl 31 - 363917 - ; 155s PAMELA lay on.	
64			1110	81mm mor illum ammo in very short supply. Use mor allum only if absolutely	
				necessary - from 1TF Main.	***************************************
65			1210	Naval Gum Fire - LONG HAIs - 1100-1200. 46 rds expended. Observed fire	***************************************
				excellent coverage - with normal results.	
66			1250	Future plans:	
				1. Left flank 4RAR to move north to SUAI NHOC ASAP. Probably B & V Coys. When	
				complete 3RAR to move SE between SUAI NHOC and SUOI LUC. HQ 3RAR to remain	
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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION...

12 Fd Regt AA

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(a)	(Ь)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
56	(cont)			in present loc.	
				2. Intend D Coy 4RAR to close gap to east provided liaison with 2/8(US) is	
				successful. Comd, CO 12 Fd Regt and CO4RAR to visit FSB FANNING 081400	
				for liaison.	
67			1520	SAS Ptl 35 contact YS383934 - remaining in. 1600 Ptl now being extracted.	
				Lay on mission. 105/PAMELA, 155/CHERIE GR383934. Bushrangers engaging area	
				at 1630 hrs. 1648 hrs 105/PAMELA engaging area - Ptl 35 extracted.	
88			1716	Elms A Sqn 3 Cav Regt cross SUOI RAN and link up with 4RAR left. (Refer to	
				folio 65).	
9			1825	Clearances: All ground north of the 80N and outside the area of OP OVERLORD	
				is 1ATF Recce Zone. Ground clearances obtained from Sector 1ATF Rear.	
0			1945	BC 104 Bty request clearances of 81mm on GR554919. Movement on wire. Passed.	
11			2028	Elms of A Sqn 3 Cav in contact. A Coy 3RAR request ZT3107 ill - allotted	
				104 Bty TRISH. 2047 hrs Sitrep: 4 - 5 pers sighted 40 - 50 metres N to NW	
				engaged with SA. Movement ceased.	
2			2055	BC 104 Bty reports movement on wire. Mor Pl 4RAR engaging.	

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION...

12 Fd Regt AAA

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
73		09	0015	Fire Mission near 2/8US boundary. When 3/4RAR close to East.	
				1. Opening round will be WP airburst 400'.	
				2. US FOs will report bearing and range to airburst. Reports to be monitored	
				by US LO with ATF HQ who will in turn report to Arty Tac.	
				3. Bg & distance will be plotted on home made plotter.	
				4. Msn must be reported on Regt Comd Net.	
				Corrections are plotted on template of plotter to ensure that rounds do not	
				go too close to US FOs.	
74			0701	A Coy 3RAR reports track A Sqb 3 Cav had a mine incident. No damage - mine	
				exploded after vehicle moved passed.	
75			0928	B Coy 3RAR reports movement - Fire Mission 514945 on 400 A 400.	
76			1045	SITREP: C Coy 3RAR probing a bunker system thought to be occupied. Tanks and	
				APCs on hand to assist. Guns laid on general area.	
77			1058	Aslt Pnrs 3RAR demolishing bunker system. Found 2VC KIA. Beleived killed	
				by 50 cal. NFI.	
78			1335	Ammo ordered through rear ech - PAMELA Fuze M564 - 30) TRISH Fuze M564 - 60) Priority 1	
				Smoke WP - 30 rds Priority 2.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION Lt Col B R TC ER

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
79		09	1955	Aslt Pnr Report: Destroyed bunkers, found another 2 bodies plus the one the	
				tank ran over. More bankers in area, most have weapon racks, water points,	
				cooking fires and caches.	
80			2220	Ammo suspension: Cart 105mm HE M1 Lot No KN-808-5 Sups No S-10721 Fuze PO	
				M557 Let No LS-99-20 in bere premature - 104 Bty Nil, A Bty Nil.	
81		10	0925	Air Clearances: Forthwith we will not request clearances from NUI DAT for	
				missions fired out of CHERIE, PAMELA and CLIFTON. However we will notify	
				NDT of the missions. Reason: these missions do not involve PHUOC TUY air	
				space.	
82			1005	A Bty and 3RAR mors engaged on GR540938, suspected loc for B Coy 3RAR	
				advance.	
83			2130	From Comd 1ATF: Air clearances too slow. One case this morning took 10 mins.	
				DOs to check and inform AASWCC operations of need for urgency.	
84		11	1110	Arty Tac will have to notify "Hunter" (RAAF ATOF with TF Main) of all fire	
				missions. This is an extra safety precaution as a result of a near miss (or	
				just pilot panic) this morning.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION ...

12 Fd Regt A

M	ONTH and YEAR	JUN 7	1	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)
85		12	1020	Contact: Elms A Sqn 3 Cav Regt and D&E Pl 1 ATF in contact GR412893. Ambush RPG & SA fire GR 5 (Aust) KIA, 3 (Aust) WIA. Enemy not seen. CHERIE, Sect A Bty PAMELA, TRISH lay on grid 4289. Cav Sqn moving to area.	
86			1127	Further to Ser 85. Dustoff complete. Cav now sweeping area. 1 Aust likely missing.	
87			1142	A Bty (PAMELA) has one sect laid on GR420891, one sect still firing on GR555927.	
88			1144	Dvr APC & patrol comd KIA.	
89			1154	CO in contact area briefing troops.	
90			1205	A Bty (PAMELA) - Now infantry GR555927.	
91			1233	Inf elms sweeping contact area.	
92			1423	Airstrike GR404902 - NFI	
93			1440	SAS insertion Ptl 31 GR368919. 155s CHERIE lay on - EM 1510.	
94			1500	105 PAMELA adjusted on bunkers 406900 ZT2215. 155 CHERIE ZT2216.	
95			1506	Contact: Elms A Sqn 3 Cav in contact with GR415895. Mine incident - RPG Fire. 1 Aust WIA - 105 PAMELA laid on.	
96			1506	CHERIE not aval SAS insertion - engaging GR406900 - ZT 2216	

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· COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.

12 Fd Reg AA

MC	ONTH and YEAR	JUN 71		REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col B R TX	OPFER
Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(a)	(P)	(c)	(d)	(e)	· (f)
97		12	1535	Check Fire ordered on 406902 by ATF CP. 1542 - Cancel check firing.	
98			1555	EM 155 CHERIE - air strike TOT 1610 from N 7000' 4092 JADE 02 controlling.	
99			2120	BC C Bty 5/42 reports poss booby trap 75m SW of CHERIE. Trip flare in stack.	
				Passed to engrs.	
100			2325	Movement of guns: A Bty Sect PAMELA to NUI DAT 13 Jun AM	
				Sect PAMELA to NUI DAT 14 Jun PM	***************************************
				104 Bty Sect NUI DAT to JANE 13 Jun PM	
				Sect TRISH to new loc 15 Jun. Probably C Bty out when	
				D Coy 4RAR have destroyed bunker system.	
101			2335	D Coy 4RAR are to move to area of SAS21 and 25 to assist in destruction of	
				bunkers. When and if they are out of range to TRISH (eg when TRISH is vacated))
				FO is to use CHERIE for support.	
102		13	1025	Airstrike on GR406900 suspected bunker system. EM 1045 hrs. Results unk.	
103			1229	Sect A Bty ready theatre grid NUI DAT	
104			1352	C Coy 4RAR in contact 425860 - Sect A Bty (PAMELA) allotted. Results sighted	
				are en sentry engaged. En withdrew SW.	
105			1312	Movt of guns; Further to Ser 100:	
				1. PAMELA to be abandoned by road PM 14 Jun. Bulldozer transporter to be	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt RAA

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
105	(Cont)	13		left at JANE en route to NUI DAT.	
				2. Sect 104 Bty to move from TRISH to MARY (Vic 455881) by air AM 15 Jun to	
				incl dezer now at TRISH.	
				3. JANE to be abandoned 15 Jun - time to be notified by BC - Sect 104 Bty	
				to move NUI DAT to MARY.	
				4. CHERIE - no move before 16 Jun.	
			1550	Sect 104 Bty ready theatre grid - JANE.	
107			1730	C Coy 4RAR in contact GR4285. Saw 1 en approach from SW. Fired - Results:	
				1 NVA KIA (BC) 1 x AK47 CIA.	
108			2020	Arty Tac (Rear) to assume control of reaf net by 141000H.	
109		14	0945	AO for FSB MARY E445 to 465, N87 to 89.	
110		14	1347	A Bty complete NUI DAT ready theatre grid.	
111			1510	81mm mors - 3RAR new lee PAMELA.	
112			1527	104 Bty Mevements: 1. Move by air TRISH to MARY should be complete by	
				151030Н。	
				2. Move by road JANE to MARY will start as soon as Sect	
				is in action at MARY - should be complete by midday.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION....

12 Fd Regt AA

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
113		14	1530	A Bty stand down. One Sect is to stand down tonight 14 Jun.	
114		15	0001	Freq change to 58.45 MC - immediately drowned out by TF Comd Net on 58.90MC.	
				Changed to alternate freq of 54.20	
115			0845	JANE cleared on GR414851 possible contact. 5 en seen moving W away from	
				C Coy 4RAR loc - nil results.	
116			0930	20A 104 Bty ready Bty Grid 454878 (MARY).	
117			1010	Ammo default on Fuze Lot MA18-98, MA18-99 and MA10-1 sent to Capt Knox.	
				104 Bty at JANE fired 20 blinds last ni about 1700 hrs.	
118			1350	104 Bty complete at MARY GR454878 ready on Theatre Grid.	
119			1600	Airstrike tgts for "Free Airstrikes" will be cleared daily for ground by CP	
				and requested for air clearances when required. Tgts 15/5 GR565830;	
				15/4 GR748779.	
120			2120	C/S40 (C Bty) reported a VC sighting at 342925 - 100 pers sensor reading.	
		***************************************		Clearances obtained. Allotted 9 rds FFE. B/C engaged at 2300/0600.	
121		16	1120	Unidentified ac in grid565633. Advice received from Sector - Air call could	
				not contact ac - not known by KANGA or JADE. CH47 sent to look in gen area -	
				ac had left - established to be a jet and dropped HE bombs - nil casualties.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt R.

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
122		16	2020	Sensor String 21 activated GR380689. 3 pers mov East A Bty fired on	
				GR385690. Further activation String 21 @ 2036 hrs.	
123			2136	Further activations String 21 GR385640. Fire Mission ordered A Bty on above	
				grid and on grid 377687 - total rds expended 33.	
124		17	0845	C Coy 4RAR in contact at GR436844, 6 en engaged - withdrew N.	
125			1004	B Coy 4RAR in contact again at GR437844- results 1 en KIA.	
126			1427	C Bty 5/42 depart FSB CHERIE.	
127			1600	C Bty - ready NUI DAT.	
128			1840	B Coy 4RAR in contact GR418894 - 104 Bty cleared on GR422899 contact msn	
				engaged - 2 en sighted. Results 1 KIA, 1 WIA (Poss) 1 AK47 CIA.	
129			1900	B Coy 4RAR contact: 5 - 10 VC sighted. Results 1 KIA (dragmarks), 1 AK47 CIA,	
			*	1 pack 50 lbs rice.	
130		18	0905	C Coy 4RAR contact GR414844 - 4/6 VC engaged 104 Bty MARY engaging - EM 0930,	
				Nil results.	
131			0930	104 Bty lay on SAS Ptl 31 extraction.	
132			1123	C Coy 4RAR contact GR432841 - 104 Bty cleared to fire GR432849 - 3 en	
				centacted. 1 bunker found - now probably camp not bunker. NFI.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION...

12 Fd Regt __A

MC	NTH and YEAR	JUN 7	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)
133		18	1400	SAS Ptl 14 extracted 1500 hrs - 104 Bty lay on GR509922 - Tgt No ZQ2009.	
134		19	0900	SAS lay on msn GR410911 - 104 Bty. Timings 0900 - 0930 and 0930 - 1000.	
				EM 1030 hrs.	
135			1433	Contact msn from MARY GR415835 EM without being fired? Friendly contact	
				no cas.	
136		20	1015	SSZ for RAAF FO Trg & LZ prep for SAS E31 - 33, N69 - 72 ASAP - 1200. Cleared	
				by CP 4RAR.	
137			1300	Lay on SAS 319693. 1330 - 1400 104 Bty.	
138			1636	Fire Plan MIKI MOTO H Hour not before 210800. LZ prep GR345711.	
				Ammo 100 x 105mm, 50 x 155mm. Regt Net to be used by FOs.	
139			1800	C Bty will be at priority call 4RAR - 210830 to EM. BC 104 Bty to call for	
				C Bty or A Bty fire on Regt Net.	
140			1900	C Coy 4RAR contact - 4VC sighted GR436742. Engaged - nil results.	
141		21	0850	Sect A Bty depart NUI DAT for FSB ZIGGIE GR611811.	
142			0930	Sect A Bty ready ZIGGIE Theatre Grid.	
143			0945	Dustoff FSB MARY - Gnr C R ROBINSON accidently wounded while on listening	
				patrol. Wounded right shoulder and chin - wpn M16 owned by Lbdr TRIFFETT.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt A

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
143	(Cont)	21		Robinson evacuated to 1 Aust Fd Hosp - condition serious. (Note: Gnr ROBINSON	
				was Medevaced to Aust 28 Jun 71).	
144			1840	Contact B Coy 4RAR 3 en approached from S - nil results.	
145			2235	A Sqn 3 Cav Regt contact GR442940. 105mm (104 Bty MARY) Illum GR436940.	
				Results 6VC KIA, 1VC WIA.	
146			2400	104 Bty MARY has expended 25 rds Illum. 78 rds remaining on loc.	
147		22	0025	104 Bty MARY cleared to engage GR452948 Ammo resup 137 rds from A Bty.	
148			0115	Further to Ser 145 Results of contact 12 VC KIA, 1 VC WIA - cease loading	
				0102, EM 0115. 21 packs, 2 AK 47s, 4 KP4s now recovered.	
149			1530	OPDEM to 104 Bty - 200 rds HE.	
150			2200	Comms Control have a 24 hr surveillance on Regt Net.	
151		23	0825	A Bty Sect ZIGGIE laid on msn for SAS (13) GR555997 from 0845 to 0945 - (not	
				fired).	
152			2015	A Sqn 3 Cav found 1 VC wounded at GR436938. VC - Dustoff at 2025.	
153			2215	155mm CARMEN cleared GR473584 and 476576 VC sighting. EM at 2310 hrs.	
154		24	0515	A Bty ND sighting SA explosion and Illum 2700m range 7-OK.Netified 1ARU	
				because patrol at GR433630 contacted person on scooter.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION ...

12 Fd Regt _AA

- 1	NTH and YEAR	JUN		REFERENCE MAP	
Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
155		24	0700	Sect 104 Bty moved from MARY to reoccupy FSB JANE for day only - ready	
				at 0705.	
156			1040	A Bty lay on GR344702 for SAS insert (not fired).	
157			1400	Naval gunfire - on grids 697810,704756, 720726, 680635. EM 1605. HMAS BRISBAL	NE.
158			1537	2 ac reported large explosion in area E54 - 56, N55 - 56. Sector informed -	
				answer: VNs demolition of WP rds.	
159			1640	Ref Ser 157. Air Op observed secondary explosions at GR720726. Probable	
				cause small arms ammo cache.	
160			1652	Ac reports a number of explosions - probably mors in GS4362. No knowledge	
		***************************************		of Arty/Mors active. Sector notified. Suspect HOA LONG or LONG DIEN fired	
				mors without clearance - NFI.	
161			2330	Friendlies in LONG KHANH received incoming Arty near their loc. Was not Aust	
				guns as they were out of range. Check fire passed to XUAN LOC/BIN HOA. Check	
				fire eventually cancelled. Late report: Inf CP advised guns were US Arty.	
162		25	0130	End of Mission Naval Gunfire. Ammo expenditure 15 rds A&I.	
163	•••••	*******************	0900	A Bty air request for calibration of eqpt from ND to ZIGGIE at 260800 hrs.	
		***************************************		1000 hrs calibration postponed - machine unserviceable.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION ...

12 Fd R

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Re	gt	h	
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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
163		25	1155	V Coy 4RAR contact grid square 4285 105mm MARY on grid 425851 - Dustoff on	
				standby - Bushranger sp requested. 2Pl now receiving heavy MG fire both	
				sides - 2NZ WIA - elms C Sqn 1 Armd Regt moving to area.	
164			1210	V Coy 4RAR new requested more Bushranger and Cobra sp. En closed up on	
				2Pl. Arty now in to 200m. 3 NZ WIA.	
165			1330	81mm mors from 420 - 824 into GR420850 in sp of contact.	
166	.,		1335	C Sqn 1 Armd elms now in area - bunker system.	
167		*******************	1520	CS in area of contact - source unk - ammo resup 720 HE to MARY.	
168			1700	Arty sp of contact at GR408783:	
				1. 81mm loc GR420824 engaged 408788	
				2. 105mm MARY engaged 410853	
				3. 105 & 81mm engaged 420850, 417845, 415845.	
169		25	2132	104 Bty (MARY) active on GR423851 - NFI.	
170			2202	104 Bty (MARY) active on GR438858 - EM 2205.	
171			2230	Ammo resup 610 rds to move to MARY - AM 26th.	
172		26	0655	Route 15 cleared. Culvert blown at GR253719, 1/3rd bitumen blown away.	
				crater 2m deep 10 - 15m wide. US pers there now.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION....

12 Fd Reg RAA

MC	ONTH and YEAR	JUN	71	REFERENCE MAP	TOPFER
Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(A)	(e)	(f)
173		26	0725	Ref Ser 171 Ammo resup arrived FSB MARY.	
174			1206	Sitrep from BC 104 Bty. Tank elms moving into extensive bunker system	
				GR417843. Have found communications wire. Starting to sweep S. Have also	
				found cooking gear.	
175			1256	Further sitrep BC 104 Bty 1Pl V Coy has heard digging. Found 2 bodies and	
				many tracks leading S.	
176			1352	Ammo resup - 560 rds - to MARY.	
177			1400	C Coy 4RAR to be airlifted to GR408858.	
178			1452	Bushranger A19 engaging GR417843. 2.75" rockets.	
179		27	0030	Naval gunfire 01 Jul - 31 Jul 71 - MR3.	
				1. USS BUCKLEY 01 - 03 5"/38 guns	
				2. USS BRINKLY BASS 11 - 14 5"/38 guns	
				3. USS RUPETUS 18 - 21 5"/38 guns	
				4. USS TUCKER 27 - 29 5"/38 guns	
				NGFLO requires dates aval for 1ATF.	
180			1330	104 Bty MARY Lay On GR513929 for SAS insertion. EM 1420 (not fired).	
181			1600	Sect 104 Bty moving to GS 4376 convoy leaving NUI DAT first light 28 Jun.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION...

12 Fd Regt __A

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
182		27	1930	VC sighting GR446556 - 81mm mors engaging from Mike Strike Force.	
183		28	0800	LFT and 105 (A Bty ND) lay on Grid 3773 for JWTC insertion (fired).	
184			0900	Sect 104 Bty ready Sect Grid 43807653, FSB MAUREEN (C/S20) alt 100m	
				frontage 50m.	
185		***************************************	1424	V Coy 4RAR has found track system used in last 24 hrs by 10 - 15 pers -	
				indications are they are carrying wounded - GR4285.	
186			1600	FSB MAUREEN Ready Theatre Grid.	
187			1850	3 Aust injured by mor rd impacting GR552705. C Bty NUI DAT laid on - mors	
				found to be friendly 1903EM - 155mm.	
188			2015	Sect 104 MAUREEN wants auth to fire 150 rds - refers Ser 185.	
189			2112	DUC THANH requested continuous illum GR455748 MAL GR471734. Sect 104 Bty	
				MAUREEN given Fire Msn 1G - 9 rds illum. EM2128 hrs.	
190		29	0112	3Pl V Coy 4RAR contact. Sentry engaged small gp of en. En returned fire.	
				81mm MARY engaging GR438858.	
191			0139	8/10 en - sentry's claymores malfunctioned - used M60s - sweep not conducted	
				due to high grass. Sweep in AM. Mors continuing fire on cut-off routes.	
				EM 0145 hrs.	

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.

12 Fd Regt

Lt Col B R TOPFED

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N						
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)						
192		29	2100	104 Sect (MARY) fired illum in sp contact C Coy 4RAR GR418830 continuou	s illum						
				30 secs.							
193		30	0509	Sp Coy 4RAR in contact GR437872 - heard movt to N and engaged claymores	and						
		***************************************		MG also heard movt S & W. Suspect 2/3 en. Sweep to be conducted first 1	ight.						
194		30	1620	Sect 104 Bty MARY Lay On GR390925 for SAS(Ptl 35) extraction 1700 hrs.							
195			1820	Possum A23 observed 2 explosions in bunker area from 105mm fired out of							
				MARY. BC requested additional rds - 30 granted. Total rds fired 69HE 3WP.							
				AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE 25 May - 24 Jun 71							
				105mm HE 5556							
				105mm WP 157							
				105mm ILLUM 352							
			*								
	Marian Parks W. Ig										

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COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 12 Fd Regt

erial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information			
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)		
		2-3Jun71		The following is a list of visitors to 12 Fd Regt during the month of June 71. Dr R.J. O'Neill accompanied by Lt Col R.F. Morrison. Visit was for discussion on Commanders War Diary.			
		20-21 Jun 71		Lt Col R. Barrett ADEME - visit to 12 Fd Regt LAD. Met by Capt John Mordike.			
		24Jun71		Visit by Minister of Army - The Honorable Andrew S Peacock and Party. Party			
				had discussion with CO and visited FSB ZIGGIE, Courtney Hill - met BC 104 Bty			
1				Maj K F Towning. Bdr F.C. Hegerty (104 Bty) met his father-in-law, Secretary			
				for Army Mr B. White. The Party also visited Arty Tac.			
		25 Jun71	*	Col Hofferman US Army - CO 23rd Arty Gp. Discussion with CO and Bty Comd			

Commander's Drang @

12 Fd Regt RAA NUI DAT SVN

23 Jun 71

See Distribution List

ON OPERATION OVERLORD 5 - 14 JUN 71

Introduction

- 1. Op Overlord was the first opportunity that 12 Fd Regt had to operate as a unit with all guns in range of most targets. The lessons learned are mostly a reiteration of established drills which have fallen into disuse due to their nature, and pace of operations up to 5 Jun 71.
- 2. In the following paragraphs a number of suggested remedial measures are mentioned. It is intended to implement these with separate instructions at the appropriate time.

Communications

- Op Overlord required the Task Force to be split into two elements; those directly concerned with the operation and the remainder or rear element. It was found impracticable to have all artillery sub-stations on one net and the Regimental Command Net was split on the evening of 5 Jun. In future TF operations, the regimental net should be split as soon as TF Main HQ and with it Arty Tac Main, are operating. A code word will be required for the change.
- Due to the proximity of nets, there were many occassions when frequencies had to be changed to prevent 'breaking-in.' It is important therefore that control be exercised over the allocation and changing of frequencies. It is proposed to implement the following plan starting with SOIs for July
 - a. Frequencies will be allocated for the following nets:
 - (1) Regimental Command
 - (2) Regimental Air/Ground
 - (3) Battery Command
 - (4) Battery Shooting
 - (5) LAD
 - (6) Survey
 - (7) Nui Dat Arty (AASWCC)
 - (8) Defence (Nui Dat)
 - (9) Spare. All the remaining frequencies allocated to the Regiment.
 - b. All requests for frequency changes will be made to Arty Tac where a complete list of frequency allocation is to be maintained.

- c. When making up SOIs, the Signals Supervisor should allocate frequencies to avoid, as far as possible, clashes with other nets. This applies particularly in the case of gun batteries and battalions, and the Supervisor will have to liaise with battalion signals officers to achieve the best allocation.
- on 12 Jun 71, A Sqn 3 Cav and B Coy 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) moved to support the contact by D & E Pl west of Courtenay Hill. The result was a deterioration in the net because sub-stations west of the hill could not hear those to the east. It was necessary to impose Directed Net conditions. It was apparent that no operators including those at Arty Tac were familiar with the drill which is set out in Signals Training (All Arms) Pamphlet 7. All operators must be familiar with the contents of this publication.
- 6. In the situation in para 5, six FOs including two MFCs joined the regimental net. This led to further confusion. Arty Tac should have allotted a frequency to the FO with the commander of the ground troops for use as an 'internal' net for the FOs in the area. As far as is practicable, this will happen in the future.
- 7. A direction was issued by TF Sig Sqn on the correct method of transmitting encoded grid references. The format excludes the word "Shack" but includes the words "I set." The form of transmitting encoded grid references will be:

"I set Alpha bravo (short break) charlie delta echo (short break) foxtrot golf hotel."

Defensive Fire Targets

Op Overlord was the first occassion on which all the guns in support of the Task Force were able to engage all DF targets. To achieve the desired circulation of target information, all DF targets should be given regimental (ZT) numbers and the information circulated, by the originating battery commander, to all fire units within range as well as to Arty Tac and other BCs. The originator can specify the units he wants or does not want to engage if he so desires for safety reasons.

Ammunition

- 9. The system of twice daily ammunition returns proved inadequate on 6 7 June. If ammunition expenditure has been, or is anticipated to be, heavy it is important that holdings are known by the CO and the 2IC for the planning of resupply. To this end, GPOs must be prepared to submit accurate ammunition returns to Arty Tac at five minutes notice.
- 10. It became apparent during the operation that the system of ammunition accounting at the gun positions is inadequate. If GPOs are to meet the requirement stated in para 9 above, they must ensure that accurate records of expenditure and receipt are maintained both at battery/section level and at the gun detachment level, regardless of the pressures of events at the time.

Clearances

11. The safety distances stipulated in 1 ATF SOPs closer than which opening rounds will not be directed to friendly troops, include two elements. The first allows for inherent weapon errors and danger area.

- The second allows for map inaccuracy and errors in the declared coordinates of riendly troops. This second element accounts for a distance of approximately 400 metres within the 1000 metre rule. It can safely be ignored in the case of:
 - a. Fixed installations such as fire support bases and
 - b. troops occupying a clearly defined line such as a stream or road or remaining in a positively fixed location.

An amendment may be made to 1 ATF SOPs which will allow fore flexibility in the application of the 1000/1500 metres rule. This will be subject to direction by the Comd 1 ATF.

Danger Close Procedure

- 12. Similarly flexibility could be authorised for the application of Danger Close procedure. In the case of heavy contact, it is considered that the FO should adjust for fire onto the target as quickly as possible rather than use the lengthy Danger Close procedure. The latter guarantees minimum risk to own troops, and in the case specified above, it is considered that greater risk from friendly artillery is justified.
- 13. On the other hand, it does not seem justifiable to ignore the procedure when not in contact and adjusting DF targets, or when a contact involves one or two enemy only. In these cases, when the danger to own troops from enemy is small or nil, an increase in hazard from friendly artillery would not seem to be justified.

Liaison

14. The concept of operations involved problems of liaison to ensure that friendly troops did not clash. These problems involved the artillery no less than ground troops. They reached their peak towards the end of the operation when all three battalions were in very close proximity. In future operations of this nature, it will be advisable for the Regiment to send an LO to the allied ground troops location that contains guns in range. This LO could then smooth the progress of clearance for artillery fire. However battery commanders must obviously take into consideration the positions of other friendly troops when coordinating the DF requests of their battalion.

Illumination Malfunction

15. The inherent inaccuracy of predicting the illumination shell malfunction grid was revealed on one occassion. A malfunction grid was cleared which was 800m away from another FSB. When the illumination was fired, its carrier was received at that FSB. Battery Commanders should be particularly careful in clearing malfunction grids when there are troops on the line of fire. For information, the criterion stipulated by a US directive is 1000m around the grid of malfunction.

Arty Tac (Forward Only)

16. It is advisable for eight extra men to be taken on deployment. This is to allow for the setting up and working of the HQ concurrently with the preparation of defensive works. These men should be returned to Nui Dat on about D plus two. A list of the personnel essential to the manning and the availability of soldiers for local defence is:

15

a. CP Manning

CO 1
BC HQ Bty 1
Duty Officers 2
Admin/Sigs Sgt 1
Sigs 4
Clerks 4

Batmen

b. Available for Manning Local Defence Gun Post

TOTAL

Sig		1
Clerk		1
Batmen		2
Sgt		1
	TOTAL	5

- 17. When the HQ deploys by ACV, the vehicle should be set up for operations before it leaves Nui Dat. On arrival at the forward location, it should become an operating Arty Tac HQ just by the unloading of loose stores. The HQ would then be operating whilst any more elaborate structure is erected.
- 18. Arty Tac must be prepared to monitor all nets in the Regiment, though not more than two simultaneously.
- 19. Arty Tac must receive ammunition returns at the scheduled times and therefore the air/ground net must be manned at those times. This will allow the CO to issue orders for ammunition resupply based on the best current information.

(B.R. TOPFER)

Lt Col

Distribution

HQ 1 ATF (6)

Internal	For Information
2IC	CO
Adjt	
QM	
RSM HO Pt DC	
HQ Bty BC BSM	
BQMS	
Sigs Super	
FO (2)	
Arty Tac	
A Fd Bty (6)	
104 Fd Bty(6)	
131 Div Loc Bty	
Commanders Diary (2)	
Spare (5)	
File	

OPERATION OVERLORD

The Intelligence Staff had gathered enough information to pin point a large enemy training camp in an area about two miles north of the Phuoc Tuy Province boundary near the Courtenay rubber plantation. The target was sufficiently large for the Task Force Commander to plan a three battalion operation, the third battalion to be "borrowed" from out neighbors the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division. It was the first task force sized operation for a long time and a lot of the drills were rusty or unknown.

The plan for Operation Overlord was one of cordon and search. The cordon was to be placed along the Suoi Luc and Suoi Ran Rivers and the searching party were to sweep the area in between. Fourth Battalion RAR/NZ (ANZAC), 2nd/8th US Battalion and most of A Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment were to form the cordon. Third Battalion RAR, most of C Squadron, 1 Armoured Regiment and elements of the cavalry squadron were to sweep the area. For the first time for many months Task Force Headquarters was to be established atop of Courtenay Hill which, at the time of planning, was conveniently occupied by the Defence and Employment (D&E) Platoon of HQ 1 ATF.

The artillery plan involved the establishment of three new fire support bases (FSB). 'A' Battery combined their sections at FSB Ziggie and Nui Dat to form a new base called Pamela just to the west of the main target area. 104 Battery moved a section from Nui Dat to FSB Trish to the south of the area. C Battery of 5/42 US Artillery Battalion moved half of its howitzers from Nui Dat to FSB Cherie just next to Task Force HQ. For once in a while all our guns less three at Nui Dat could engage the same targets; Regimental fire missions were a possibility.

An important ingredient for success was the achievement of surprise. To achieve the surprise required, the forces involved were to be inserted simultaneously into their places on the cordon and the start line for the search. The movement plan to meet this requirement was complicated, especially the air element. It was planned to move four Australian infantry companies and two sections of artillery by air; the Americans from 3rd Brigade planned their own move involving three more infantry companies. Altogether, eighteen Iroquois and four Chinook were used, and they took two hours to complete their mission except the move of defence stores. The move of men and guns by vehicle and on foot had been timed to coordinate with the helicopter lifts.

D Day was the 5th of June, just one day short of twenty seven years since Allied Forces landed on the Normandy Beaches in the original Operation Overlord. By 0945 hours all troops were in position and by 1200 hours the control of the operation was assumed by the forward Task Force Headquarters and with it, Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac) at Courtenay Hill. As soon as the 3RAR and their supporting armoured and cavalry elements started to search, they found evidence of considerable enemy activity. It was not, however until the evening of the 6th of June (D+1) that the first sizeable contact was made and this turned out to be the prelude to the major action of the operation.

Number 5 Platoon of C Company 3RAR, with LBdr Peter Maher and Gnr Guy Kelly providing their artillery observation, contacted the main enemy bunker system from the south-west at about five o'clock in the evening. After the initial contact, the platoon was withdrawn sufficiently to allow the position to be struck by all available artillery. Two plans were fired, at 2200 hours and at 0400 hours on the 7th of June, using a total of 700 rounds of 105mm and 150 rounds of 155mm shelld. The following morning, after a preliminary artillery engagement at first light, 5 Platoon moved towards the bunker system and soon received casualties from unseen riflemen.

LBdr Maher now proceeded to direct the fire of A Battery and subsequently 104 Battery very close to 5 Platoon, whilst the remainder of the company closed up to reinforce the platoon. In the ensuing fire fight more casualties were received by 5 Platoon, a Helicopter on a resupply and dustoff mission was shot down and 2Lt Ian Mathers, the FO with B Coy was shot and killed. Gnr Kelly played a prominent part in recovery of the dead and wounded. In the former category were the pilot and a crewman from the crashed helicopter.

Whilst B Company was engaged in the south-west, two troops of tanks and another company of 3RAR in APCs was moving to their assistance from the north. Here the action started with number 5 Troop of C Squadron. The troop had been in an ambush position overnight. Very soon after they started to move south, they were engaged by B40 rockets from bunkers at the north end of the system. In the skirmish that followed, the troop fired 38 cannister rounds, five armour piercing rounds and about 6000 rounds from their machine guns. They were able to claim two enemy killed by body count, but better, they demolished five bunkers by fire and driving over them which probably accounted for more enemy losses. At the closing stages of this battle, the troop was joined by number 3 Troop and later by D Company of 3RAR. Together, these three elements swept through the bunker system whilst Capt Ian Yerbury, the FO with D Company, provided the artillery support to the east flank.

The results of the action were a rather distressing three dead and twelve wounded on the debit side; on the credit side, we had dislodged the enemy from a complex 47-bunker system, killing at least three by body count and more by burying in the five bunkers to the north. Helicopter gunships and artillery had been used extensively although the very thick canopy prevented good observation of the targets. Later evidence suggets that the enemy suffered more casualties than were at first evident.

The action of the 6th and 7th of June achieved the main aim of Operation Overlord. The search by 3RAR continued for another five days but there were no further significant results. Action flared briefly on the 12th June when the D and E Platoon was ambushed whilst on an MPC-mounted patrol to the west of Task Force Headquarters. A box of claymores on top of an APC was hit by a B4O rocket, resulting in seven men being killed and the carrier damaged requiring extensive repair. The ambush was followed by a heavy fire fight involving APCs, infantry, helicopter gunships and an airstrike with napalm by F1OO fighters. There was little to show for the ammunition used except evidence that the enemy was active in that area. As a result, 4RAR and SAS patrols were left in that neck of the woods when the operation was officially declared to be at an end.

And this declaration was made on the 13th of June. The next day the troops gathered for Operation Overlord started to disperse to their more normal areas of interest. Was the operation a success? Yes. The enemy consisting mainly of the 3rd Battalion of 33rd NVA Regiment and D445 VC Local Force Battalion had established a large training camp in which they were preparing for attacks on towns, villages and military posts in Phuoc Tuy province. Their plans had been severely upset and they had been denied a haven for training and reinforcing.

OP - OVERLORD

Subject: Contact 7 Jun 71 - Notes for Comd's Diary.

- 1. At approx 06 1800 Jun, 5 Pl B Coy heard voices and saw signs of bunkers approximately 40 metres from them. Being so late, they withdrew some 200 metres and adjusted Sect A Bty onto the camp area. At this time two enemy were seen briefly as they fled South West from the camp.
- 2. The following morning at 0600 hrs, 5 Pl moved forward to the camp site with A Bty firing in front of them as they moved. At 0645 hrs, they came into heavy contact at a range of 15 metres.
- 3. Lbdr Maher, the FO Asst with 5 Pl used the fire already being employed and brought it in to 100 150 metres. Sect 104 Bty and Sect mors 3 RAR were also employed to the North and East of the contact area at ranges of 2 300 metres.
- 4. The remainder of B Coy, who originally were approx 1000 metres South West of the contact area closed up and linked up with 5 Pl at approx 0900 hrs. At this time FO B Coy, 2 Lt Ian Mathers moved forward to 5 Pl, and sent Lbdr Maher back to CHQ. The contact continued firing with heavy enemy fire being received from 4 main bunker sites, wounding a number of B Coy pers.
- 5. At approx 0945, 2 Lt Mathers was hit by en SA stree and DOW about 15 minutes later.
- The contact continued with Lbdr Maher once again controlling the fire.

 At approx 1030 hrs, Sect C Bty 5/42 Arty (155 men) were employed as well to the N,

 NE and E of the contact area. Their fire was adjusted to 400 metres.
- 7. Lbdr Maher continued to employ fire, coord this with continuous helicopter gunship strikes and keeping fire on the enemy at all times. The only time
 fire was stopped was toallow casevac helicopters to approach the area to remove wounded.
- 8. During the contact, an RAAF helicopter on an ammo resup task to B Coy, was shot down by en fire, causing 2 RAAF KIA, and the ac to be destroyed by fire.
- 9. D Coy with elims of B Sqn 1 Armd Regt and A Sqn 3 Cav Regt moved to the NW of the contact area, with the intent of sweeping through the comp area from the Western flank. A Bty guns were adjusted in front of them by the FO Capt Ian Yerbury and they moved into the area, almost immediately to run into contact approx 350 metres from 5 Pl.
- 10. Fire was continued and at approx 1500 contact was broken as D Coy swept thru the bunker complex.to link up with B Coy.
- 11. Ian Mathers was killed doing the job he had wanted to do and for which he had volunteered some 2½ months before. His assistant Lbdr "Blue" Maher did an outstanding job for approx 9 hrs maintaining heavy indiect fire sp upon the enemy as well as coord this with gunship sp. His sig, Gnr Gus Kelly also did an excellent job caring for B Coy wounded and removing them under fire.
- 12. During the contact A Bty fired over 1000 rounds, 104 Bty over 400, and the 155s 175. As well 3 RAR mors fired 350 rounds. The Regt did an excellent job in resupplying the ammo during the contact both by road and air.

(A.P. Williams)
Maj
BC A Bty
6 Jul 71

RAP 12 Fd Regt RAA NUI DAT SVN

Jul 71

See Distribution List

MONTHLY SICK REPORT MONTH ENDING JUNE 1971

	-	-		-					
	HQ	A	104	LAD	131	3 Cav	17 Const	1 Fd Sqn	1 Armd
MALARIA	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
GASTRO-INTESTINAL	2	4	Nil	Nil	1.	. 5:	12	10	2
EYE AND EAR	4	8	1	Nil	Nil	5	7	8	6
NOSE & THROAT	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	1	11	6	2
SKIN	5	3	5	1	2	17	21	26	16
PUO	Nil	. 1	1	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil
PSYCHIATRIC	2	Nil	Kil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
SURGICAL	1	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	5	2	4	4
OTHER MEDICAL	4	1	1	Nil	4	2	9	8	10
INJURIES	6	1	5	3	2	13	10	. 4	1
RESPIRATORY	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11	8	Nil
TOTAL	25	19	16	4	9	50	84	74	43
GONORRHOEA	1	NIL	NIL		NIL				
NSU	4	3	4	1					
OTHERS	NIV	NIL	1	NIL	NIL				

RMO COMMENTS:

Nil

(I.J. ISAACS) $C\varepsilon_1 t$ RMO

Distribution:

HQ 1 ATF (for SMO) (for ADMS) HQ AFV CO 2IC

HQ Bty A Fd Bty 104 Fd Bty Det 131 Div Loc Bty 1 Armd Regt LAD 12 Fd Regt

3 Cav Regt 17 Const Sqn 1 Fd Sqn Commander's Diary File

RMO