

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Headquarters units

Item number: 1/5/2

Item: 1 Australian Logistic Support
Company

Narrative

Annexes

[3 May - 7 Jun 1965]

AWM 25

1/5/may 65

PART 1

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. CR 707:2:1

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

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

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature)

Appointment

OC IALSC (unit now disbanded)
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965**SECRET**~~ORIGINAL~~
DUPLICATEStrike out where
not applicable**COMMANDERS DIARY**

OF

Unit or Formation 1 AUST LOG SP COYFrom 3 May 65 To 13 May 66**INDEX**

Narrative (AF C 2118)

ANNEXES

- * A Duty officer's log
- * B Messages connected with log
- C Operation orders and instructions issued
- D Operation orders and instructions received
- * E Sitreps issued
- F Orders of battle and location reports issued
- G Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made
- H Administrative orders and instructions issued
- I Administrative orders and instructions received
- J Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns
- * K Standing orders issued
- L Commander's policy and demi-official letters
- M Action reports (if required)
- N Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units
- O Periodical summaries of operations
- Z Top Secret Supplementary Diary

Enclosure Numbers

.....	to
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† NIL
 † RETAINED
 † Despatched to

on.....

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

PART 3

COMMANDERS DIARIES INSTRUCTIONS

AIM

1. The aim of a Commanders Diary is to provide data on which to base future improvements in Army training, equipment, organization and administration, and to furnish historians with a record of the activities of units and formations in operational and non-operational periods in peace and in war.

GENERAL

2. Entries are to be made daily on AF C 2118 (Adapted) each entry being initialled by the officer detailed to keep it.
3. Commanders Diaries will conform with the rules for drafting orders given in "Staff Duties (Australia)", Chapter 2, Section 12.

RESPONSIBILITY

During Non-operational Periods

4. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled by commanders of all formations.

During Operational Periods (1)

5. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled in duplicate by:
 - a. Commanders of all formations.
 - b. Each branch of the staff at formation headquarters commanded by a brigadier or above.
 - c. Heads of services not below the rank of lieutenant colonel.
 - d. Personal staffs and officers holding special appointments.
 - e. Unit commanders.
 - f. Commanders of a detachment of a unit when so ordered.

COMPILATION

6. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:
 - a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
 - b. Index as printed on cover.
 - c. Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
 - d. Annexes as shown in the Index.
7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be shown on the cover. If there has been a change of command since the last report, the date of assumption by the new commanding officer is to be included.
8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown on the cover. If there are no enclosures for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular headquarters, starting at B.

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

EVENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment and orders given. The day's fighting, including company movements. Commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance. Officers, men and equipment. Equipment captured. Employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to be entered on the documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All dates 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)

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.

COMPILATION

1. Each 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.

2. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit) covered and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be given 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.

3. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown on the cover. If there are no annexes for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular heading they may be added.

For operations from Annex "Z" "TOP SECRET" the diary is to be marked and disposed of as follows:

INDEX

as well as map references, equipment, etc.

orders given.

10 day's history, including equipment movements.

annexes with regard to equipment stocks, organization

initial map cases.

officers, men and equipment.

other reports.

employed in the time not accounted for.

and to cover such as much information as possible in the form of a narrative, including all received, marked, received, etc. and the time of receipt or disposal of the diary.

as annexes, but will not give details of any of them.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted)

D.4661/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 3 May 65

To 7 May 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HOLSWORTHY	3 May 65		Adm Offr marched in to concentration area	
HOLSWORTHY	4 May 65		Advance party ex 26 Coy RAASC(GT), N Comd arrived in concentration area. Consisted mainly of key appt pers - 2ic, CQMS, clerks. CSM hospitalised N Comd.	
HOLSWORTHY	5 May 65		S Sgt Clerk GD marched in. Ord Offr marched in, (Offr i/c RAAOC Det attached). OC arrived concentration area.	
HOLSWORTHY	6 May 65		Following offrs arrived, Offr i/c RAEME Det, Dental Offr, RAASC Air Op Offr. Preparation of force DP1 commenced.	
HOLSWORTHY	7 May 65		Air Maint Offr arrived. OC HQ 26 Coy RAASC(GT) arrived ex N Comd with convoy comprising RAASC Tpt elem of coy. Vehs load scaled accn stores based on str of 150. Q Staff commenced submission indents addl 50. LO reported for duty. Advised probale that RAASC elem be deleted from coy est. Med elem to be reduced to str of 4. RAE resources elem deleted. Air eqpt sec deleted. RAAC APC Tp added. RAE Det added.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted)

D.4061/7.45—C.0546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 8 May 65

To 10 May 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HOLSWORTHY	8 May 65		Ord Det allocated task receipt, sorting, packing, branding all stores. Commenced packing, branding accn stores ex 26 Coy RAASC store ac. All indents for TET items submitted - NOT incl RAAC, RAE Dets for which NO TET held. Coy HQ Orderly Room commenced op limited scale. Req for amendment to Coy Est submitted to HQ 1 LSF. Basically request for addl dvr/batman, warehouse eqpt op. Req upgrade CSM from WO2 to WO1. Amend storeman Tech to read Clerk Tech.	
HOLSWORTHY	9 May 65		Visit by Col GS E Comd and AQMG E Comd. They advised that as yet NO firm decision final coy est. NO advice received on est amendment.	
HOLSWORTHY	10 May 65		Liaison visit to CO 1 RAR, Lt Col BLUMFIELD, XXXXXX accompanied by Maj JOSHUA, Maj DEANE, HQ AAFSV and Coy LO, Capt G A QUALL. NO stores received ex 2 BOD by 1430 hrs. 2 BOD giving first pr o to 1 RAR stores.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted)

D.4661/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 10 May 65

To 11 MAY 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HOLSWORTHY	10 May 65	(continued)	NOT yet commenced assembly for issue. Indents to be submitted for cam nets for domestic purposes as well as for vehs etc. Message from 1 LSF return of veh deficiencies and requirements submitted was incorrect according to est. Maj L'ESTELLE stated Est No IV/208/1 issued 30 Apr 65. NO copy this est held HOLSWORTHY. Copy required urgently. Requests for grants to Regt Funds, sporting eqpt and library books fwd to E Comd. Requests for current security clearances fwd HQ E Comd.	
HOLSWORTHY	11 May 65		DP1 check progressing OK. Signal advice received of some amendments requested to draft est. RAEME Rec Elem deleted from Coy. Stores commenced arriving ex 2 BOD. Notified that Engr Scaling being prepared by AHQ. New TET being prepared ETA 13 May. Advised by Comd 1 LSF approval granted for change in 2 i/c appt - Capt PRITCHARD to replace Capt NEENAN. New est IV/208/1 arrived.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.211a
(Adapted)

D.4661/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 12 May 65

To 12 May 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HOLSWORTHY	12 May 65		<p>Visit by AG, Gen HARRISON and GOC 1 Div. 5xtruck load stores ex 2 BOD. Packing progressing satisfactorily. Stores brought down by 26 Coy RAASC all packed. New TET arrived 2000 hrs. Quick comparison existing TET showed deletion of RAAMC and RAASC DETS; incl new Armd and RAE dets. Clerical and Q staff working past midnight in attempt prepare necessary indents for for submission by 0800 hrs Thursday. Deadline 0800 hrs set by E Comd. This does NOT allow sufficient (or any) time to study new TET. Some obvious glaring errors noticed. There are NO filing cabinets or safes on Coy HQ. Ord Det has small quantity. NO Flags National AUSTRALIAN on TET. Greatly reduced in some items due to deletion of RAASC and RAAMC Elems. All Med det stores vouchered by 2 Fd Amb will now be returned. RMO NOT happy with Med est. Has stores holding capability only. NO provision for Med Asst.</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.211b
(Adapted)

D.4661/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 12 May 65

To 14 May 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HOLSWORTHY	12 May 65	(continued)	Also, 2x Trucks $\frac{1}{4}$ ton GS FWSF NOT deleted from est, although NO dvrs provided. All vehs and controlled stores due @x 2 BOD 13 May. With DAQMG HQ AAHSV, OC to attend briefing conference HQ E Comd 1015 hrs 13 May. May get info destination, doc, role etc of coy.	
HOLSWORTHY	13 May 65		Attended briefing conference HQ E Comd. Briefing by Lt Col MARSH. First details of destination, roles, etc. Most questions will be answered by the AHQ Adm Instr which will be issued probably Monday.	
HOLSWORTHY	14 May 65		Requested decision be obtained by HQ 1 LSF on whether to take 1000 jerricans with coy. Appears possible they may have to be filled with DIESO fro use by M113. NO reply received by 1615K. Pre-embarkation leave commenced, mainly for inter-state pers. RAAC Det arrived - to be marched back immediately on 7 days pre-em leave if bookings aval. Stores and vehs still arriving ex 2 BOD.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.211s
(Adapted)

D.4661/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 25 May 65

To 30 May 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
HOLSWORTHY	25 May 65		Recce Party (OC and 4) departed SYDNEY by QANTAS commercial flight - ni 25/26 May SINGAPORE. arrived SAIGON 26 May 65.	
SAIGON	26 May 65		Recce Party arrived SAIGON - met by Col JACKSON, other Aust, US, VIETNAMESE Mil reps - airlifted by Hel to 173 AB Bde.	
BIEN HOA	27 May 65		Visit by Comd AAFV - gen discussion.	
BIEN HOA	29 May 65		Advance Party arrived - moved from Bde HQ to Sp Bn area.	
			Sp Bn consists basically of HQ, HQ Det, Med Coy, Maint Coy, HQ Det Tpt Pool, S&T Coy. Integration commenced immediately-	
			all Ord Pers att to S&T Coy, RAEME pers to Maint Coy, Coy HQ, RAE pers to Sp Bn HQ which is rationed by Med Coy.	
BIEN HOA	30 May 65		Defence: ALSC pers mounted picquet within Sp Bn 2200-0600 hrs.	
			Completed list of initial requirements stores for 1 RAR. Star picquets NOT aval US sources. RAR requirements, wife , sandbags	
			NOT aval this Bde. Demands placed on Log Comd. C130 arrived	
			coy stores - packing and condition good. All stores originally	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.211b
(Adapted)

D.4661/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 30 May 65

To 3 Jun 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	30 May 65	(continued)	manifested NOT on ac - caused by 709 Sig Tp requirement for addl space.	
BIEN HOA	31 May 65		RAR will require refrigeration - none aval.	
BIEN HOA	1 Jun 65		Still NO confirmation aval of def stores.	
BIEN HOA	2 Jun 65		Coy air movt party 2x46 arrived chartered ac SAIGON via MANILA. Qty airlift stores arrived good condition - original	
			qty manifested NOT recd. Items taken off essential stores -	
			result is coy unable op effectively - insufficient tentage.	
			Unable use AUSTRAMAX pressure lamps this area, far too bright.	
			Coy HQ moved to new area with Sp Bn. All aval tentage erected	
			to provide sleeping accn. Five man picquet in liaison with	
			HQ Sp Bn. Case Q docus did NOT arrive.	
BIEN HOA	3 Jun 65		Coy commenced def programme. Initial tasks (i) Type 1 cat wire	
			fence around immediate perimeter (ii) concurrent constr 6	
			man strong point NW corner just inside wire.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.211b
(Adapted)

D.4661/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 3 Jun 65

To 5 Jun 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	3 Jun 65 (continued)		Perimeter closely surrounded dense low scrub six feet outside wire 3 to be cleared when plant aval - Engr Coy	
			173 Bde has NO plact aval Sp Bn. Arranged laundry contract in BIEN HOA thru VIETNAMESE Security Officer on airbase.	
BIEN HOA	4 Jun 65		A Coy 1 RAR arrived - est liaison 1 RAR - NO serious difficulties. With Capt KING discussed engr asst req with CO 1 RAR. Capt QUAIL to SAIGON liaison duties mainly est	
			locs all HQ AAFV installations. Continued Coy def prep -	
			pers NOT acclimatised, hy work extremely slow - frequent breaks to avoid heat exhaustion. One member Coy HQ hospitalised	
			with infected foot. Est liaison Capt JORDAN D Coy 16 Armd	
			ref our APC Tp. Recd copy of trg syllabus from him.	
BIEN HOA	5 Jun 65		All pers instr wear helmet liners until 10 Jun 65 to preserve	
			Hat KF Fur in reasonable condition for parade in SAIGON with	
			1 RAR. Bayonets will be withdrawn all pers 1330 today.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

D.4661/7.45-C.6548

Unit 1st Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 5 Jun 65 To 6 Jun 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	5 Jun 65	(continued)	All pers instr remove AUSTRALIA metal shoulder titles. Figures for first OPDEM/MAINTDEM submitted HQ AAFV for transmission AUST. Requested Sp Bn for info on clearance scrub around perimeter - NO details aval on start. Visit by Lt Col MURPHY and Maj QUEALEY discuss accounting procedures and out of scale items. Requested HQ AAFV assistance on scrub clearance. Requested investigate increase in entitlement of TD 15B dozer and 1x12' grader to allow RAE to op effectively in Sp 1 RAR and ALSC. Requested COMAAAFV give urgent consideration clearance scrub coy perimeter. NO engr asst aval 173 Bde sources. Stated emphatically that area and pers cannot be defended until clearance effected.	
BIEN HOA	6 Jun 65		Visit by Gen WESTMORELAND. Area selected storage engr stores now NOT aval. New area to be allocated. Visit by Lt Col HASSETT RNZ Arty ref NZ Bty and Sp elem. Total str 98.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted)

D.4061/7.45-C.6546

Unit 1 Aust Log Sp Coy

Date and Time.— From 6 Jun 65

To 7 Jun 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	6 Jun 65(continued)		Probable same integration procedures for sp elem (14 pers) as for ALSC. ETA 1 Jul by air, complete with stores. Possible small adv party. Discussion S4 HQ Sp Bn on latrines. Cpts PRITCHARD, QUAIL, to report HQ AAFV 7 Jun for liaison unit pers, vehs, stores on HMAS "SYDNEY" and if possible, move VUNG TAU to meet coy.	
BIEN HOA	7 Jun 65		Cpts PRITCHARD, QUAIL mov to SAIGON liaison HQ AAFV on unloading "SYDNEY" Visit by CO Sp Bn 101 AB Bde - due replace 173 AB Bde 28 Jul65. Recce partol of extent of scrub on Coy perimeter - varies from 130X to 600X in depth. Again req plant to clear this. Accompanied Lt Col STAIGERS, CO Sp Bn air recce of Sp Bn perimeter. Coy 2i/c back from SAIGON, LO remained. They were info all arrangments stores and pers ex "SYDNEY" is US responsibility and NO reqt ALSC reps SAIGON or VUNG TAU.	