

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Royal Australian Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers units

Item number: 14/3/1

Item: 106 Field Workshop

Narrative

Annex

[1-30 Nov 1969]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 707/1/1

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ. CANBERRA
For information: DIME, AHQ, Albert Park Barracks, MELBOURNE, VIC 3004

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

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature)

[Handwritten Signature]

(C. V. L. PALMER)

Maj

Appointment

OC, 106 FD WKSP RAEME (OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Received 7/1/70

SECRET

ORIGINAL

DUPLICATE

Strike out where not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

106 FD WKSP RAEME OF AFPO4 GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

Unit or Formation

From 1 Nov 69

To 30 Nov 69

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

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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

ANNEXES

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

tential importance.
of 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
documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All
and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

the annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)

AWM 95

[14/3/NOV 69]

OWSHS
E Box 47

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

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 company name is used, the name of the parent unit, parent company and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be shown on the cover. If there has been a change of command since the last report, the date of assumption by the new commanding officer is to be shown.

8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups as set out in the cover. If details are to be included in an annex VII, will be referred to the report. If additional annexes are necessary for a particular report, they are to be numbered in the order of their inclusion.

AWM 95

[14/3/NOV 69]

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

106 AF-C2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965
AFPO4
GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

MONTH AND YEAR Nov 1969

REFERENCE MAP South Vietnam YS

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
445666	1	0800	Unit now on 1 ATF ORBAT 1 year. Rec escort TFMA convoy.	
			Rec escort TFMA convoy.	
	2	0700	Rec escort TFMA convoy.	
		0900	Unit Electrical inspection.	
		1000	OO 1 ATF advised Acetylene resupply doubtful. Unit Acetylene requirements advised.	
	3	0800	DCRE electrical and fire inspection - satisfactory. QM liaison 2 ACD.	
		1000	Rec veh unload ammo C Bty 2/35 US Arty.	
		1600	1 ATF Comd conference.	
	4	1000	Discussion bottle analysis Maj Keldie.	
		1100	Rec task 1 Fd Sqdn.	
		1300	ADEME and TF EME conference on EIS.	
		1500	QM Lt Strackan RTA.	
		1830	Unit Offrs conference.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

106 FD WKSF RAEME Revised Jun 1965

UNIT/FORMATION

APPO4

MONTH AND YEAR Nov 1969

REFERENCE MAP South Vietnam YS

COMMANDING OFFICER

GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	5	0700	Rec TEMA convoy.	
		1400	OC Stores Sect Lt J. Clarke, OC 2 Pl Capt Ludlow, March in.	
	6	0900	Unit Veh inspection - Adj. & Pl Cond to rectify PO for Maj Nolan to OC 13 Jan 70 received.	
		1000	Rec assistance 9 RAR.	
	7	0900	Detailed check of backlog. Authorized controlled exchange onalcon Pumps.	
	8	0700	Rec TEMA convoy.	
		1000	DIR APC M113 A1 Tension Bar Bolts. Subject B exemption to be part march out procedure.	
	9	0900	Unit Admin.	
	10	0700	Rec TEMA convoy.	
		1000	Check provisioning Phosphor Bronze.	
		1330	DAG (PS) conference.	
		1630	1 ATF Comd conference.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

106 FD Wksp RAEME

AFPO4

GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

MONTH AND YEAR Nov 1969

REFERENCE MAP South Vietnam YS

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	11	0900	Usage 15 ton tilt Bed Tlr and modifications requirement for Battery Chargers- request 240 Volt input Rectifiers qty 2. Check progress Rice threshing Machine.	
228795	12	1000	Liaison DCRE - request penneprime Wksp reads. Rec APC M113 A1 near THAI THIEN. Rec task - clear cow off road to BARIA.	
	13		Liaison 102 Fd Wksp - RAEME dress, Welding policy, Amin Offr - projector repair, Visit 1 Fd Hosp.	
	14	0800	Sgt Elec Fitter to FSPB Cape	
	15	0900	Check 5 ton Dump Steering Box defect. Discuss possible outscaling pettibone parts 2 AOD. FRT job A 357/69 : Centurion final drive.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
106 FD WKS Revised Jan, 1965
AFPO4
GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

MONTH AND YEAR Nov. 1969

REFERENCE MAP South Vietnam YS

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	16	0700	Rec LONG BINH convoy. Farewell 9 RAR	
	17	0700	Rec FSPB Cape	
		1630	1 ATF Comd conference	
	18	1000	Progress CA projects satisfactory. Rec APC M113 A1 Route 2 - GR not advised.	
	19	1000	EIS Veh inspection.	
	20	0700	Rec HORSESHOE and BA RIA.	
		1000	Policy repair Hitachi Transceivers.	
	21	1000	Acquired 2 x 0.50 in MG - to CRV when repaired. En Wpns to be Regt/Mess property only.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

106 FD WKSP KAEME Revised June 1965

UNIT/FORMATION

AFPO4

MONTH AND YEAR Nov 1969

REFERENCE MAP South Vietnam YS

COMMANDING OFFICER

GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	22	0900	Rec tasked unloading B Sqn 1 Armd Regt, 161 Bty RNZA.	
	23	0700	Move size 0 Dozer for 161 Bty RNZA Inscale high tensile bolts and nyloc nuts.	
	24	0800	Increase Svc Sta to Sgt, Cpl, 2 x Veh mech.	
		0900	Rec tasked to move size 0 Dozer and escort.	
	25	0800	Visit by Lt Col Stuart GSO 1 DMT: Discus trg problems - NCOs, discipline, trade trg.	
		0800	FRT to SP 1 TP B Sqn 1 Armd Regt to 1 Dec.	
	26			
	27		Svc Sta re - equipment to incl additional oil and grease dispensers.	
		2330	FRT 88H contacted en - nil cas - drag marks seen.	
	28	0830	Rec 9 RAR white convoy to VUNG TAU finalise QM Stocktake.	

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

R733-1-3

106 Fd Wksp RAEME
AFPO 4
GPO, Sydney, 2890.

3 Dec 69

1 ATF (4)

MONTHLY REPORT : RAEME

Reference: A. 106 Fd Wksp R733-1-3 of 1 Nov 69.

Introduction

1. A significant increase in workload occurred during the month, particularly in B vehicle repair and fabrication. The increase in the B vehicle repair load is due mainly to improved inspection standards. Technical support for the month increased to 10,031 manhours, and the backlog, although reduced since Oct 69, remains significant due mainly to:

- a. Work in progress : 1900 manhours
- b. Awaiting parts : 771 manhours
- c. Equipment called in but not received : 452 manhours

Forward Repair Team

2. During the night of 27 Nov, whilst supporting 1 Tp B Sqn 1 Armd Regt, Repair Team 88H observed enemy movement and engaged with 5 belts of 0.50 inch MG. The following morning, drag marks were found in the target area.

Special Projects

Pacification

3. The following pacification projects commenced during the month:
- a. Manufacture of trailer - mounted Rice Threshing Machine.
 - b. Manufacture of a further set of playground equipment.

Trailer, Tilt Bed, 15 Ton

4. The draft EMEI for product improvement modifications to the Tilt Bed Trailer was forwarded under R2330-6-1 of 18 Nov 69.

Carrier, M113A1 : Torsion Bar Lever Repair

5. The failure of high tensile bolts securing the Torsion Bar lever to the hull initiated the investigation of a repair technique in which a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch steel plate is welded to the lever and the plate and lever assembly then positioned by bolts to the floor plate of the Carrier. This Carrier is in use and being kept under observation. Should this repair technique prove successful, a draft EMEI will be submitted.

Landrover Transmission Test Jig

6. Defective replacement Landrover Transmissions have been received as overhauled MUA's within the past 6 months. This assembly, at present, can only be tested after fitting to the vehicle. Due to the time required to remove and replace, the design of a simple Transmission Test Jig is being considered, and, if successful, will be submitted as a suggestion.

Power Supply for HQ ACV


7. The ACV power supply project is complete except for the refitting of a Rectifier found faulty during test. The completed equipment has been issued to the user for evaluation and formal acceptance.

Helicopter Load Baskets

8. The manufacture of a third helicopter suspended load basket has commenced. The need for a formal AHQ project on this type of requirement was recommended under 106 Fd Wksp R1670-1-1 of 24 Feb 69.

Conclusion

9. Despite maximum productive effort during Nov 69, reduction of the backlog to a more acceptable level has been impossible due to the continuous influx of further work. A survey of the previous year's operation shows that the maximum production which can be expected from this unit under ideal conditions for any extended period varies between 8,000 and 10,000 manhours, depending upon defence and administrative commitments. Although some delays are inevitable, all work having any priority has been completed on schedule.


(C.V.L. Palmer)
Maj
OC

Annexures: A. Production.
B. Personnel.

Internal: OC
Wksp Offr
1 Pl
2 Pl
Stores Sect
File

PRODUCTION

PART 1 - JOB SUMMARY

Item	A Veh	B Veh	FL	C Veh	Elec	GE	SA	Inst	Tels	Totals
Jobs B/F	2	18	Nil	Nil	12	17	44	23	23	139
Jobs Rd	25	49	3	1	72	169	92	134	169	714
Jobs Cd	20	52	3	Nil	65	178	110	152	188	768
Jobs C/F	7	15	Nil	1	19	8	26	5	4	85
Prod MH	1291	1321	51	Nil	1238	2017	448	841	1491	8698
Back MH	183	1348	Nil	46	402	1233	160	105	164	3641

PART 2 - VEHICLE SERVICING SUMMARY

Item	A Veh	B Veh	FL	C Veh	Totals
No of Vehs	2	50	5	1	58
Prod MH	10	519	6	32	567

PART 3 - "NON PRODUCTIVE" ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Item	Fabrication	Wksp Maint	Totals
No of jobs	11	41	52
Prod MH	113	400	513

PART 4 - RECOVERY

No of jobs	41
Prod MH	253

TOTAL OUTPUT = 10,031 MH

PERSONNEL

PART 1 - STRENGTH SUMMARY

Items	Offrs	Admin Personnel		Tech Personnel		Total Other Ranks
		Senior NCO's	R & F	Senior NCO's	R & F	
Estb	6	4	20	16	69	109
Posted	6	4	21	19	69	113
Axail	6	3.4	18.1	16.6	63.9	102

Note. 1. 1 ALSG RAEME units employing civilian personnel are to provide a separate table under the appropriate sections given above.

PART 2 - USAGE SUMMARY

Item	Offrs					Total Other Ranks
		Senior NCO's	R & F	Senior NCO's	R & F	
OPS	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRTs/Dets	-	-	-b	1	15	16
Def	2	6	29	3	25	63
Maint	6	10	40	21	138	209
Admin	20	25	63	20	234	342