

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

**Royal Australian Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers units**

Item number: 14/3/22

Item: 106 Field Workshop

Narrative

Annex

[1-31 Aug 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.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) *Orville Capt*

Appointment

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL

~~DUPLICATE~~Strike out where
not applicable**COMMANDERS DIARY**

OF

Unit or Formation 106 Fd Wksp RAEME

From 31 JUL 71

To 31 AUG 71

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

EVENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

1 orders given.

1e day's fighting, including company movements.

1mander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

o officers, men and equipment.

pment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to
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and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

1e annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

SECRET

AWM 93
[14/3/AUG 71]

OW8415
EPA Box 47

COMMA DISPOSAL DIARIES

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

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

- Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
- Index as printed on cover.
- Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
- 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.

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AWM 93
[14/3/AUG 71]

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 106 Fd Wksp RAEME

MONTH and YEAR AUG 71

REFERENCE MAP PHOC TUY

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj J.S. SINCLAIR

[illegible]

PHONE: EBONY 115

Quote in Reply
R707-1-1

ADDRESS: 106 Fd Wksp RAEME
AFPO 4 GPO
SYDNEY NSW 2890

/ Sep 71

RAEME UNIT MONTHLY REPORT - AUG 71

Reference: A. ARTI Gen D101.

INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers briefly the final month in which 106 Fd Wksp and its Stores Section RAAOC served as operational units in South Vietnam. At midnight on 31 Aug 71 we stood down from operations.

WORKSHOP CAPACITY

2. Production and trend statistics for the month are attached at Annexes A and B respectively. It will be noted that the load is well down on previous months in nearly every section, telecommunications repair being the major exception. This was probably an outcome of force withdrawal preparations.

3. With the exception of centurion repairs at 2AOD and a supplement of three telecommunications mechanics, the load was met by the Forward Repair Group. There appears to be no doubt that the Forward Repair Group will be able to meet all arisings for 1 ATF next month.

A Vehicles

4. Twelve tanks were repaired including ten at 2 AOD and a badly mine damaged tank which required replacement of:

- a. Two suspension stations
- b. One final drive

.../c.

- c. Track
- d. Front idler wheel bearings.

5. Six turret lifts and one fuel cell modification was carried out on M113A1s.

6. We reported last month that we were setting up a second T50 turret with 50/30 combination fittings. We have not been able to scrounge sufficient pieces to complete this.

B Vehicles

7. The load was well down.

Telecommunications

8. There was still a high load but it was significantly down on June and July. The mechanics have not had to work such long hours because:

- a. Faults have been simpler
- b. Mechanics have become very expert at repair

9. As a follow up to the heavy telecommunications loading a review was started to identify the worst AN PRC 25 sets on charge to 1ATF Arms units. Although the review could not be completed we found that the age of an AN PRC 25 set had nothing to do with its reliability except possibly in the first twelve or eighteen months of its issue. As a result it was necessary to contradict previous advice given to HQ 1ATF. Details of the study and the various conclusions are contained in our R5820-130-1 dated 31 Aug 71, copies of which have gone to ADEME HQ AFV.

10. The study confirms the views of DEME on this subject which results in one less mechanical engineer who is prepared to take on electronics engineers in this field.

11. The study does however indicate that we need to improve our management of radio repair in field formations.

12. As a follow up, the Art Tels WO1 Stirling has agreed to produce an article for the Liaison Letter in which he will discuss the various repair problems and causes met in this formation. He should be kept up to this.

.../OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OF INTEREST

Recovery

13. Recovery which was handled by the FRG during the month consisted of 39 tasks for 126 task hours and 576 task miles. It was not a busy month.

Forward Repair Teams

14. Three Forward Repair Teams were deployed by the FRG during the month.

15. Cpls HODGSON and PARSONS and Cfn BARLING, vehicle mechanics and Cfn FLETT, electrical fitter deployed by air to YS 357 900 to carry out a suspension change to the mined tank already mentioned in in para 4. The electrical fitter was included because of reported short circuits in the FVGCE. They were unable to carry out the change in the field because our equipment was unsuitable. It is suggested that the Puckapunyal Detachment 106 Fd Wksp should develop better methods for suspension changes in the field. In particular a method is needed for soft muddy soil with the tank a non runner.

16. Cpls BROWN and BRACEGIRDLE deployed with a Fitters Track to FSB Kate to provide lift support when the FSB was being abandoned.

17. WO2 WOODS with Cpl STRANG and Cfn BARLING deployed to COURTNEY to effect a centurion engine change.

Op TIMOTHY

18. All activity is well ahead of schedule after a heavy months work. Major tasks completed include:

- a. Cancellation of all outstanding indents
- b. 100% Handover/Takeover stocktake was completed on 28 Aug. On both accounts there were nil discrepancies for which Capt ELLABY - the QM and his staff must surely be congratulated
- c. Holdings have been transferred to new ledgers and the unit now is on peace accounting.
- d. All Category B1 stores are packed for RTA

.../e.

- e. Unit MFO is almost finalized
- f. All Category A stores will be packed by 6 Sep
- g. The Stores Section will be completely outscaled by 9 Sep
- h. Unit stores and equipment for RTA is booked on Jeparit 41 with a sailing time from Vung Tau in mid September.

19. Cat A

- a. Only bulk break indents were raised, all of which have been finalized
- b. Two IORs and eleven BOSs were conducted to the value of \$7374-88.

20. Cat B1

- a. No indents were raised. However a number of outstanding indents were acquitted during the month
- b. Five BOSs were conducted to the value of \$3932-50
- c. All inventories have been reconciled.

21. IC & S and Audit

- a. Full IC & S reviews have been going on for the past five weeks. All accounts are in satisfactory condition
- b. An audit commenced today.

22. Personnel

- a. The rear party of 106 Fd Wksp and the Stores Section are booked to leave SVN on the Defence Charter on 23 Sep. The QM however may not be able to move until 30 Sep. This is the result of the unit now having to take personal weapons back to Australia. When the QM moves he will take the unit ledgers with him.
- b. All personnel will go immediately on leave on RTA and report into their units, be it 106 Fd Wksp Bandiana or otherwise on

.../completion.

completion. Details of report dates are being sent to 106 Fd Wksp Aust Component.

- c. Other personnel including those of the FRG were marched out to 102 Fd Wksp this morning.

Handover Takeover

23. Maj FORD assumed command of 106 Fd Wksp today. He is due to RTA 16 Sep 71.

Visits and Inspections

24. Comd AFV Maj Gen DUNSTAN paid a farewell visit to the workshop on 31 Aug in which he praised the unit for the job it had done. Maj Gen DUNSTAN was the D Comd 1 ATF when the unit was raised.

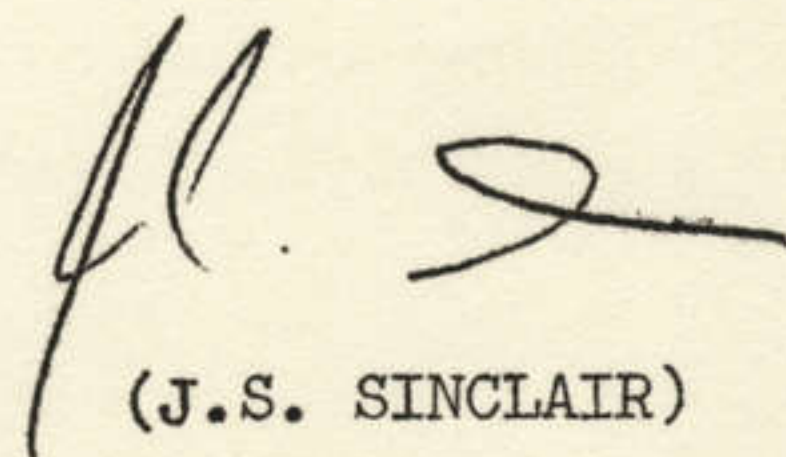
25. This morning a parade was held to mark the standing down of the workshop. The parade was inspected and addressed by Comd 1 ATF Brig M^CDONALD.

CONCLUSION

26. It would have been appropriate to have to have included in this last report a short history of 106 Fd Wksp and its Stores Section and some comment on what the unit achieved. This has however not been possible.

27. I think it is beyond question that this unit has been very successful throughout the almost three years of its existence. This is the measure of the men who have served with it.

28. It is with some degree of regret that this final report is concluded.



(J.S. SINCLAIR)

Major

Officer Commanding

ANNEX A TO

106 FD WKSP R707-1-1

DATED 1 SEP 71

PRODUCTION STATISTICS - AUG 71

	A VEH	B VEH	ELEC	GE	INST	TELS	TOTAL
JOBS BF	2	5	3	15	13	34	72
JOBS RECEIVED	10	38	23	19	107	228	631
JOBS COMPLETED	12	29	25	33	112	233	444
TRANSFER FRG	NIL	12	1	1	8	29	53

EQPT	COMP	TRANSFERRED	TO FRG
TANK COMBAT	12	NIL	
M113A1	11	NIL	
M125A1	1	4	
M113A1 (FITTERS)	3	NIL	
TRUCK ¼ TON	2	2	
TRUCK ¾ TON	6	4	
TRUCK 2½ TON	2	1	
TRUCK 5 TON GS	12	1	
TRUCK 5 TON DUMP	1	1	
TRACTOR SIZE 5	2	NIL	
TRACTOR SIZE 7	6	1	
MISC EQPT	10	3	
RADIO SET 25	102	21	
RADIO SET 524	33	4	
RADIO SET B47	NIL	NIL	
S.U.V.	NIL	NIL	
DETECTOR MINE	4	1	
PROJECTOR	10	NIL	
TYPEWRITER	11	1	
OFFICE MACHINE	8	2	
WATCH WRIST	57	2	
COMPASS	48	2	
BINO PRIS	11	NIL	
SIGHT UNIT	2	NIL	
MISC OPT EQPT	14	NIL	
MISC NON OPT EQPT	15	NIL	

TREND STATISTICS - AUG 71

Serial	ELEMENT	MONTH FIGURE			CUMULATIVE FIGURE		MOVING ANNUAL TOTAL				
		This Month Last Year	Last Month	This Month	Last Year	This Year	This Month Last Year	Last Month	This Month	High Since Sep70	Low Since Sep70
1	A Veh Reqs	25	16	12	167	142	252	224	210	257 Sep	111 Aug
2	Cent All Repair	6	4	12	76	57	132	72	78	121 Sep	72 Jul
3	APC All Repair	11	20	15	100	127	180	178	182	182 Aug	147 Feb
4	B Veh Req	75	62	29	515	398	723	691	645	766 Nov	645 Aug
5	5 Ton Cargo	6	11	12	37	57	64	84	90	90 Aug	66 Nov
6	5 Ton Dump	7	9	1	92	38	115	54	48	106 Sep	48 Aug
7	2½ Ton Cargo	7	4	2	53	33	80	60	55	83 Oct	55 Aug
8	Landrover	47	29	8	235	203	353	360	321	383 Apr	292 Sep
9	Forklifts	3	4	8	42	32	51	40	45	57 Oct	40 Jul
10	Elec Reqs	75	62	25	533	393	742	678	628	766 Sep	628 Aug
11	Small Arms	67	0	0	620	170	979	312	245	965 Sep	245 Aug
12	GE Reqs	95	53	33	641	448	1057	831	769	1070 Sep	769 Aug
13	Inst Reqs	203	130	112	1457	1047	1888	1760	1669	2142 Dec	1669 Aug
14	Typewriters	26	13	11	179	122	239	237	212	279 Dec	212 Aug
15	Other Office Machines	8	10	8	47	63	63	98	98	98 Jul	63 Sep
16	Projectors	5	10	10	63	104	94	156	161	161 Aug	95 Sep
17	Wrenches	209	126	57	731	663	988	1237	1085	1338 Feb	1070 Sep
18	Binoculars	8	30	11	64	90	140	149	152	170 Oct	115 May
19	Compasses	77	25	48	702	428	742	700	671	946 Dec	661 May

Serial	ELEMENT	MONTH FIGURE			CUMULATIVE FIGURE		MOVING ANNUAL TOTAL				
		This Month Last Year	Last Month	This Month	Last Year	This Year	This Month Last Year	Last Month	This Month	High Since Sep70	Low Since Sep70
20	Misc Non Opt Inst	16	12	15	110	110	141	163	162	185 Feb	141 Oct
21	Misc Opt Inst	13	10	14	223	175	308	232	233	303 Sep	232 Jul
22	Tels Reqs	208	279	233	1651	1531	2403	2217	2242	2396 Sep	2132 Jun
23	PRC 25	48	173	102	367	597	573	715	769	769 Aug	500 Apr
24	RT 524	11	53	33	96	229	119	228	250	250 Aug	122 Sep
25	B47	6	1	0	30	7	47	25	19	46 Oct	19 Aug
26	C42	9	6	0	87	67	160	119	110	149 Sep	110 Aug
27	All Eqpt Req	751	1155	444	5626	4572	8115	7416	7209	8332 Oct	6965 Jun