

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Royal Australian Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers units

Item number: 14/3/4

Item: 106 Field Workshop

Narrative

Annex

[1-28 Feb 1970]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. R707-1-1

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.
For information: DEME, 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.

A. A. Nolan
(Signature) A. A. NOLAN.
Maj
Appointment OC, 106 FD WKSP RAEME
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Recd 23/3/70

SECRET

ORIGINAL
DUPLICATE

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation *106 FD WKSP RAEME*

From 1 Feb 70 To 28 Feb 70

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.

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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

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 included in reports, orders issued and received, routine returns, etc. All reports, orders and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

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

AWM 95
[14/3/ Feb 70]

OW 845
E Box 47

DISPOSAL

- 13. **Original Commander's Diary.** This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered, by 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
 - 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:
 - 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) shall be 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 shown.
- 8. 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 required for a particular formation, they are to be marked as such on the cover.

AWM 95
[14/3/ Feb 70]

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION

A. A. Nolan

MONTH and YEAR Feb 70

REFERENCE MAP SVN YS

COMMANDING OFFICER A. A. NOLAN.

Maj
OC, 106 FD WKSP RAEME
Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		1	0830	Unit provided protection party for weekly swim trip to Vung Tau.	
		2		Normal duties.	
		3		New OP completed.	
	YS491674	4	1600	Unit provided a TAOR patrol for night 4/5 Feb of 1 Offr and 9 OR's. Task - ambush track.	
		5	0830	Patrol returned. No contact.	
		6		Routine duties.	
		7		Routine duties.	
		8		Routine duties. No stand down today because of TET.	

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF-C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

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A. A. NOLAN.

Maj

OC, 106 FD WKSP RAEME

Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		9		Routine duties.	
		10		Routine duties.	
		11		Manufacture of helicopter load baskets commenced.	
		12	0800	Lt Col TRIGG arrived.	
		13		Routine duties.	
		14		Routine duties.	
		15		Routine duties.	
		16		Routine duties.	
		17	0800	Routine duties. Recovery veh to support recovery of stores from US FSPB COLORADO.	

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Rev 1 Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION

A. A. Nolan

A. A. NOLAN.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Maj

MONTH and YEAR

REFERENCE MAP

OC, 106 FD WKS, RAEME

Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		18		Routine duties. Warned for TAOR patrol night 26/27 Feb 70.	
		19	0700	Recovery of burnt out carrier. Carrier damaged by RPG fire in major contact night 18/19 Feb in Long Hais. Two other recovery tasks today - one an overturned roller and one an overturned five ton truck.	
		20	1515	Forward repair team deployed to Long Hais to replace barrel in MBT.	
		21	1700	Lt Col TRIGG departed.	
		22		Routine duties.	
		23	0800	Forward repair team deployed to replace gear box and final drive in an ARV in the Long Hais.	
			1430	Recovery of M113 from Long Hais.	

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF-C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr. 1969

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH and YEAR Feb 70

REFERENCE MAP SVN YS

UNIT/FORMATION A. A. Nolan

COMMANDING OFFICER A. A. NOLAN.

Maj
OC, 106 FD WKSP RAEME

Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		24		Routine duties. M113 with RPG rocket hole repaired as priority task.	
		25	1100	Centurion Tank delivered by ARV after break down in Long Hais. Cause of break down steering drum <i>failure.</i>	
	YS488637	26	1600	TAOR patrol deployed 1 WO and 9 OR's. Task - ambush road. Instrument section load continues at a high level. Considered to be a peak.	
		27	0730	Patrol returned - no contacts.	
		28	1500	Unit volleyball team played in CA organised match at Bin Ba.	
		29		Recovery vehicle escorted convoy to new FSPB WILTON.	

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

R733-1-1

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

GPO, SYDNEY, 2890.

10 Mar 70

1 ATF (4)

RAEME UNIT MONTHLY REPORT FEB 70

Reference: A. AFV RAEME Technical Instruction No. 20 of 28 Feb 70.

1. Herewith subtended is the 106 Fd Wksp monthly report for Feb 70. Since this report is the first under the new reference it will report not only activities during Feb 70 but also other points which may be of interest.

LESSONS LEARNT

Recovery and Forward Repair Teams

2. Route classification in South Vietnam is based on a colour code as follows:

- a. White. Road condition and classification unknown.
- b. Green. Controlled by friendly forces, using minimum security forces. Isolated incidents may occur.
- c. Amber. Marginal control by both friendly and enemy forces. The road is used by friendly forces but incidents occur frequently.
- d. Red. Controlled by enemy forces or frequently interdicted. The road requires a major military operation to clear it and considerable engineer maintenance effort.

3. Recovery vehicles and forward repair teams can move along green routes during daylight without escort. Any movement off green routes must be escorted and this is normally provided by the unit requesting assistance. If none is available the Cavalry Sqn is called upon to provide an escort. An RV with the escort must be arranged. Marrying up may occur at the TF base or at a point on a green routes.

4. Whether travelling alone or with an escort the recovery vehicle or the FRT vehicle must have a self defence weapon of good performance, in addition to the personal weapons of the crew. On the fitters carrier, which is the vehicle normally used by FRTs, the cal 50 MG provides the necessary high fire power. On the recovery vehicle this is provided by an M60 MG mounted above the cabin and manned by a vehicle crew member. The establishment of 106 Fd Wksp does not include any M60 MGs, however 1 ATF authorised the issue of several of the weapons for use on recovery vehicles and in local defence. Recovery vehicles should be fitted with an M60 MG.

Local Defence

5. 106 Fd Wksp has approximately 300 metres of perimeter wire to guard. The concept of strongpoints supported by weapon pits, and a reserve is used. Two strongpoints have been constructed. Each strongpoint requires a weapon of high fire power, capable of firing on fixed lines and able to produce sustained fire. For this purpose the M60 MG is used. The issue of this weapon for local defence was authorised by 1 ATF.

6. The local defence can be given greater strength and fire power by the deployment of the fitters carriers into pre arranged positions from which they can support the strongpoints. Their mobility can be used to deploy them to counter any major threat to a portion of the perimeter.

Each evening the two fitters carriers are deployed into fire positions covering the perimeter. They can be manned and in operation within three (3) minutes of a stand to being ordered.

Repair Techniques

7. Every effort must be made to reduce the total time required to effect a repair. One technique used by 106 Fd Wksp is the maintenance of a serviceable M113A1 "power pack" made up of engine, transmission assembly and power transmission assembly plus expendable items. If a carrier requires replacement of any of the three major assemblies the complete "power pack" is removed and the serviceable one fitted. This has reduced the turn round time of a carrier requiring replacement of any power pack assembly from fourteen (14) hours to six (6) hours. The removed "power pack" is then made serviceable by the replacement of the repairable assembly and is ready for re use.

8. As other techniques are developed they will be reported.

Fabrication

9. A large number of repair tasks require fabrication of components. There are also the frequent requests from the Staff for the manufacture of items. This is not a RAEME responsibility but in view of our skills, machine tool holdings and efficiency the Staff requests cannot be regarded as unreasonable. Many of the fabrication and manufacture tasks require welding. During Feb 70 the welding staff worked long hours each day with little stand down time. It appears that the establishment strength of welders in unit (1 Spl, 2 Cfn) is not sufficient. If the fabrication and welding work load continues at the level of the last six weeks the unit will request a change to establishment to increase welders. A compensating reduction in either motor/vehicle mechanics or fitter armament could be offered.

10. Not only is there the effort of production associated with requests for manufacture of items but in many cases a requirement for engineering design effort. The establishment of the workshop via four EMEs covers this requirement well as long as sufficient EMEs are posted via a via EMAE.

11. The equipment table for a Fd Wksp Type A shows a different entitlement for peace and war. In a mobile war role the limitations on the equipment entitlement is obviously correct. A higher scale of equipment would make the Wksp less mobile. The Nui Dat/Phuoc Tuy situation is a reasonable example of what would occur in a counter insurgency type campaign. Here the workshop has been established with good quality covered accommodation and a large area of concrete hard standing. A machine shop has been developed using machine from the shop equipment vehicles. A number of other machine tools have been requested on RVE to improve the fabrication potential of the unit. It is considered that the tools shown against the peace entitlement should be readily available in war without RVE action if they can be useful to the workshop. A footnote to this effect on the equipment table would satisfy the requirement.

WORKSHOP CAPACITY

General

12. During Feb the Instrument and Telecommunications Sects have been fully loaded with high priority equipment and have achieved a high output by long hours of work. The Fabrication and Ancillary Sects have continued to be busy with a heavy load of work. The A Vehicle Sect has had periods of intense activity followed by periods of low level activity. During periods of intense activity this Sect works until about 2100 hours and the periods of low level activity give the Sect members time for rest and personal administration. The B Vehicle and Electrical Sects have both had moderate, steady loads.

Output

13. Output for Feb 70 and work in progress at 28 Feb is shown in Annex A.

Capacity During March

14. On 25 Mar 70, sixteen (16) members of the unit march out and their replacements will arrive on the same day. The administration required to clear soldiers from South Vietnam and the induction of the replacements will reduce capacity during the latter part of March.

PROBLEM AREAS

Degree of Repair

15. It is considered that repairs in 1 ATF should primarily be for the following reasons:

- a. Function.
- b. Safety.
- c. Preservation.

16. Repairs which only have an effect on appearance should be carried out during periods when repair work vide para 15 is not in hand. This policy would reduce the load on the Fabrication and Ancillary Sects.

OPERATIONS OF INTEREST

Recovery

17. During Feb, 48 recovery tasks were complete.

FRTs

18. Three FRTs were deployed during the month. Details are as follows:

- a. 4 Feb. Replacement of fan, generator and water pump on MBT. Two mechanics were deployed in a fitters carrier.
- b. 20 Feb. Replacement of barrel on MBT. Five armament fitters and a fitters carrier were deployed to the Long Hais to complete this task.
- c. 23 Feb. Replacement of main gear box on ARV. Three mechanics and a fitters carrier were deployed to the Long Hais to complete this task.

A. A. Nolan
(A. A. NOLAN)
Maj
OC

Annex: A. Output for Feb 70 and Work in Progress 28 Feb 70,

Internal: Wesp Offr
1 Pl
2 Pl
Stores Sect
Comds Dairy (3)

OUTPUT FOR FEB 70 AND WORK IN PROGRESS 28 FEB 70

1. Production Table

	A	B	FL	Elec	GE	SA	Inst	Tels	Total
Jobs Brought Forward	3	11	Nil	20	20	5	9	7	75
Jobs Received	15	66	8	69	79	94	180	211	722
Jobs Completed	13	68	7	83	87	97	177	201	723
Jobs Carried Forward	5	9	1	6	12	2	12	17	74

2. Major Equipments Repaired

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Qty</u>
Carrier M113A1	- 16
Centurion MBI	- 9
Truck 5 ton GS F1	- 6
Truck 5 ton Dump F2	- 8
Truck 2½ ton GS Mk 3	- 5
Truck ¾ ton GS	- 18
Truck ¼ ton GS	- 5
Forklifts (all types)	- 7
Generating Sets (all types)	- 5
Radio Set AN/PRC 25	- 48
Radio Set C42	- 15
Radio Set B47	- 2
Radio Set RT524	- 10

3. Work in Progress 28 Feb 70

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Qty</u>
Carrier M113A1	- 2
Centurion MBT	- 3
Truck 2½ ton GS	- 1
Truck ¾ ton GS	- 2
Forklifts (all types)	- 2
Radio Set AN/PRC 25	- 2
Radio Set B47	- 1
Radio Set RT524	- 1