

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Royal Australian Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers units

Item number: 14/3/5

Item: 106 Field Workshop

Narrative

Annex

[1-31 Mar 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.

(Signature)

A. A. Nolan

Appointment

A. A. NOLAN.

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

SECRET

ORIGINAL }
~~DUPLICATE~~ } Strike out where
 } not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 106 FD WKSP RAEME

From 1 Mar 70

To 31 Mar 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

- to
- to
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- to
- to
- to

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on.....

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

For van 15/1/77
28 MAR 70

1 B 6. CoA-3142-238

3 TABS

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

potential importance.

of officers, men and equipment.

equipment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

orders and to save work as much information as possible is to be recorded. All documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All dates and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

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

AWM 95

[14/3/mar 70]

(continued on back cover)

VB C 3118 (Vigilant)

SECRET

5 TRAV

5 TRAV

OW 84/5
E Box 47
PART 3

COMMA **DISPOSAL** DIARIES

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

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.

- 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 involved, 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 indicated.

8. The annexes are to be assembled in the manner shown on the cover. If there are no annexes for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are submitted by a separate headquarters, starting at B.

TOP SECRET

INDEX

as well as any other information, including equipment, personnel, etc.

10 days fighting, including company movements, ammeter with regard to equipment, losses, replacements, etc.

essential importance:

- o officers, men and equipment.
- o personnel captured.
- o personnel employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to be submitted on receipts issued and received, supplies received, etc. All items and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

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

1 B P Coy—274/65—55m

AWM 95

[14/3/mar 70]

(continued on back cover)

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

106 FD WKSP RAEME
 AF-C2118 (Adapted)
 Revised Apr. 1969
 AFPO4
 GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

MONTH and YEAR Mar 70

REFERENCE MAP SOUTH VIETNAM YS

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

A. A. Nolan

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	A. A. NOLAN. Maj OC, 106 FD WKSP RAEME	Reference to annex letter and/or enclosure No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)		
		1 Mar	0715	Assisted in providing swim trip to VUNG TAU for school children from BIN BA - NIA - GIAD - DUC THAN areas.		
		2 Mar	0800	Recovery vehicle to FSPB WILTON and pick up D4 dozer.		
		3 Mar		Routine duties.		
		4 Mar	0930	Recovery vehicle to WILTON to assist loading stores.		
		5 Mar		Routine duties.		
		6 Mar		Routine duties.		
		7 Mar		Routine duties.		
		8 Mar		Unit Soccer team played CA arranged match at LONG DIEN.		
		9 Mar	0730	Recovery vehicle to WILTON.		
		10 Mar		Routine duties.		
		11 Mar		Routine duties.		
		12 Mar		Routine duties.		
		13 Mar	0915	Lt Col Rennebaum G4 II FFV visited unit.		
		14 Mar	0830	Brig Dean DEME AHQ visited unit.		
			1400	Soccer and volley ball teams played in CA arranged matches.		
		15 Mar		Routine duties.		

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

106 FD WKSP RAEME
 AF-C2118 (Adapted)
 Revised Apr. 1964
 GPO, SYDNEY, 2890

UNIT/FORMATION

MONTH and YEAR Mar 70

REFERENCE MAP SOUTH VIETNAM YS

COMMANDING OFFICER

A. A. Nolan

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and/No.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
		16 Mar	1030	Recovery vehicle to pick up blown M113 at LONG HAIS	
			1500	Recovery vehicle deployed to clear Route 15 of burnt out US Army self propelled gun.	
			1700	Influx of A vehile work, 3 Carriers, 2 MBT.	
		17 Mar		Routine duties.	
		18 Mar		Routine duties.	
		19 Mar		Routine duties.	
		20 Mar		Routine duties.	
		21 Mar		Routine duties.	
		22 Mar		Routine duties.	
		23 Mar		Recovery vehicle to DISCOVERY.	
		24 Mar		Recover M113 from NDP ISA tranmission faulty.	
		25 Mar		Routine duties.	
		26 Mar		Routine duties.	
		27 Mar		Unit entertained WA Concert Party.	
		28 Mar	0830	Visit by Chap Gen Vertigan.	
		29 Mar		Routine duties.	

A. A. NOLAN.

Maj

OC, 106 FD WKSP RAEME

Reference to annex letter and/No.

(f)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

E733-1-3
.....

106 Fd Wksp RAEME
AFPO 4 GPO
SYDNEY 2890

4 Apr 70

HQ
1 ATF (4)

RAEME UNIT MONTHLY REPORT - MAR 70

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

1. Herewith subtended is the 106 Fd Wksp monthly report for Mar 70.

LESSONS LEARNT

Civil Aid

2. An important part of † ATF operations in Phuoc Tuy is civil affairs. In all counter-insurgency campaigns the time will come, after initial defeat of enemy main force units, that pacification by civil aid will become a normal function. Civil aid includes the construction of services and facilities and assistance to government operated instrumentalities. Recent workshop commitments for civil aid have included; the manufacture of timber form work for the pouring of concrete electricity line carrying poles, the manufacture and repair of school playground equipment, and the manufacture of gates for a school. All this work is outside the usual responsibilities of RAEME but, since civil aid is † ATF policy, it must be accepted as normal. In counter insurgency campaigns a field workshop must undertake manufacture and repair tasks for civil aid. Most of this work is done by the heavily loaded fabrication section (see last months report).

Equipment Operators:

3. Generally the servicing and unit maintenance of vehicles and equipment is of low standard. This is particularly apparent in equipments of which the Army is relatively unfamiliar eg. fork lifts. It would appear from questioning of unit operators that many were not trained on the equipment before arrival in South Vietnam. They have been quickly trained and licenced in theatre and have missed out on operator servicing training. The lack of good servicing and unit maintenance causes additional work for the workshop. Full equipment training and licencing must be completed before soldiers arrive in South Vietnam.

WORKSHOP CAPACITY

General

4. The workshop was fully loaded during March. An increase occurred in the work load of B Vehicles Section. The Section completed less vehicles than during February but the average time per vehicle during March was higher. The Instrument Section continues to have a heavy commitment. The recommencement of the M113A1 uparmouring programme has added to the load on the Fabrication Section.

Output

5. The output for Mar 70 and work in progress at 31 Mar 70 is shown in Annex A.

PROBLEM AREAS

Individual Replacement

6. The individual replacement system used for 106 Fd Wksp normally works well since not all local knowledge and expertise is lost at the one time. Desirably the replacement should be at a steady rate ie. for the Workshop of 134 members the rate should be 2 to 3 per week. This would

2/ cause

cause minimum disruption to the productive output and best cope with the continuous demand on the workshop. During March, 25 members of the workshop were replaced; 16 of these on the one day. It is realised that all national servicemen of a particular intake must be discharged at the same time and therefore their departure from units will be dictated by the discharge date. Nevertheless the workshop would be able to meet its steady load better if replacement was at the rate of 2 to 3 per week.

Radio AN/PRC25
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7. The workshop is now required to repair 5820 - 00 - 973 - 3585 Pulse Generator Module(A 10) for the AN/PRC 25 radio. This module has been not available since Jan 70. This has caused a larger turn round time for some of the radio sets.

OPERATIONS OF INTEREST
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Recovery
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8. During March, 60 recovery tasks were completed.

FRT's
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9. Two FRT's were deployed during the month. Details are as follows:

- a. 20 Mar. Replacement of suspension station on a MBT. Four mechanics were deployed in a fitters carrier.
- b. 22 Mar - 24 Mar. Replacement of main engine in a MBT. Four mechanics were deployed in a fitters carrier.

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

Annex: A. Output for Mar 70 and Work in Progress 31 Mar 70

Internal:
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Wksp Offr

1 Pl

2 Pl

Stores Sect

Comds Diary (3)

OUT PUT FOR MAR 70 AND WORK IN PROGRESS 31 MAR 70

1. Production Table

	A	B	FL	Elec	GE	SA	Inst	Tels	Total
Jobs Brought Forward	5	9	4	6	12	2	12	17	64*
Jobs Received	35	56	6	58	57	76	169	218	675
Jobs Completed	34	52	6	51	47	76	151	219	636
Jobs Carried Forward	6	13	1	13	22	2	30	16	103

* Report for Feb 70 should have read Jobs Completed 733

Jobs Carried Forward 64

2. Major Equipments Repaired

Carrier M113A1	9
ACV M577	3
CENT MBT	9
CENT ARV	2
Truck 5 TON GS	3
Truck 5 TON Dump	6
Truck 2½ TON GS	7
Truck ¾ TON	16
Truck ¼ TON	1
Forklifts (All)	6
Gen Sets (All)	3
Radio AN/PRC 25	57
Radio C42	9
Radio B47	4
Radio RT 524	14

3. Work in Progress 31 Mar 70

Carrier M113A1	3
CENT MBT	2
Truck 5 TON GS	1
Truck 2½ TON GS	1
Truck ¾ TON	8
Forklifts (All)	1
Gen Sets (All)	2
Radio AN/PRC 25	1
Radio C42	1