

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

**Royal Australian Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers units**

Item number: 14/3/9

Item: 106 Field Workshop

Narrative

Annex

[1-31 Jul 1970]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. R707-1-1

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

For information: DEME, AHQ, Albert Park Barracks
Melbourne Vic, 30041. I enclose Commanders Diary (AF C 2118) (Adapted)
as indicated at Part 2.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) A. A. NOLAN.

Maj

Appointment OC 106 FD WKSP RAEME
(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 1 Jul 70

To 31 Jul 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

to

to

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to

† 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 VII 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

TENTS

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l orders given.

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SECRET

AF C 2118 (V44444)

AF C 2118

COVERING LETTER

AF C 2118

AWM 95
[14/3/Jul 70]

COMMA DIARIES
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:

- 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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(continued on back cover)

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION

A. A. Nish

A. A. NOLAN.

COMMANDING OFFICER.

Ma

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

MONTH and YEAR July 1970

REFERENCE MAP

[illegible]

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

R723-1-1

HQ 1 ATF (4)

106 Fd Wksp RAEME
AFPO 4 GPO
SYDNEY NSW 2890
7 Aug 70

RAEME UNIT MONTHLY REPORT - JUL 70

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

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

LESSONS LEARNT

Training

2. The Nui Dat complex which exists today can be regarded as the normal development of a TF base during protracted counter insurgency operations. Furthermore it is the current situation in which one field workshop is working. The field workshop in Vung Tau is in a similar position ie part of a developed base. These two field workshops are the only ones deployed now in an operational area.
3. Both workshops are static and it is unlikely that either will be required to operate in a mobile role while in South Vietnam.
4. The role of each workshop is primarily recovery, repair and modification of equipment. They are responsible to maintain unit security. Occassionally the workshop is given an operational task.
5. This workshop must continually improve techniques so that the total time an equipment is in the workshop is kept to a minimum. Examples of this are as follows:
- a. M113 A1 Turrets. These are removed, repaired and refitted now in a total of 7 hours. Previously it took 16 hours.
 - b. Centurion Engines. For the last engine change the vehicle was in the workshop for only 28 hours.
6. Soldiers coming to the unit complete the BE course at JTC. If required to perform on operations they go through preparations vide para 6 of the Apr 70 report.
7. The Corps, in training soldiers to come to the field workshop in South Vietnam, must specialise in equipment and repair techniques training. Exercises involving the redeployment of a field workshop are not preparation for the current situation in South Vietnam. Field training must be kept to a minimum and not engaged in at the expense of equipment training.

/- 2 -

WORKSHOP CAPACITY

General

8. All sections of the workshop were heavily loaded during July. B Vehicle Section struck a severe peak caused mainly by a recent EIS visit to TF. Telecommunication Section had several peaks caused by priority 1 equipments. The M113 A1 belly uparmouring programme will heavily commit the Fitting Section who will consequently have little capacity for other work.

Output

9. The output for Jul 70 and work in progress at 31 Jul is shown in Annex A.

M113 A1 Modifications

10. Planning for the modification of all M113 A1 APCs in TF is completed. Modifications include the following:

- a. Belly armour.
- b. Foot rest.
- c. Right hand sponson.
- d. Drivers hatch cover.

11. This programme will commence as soon as the belly armour arrives.

OPERATIONS OF INTEREST

Recovery

12. The workshop completed 57 recovery tasks in the month. The Pettibone fork-lift did 17 tasks for other units.

Civil Affairs

13. One ICAP protection Party was provided in the month.

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

Annex: A. Output for Jul 70 and work in progress 31 Jul 70.

Internal:

Wksp Manager

QM

1Pl

2Pl

Stores Section

Comds Diary (3)

OUTPUT FOR JUL AND WORK IN PROGRESS 31 JUL 70

1. Production Table

	A	B	Fl	Elec	GE	SA	Inst	Tels	Toal
Jobs Brought Forward	5	22	1	31	13	4	19	14	109
Jobs Received	19	79	7	71	88	70	200	200	734
Jobs Completed	19	79	5	67	75	68	197	194	704
Jobs Carried Fwd	5	22	3	35	26	6	22	20	139

2. Major Equipments Repaired and in Progress on 31 Jul 70

Equipment	Repaired	In Progress 30 Jun 70
Centurion MBT and Dozer	7	1
Centurion ARV	2	-
Centurion B/Layer	-	1
Carrier M113A1	10	2
Carrier M125A1	-	1
Truck 5 ton GS F1	5	3
Truck 5 ton Dump F2	13	1
Truck 2½ ton GS MK3	6	3
Truck ¾ ton GS	24	9
Truck ¼ ton GS	6	1
Trailer low bed 25 ton	1	-
Trailer 50 ton	-	-
Generator Sets (all Types)	3	1
Trailers (all others)	5	2
Radio Set AN/PRC 25	43	-
Radio C42	6	1
Radio B47	4	-
Radio RT 524	15	-
Radio AN/PRC 47	1	1
Typewriters	21	-
Projectors 16mm	13	-
Sights C2	12	-
106mm RCL	-	1
Rifles 7.62mm L1A1	28	2
Rifles 5.62mm M16	20	-
Forklifts (all types)	5	3