

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Royal Australian Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers units

Item number: 14/4/1

Item: 1 Detachment 1 Divisional
Supply and Transport Workshop

Narrative

[29 Mar - 7 May 1966]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. STW 1/66

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

1. I enclose Commanders Diary (AF C2118) (Adapted as indicated at Part 2.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature)

Appointments

OC WKSP
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL } Strike out where
DUPLICATE } not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation DET 1 DIV S and T WKS P

From 29 MARCH 1966 To 7 MAY 1966

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

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

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

Revised Jun, 1965

on.....

TS. J. 90
Ed. 20A bennings

The ORIGINAL of this
was sent to OIC, MIL
HISTORY SEC, AHQ, CANBERRA.
This was sent by MAIL and
No reply was received.

The duplicate is now
enclosed.

J. J. Donthorne GJ

RECEP'T. FWD.

ORIGINAL C2119 - 1-8-66

DUPPLICATE

- 1-8-66

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 from Annex "Z", "TOP SECRET" he document. It is to be prepared and disposed of as

ENTS

s as well as map references), establishment, equipment

orders given.

e day's fighting, including company movements.

mander 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

s and to save work as much information as possible is to documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All 1 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)

1 B P Coy—274/65—55m

Aug 95
[14/4 Mar 66]

DISPOSAL OF COMMANDERS 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.

COMPILED

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

- a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
- b. Index as printed on cover.
- c. Initiative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
- d. Annexes as shown in the boxes.

7. All details of the unit or formation (or establishment if concerned), the name of the person who compiled and successive 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 described in the boxes. If no annexes are present, the word "None" will be entered in the boxes. The number of pages in each annex is to be indicated.

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

AF - C 2118 (Adapced)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION DET. 1 DIV ST WKSP

MONTH AND YEAR MAR/APRIL 1966

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT J.G. DEMETROVICS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	29MAR66		Until now I still only know that there have been nine (9) soldiers nominated from 1 COY RAASC WKSP to go to VIETNAM as a det attached to the units of 1 COY 1 DIV TPT RAASC going. Excepting myself, a VM and the Rec group with their wrecker, who are here at MT GOSPER'S on EX HOUNDSFOOT, the rest of the wksp is back at INGLEBURN preparing the company vehs which will be going to VIETNAM. J.G.D.	
	30MAR66 1000		The OC of the tpt coy came to GOSPER'S and gave me the Q-SERIES table (No. Q.28). I left a VM on (the) EX HOUNDSFOOT, AND RETURNED WITH THE REMAINING VEH'S AND SOLDIERS TO INGLEBURN TO DAY. BEGAN APPOINTMENTS FOR MEDICALS ETC. J.G.D.	
	30 MAR 66		ASM initiated the filling out of indents for new vehs as per Q-SERIES TABLE and forwarded them to FDO'S ECMD. CAT A indents were prepared and forwarded to COY HQ for submission. The 1 DIV ST WKSP ESTB was received on the 28MAR66 - ESTB NO. II/40/I(TW). J.G.D.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION DET 1 DIV ST WKSP

MONTH AND YEAR APRIL 1966

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT J.G. DEMETRONE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	1 APR 66		SIG Q 006288 Authorised the transfer of WRECKER 6286 (Medium M543) from 101 COY RAASC. PICKED it up today (quite a number of def on CES), and got it back to unit about 1800hrs. J.G.D.	
	2 APR 66		Rec Cpl and Mech worked to prepare veh ready for loading, a day earlier than stated in SIG G 0293. Info received by phone from Q-MOV E comd. J.G.D.	
	4 APR 66		DELIVERED M543 TO WOOLWICH DOCKS AND DRIVER WAS TOLD TO COME BACK 7 APR 66 because veh will not be loaded until then. J.G.D.	
	4 APR 66		CPL SCHULTZ marched in from 1 Fd Sgn WKSP. NOMINAL ROLLS ARE PREPARED AND THE STRENGTH OF 1418 is complete with names, at least. Need two more VMS and an Electrical. CPL BEVIS is on the pre embarkation leave and he will be back for Injections, MEDICALS ETC. during the week. J.G.D.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION DET 1 DIV ST BN SP

MONTH AND YEAR APRIL 1966

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT J.G. DEMETRIOU

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	4 APR 66		HAVE just got E COMD GS 1/66, E COMD 17DM INST of 17 MAR 66 from the coy. THIS has delayed many returns from us because we did not get onto many of the distribution lists when we were still 1 COY RAASC WKSP and since we've changed to DET 1 DIV ST BN SP we're supposed to put in our own returns etc. Rang various places at E COMD to get all the papers, without much success. <i>JGD.</i>	
	4 APR 66		Nominated adv party of 8 to go on SYDNEY - FISM CPL VM, DVR/BATMAN, ORD PTE STOREMAN TECH, CFN VM (B). <i>JGD.</i>	
	5 APR 66		ASM, STOREMAN TECH & SGT STOREMAN ORD attended lecture on overseas accounting - was not particularly clear on RAEME A/c. <i>JGD.</i>	
	6 APR 66		Began submitting returns to coy, who forwarded them for us. We are pushing MEDICALS, INJECTIONS etc. GOT CFN SEYMOUR for DVR/BATMAN job from DIV SIG REGT LAD. <i>JGD.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 196

UNIT/FORMATION DET 1 DIV ST WKSP

MONTH AND YEAR APRIL 1966

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT JG DEMETRICK

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	7APR66		CFN ATKINSON marched in from BANDIANNIA and is in process of being cleared from 101 FD WKSP. CPL MILLET marched in from RMC WKSP. ADV PARTY WENT ON PREM LEAVE. jlyd.	
	9/10 APR 66		CPL BEVIS BOARDED LSM TODAY (9APR). DEPARTED WOOLWICH DOCK FOR SV (BANDIANNIA). jlyd.	
	11APR66		PACKED ALL UNIT STORES, CHECKED ALL VEH'S AND began crating stores. cannot get the 50 packing and shipping boxes. 10FP lent us 30. jlyd.	
	12APR66		SENT UNIT MOV DATA TABLES TO E COMD. CFN GUNTON arrived, to fill last VM vacancy, from BANDIANNIA off a BASIC COURSE. THE SOLDIER IS UNDER AGE for overseas service. Will not be eligible until Oct or so. Informed Capt SCHOFFIELD at EME ECOMD. jlyd.	
	13APR66		GOT new 314TG.S. to replace the poor old heap" I've got now. None injectors, etc and packing. We are finding that one 2 1/2T will never take us very far. jlyd.	

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

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR APRIL 1966

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION DET 1 DIV ST WNSP

COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT J.G. DEMETREVICS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	14APR66		CONTINUING PREPARATIONS. J.G.D.	
	15APR66		CONTINUING PREPARATIONS. J.G.D.	
	16APR66		AT LAST, got a copy of ECOMD MOV INST E64/66. J.G.D.	
	17APR66	1000	CONTINUING PREPARATIONS - GOT SHOP EQPT VEH TODAY FROM 2BOD. J.G.D.	
	17APR66		CONTINUING PREPARATIONS - ALL VEH'S ARE LOADED AND WEIGHED AND MARKED AS REQUIRED - EXCEPT 34T BS WHICH I am leaving until last moment. J.G.D.	
	18APR66		CONTINUING PREPARATIONS - Capt MCILROY marched in from 131 DIV LOC BT WNSP to replace CHAGUNTON. Marched Cfn GOLISHEWSKI out to 1FD SQN WNSP. ALSO, Cfn SMALLACOMB was marched out (det al present) to take the place of Cfn SEYMOUR at the DIV SIG REST LAD. SENT ALL REQUIRED DOCS FOR ADV PARTY TO ECOMD QM. J.G.D.	
	19APR66	0745	ADV Party went to 1FD Regt Theatre for BRIEFINGS. J.G.D.	

1 B P Coy - Q75/65 - 55m

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

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 196

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR APRIL 1966

UNIT/FORMATION 3ET DIV T BN 5P

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT JG DE METROVIC

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	19 APR 66		LOADED 3MT GS with soldiers boxes (incl OC 1 coy's) plg.D.	
	20 APR 66	0600	COL SCHULTZ was 1/C party taking four (4) unit vehs to Garden Island for loading onto HMAS SYDNEY. ONE extra truck carried load of gas bottles, which was palletised as inflammable cargo and will be stored separately. Into the 2½ T we managed to get all the BI stores, All the immediate required accomodation stores and no more because with all this, the max allowable weight was reached. BRIEFED the adv party about time of embarkation, destination and likely place of occupation and closed camp to adv party. plg.D.	
	21 APR 66		Rang Chief Clerk 5RAR ref their A 384 and informed them of Nominal roll of main body. plg.D.	
	21 APR 66		ADV party went to March through SYDNEY plg.D.	

1 BP Coy—275/65—55m

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

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION DET 1 DIV ST WKSP

MONTH AND YEAR APR/MAY 1966

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER CHOT J.C. DEMETRIONIS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	22 APR 66	0730	ADV party left to SIG REGT for movement to HMAS SYDNEY DEPARTED GARDEN ISLAND just on 1500 hrs. JLG.D.	
	22 APR 66		MAIN BODY WENT ON PRE-EMBARKATION LEAVE. LEFT	
	22 APR 66	1000	MYSELF, PVR TRAINING ON THE SYDNEY. CPL MILLETT WENT TO HOSP. JLG.D.	
23 APR 66 TO 1 MAY 66			PRE-EMBARKATION LEAVE FOR MAIN BODY, PVR TRAINING ON BOARD SHIP. REMAINDER OF WKSP cleaned up area, painted stand and generally maintained the place in good order. JLG.D.	
2 MAY 66			CPL MILLETT came out of hosp (was circumcised) and is to have a weeks leave (both from hosp and his pre-em leave). He will now not be coming with us on the 6th because he has to report to the doctor on the 9th HQ ECOMD was informed and they have replaced him on the flight. It OK, he will be sent up on the next available seat.	
			COL RANK rang and stated that all the remaining B1 stores left in the unit will be handed over to SGT K.MOSELEY. JLG.D.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C2118
(Adapted)

45-6^r
Unit. DET 1 DIV ST WKSP..... Date and Time From.... MAY 1966 OC CAPT J.G. DEMETROVICS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c
	3 MAY 66		People on the SYDNEY are preparing to disembark. MAIN BODY ATTENDED AHQ BRIEFING AT 1000Z, HAWTHORN. f/J D.	
	4 MAY 66		SYDNEY DROPPED ANCHOR at 0810 hrs. all unit veh's and men were off by midnight and stayed overnight in FRU area near the beach at VUNG TAU. CFN HAITLAND, ADAIR, DUGGAN and MANNIX marched out (det) to LIVERPOOL AREA WKSP. PTE KOUMBARAUSS and BURT marched out (det) to 10FP at MOOREBANK. PETTY CASH (\$6) was returned to MOOREBANK CASH OFFICE (Receipt No. E1582) f/J D.	
	5 MAY 66 1045		Groups in VUNG TAU moved to ALSG area and joined 1004 PARASC (DIV TPT). Set up a 11x22' tent and began to OFF-LOAD unit stores. COL RANK came to INGLEBURN to see how the place & stores hand over sit. was and he seemed quite satisfied. All remaining classified paper from safe (balance HARIBORD) taken to VLF BSS. BRIEFED MAIN BODY ABOUT TRIP TO VUNG TAU. f/J D.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C2118
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit DET. DIV. S.T. WKSP Date and Time-From MAY 1966 OC CAPT J.G. DEMETROVICS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices, Diaries, &c
	6 MAY 66		Group in VUNG TAU confirmed to set up camp. Our sleeping quarters are about 500 yds away from the wksp and up in the hills. Delivered kit-bags and unit stores for plane to RICHMOND. SIGNED AA F51 with Sgt MOSELY and there were NIL DEFICIENCIES.	
	1745		ARRIVED AT 5RAR and left for RICHMOND ADOREN 8 PM.	
	2200		GOT TO SEE OUR RELATIVES AND BOARDED PLANE about 1135. TOOK OFF JUST ON MIDNIGHT. LANDED	
7 MAY 66	0220		in TOWNSVILLE FOR REFUELING. LANDED AGAIN IN MANILA 0730 (MANILA TIME). ARRIVED SIAGON 1130. TOOK UNTIL 1545 hrs to get to VUNG TAU. JOINED REST OF the wksp. LSM with 5TON WRECKER and DRIVER had not yet come ashore. M.J.D.	