

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Miscellaneous units

Item number: 17/1/10

Item: 1 Australian Civil Affairs Unit

Narrative

Annexes

[1-29 Feb 1968]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No.10.....

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) Lt Col

Appointment.....CO 1 Aust CA Unit
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

SECRET

ORIGINAL

~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where

not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation.....FIRST AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AFFAIRS UNIT

From 1 FEB 68

To 29 FEB 68

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 NII. 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

CONTENTS

s as well as map references), establishment, equipment

orders given.

e day's fighting, including company movements.

mander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

ential importance.

officers, men and equipment.

ment captured.

mployed in the time not accounted for. The type of

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

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

(continued on back cover)

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.

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR February 1968

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Aust C Unit

Lt Col J.F. McDONAGH
COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	1 Feb 68		TET offensive commenced. Most civic action work had closed down for the TET period and the unit was mainly employed on tasks in the unit area.	
	5 Feb 68		The VC assassinated the following officials in Suoi Nghe at approx 0100 hrs after a "Kangaroo Court" on a street in the village. a. Hamlet Chief. b. Deputy Hamlet Chief. c. Refugee Service Chief.	
	6-20 Feb 68		The Regional Force Company responsible for the security of the village took no action. Assistance given to the Province authorities to handle refugees and other displaced persons by provision of accommodation, water supply, sanitation and medical treatment. A temporary tented refugee camp for 60 families was constructed and the Province Hospital was assisted in returning to normal.	
	14 Feb 68		The VC burnt down the temporary camp at LONG DIEN before it could be occupied, despite arrangements made with 52 Ranger Bn (ARVN) to protect it overnight.	
	15-16 Feb 68		Discussions with COMARV and Counsellor (AID) in Saigon on effects of TET offensive and future civil affairs programmes.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR.....February 1968

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION...1 Aust C^A Unit.

Lt Col J.F. McDONAGH

COMMANDING OFFICER.

[illegible]

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

RESTRICTED

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ANNEX MI

1 Aust CA Unit
Aust FPO 4
NUI DAT

28 Feb 68

COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION REPORT

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Name of Operation

1. Operation OAKLEIGH.

Date of Operation

2. 15/16 Feb 68

Location

3. HOA LONG YS 4264.

Control Headquarters.

4. HQ 2 RAR Gp.

Reporting Officer

5. Capt I.G. MENZIES, L.O., 1 Aust CA Unit.

Task Organization

6. a. Liaison Team, 1 Aust CA Unit (LO, Driver/Sig, Interpreter)
b. Engineer Team, 1 Aust CA Unit (3 Engineers, Driver/Sig)

Supporting Forces

7. Lambretta fitted with amplification equipment for Civil Affairs Team,
18 ARVN Div BA RIA.

Intelligence

8. Para 1 a. 1ATF OPO 6/68 dated 14 Feb 68.

Mission

9. Advise HQ 1 ATF and HQ 2 RAR Gp on Civil Affairs matters before and during the cordon and search of HOA LONG.

Concept of Operation

10. a. Effect liaison between HQ 2 RAR Gp and District and Village officials.
b. Conduct DENTCAP and MEDCAP.
c. Assist 2 RAR where necessary in population control.
d. Provision and assistance in erection of tentage for holding and dispersal areas.

Execution

11. 15 Feb 68
a. 0900 hrs L.O. attended 1 ATF briefing.

b. 1315 hrs 2 TCV's allocated from HQ 26 Coy RAASC reported to 1 Aust CA Unit and were loaded with tentage, pickets and rammers. 1x200 gallon water trailer from 1 Aust CA Unit and 1x200 gallon water trailer from 2 RAR were filled and drawn by stores vehicles.

c. 1500 hrs L.O. attended 1 ATF O Gp.

d. 1600 hrs L.O. attended 2 RAR O Gp.

12. 16 Feb 68

a. 0600 hrs RV with stores vehicles and water trailers at 2 RAR Tra transport lines.

b. 0645 hrs departed NUI DAT with 2 RAR convoy.

c. 0730 hrs commenced erection of tentage in holding and dispersal areas. Engineer team assisted by a work party of 10 men from 2 RAR. One water trailer located in holding area, the other in the dispersal area.

d. 0900 hrs 1 Aust CA Unit MEDCAP arrived and located in holding area. Patients treated at MEDCAP site on an "as required" basis at dispensary, HOA LONG.

e. 1315 MEDEVAC of 4 patients by road to BA RIA hospital.

f. 1400 hrs 1x200 gallon water trailer refilled at BA RIA by Engineer team.

g. 1500 hrs Holding area cleared and dismantling of tentage commenced.

h. 1600 hrs Tentage and stores from holding area returned to SUOI N NGHE.

i. 1615 hrs 1x200 gallon water trailer refilled at NUI DAT.

J. 1630 hrs 2 sections of infantry requested from 2 RAR to assist in crowd control in dispersal area.

k. 1630 - 1900 hrs Teams remained at dispersal area to assist in crowd control. Amplifier unit from 18 ARVN Div used extensively.

l. i. 1925 hrs CA teams moved back to NUI DAT with 2 RAR convoy.

ii. All civilian personnel remained in dispersal area under 2 RAR and ARVN control. Eventually released at approximately 1945 hrs.

iii. Tentage in dispersal area was allowed to stand overnight and was dismantled by Engineer team the following morning.

Results

13. a. 1 Aust CA Unit MEDCAP team treated approximately 80 patients at the holding area and at the HOA LONG dispensary. Many patients who were old and infirm were moved by vehicle from their houses and re-located at the dispensary.

b. Water resupply was sufficient, but it was found that filling from the BA RIA supply was too slow, due to lack of pressure and diameter of hose.

Administrative matters

14. Nothing to report.

Special Equipment / Techniques

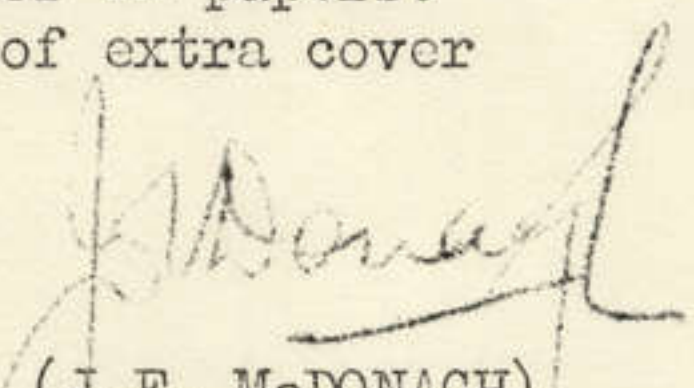
- 1 The amplification equipment provided by CA team, 18 ARVN Div, proved particularly useful. The operation was extremely co-operative.

Commander Analysis

16. a. The screening centre was laid out in such a manner that it sat astride the SW checkpoint at HOA LONG. It was obvious that little thought had been given to the passage of traffic, both military and civilian, along Route 2 and the by-pass road. This was a serious omission, as the passage of military convoys through the screening centre created unpleasant and hazardous conditions.
- b. The only other major problem encountered was the restlessness of the personnel in the dispersal area during the late afternoon. Use of voice aircraft, ground amplifiers and two sections of infantry, dispersed and settled the crowd.

Recommendation

17. a. Some serious thought must always be given to the location of the screening centre with reference to traffic control and shade.
- b. There is a tendency for large numbers of people to congregate in the actual screening area while waiting for return of ID papers. Some consideration must be given for the provision of extra cover in this location.


(J.F. McDONAGH)

Lt Col

CO

Distribution

1 ATF
2 RAR
Comd Diary (4)
File (2)

RESTRICTED

ANNEX M21

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

1 Aust CA Unit
Aust FPO 4
NUI DAT

28 Feb 68

COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION REPORT

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Name of Operation

1. Operation DANDEWONG

Date of Operation

2. 18/19 Feb 68.

Location

3. SUOI NGHE hamlet at YS 4371.

Control Headquarters

4. HQ 7 RAR.

Reporting Officer

5. Capt I.G. MENZIES, L.O., 1 Aust CA Unit.

Task Organization

6. Team 1 Aust CA Unit (LO, Driver/Sig, Interpreter).

Supporting Forces

7. Nil

Intelligence

8. Nil

Mission

9. Advise HQ 7 RAR before and during the cordon and search of SUOI NGHE.

Concept of operation

10. a. Assist HQ 7 RAR in population control.
b. Be responsible for the conduct of the dispersal area.

Execution

11. 18 Feb 68.

a. 1600 hrs discussed operation with operations officer, 7 RAR. All orders issued verbally.

b. 1620 hrs brief discussions with CO, 7 RAR.

12. 19 Feb 68

a. 0815 hrs departed NUI DAT with escort vehicle from HQ 1 ATF and press representatives.

b. 0830 hrs commenced erection of tentage in dispersal area. 1x200 gallon water trailer sited in dispersal area.

c. 1000 hrs L.O. investigated excessive quantities of tobacco and coffee beans in two houses.

- d. 1330 hrs dismantled tentage is dispersal area.
e. 1400 hrs returned to NUI DAT.

Results

13. No problems were encountered in the provision of water for dispersal area, tentage or crowd control.

Administrative matters

14. Nothing to report.

Special Equipment / Techinques

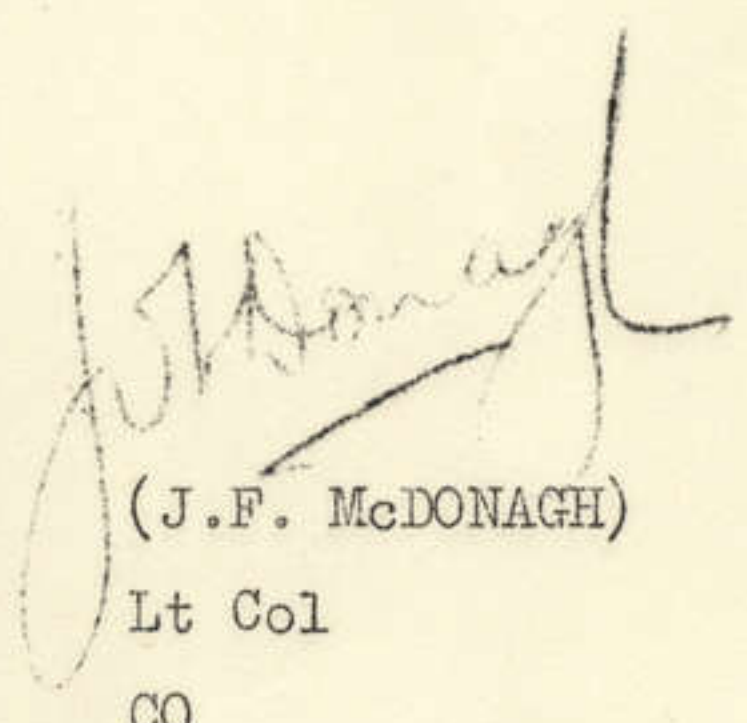
15. Nothing to report.

Commander Analysis

16. The whole operation, both in search and screening phases, ran extremely smoothly.

Recommendations

17. Nil


(J.F. McDONAGH)

Lt Col

CO

Distribution

1 ATF
7 RAR
Camd Diary (4)
File (2)

RESTRICTEDAUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES1 Aust CA Unit
NUI DAT

28 Feb 68

COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION REPORTCIVIL AFFAIRSName of Operation

1. Operation CLAYTON

Date of Operation

2. 20/21/22 Feb 68

Location

3. LONG DIEN - YS 4259

Control Headquarters

4. HQ 7 RAR Gp

Reporting Officer

5. Capt I.G. Menzies, LO, 1 Aust CA Unit

Task Organisation

6. Team 1 Aust CA Unit, consisting of LO, Sig, Interpreter, MO (provided by 4 Fd Regt) and Med Asst (provided by 8 Fd Amb)

Supporting Forces

7. S5 and CA Team from 18 ARVN Div, BARIA.

Intelligence

8. Annex A to 1 ATF OP O 8/68 dated 19 Feb 68.

Mission

9. Advise HQ 7 RAR on civil affairs matters before and during cordon and search of LONG DIEN

Concept of Operations

10.
 - a. Effect liaison between HQ 7 RAR and Province, District and Village Officials
 - b. Provide medical facilities at the screening centre.
 - c. Assist 7 RAR by provision of tentage for cover in holding and dispersal areas

Execution

11. 20 Feb 68
 - a. 0815 hrs LO discussed planning and admin detail with 2IC 7 RAR.
 - b. 1000 hrs O Gp 7 RAR. Two stores vehicles allocated to 1 Aust CA Unit for tpt of tentage.

/c.

- c. 1400 hrs. Tentage from SUOI NGHE and Unit Area, plus pickets and rammers, loaded by work party provided by 3 RAR.
- d. 1520 hrs. Stores vehicles departed NUI DAT with 7 RAR convoy for LONG DIEN.

12. 21 Feb 68

- a. 0700 hrs. CA team departed NUI DAT by helicopter for LONG DIEN screening centre at YS 438602.
- b. 0800 hrs. Medical centre for aged and infirm set up at screening site in marquee provided by 7 RAR.
- c. 0815 hrs. Work parties provided by 7 RAR commenced erecting tentage in holding and dispersal areas.
- d. 0900 hrs. 3 TCV's under comd RMO 7 RAR commenced lift in of aged and infirm to medical centre.
- e. 0930 hrs. LO gained clearance for CA team from 18 ARVN Div to work in the area of the screening centre.
- f. 0945 hrs. At request of LO two extra National Police were allocated for control at Medical centre.
- g. 1000 hrs to 1730 hrs. Aided by work force for Sp C y 7 RAR, CA team helped maintain control in holding and dispersal area. Continuous resupply of water was carried on by HQ 7 RAR to civilian personnel. An extra 1,000 galls was brought forward by road and air from NUI DAT using helicopters. 1 x 400 gal water truck from HQ 26 Coy RAASC and 1 x 200 gal water trailer from 1 Aust CA Unit.
- h. 1730 hrs. RMO 7 RAR commenced return of approx 50 aged and infirm persons to their homes using 3 TCV's.
- i. 1800 hrs. On instructions from HQ 7 RAR persons held in dispersal area were released.
- J. 1815 hrs. MO 4 Fd Regt returned to NUI DAT by helicopter.
- k. 1850 hrs. All tentage and CA stores loaded on vehicles.
- l. 1905 hrs. Reported to HQ 7 RAR and allocated positions in Coy ref area for overnight stay at site of screening centre.

13. 22 Feb 68

- a. 1000 hrs. departed LONG DIEN with 7 RAR convoy for return to NUI DAT.
- b. 1040 hrs. arrived NUI DAT, all stores unloaded in unit area the TCV's returned to HQ 26 Coy RAASC by 1200 hrs.

Results

- 14. a. Control of the civilian personnel in the holding and waiting areas raised no problems.
- b. It was not possible to brief village officials as it appeared that all officials had left LONG DIEN during the VC TET offensive and could not be located.
- c. National Police and the CA team from 18 ARVN DIV working in the holding and dispersal areas were moderately effective.

Administrative matters

- 15. Nothing to report.

Special Equipment / Techniques

16. Hand-held loud-hailers are an essential piece of equipment for use in crowd control, and must be available for use by all CA teams involved in cordon and search operations.

Commander Analysis

17. a. Layout and organization of the screening centre was particularly good.
- b. Water resupply by tanker/trailer was continuous and kept up with demands. Use of jerri-cans for wider distribution within the actual holding and dispersal areas was particularly effective as it prevented the overcrowding which occurs when only one water point is used.
- c. The evacuation of aged and infirm persons from their houses ran very smoothly. This was aided by the allocation of a TCV and work party to each Coy participating in the initial sweep of the village.

Recommendations

18. a. Where a large centre of population is to be cordoned and searched, it is suggested that the method of evacuation of aged and infirm persons, as outlined in para 17 c, continue to be used.
- b. The basic CA team (L.O. Sig, Interpreter) should move as an entity with the CA stores vehicle, to allow exact pre-positioning of loads before the screening area is completely wired in by the engineers.

(J.F. McDONAGH)

Lt Col

CO

Distribution

1 ATF

7 RAR

Comd Diary (4)

File (2)