

**Series: AWM95**  
**Australian Army commanders' diaries**  
**[Vietnam]**

**Miscellaneous units**

**Item number: 17/1/20**

**Item: 1 Australian Civil Affairs Unit**

**Narrative**

**Annexes**

**[1-31 Dec 1968]**



# 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

## TENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment  
orders given.  
the day's fighting, including company movements.  
commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

ential importance.  
officers, men and equipment.  
ment captured.  
employed 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)

AWM 95  
[17/1/Dec 68]

COMMANDERS DIARIES

SECRET

AF C 2118 (Adapted)

LVBL 5

LVBL 1

COVERING LETTER

**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.

AWM 95  
[17/1/Dec 68]

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR DEC 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Aust CA Unit

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col  
K.W. LATCHFORD

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
PHUOC TUY	2 Dec 68		Special MEDCAP conducted LONG DIEN MID for inhabitants of AN NGAI Village. 12 patients attended from an estimated total population of 800 persons.	
	3 Dec 68		VN national aged 13 years evacuated from AN NHUT village to 36 Evac Hospital VUNG TAU for examination and possible elective surgery for heart defect by USN surgeons.	
	5 Dec 68		Special MEDCAP by 9RAR MEDCAP Team at LONG DIEN MD for inhabitants of southern hamlets LONG DIEN Village. 200 patients treated from an estimated population 3400.	
SAIGON	6 Dec 68		Construction commenced 5 classrooms PHUOC HAI under local contract.	
	7 Dec 68		Engineer inspection and works assessment of orphanage repairs SAIGON area.	
	8 Dec 68		Beach outing at VUNG TAU for 15 adults and 65 children of RF Coy DAT DO.	
	11 Dec 68		CA team in support of 9RAR Cordon and Search of AN NHUT village. 'Op' KINGHIT'. MEDCAP teams from unit and 9RAR. DENTCAP team from 1RAR.	Appx 1
SAIGON	12-16 Dec		CO attended MACCORDS Advisors Orientation Course USAID HQ SAIGON. Maj A. Weaver acting in command.	

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 DEC 68

REFERENCE MAP .....

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Aust CA Unit

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col K.W. LATCHFORD

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
PHUOC TUY	17 Dec 68		Official opening and hand over ceremony held for DUC THANH Market and LA VAN Hamlet Water Supply NGAI GIAO Village.	
	18 Dec 68		Inspection of CA projects LA VAN Hamlet by CGS and COMAFV.	
	19 Dec 68		Inspection of CHAU VAN TIEP High School Library and Science Classroom by CGS.	
			Examination of windmill kits delivered by air freight at 1 ALSG for six projects.	
			Commodity Distribution of Xmas presents at VINH THANH Hamlet by unit.	
	20 Dec 68		Commodity Distribution LONG TOAN Refugee Hamlet.	
	21 Dec 68		Visit by Mr R. PLATT Aid Counsellor Aust Embassy SAIGON. Inspection of CA projects and discussion on AFV Civic Action Programme.	
	22 Dec 68		Visit by Mr CLEAVER MHR and briefing on Aust Military CA activities at HQ 1ATF.	
			Unit assistance to Social Welfare Department PHUOC TUY for childrens outing to LONG HAI beach.	
	25 Dec 68		Christmas Day - unit stand down.	
	26 Dec 68		Visit by Chaplain General (RC) MORGAN to BINH GIA Village. Accompanied by Maj A. WEAVER.	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

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

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)  
Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Aust CA Unit

MONTH AND YEAR DEC 68

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col  
K.W. LATCHFORD

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
PHUOC TUY	29 Dec 68		Orphanage beach party VUNG TAU conducted by 161 Recce Flt AAC.	
	30-31 Dec 68		JUSPAO camera team making documentary film on Public Works and	
			Education CA projects in Province.	

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

1 AUST CA UNIT  
AFPO 4  
6 Jan 69

R723:1:1

Distribution Below

CIVIL AFFAIRS - 1 AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AFFAIRS UNIT  
MONTHLY REPORT - DECEMBER 1968  
PHUOC TUY PROVINCE AND VUNG TAU SPECIAL ZONE

1. The monthly report for December 1968 is submitted covering the following:
  - a. Construction - Annex A.
  - b. Medical - Annex B.
  - c. Educational - Annex C.
  - d. Commodity Distribution - Annex D.
  - e. Miscellaneous - Annex E.

Assesment of Future Projects

2. A detailed examination is being conducted by the unit in conjunction with CORDS Advisors and SEABEE Team leader on the requirements of the PHUOC LE Province Hospital (Project 197). As several agencies will be involved in this extensive repair and renovation project, careful co-ordination is necessary to ensure a satisfactory completion of the task. Plans for drainage and sewerage have been received from CORDS Engineering Branch 3 CTZ and water reticulation plans are to be produced. Ward toilet renovation, laundry improvement and kitchen reconstruction are likely to be the main Aust CA contributions to the project.

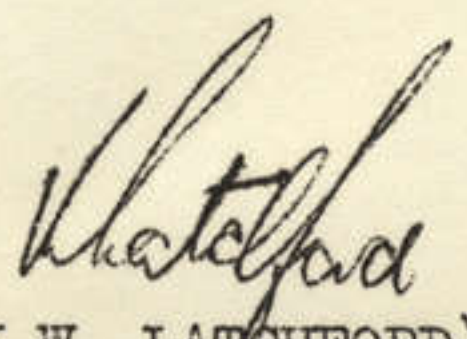
3. The guidelines for the GVN 1969 Pacification and Development Campaign have been received and examined. A Province briefing is scheduled for 3 Jan 69 and the PHUOC TUY Plan is expected to be published late Jan 69 for implementation in 1 Feb 69. Preparation of the AFV Military Civic Action Plan 1969/70 is subject to requirements and priorities in this GVN Plan.

Estimate of Reaction of Recipients

4. Nothing additional to report for the period.

Projects Closed in December 1968

5. <u>Project No</u>	<u>Date Closed</u>	<u>Final Cost</u>
211	12 Dec 68	24,100
147	6 Dec 68	16,100
83	3 Dec 68	1,198,780

  
(K.W. LATCHFORD)  
Lt Col  
CO 1 Aust CA Unit

Distribution

HQ AFV  
HQ 1 ATF  
HQ 1 ALSG  
Senior Province Advisor Phuoc Tuy Province  
Senior Advisor Vung Tau Special Zone  
Commanders Diary (4)  
File  
Spare (10)



ANNEX A  
1 AUST CA UNIT  
TO R723:1:1 OF

Jan 69

PROJECT PROCESS - DECEMBER 1968

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

<u>PROJECT NO</u>	<u>LOCATION/DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>STAGE OF COMPLETION</u>	<u>LOCAL LABOUR EMPLOYED</u>	<u>PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED</u>
104	AP SUOI NGHE Village Water Supply	8%	Village labourers for ditch Digging. 4" pipes laying by 1 Aust CA Unit Engr Det.	Awaiting bore to be drilled before windmill can be constructed A
131	5 Classrooms at NAM PHUOC HAI	45%	Contract	
198	3 Classrooms at AN NGAI	40%	Contract	
217	School Repairs HUONG SON	5%	Contract	
V156	4 Classrooms at HOI THANH TINH LANH	30%	Contract	
V157	6 Classrooms at Back Beach High School	60%		

2. RECONNAISSANCE FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

PROJECT NO	LOCATION	TYPE/DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
218	PHUOC THOI	School Repairs	Will commence early Jan, upon completion of 217.
220	LONG DIEN	Major School Repairs	Awaiting quotation from contractor
199-208		Hygiene Facilities Province Schools	In process of being produced as a project for AFV approval.
V138	AN PHONG Orphanage	Dormitory	No start has yet been made on this project due to lack of firm land tenure agreement.
V164A	LE LOI Hospital	Washing machines and 1 sterilizer	Work should be commenced early Jan 69.

Jan 69

MEDICAL REPORT

---

MEDICAL CIVIC ACTION REPORT  
(MACV Directive 40-9)

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1968

---

1. TREATMENTS 10,079

---

NOT RESULTING FROM HOSTILE ACTION PHUOC TUY 10000 VUNG TAU 79

---

DENTAL VUNG TAU SPECIAL ZONE 414

---

NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE HEALTH WORKERS TRAINED 12

---

TYPE OF TRAINING RECEIVED - In Service Training as Medical Assistants.

---

PERSONAL HYGIENE/SANITATION CLASSES HELD Nil ATTENDENCE Nil

---

REMARKS:

a. During this month, 10 additional MEDCAP Visits were conducted in conjunction with 9 RAR Med Team. These Visits were into contested hamlets in support of the LE LOI Special Pacification Campaign.

b. This additional work load on the small CA Medical Team caused a suspension of the Personal Hygiene and Sanitation classes for the month.

c. The high level of 10,000 treatments from 30 Medcaps visits cannot be sustained by this units Medical Team without the assistance from other RAAMC personnel in 1 ATF. Operational commitments involving the RMO's and Medical Assistants attached to units in 1 ATF likely to preclude this assistance on a regular basis.

d. The services of an additional MO from AFV resources one day per week would permit a regular visit to be made to LONG DIEN MID. a priority area.

Jan 69

MONTHLY EDUCATION REPORT

1. ENGLISH CLASSES

a. School Students (CHAU VAN TIEP, MINH PHUONG High Schools, PHUOC LE Junior Technical School)

Classes 11 Students 650

2. SPECIAL TASKS

a. Supervision of the Education Department maintenance team in the repainting of the CHAU VAN TIEP High School complex.

b. Transport for 59 students and teachers from CHU HAI School for outing to VUNG TAU. 2 school buses were employed on this educational visit.

c. Continued preparation of the Library and Science classroom CHAU VAN TIEP High School for the Official opening in Jan 69.

3. COMMENT

a. The Headmaster and Male Teaching staff of CHAU VAN TIEP High School will resume their teaching studies on 6 Jan 69 following completion of their Military Training.

VUNG TAU SPECIAL ZONE

4. ENGLISH CLASSES

<u>Location</u>	<u>No of Classes</u>	<u>Senior Students</u>	<u>Junior Students</u>
NAM BINH	12	-	55
CAT LO	24	9	65

5. SCHOOL REQUISITES DISTRIBUTION

a. 2 ALSG Education Officers are currently preparing a list of school requisites that are required by school children at NAM BINH, and English Class students at NAM BINH and CAT LO.

Jan 69

MONTHLY REPORT - COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION

1. PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

Clothing	6 Cases	VINH THANH
	4 Cases	LA VAN
	5 Cases	SUOI NGHE
	5 Cases	DUC THANH
Toys	2 Cases	BARIA Hospital
Kitchenware	2 Cases	VINH THANH
Baby Food	3 Cases	VINH THANH
Food	30 Cases	VINH THANH
	10 Cases	BARIA Orphanage
Midwifery Kits	6	HOA LONG
Replacement Kits	50	HOA LONG

2. VUNG TAU SPECIAL ZONE

Clothing	1 Case	Social Welfare
Food	4 Cases	Social Welfare
	1 Case	VINH LONG Evacuee Orphans
	1 Case	LING BINH Orphans Home
Miscellaneous (Blankets Soups and Soap)	1 Case	VINH LONG Evacuees Home
Pillows	30 Only	VINH LONG Evacuees Mome

Jan 69

MONTHLY REPORT - MISCELLANEOUS

1. PHUOC TUY PROVINCE
  - a. Cordon and Search Operations. Assistance was given to 9 RAR during Op KING HIT with the cordon and search of AN NHUT. Members involved:
    - (1) Liaison Detachment - 6
    - (2) Medical Detachment - 8
  - b. Other Operations. An additional 9 vehicles were painted and documented for Op GOLD TOP by members of Liasison Detachment on Dec 69.
  - c. Liasison Detachment:
    - (1) Briefings were given to 1 Aust Reinforcement Unit personnel and visiting CMF Officers on activities of 1 Aust CA Unit, PHUOC TUY Province, and relations with the population.
    - (2) Local purchase of bambo and charcoal by Task Force Units was arranged at SUOI NGHE.
    - (3) A beach party was conducted at LONG HAI in co-ordination with the Refugee/Social Welfare service for the children of LONG TOAN Hamlet.
    - (4) Liaison was effected with 1 ATF units for Xmas Celebrations:
      - (1) 161 Indep Recce Flight - beach party for children at BARIA Orphanage.
      - (b) HQ Coy - Xmas Party hospital patients at BARIA.
    - (5) Commodity Distributions were arranged as per Annex D.
  - d. Agricultural Detachment
    - (1) The harvesting of the sorghum crop at SUOI NGHE was completed 400 lbs of seed has been held for distribution to farmers next season. Other grain was distributed at SUOI NGHE.
  - e. Activities of 1 ATF Units
    - (1) Sponsorship of childrens Xmas parties by HQ Coy and 161 Indep Recce Flt.
    - (2) \* Field Squadron RAE have completed an access road for the Village Office at THAI TIEN during "Op GOODWOOD".
    - (3) 9 RAR provided a MEDCAP Team on three occasions during the month in LONG DIEN District.
2. VUNG TAU SPECIAL ZONE
  - a. Completed the rock fill platform for three 2100KW generators for VUNG TAU Power grid. Due to the overall assistance in this project by 1 ALSG, installation costs were kept to a minimum and consequently the Electric Authority of Vietnam have been able to provide from their budget, 2 x 60 KW generators for the Thang Nhut Quarter.
  - b. 17 Const Sqn have also assisted further on the Back Beach High School project by providing sand fill inside the foundations to floor level.
  - c. 55 Engr Wksp and Prk Sqn are providing firewood to the VINH LONG Evacuee Orphanage.
  - d. 102 Fd Wksp have serviced a portable generator for the Vietnamese Information Service and completed a maintenance survey of an Australian built front end loader (Moore Scoppmobile) for the Public Works Dept. A list of unserviceable parts has been produced and efforts will be made to obtain these parts from Australia.
  - e. 1 Aust FD Hosp gave a Xmas party to children in the NAM BINH area on Sat 14 Dec 68.

f. 2 AFPCJ provided a Xmas party to the dependent children at the National Field Force Police Unit in VUNG TAU. 123 Children were each given a toy and Sweets.

g. ALSG Edn Staff provided Xmas gifts in the form of school commodities to the English class children students at NAM BINH and CAT LO.

h. Mayor of VUNG TAU's Appeal. In response to an appeal by the Mayor of VUNG TAU to the FWMAF, 1 ALSG raised a sum of \$209.00. \$100.00 of this sum was used to provide gifts of candy to each of the children of the 270 families constituting this Cadre Staff dependents at the Junior Military Academy. The distribution was made at a special ceremony on the 23 Dec 68, by the Comd 1 ALSG and representatives of units of 1 ALSG. The remainder of this money is to be coupled with \$197.00 raised by US Forces in the Zone, and presented to the Mayor for use in a social welfare project. Decision on the type of project will be made on consultation with the US and Australian CA Officers.

i. 2 AOD Sgts Mess gave an Xmas party and distributed toys to 36 children patients at the US Army 36 EVAC Hospital on Sunday 15 Dec 68.

CONFIDENTIAL

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

R 569/1/1

1 Aust CA Unit  
NUI DAT  
17 Dec 68

COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION REPORT  
CIVIL AFFAIRS

NAME OF OPERATION

1. Op KING HIT

DATE OF OPERATION

2. 11 Dec 68

LOCATION

3. Village AN NHUT (YS 4659)

CONTROL HEADQUARTERS

4. HQ 9 RAR

REPORTING OFFICER

5. Capt MJ PRICE, LO 1 Aust CA Unit

TASK ORGANISATION

6. a. Team from 1 Aust CA Unit comprising LO (1), Drivers (2), Storeman (1), Interpreters (2).  
b. MEDCAP teams comprising MO (2), Interpreters (2), Medical assistants (5), Drivers (2).  
c. DENTCAP team (1 RAR) comprising Dentist (1), Dental assistants (2), Driver (1).

SUPPORTING FORCES

7. Nil

INTELLIGENCE

8. Annex A to 1 ATF Op O 71/68

MISSION

9. Advise HQ 9 RAR on Civil Affairs matters before and during the cordon and search of AN NHUT.

CONCEPT OF OPERATION

10. a. Effect liaison between HQ 9 RAR, District and village officials.  
b. Provide CA facilities at screening/dispersal area.  
c. Provide MEDCAP and DENTCAP teams within dispersal area.

EXECUTION

11. 5 Dec 68

1100 hrs LO attended Planning Conference HQ 9 RAR.

8 Dec 68

1030 hrs LO attended Co-ordinating Conference HQ 9 RAR.

10 Dec 68

Stores Vehicles loaded.

CONFIDENTIAL

2/.



CONFIDENTIAL

.2.

11 Dec 68

0610 hrs 1 Aust CA Unit vehicles RV convoy departure point.  
0625 hrs Convoy departed NUI DAT.  
0710 hrs Convoy arrived AN NHUT.  
0720 hrs Engineer party commenced erection of screening area.  
0740 hrs CA work party commenced erection of shade tentage in holing and dispersal area.  
0900 hrs All tentage erected, latrines dug and screened; MEDCAP and DENTCAP areas ready.  
1630 hrs Villagers released from dispersal area.  
1650 hrs All stores loaded.  
1710 hrs Depart AN NHUT  
1750 hrs Arrive NUI DAT

RESULTS

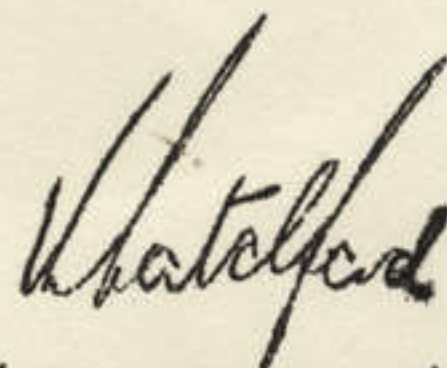
12. a. Control of the villagers in the dispersal area presented no problems.  
b. MEDCAP and DENTCAP;  
1. MEDCAP patients treated 210  
2. DENTCAP patients treated 52

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TECHNIQUES

13. NTR

COMMANDER ANALYSIS

14. a. The site chosen for the screening centre lent itself to comfortable conditions and easy erection of the tentage.  
b. Work parties were efficient in all tasks allotted.  
c. Cultural Drama Teams, daylight films and other Psyop efforts were effective in keeping the villagers occupied in the screening area.  
d. (i) The MEDCAP teams were as the occasion arose dispersed through the village to treat patients in their homes and to advise on whether patients could proceed to the screening centre or an MO would return and visit. Visits to homes by MO's were NOT necessary.  
(ii) Assistants from GVN dispensary assisted with the MEDCAP.



(KW LATCHFORD)  
Lt Col  
CO, 1 Aust CA Unit

DISTRIBUTION

1 ATF  
Comd Diary (4)  
LO (2)  
File  
Spares