

Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV)

Narrative, Annexes
1 - 30 June 1964

Series: AWM95 - Australian Army
commanders' diaries

Item: 1/2/25

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

SECRET

Army Form C 2118

This form will be enclosed with the annexes in AF C 2119. If this is not available the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

MONTH AND YEAR

JUN 64

UNIT/FORMATION AATTV

COMMANDING OFFICER Col F. P. SERONG, OBE.

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	1		Call from J5 to clarify need for Dental and Driving/Servicing Team in AATTV increment. Agreed there was no need. US Embassy informed at 2100hrs received signal from CGS covering same ground. Informed him primarily.	
	2		Talked STILLWELL (C of S) and KINZER (Deputy J5). They accepted line I developed yesterday. Letter from MS (YOUNG) saying action to get approval for GSM and decorations is proceeding. Advised by MA of forthcoming CGS visit.	
	3		Debrief Capt BOILEAU, GSD DANANG. Capt TEAGUE, his replacement is well established. He is forming a forward base in QUANG NGAI. Helped Ambassador ANDERSON prepare his signal to EA counterparting ours on D&S, Dental, etc.	
	4		BOILEAU departs. Saigon Daily News reappears. DANG SI trial (on HUE killings) is causing civic problem Catholic/Buddhist.	
	5		Attended graduation of Class 2 of Capt JARRAT's Special Political Cadres at VUNG TAU. This establishment is shaping up well, but the product is being mis-used in the provinces.	
	6		Checked local security situation in VUNG TAU. Deteriorating. Returned SAIGON 1100hours.	
	7		Large Catholic demonstration in the morning quiet, orderly, except for a minority "anti-LODGE" element. Apparently designed to show that they are not to be pushed around. DANG-SI got "Hard Labour for Life".	

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MONTH AND YEAR JUN 64

COMMANDING OFFICER Col F.P. SERONG, ORE,

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	8		De-briefed Maj KENNEDY of DUC MY. Replaced by Major BANNISTER. Also WO ROONEY of KHE SANH.	
	9		Called on General TIMMES. Farewell visit. to thank him for his strong support of AATTV.	
	10		PETERSON has been authorised to raise another 250 men in his zone. Letter from MS to say my replacement (JACKSON) to arrive mid January 65, or later. Met Col HAMILTON, of NZ Army who is doing a survey for employment of their group.	
	11		Departure KENNEDY, ROONEY. Both did splendid work. Briefed GREEN of SINGAPORE JIB.	
	12		Briefed Lt Col CROSBY'S Civil Aid EA party. US reconnaissance flights over LAOS suspended. Minister HASLUCK arrived TSN 1100hrs. Meeting at Embassy to brief HASLUCK 1500hrs.	
	13		Foreign Office dinner for HASLUCK at which he made a short forthright declaration of Australian support for VIETNAM.	
	14		To Embassy Residence for talks with HASLUCK. He wants immediate impact aid. Told him that was fine, but that if we wished to demonstrate confidence in the outcome, we had to aid in mid-and long-term aid.	
	15		US flights over LAOS re-instated.	
	16		Note from CEE to say wiring of my house is wrongly connected, some reason for high electricity bills.	

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COMMANDERS DIARY
NARRATIVE
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MONTH AND YEAR JUN 64

COMMANDING OFFICER Col F.P SERONG, OBE.

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			Conferred with AA (BRINSLEY) on deployment of six RAAF Caribous for VIETNAM. Apparently they will go to South East Asia Airlift. This is all right for a start, but is only a trucking job. They need tactical flying as well.	
	17		Big fight in the early morning West of SAIGON-Woke me! Town of DUC HOA, held.	
	18		Called on General HARKINS to say goodbye. Accepted and forwarded his good wishes to AATTV. Discussed General WESTMORELAND's MALAYA visit with him. Very impressed by Special Branch operations. Said he can now understand and appreciate the basis of the evaluations by THOMPSON and myself. Conferred with WESTMORELAND and DE PUGH on future plans. Broadly, he accepts all the points I have made in the past, But can he implement them?	
	19		Signal advice that all ORs will arrive as WOs. Good:- Farewell dinner to General HARKINS at CARAVELLE.	
	20		Notification of pay rise - good. Signal on new service conditions for AATTV. Principal point a uniform 12 months period. Large farewell for HARKINS at TSN.	
	21		-	
	22		Conferred with Ambassador on CGS visit. Visit from newly arrived first secretary, NORWEGIAN Embassy SANDEGREN.	
	23		Arrival of CGS. Met by self, WESTMORELAND, LAM. Lunched Embassy residence. Then conference.	

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COMMANDERS DIARY
NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION AATTV

MONTH AND YEAR JUN 64

COMMANDING OFFICER Col F.P.SERONG, OBE.

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			on Status of Forces, border violation possibility, logistics. Thence to WESTMORELAND with whom he conferred privately and emerged satisfied - talked of staff for districts, and officer training establishments. Back to CARAVELLE for final conference in which we agreed to my original basis of distribution for new personnel. Reception OXLEY'S. Dinner at Ambassador's.	
	24		To Hue in VIP C123, breakfast aboard. Visited DONG DA, PHU BAI and DUC MY. CGS most impressed. A useful day. Papers announce LODGE departing. TAYLOR coming.	
	25		Self, Ambassador, CGS concocted a signal for CANBERRA asking government approval for AATTV additional employment in Special Forces. CGS departed. Met Lt Col FOLEY, Comd NZ Team. Briefed him. Called to say goodbye to Ambassador LODGE.	
	26		Three explosions in town during the day. Incident rate for June remains about steady with May	
	27		Departed for BANGKOK	
	28		BANGKOK	
	29		BANGKOK	
	30		Departed BANGKOK-Arrived SINGAPORE.	
			Monthly report submitted AHQ.	30

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AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAMVIETNAMREPORT NO. 23FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 1964

PY

GENERALCOLONEL F.P. SERONG, OBE, COMMANDING

1. The general situation remains unchanged, with a slight reduction in the climbing incident rate; and an increase in the size of reported sightings - e.g. in certain central districts where a few months back sightings were squad and platoon, they are now platoon and company.

2. The internal opposition to KHANH remains centered in the DAI VIET group. This was earlier split four ways around personalities; it is now split two ways between Buddhists and Catholics, with the split extending to military leaders with DAI VIET affiliations. However, KHANH's position remains uneasy and this is reflected in the conduct of operations.

HEALTH

3. Captain MOYLE is having some difficulty shaking off an amoebic dysentary condition.

MORALE

4. Excellent, increased activity helps.

WELL BEING

5. Notification of new pay rates was received with jubilation, tempered only by the presence of the phrase on lowering of overseas allowances. However, it is assumed here that the only AATTV member whose remuneration will fall rather than rise is Comd AATTV.

COMMENDATION

6. I should invite attention to the outstanding work at present being performed by Captain A.B. PETERSON in the organization and training of mountain tribesmen for operational tasks in the High Plateau. This work calls for a high degree of professional skill and a particular aptitude for dealing with ethnic minorities, which Captain PETERSON possesses.

7. Another fine sustained effort has been made by WO A.D. CRAIG, who, in addition to his duties with the Weapons Committee of Dong Da National Training Centre, has a most valuable contribution through his fine language capability.

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8. WO B. STOKES, first in the Dong Da Weapons Committee, and more recently with the Special Forces detachment at ASHAU, has received high commendation from his US and VN associates. This is confirmed by my own observation.

9. As attachments to this report (copy 1 only) I have included the following letters of commendation:

- (a) Letter of commendation for 242633 Capt R. CLARK.
- (b) Letter of commendation for 5288 WO1 R.A. BANDY.
- (c) Letter of Commendation for 12983 WO2 R.W. COOK.

VISITS

10. We were delighted to have the opportunity to introduce the Chief of the General Staff, Sir JOHN WILTON, to AATTV members and activities. In one fast-moving, full day he was able to visit all installations.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES11. DONG DA (PHU BAI)

2 Bn 2 Regt completed its five week programme
 2 Bn 6 Regt completed its five week programme
 CCL (Inf) completed 5th week of a nine weeks programme
 CCL (Sig) completed its five week programme
 Recruits - ten companies in training
 Combat Youth - two companies in training
 Civic Action - one group in training

12. Temporarily (while the recruit training programme is making severe demands on Dong Da accommodations), battalion training will be limited to one battalion. Trainee holdings at Dong Da are in excess of 3000.

13. Special Forces, CIDG (Village Defence)

KHAM DUC: WO COLLINSON and the KHAM DUC group are assisting with the organization of a forward base to the WEST at A RO. WO COLLINSON's engineering skill is proving extremely useful.

ASHAU: WOs ROUGHLEY and STOKES remain attached to ASHAU base to facilitate the change over between two "A" Teams.

TARAU: WO McCOURT, who was attached to TARAU, has been relieved by WO CONWAY. TARAU is now to be called NAM DONG to avoid confusion with a nearby hamlet of the same name.

KHE SAHN: WO CHINN has joined the KHE SAHN group, replacing WO ROONEY.

14. DUC MY

37 Ranger Bn completed its six week course
 JMS Course 4/64 is completed
 JMS Course 5/64 has commenced
 Recruit training of two companies continues

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15. VUNG TAU

Special Cadre Course No. 2 is completed.

VC REACTION TO SATURATION TECHNIQUE

16. The following extracts from a captured document make interesting reading. The full text is forwarded separately.

Forwarded for information is a translation of a document written on 15 Feb 64 over the signature of Major TAN, Commander of the 1st VC Regiment. This document was captured on/about 4 April 1964 in the Phuoc-Chau valley, I Corps, by elements of the ARVN 6th Regiment. The document deals with the new ARVN saturation tactics employed by the ARVN 2nd Division and TAN's instructions for countering the effectiveness of these tactics.

The enemy's (ARVN) activities in the last four months of 1963 seemed to be spreading through out the southern QUANG-NAM area (QUANG-TIN). Tactics such as raide, ambushes at night, in the evening twilight, just before dawn, or raining days and in critical areas have been used to surprise us (VC). The enemy (ARVN) has been employing one or two companies. Their troops march secretly in the forests or on trails in unpopulated or quiet areas such as the flanks of mountains, along streams and in remote areas which have been regarded as our security zones. They appear suddenly at 1, 2....5 AM or any time throughout the night regardless of cold or swamps. They move on foggy days employing hit and run tactics, sometimes raiding with strong fire.

These are counter guerrilla tactics which they (ARVN) have learned from Malaya and this is the first time they are being used in our area. They were able to win some victories because of our short comings and lack of alertness. The enemy (ARVN) understands our disciplines and customs because we did not keep secret while moving, speaking and they learned this through their reconnaissance personnel and spies."

CONCLUSION

17. The reporting period was noteworthy for the departure of General HARKINS and the assumption of command by General WESTMORELAND.

18. Almost simultaneously, Ambassador LODGE relinquished his position, and an announcement of his replacement by General TAYLOR was made in WASHINGTON.

19. These changes are stimulating both the VN and the advisory components to fresh efforts.

J. P. Secord

Col.
Comd, AATTV.
11 Jul 64

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DISTRIBUTION:

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COMUSMACV
AUST EMBASSY
AUST ARM SINGAPORE
DANANG DET (4)
DONG DA DET
DUC MY DET
DIARY (2) ✓
FILE

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ANNEX "A" to
AATTV Report No. 23ARRIVALS

Number	Rank	Name	Scheduled date of arrival	Actual date of arrival	Station
311251	WO2	J.H. COLEMAN	15 Jun 64	12 Jun 64	DUC MY
22862	WO2	K.A. GABRIEL	15 Jun 64	16 Jun 64	DONG DA
2410380	WO2	R.G. CARTER	15 Jun 64	16 Jun 64	DONG DA
27270	WO2	N.C. CAMM	15 Jun 64	19 Jun 64	DONG DA

DEPARTURES

Number	Rank	Name	Scheduled date of departure	Actual date of departure	Station
52074	WO2	D.C. DALTON	15 Jun 64	4 Jul 64	DUC MY
21398	WO2	D.W. DONKIN	15 Jul 64	4 Jul 64	KHE SANH
52385	WO2	J.S. MC COURT	15 Jul 64	9 Jul 64	TARAU
22900	WO2	J.W. ROUGHLEY	15 Jul 64	9 Jul 64	ASHAU

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ANNEX "B" to
AATTV Report No. 23

CASUALTIES

47020 Capt R. J. MOYLE

Amoebic dysentery

28703 Capt P.C. JARRATT

Amoebic dysentery

24393 WO2 R.J. COLLINSON

Slight panji, wound
LEFT hand.

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APPOINTMENTS1. SAIGON:

Col F.P. SERONG: Comd
Lt Col J.G. MONAGHAN: Dep Comd, Advisor O&T Div
Capt C.L.T. McDONAGH: Adm Offr
WO2 K.W. RAMSDALE: Adm WO

2. DANANG (CSD):

Capt I.C. TEAGUE: Combined Studies
Capt A.B. PETERSEN: Detached BAN ME THUOT
Capt P.C. JARRATT: Detached VUNG TAU

3. DANANG (Special Forces):

Maj J.M. MURPHY: "C" Team NHA TRANG
WO1 H.D. CLIVELY: "C" Team NHA TRANG
Capt J.J. BURROWS: "B" Team DANANG
Capt N.F. De La HUNTY: "B" Team DANANG
Capt G.D.W. IRVINE: "A" Team AN DIEM
WO2 J.W. ROUGHLEY: "A" Team AN DIEM (detached ASHAU)
WO2 B. STOKES: "A" Team AN DIEM (detached ASHAU)
WO2 J.S. McCOURT: "A" Team AN DIEM (detached TARAU)
WO2 K.G. CONWAY: "A" Team AN DIEM (detached TARAU)
WO2 D.W. DONKIN: "A" Team KHE SANH
WO2 R.J. COLLINSON: "A" Team KHE SANH (detached A RO)

4. DONG DA

Maj I.G. McKEOWN: Senior Australian Advisor, Adv S3
Capt R.L. POLLARD: Chief Tactics Committee
WO1 G.E. CHINN: Tactics Committee
WO2 W.J. LAPHORNE: Tactics Committee
WO2 K.A. GABRIEL: Tactics Committee
WO2 R.G. CARTER: Tactics Committee
Capt R.J. MOYLE: Chief Weapons Committee
WO2 A.D. CRAIG: Weapons Committee
WO2 J. HUSBAND: Weapons Committee
WO2 J.R. STEWART: Weapons Committee
WO2 N.C. CAMM: Weapons Committee
Capt R. CLARK: Chief General Subjects Committee

5. DUC MY

Maj T.C. BANNISTER: Senior Australian Advisor; Senior Training Advisor
WO1 R.A. BANDY: Unit Training Committee
WO2 D.J. NEVILLE: Unit Training Committee
WO2 D.C. DALTON: Advisor Jungle, Mountain, Swamp School
WO2 J.H. COLEMAN: Advisor Jungle, Mountain, Swamp School

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ANNEX "D" to
AATTV Report No. 23

LOG OF INCIDENTS

Date	Location	Occurrence
13 Jun 64	ARO	The ARO operation base, to which WO2 COLLINSON is attached as training advisor, was probed by a VC squad which wounded one member of the Strike Force.
15 Jun 64	ARO	The ARO base again came under probing fire by VC using automatic weapons. A DF task was fired by friendly 81mm mortars.
16 Jun 64	ARO	Two VC fired on the operational base fire approx 400 meters VC disappeared after firing. No casualties.
17 Jun 64	ARO	VC snipers fired on operational base from approx 300 meters WEST of camp site.
20 Jun 64	NAM DONG	The NAM DONG CAMP where WO2 MC COURT is an advisor, was probed by approx six VC. They fired bursts of automatic fire. A DF task was fired and a patrol was sent out from the camp, but the VC eluded capture.
26 Jun 64	ARO	The ARO Operational base was again fired on by two VC armed with a BAR.
29 Jun 64	ARO	VC sniper fire was directed at the ARO operational base. No casualties were received.
	ARO	A friendly patrol was ambushed due SOUTH of ARO. One Strike Force soldier suffered a gunshot wound and was evacuated to DANANG by VNAF helicopter. Capt IRVINE was accompanying the patrol as training advisor.
30 Jun 64	ARO	The ARO operational base came under harassing fire from VC. Some rounds fell in the camp site.

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OFFICE OF THE SENIOR ADVISOR
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ADVISORY DETACHMENT
ADVISORY TEAM #3, APO 158
US FORCES

MAGTN HU

19 May 1964

SUBJECT: Commendation

THRU: Senior Advisor
Dong Da National Training Center
Advisory Tm #5, APO 158, US Forces

TO: Captain Rex Clark, 242633, Australian Army

1. I wish to commend Captain Clark personally for his display of professional ability of a high order and his calmness and judgement under enemy fire during the period 18-28 April 1964 on Operation Lam Son 115.

2. While serving as an observer with the 32d Ranger Battalion, ARVN, he showed a complete willingness to do all that was asked of him. He volunteered to assist the US advisor with checking the security of the perimeter at the helicopter landing zone. He accomplishes this while the Viet Cong were firing at the landing helicopters and continued until all helicopters had landed the Vietnamese Rangers. He then assisted the US advisor in making a map and terrain check. The suggestions he offered were practical and sound, which indicates that his professional knowledge of this type of warfare is exceptional.

3. He displayed personal courage when the force encountered an estimated Viet Cong squad at a Viet Cong training Center. He gathered men into a reaction force to exert pressure on the Viet Cong while the Viet Cong were firing at the friendly forces. This forced him to expose himself to Viet Cong observation, which he did with complete disregard for his personnel safety.

4. Throughout the operation Captain Clark made map checks, suggested routes of march, discussed patrol techniques and offered constructive criticism. His physical condition was exceptional as evidenced by his ability to traverse the rough mountainous terrain which the operation covered.

MAGTN HU
SUBJECT: Commendation

19 May 1964

5. It is considered appropriate that this officer receive recognition for his conduct and actions during operations Lam Son 115.

LEROY P. COLLINS, JR
Colonel, Infantry
Senior Advisor

Cy furn:

SA, I Corps.

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR ADVISOR
DONG DA NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER
Advisory Team 5, APO 158
San Francisco, California

28 May 1964

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

THRU: Commanding Officer
Australian Army Training Team
Military Assistance Command Vietnam
APO 143, San Francisco, California

TO: WO I Reginald A. Bandy
5288
Australian Army Training Team

1. Upon your departure from the Dong Da National Training Center, Republic of Vietnam, I wish to take this opportunity to commend you for the outstanding manner in which you performed your duties.

2. During the previous seven and one half months your performance of duty as Assistant Chief, Tactics Committee has been outstanding. In particular your guidance and direction of performance of demonstration platoon contributed to high standards required and maintained by units undergoing training. Despite the language barrier your perseverance and patience obtained for you the best results from both the Officers and Noncommissioned Officers with whom you worked.

3. I wish you continued success in your future assignments, and should the opportunity present itself in the future, I would gladly accept you as a member of my command.

EDWARD L. KERKER
Lt Colonel, Inf
Senior Advisor

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR ADVISOR
DONG DA NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER
Advisory Team 5, APO 158
San Francisco, California

28 May 1964

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

THRU: Commanding Officer
Australian Army Training Team
Military Assistance Advisory Command
APO 143, San Francisco, California

TO: WO II Ronald W. Cook
12983
Australian Army Training Team Vietnam

1. Upon your departure from the Dong Da National Training Center, I wish to take this opportunity to commend you for the outstanding manner in which you performed your duties.

2. During the eleven and one half months you were a member of this team your professional acumen and knowledge contributed immensely as an advisor on the Tactics and Weapons Committee. You were enthusiastic despite many difficulties that were encountered in performing your duties. Your particular "Forte" were Viet Cong Village training and River Crossing training. Your contribution to these two aspects were readily accepted and instituted by your counterpart of Republic of Vietnam Army.

3. I wish you continued success in your future assignments, and should the opportunity present itself in the future, I would be pleased to again serve with you.

EDWARD L. KERKER
Lt Colonel, Infantry
Senior Advisor