

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Miscellaneous units

Item number: 17/6/7

Item: 1 Australian Reinforcement
Unit

Narrative

Annex

[1-31 Dec 1966]

PART 1

COVERING LETTER

Reference No.

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)

CAPT

Appointment

OC 1 AUST RFT UNIT

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965**SECRET**ORIGINAL
DUPLICATEStrike out where
not applicable**COMMANDERS DIARY**

OF

Unit or Formation

1 AUST RFT UNIT

From

1 DEC 66

To

31 DEC 66

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

1	to	4
Nil	to	.....
1	to	2
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....
Nil	to	.....

 † NIL
 † RETAINED
 † Despatched to

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

on

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

CONTENTS

ies as well as map references), establishment, equipment

d orders given.

he day's fighting, including company movements.

nmander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

potential 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
uments issued and received, routine returns, etc. All
l and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

he 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.

COMPILATION

6. 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) concerned, the name of the parent unit, and covered and enclosure numbers of the narrative 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 annexes, an annex Nil will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular head of annex, they may be included.

9. The operations form Annex 1. The form is to be completed and the document is to be prepared and despatched as follows:

10. The form is to be completed as follows:

a. as well as any references, establishment, equipment

b. orders given.

c. the day's fighting, including company movements, casualties with regard to equipment, tactics, etc.

d. details of importance.

e. officers, men and equipment.

f. general remarks.

g. personnel in the time not mentioned in the form.

h. and to show work as much information as possible, e.g. orders issued and received, routine returns, etc. All annexes are to be given a receipt or despatch is to be given.

i. but need not give a précis of any of them.

This form is to be enclosed with the
annexures in AF-C2119 (Adapted)

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C2118 (Adapted)

Month and Year DEC 66

Reference Map.....

Unit Formation .1. AUST RFT UNITCommanding Officer Capt. K H JACKSON

Place and Grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and Enclosure number
.....	DEC 1	.....	NTR	.....
.....	2	.....	NTR	.....
.....	3	.....	NTR	.....
.....	4	.....	NTR	.....
.....	5	.....	NTR	.....
.....	6	.....	NTR	.....
.....	7	.....	NTR	.....
.....	8	.....	NTR	.....
.....	9	.....	Given area of HOA LONG as TAOR by TF Comd Brig JACKSON	.....
.....	10	.....	NTR	.....
.....	11	.....	Commenced sweep and clear of B EAST of HOA LONG	.....
.....		.....	Results: XXX 1. 3 Tunnels uncovered - not previously known	.....
.....		.....	2. Some VC eqpt discovered	.....
.....		.....	3. 20 x Panjis found made of concrete and metal hooks	.....
.....		.....	protruding	.....
.....	12	.....	NTR	.....
.....	13	.....	NTR	.....

ENCL 2

PART 2

This form is to be enclosed with the annexures in AF-C2119 (Adapted)

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C2118 (Adapted)

Month and Year... DEC 66

Reference Map.....

Unit Formation 1. AUST RFT UNIT

Commanding Officer. Capt. K. H. JACKSON

Place and Grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and Enclosure number
.....	DEC 14		NTR	
.....	15		NTR	
.....	16		NTR	
.....	17		NTR	
.....	18		Commenced OP FIRST CHANCE - HOA LONG village	
.....			Aim: To introduce Inf rfts to the problems and techniques of	
.....			searching ground with a village complex.	
.....			Results: NTR / OP Orders attached	
.....	19		NTR	
.....	20		NTR	
.....	21		NTR	
.....	22		NTR	
.....	23		1 ARU Ambush patrol - HOA LONG	
.....			Positioned at GR 414645 - Pl Comd 2Lt M IRVINE	
.....			FOO Lt STEINBROOK (US) (1ARU personal FOO by own request)	

ENCL 3

PART 2

This form is to be enclosed with the annexures in AF-C2119 (Adapted)

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C2118 (Adapted)

Month and Year... DEC 66

Reference Map.....

Unit Formation .1. AUST RFT UNIT.....

Commanding Officer. Capt. K H. JACKSON...

Place and Grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and Enclosure number
.....	DEC 24	0200 hrs	Patrol contacted by approx 7 VC	.....
.....		0230	Estimate 1 possible 2 VC KIA	.....
.....		0300	Arty Fire called in on lights EAST of village	.....
.....		0700	1 VC KIA (BC) with 1 x 30 cal wpn	.....
.....			OC's comments: This is first VC KIA by unit. Consider this a breakthrough. HQ 1 ATF now consider 1 ARU capable of operational tasks	.....
.....	25		Info by Capt KIM (Viet RF Comd)	.....
.....			Capt DUCKLOE (US Adviser)	.....
.....			2 confirmed VC KIA (BC)	.....
.....			1 ARU Stood down for XMAS	.....
.....	26		Info by Capt KIM } 5 VC KIA (BC) Picked up in area off Arty	.....
.....			Capt DUCKLOW } Strike on 24 Dec 67	.....
.....	27		NTR	.....
.....	28		Commenced OP HEINZ - HOA LONG village	.....
.....			MSN - ARU to search and clear 200M North of Bund.	.....

PART 2

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AT-C2118 (Adapted)

Reference Map.....

Unit Formation 1. AUST RFT UNIT

Commanding Officer. Capt. K. H. JACKSON

[illegible]

SECRET

ENCL 1

Copy No.....

1 ARU
NUI DAT

OPERATION HEINZ

1. SITUATION

- a. Topography Map HOA LONG (Special) 1:50000
Ground is flat ranging from thick bush to bananas.
Bund is approx six feet high and ditch on outside
is mostly full of vines and bush.
- b. En forces
 - (1) Known to be in squads in area of 3 - 6 men although
could be grouped into larger force.
 - (2) Wpns and dress are generally black pyjamas or
shorts, pistol belt and ammo pouches with MI's,
M2's, BAR's or thompsons.
 - (3) Have been known to be moving into village late
afternoon and leaving during darkness. Recently
small scale ambushing and sniping at veh and personnel.
- c. Civilians

Will be in area tending herds and cultivation.
- d. Friendly forces US Arty has ptls 300-400m N of op
area. Attached ar 2 OR's from Sub Sector HQ plus NAT
POLICE. Mortar section is in support.

2. MISSION

ARU is to search and clear area 200m north of bund
(See overlay ANNEX A)

3. EXECUTION

- a. Strength and composition

(1 offr 34 or's) 3 sec of 8 men, medic, 2 civil affairs.
3 police, Pl Sgt, Pl Comd.
- b. Timings
 - (1) Out 280900H
 - (2) In 281600H
- c. Movement by foot
- d. Routes see overlay ANNEX A
- e. Formations
 - (1) on road ACK -ACK
 - (2) through plantation ARROWHEAD 1 up 2 reserve
 - (3) on search EXTENDED LINE
- f. Action on contac - contact drill
- g. Action if ambushed - ambush drill

SECRET

///...4 Admin and log

SECRET

Admin and log

- a. Rats midday meal carried on person
- b. Eqpt & Dress Ptl order
- c. Wpns 1 GPMG M60 per section, pers wpns
- d. Ammunition 300 rds per gunner, 100 rds belt per rifleman 100 rds per rifle.
- e. Medical
 - (1) 1st Field Dressing LH rear pocket
 - (2) medic accompanying ptl
 - (3) Casevac to Pol Post
- f. Special Eqpt.
 - (1) Electric torches (2)
 - (2) Prodders 4 per section
 - (3) 1 pick 1 shovel per section
 - (4) 2 telephones, roll Don 10 cable

5. Command and Sigs.

- a. (1) Frequencies 59.8m
- (2) Calssigns
 - TOC 01
 - PTL commander 02
 - ARU 03
 - Mortars 83A
- b. Time of opening 0830

SECRET

SECRET

Ench 2

Copy No....

1 ARU
NUI DAT

18 DEC 66

OPERATION FIRST CHANCE

INTRODUCTION

1. Operation FIRST CHANCE is a training exercise to be carried out by 1 ARU within the confines of the protected village of HOA LONG.

2. The aim is to introduce the Infantry Reinforcements to the problems and techniques of searching ground within a village complex.

3. It is believed that somewhere in the village of HOA LONG a large tunnel complex exists and this is an added incentive to carrying out an intensive ground search

DISTRIBUTION

G2 OPS	-	2
FOO	-	1
6 RAR	-	2
1 ARU	-	5

SECRET

SECRET

OPERATION FIRST CHANCE

1. SITUATION

a. En

- (1) Last ni sniped Pol Post GR 425648 wounding 1 in leg and withdrew.
- (2) VC Pl in village on W side of Hwy 2.
- (3) 3 VC GR 423634
- (4) VC hides in rubber E of bund.

b. Own Tps

- (1) 2 effrs 50 Or's of 1 ARU

c. Atts & Dets

- (1) FOO
- (2) Sec Mor 6RAR
- (3) Sec minus Aslt Pnr

2. d. MSN ARU to search S bund of HOA LONG for tunnel system.

3. EXEC.

a. Gen outline

- (1) moving 4 secs, 2 up, 2 reserve
- (2) Fwd sec will clear for dist 50 m and est fire base.
- (3) Rear sec will move up probing for tunnels and beebie traps, move thru fire base for 50m and go to ground.
- (4) New rear sec then move up and search.

B. Sp Tasks

- (1) 1 Sec L fwd sec. Extend from centre of bund 30 m L move in extended line for clearance. On search to move exclusive of bund.
- (2) 2 Sec L fwd sec. Extend from centre of bund 30m R On search to move inclusive of bund.
- (3) 3Sec L rear sec move exclusive of bund in extended line searching primarily bund.

4. Admin & Log

- a. Med Medic accompanying Pl HQ. Evac via sub sec HQ.
- b. Rats midday meal carried by troops.

5. Comd & Sigs

a. ---Lec-&-Mov-comds

SECRET

.../(2) a.

SECRET

a. Loc & Mov comds

- (1) Sec Comds to move centre of Sec.
- (2) Sgt TURNER to move approx 10m centre rear of lead sec.
- (3) WO2 POPE to move approx 10m centre rear of L lead sec.
- (4) Pl HQ central of rear secs.
- (5) ARU HQ - Sub sector HQ HOA LONG.

b. Comms & Callsigns

See ANNEX A

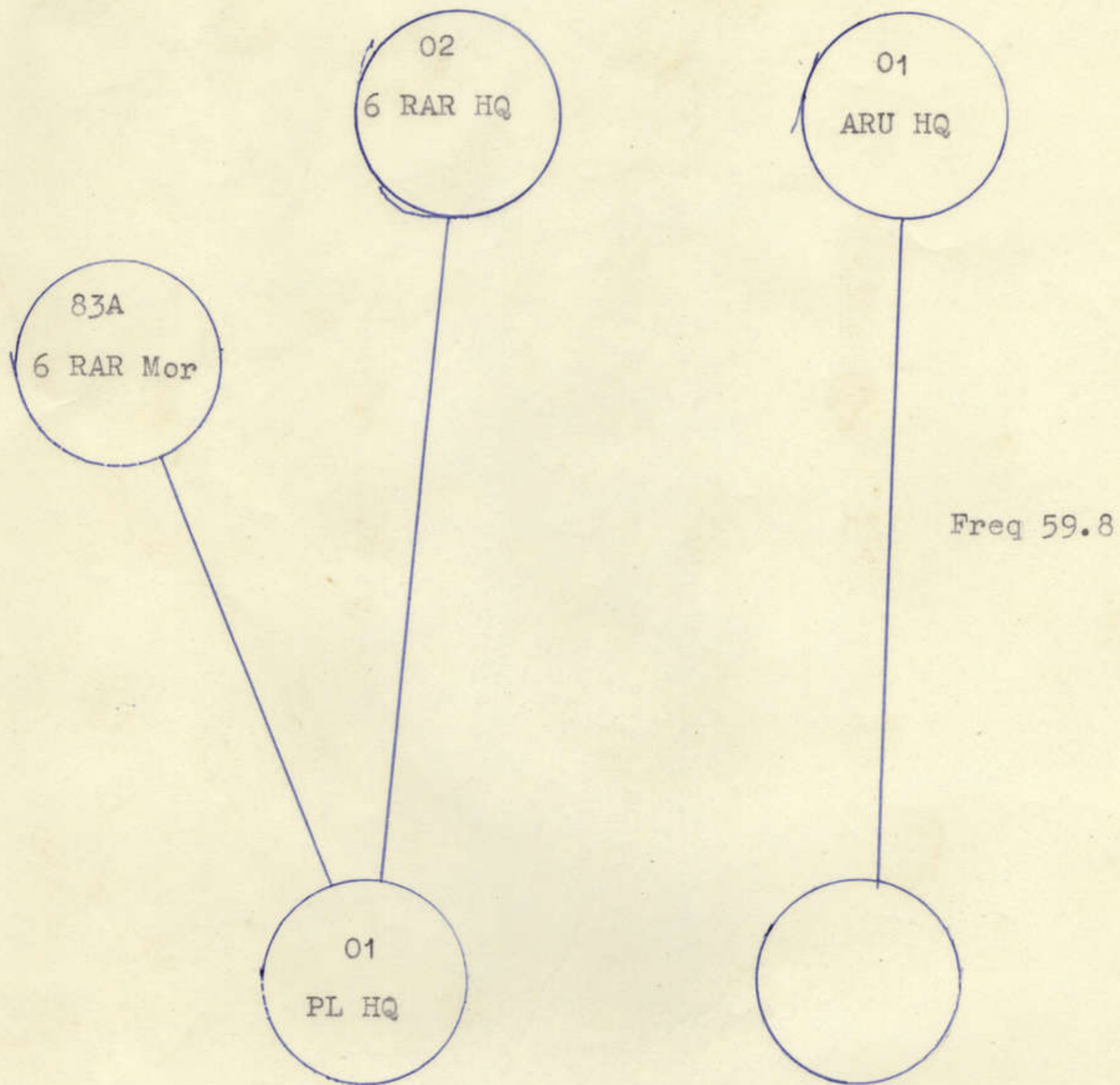
c. Codewords S.L. "K-Bar

Road HOA LONG DIEN PULLTHROUGH HOUSES GR 423634 Main
Danger.

SECRET

SECRET

ANNEX 'A' TO OP FIRST CHANCE



SECRET