

# Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV)

Narrative, Annexes  
1 - 31 March 1965

**Series:** AWM95 - Australian Army  
commanders' diaries

**Item:** 1/2/34



SECRET

COMMANDERS DIARY

Army Form C2119

1/2 Mar 65

Man

Original

of

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM, VIETNAM

Colonel O.D. JACKSON, OBE

From ... 1 Mar 65 To 31 Mar 65

S. Cochrane Capt  
(Signature of Comd or Senior Staff Officer)

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Narrative (AF C2118)

Annexes

- \*A Duty Officer's Log
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- \*K Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns
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Enclosure Numbers

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on .....(date)

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# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION AATTU

MONTH AND YEAR MARCH 1965

COMMANDING OFFICER COL. R. JACKSON OBE

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	1		--	
	2		General warning issued to beware stepped up VC terrorist activity against advisory personnel as reprisal for air strikes in North Vietnam. Maj I. G. McKeown departed for RTA.	
	3		Search and destroy operation Quyet Thang 285 began. VC force estimated two battalions vicinity Viet An 30 km NW of Tam Ky believed to be same force which overran Viet An on 9 Feb 65 and has since isolated that outpost. Major friendly forces 1 Bn 5 Regt (Australian Advisor WO2 J. Husband) 2 Bn 5 Regt (WO2 D. H. Hague) 11 Ranger Bn. (WO2 A. J. Thorpe) supported by air, artillery and ADC.	
	4		Visited AATTU personnel and Montengards Ban Me Thout area in Darlac Province.	
	5		Completed visit to Ban Me Thout area. Most impressed by results being achieved by Capt. A. B. Petersen and WO2 L. G. McGarry. General Harold K. Johnson, US Army Chief of Staff arrived Saigon accompanied by Lt Gen Compton, USAF Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations and Rear Admiral Mehle, Director USN Strike Warfare	



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# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION

1st AFV

MONTH AND YEAR

MARCH 1965

COMMANDING OFFICER

Col O.D. JACKSON

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	6		Operation Quyet Thang 285 ended. Viet An not relieved, heavy VC casualties. Orders from 2 Div caused operation not to be pressed home inspite of initial success. Could have been a major ARVN victory against a large VC force. Leading elements 3500 strong 9 Bde USMC landed at Danang for airbase security duties.	
	7		--	
	Summary week ending 7 March 1965		Situation in I and II Corps deteriorating. VC build up continues, routes 1 and 19 closed by enemy action. VC activity III and IV Corps declined. Little progress in Hop Tac program. Refugee problem in I and II Corps areas reached large proportions, e.g., in 2 Div area 73,000 refugees seeking protection from VC. One additional problem is how many VC are amongst these refugees.	
	8		Kannack battle - near Mang Yang Pass on Route 19 to west of Qui Nhon. Heavy VC casualties (body count 129). WO2 J. H. Steen departed for Australia on compassionate grounds before his tour completed.	
	10		--	



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COMMANDERS DIARY  
NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION *ARTY*

MONTH AND YEAR *MARCH 1965*

COMMANDING OFFICER *COL O.D. JACKSON*

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	<i>11</i>	<i>--</i>		
	<i>12</i>		Opening of display in Saigon of VC weapons and material captures at Vung Ro Bay last month. Display very well presented and extensive (covering a soccer football ground). Good propaganda covering support of VC operations by Hanoi.	
	<i>13</i>		WOs G. E. Chinn, W. J. Lapthorne, K. W. Ramsdale and J. R. Stewart returned to Australia.	
	<i>14</i>	<i>--</i>		
	Summary week ending		VC activity maintained in I and II Corps particularly in Quang Nam and Binh Dinh.	
	<i>14 March 1965</i>		Little change in III Corps but reduced activity IV Corps. Highway 1 still closed in II Corps. ARVN operations maintained. Pacification practically at a standstill in I and II Corps and III Corps outside the Hop Tac zone. Same program in IV Corps. Refugee problem continues to increase. 2000 Roman Catholic refugees from Binh Dinh squatted causing civil disturbances and probable long term difficulties. Authority to employ US jet strike aircraft against in-country targets delegated to COMUSMACV by JGS with consequent improvement in reaction times.	



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# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION *AATTV*

MONTH AND YEAR

*March 65*COMMANDING OFFICER *COL O. D. JACKSON*

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	15		Special Forces Nung - patrols (strength 170) under command WO2 C. Kealy and WO2 W. M. Baxter lifted by helicopters from Danang to patrol Ho Chi Minh Trails area in mountains in SW of Quang Tin Province.	
	16		2 Bn 1 Regt (WO2 R. J. Penman) operation inflicted some casualties on VC 20 km NW of Tam Ky. Main body ROK force numbering 1400 arrived Saigon in LSTs. Force now 2000. VNAF airstrike against VC in hamlet in Quang Nam Province resulted in heavy VC casualties but also killed 34 school children. No US personnel involved in operation. Eleven warrant officer replacements arrived.	
	17		Search and destroy operation Dieu Ham 27 in area junction Thac Ma River and Route 1 to SE of Quang Tri. 1 Div reserve "Black Panther" company (WO2 R. G. Harris) used in successful Eagle Flight airmobile operation. VC casualties 31 KIA including a District Chief. 2 Bn 1 Regt (WO2 R. J. Penman) contact at Trung An 20 km NW of Tam Ky claim 23 VC killed or captured.	



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COMMANDER'S DIARY  
NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION AATTV  
COMMANDING OFFICER COL O. D. JACKSON

MONTH AND YEAR MARCH 1965

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	18		Visited Ranger Training Center and other ARVN installations at Duc My. Training at RTC practical and well conducted.	
	19		Returned from Duc My in evening. Lt Col A. V. Preece MVO arrived to assume duty as Deputy Commander AATTV. He will be located at Hq, I Corps Danang. Today was a traditional VC "kill Americans" day but only incident was an M-26 grenade concealed in a loaf of bread and thrown into a US vehicle in Cholon.  Three Peace Movement leaders deported into North Vietnam across the Ben Hai River at a public ceremony.  I Corps approved in principle a pacification plan for Hue and Danang similar to the Saigon area Hop Tac program.	
	20		Third VC contact by WOs Kealy and Baxter's patrols.  Civil police arrested two Vietnamese at check point on outskirts Saigon with motor scooter carrying small 3 kg explosive charge reportedly intended for use in US Embassy.	



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COMMANDER'S DIARY  
NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION *AATTN*  
COMMANDING OFFICER *COL O. D. JACKSON*

MONTH AND YEAR *MARCH 1965*

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	21		W02 H. J. Charles evacuated Singapore for operation abscess on the liver.	
			W02 L. D. Osborne ambushed while travelling by road from Hue to Quang Tri with two other advisors.	
	Summary week ending		VC avoided contact with major ARVN units and concentrated on sabotage and terrorism.	
	21 March 1965		Intensive sabotage Route 1 in Binh Dinh Province. Same program in Hop Tac Program.	
			Two convoys (first since 30 Jan 65) moved successfully from Qui Nhon to Pleiku along Highway 19. Escort, artillery support and air cover well coordinated. Seventh Fleet elements conducted patrols outside the three mile limit combined with coastal surveillance by special US aircraft.	
			MACV accepted VC Order of Battle increase to 5 regimental headquarters, 53 main force battalions, 142 separate companies and 35 separate platoons giving main force strength 38,500. Main increases in Quang Nam, Quang Tin and Kontum Provinces.	
	22		Operation Danang 12/65. Helicopter lift of elements 11 Ranger Bn (W02 Thorpe) and 5 Airborne Bn into LZ 24 km SW of Danang. Minor contacts only.	
	23		One Warrant Officer replacement (W02 K. D. Stockley) arrived.	



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# COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION *AMTV*  
COMMANDING OFFICER *COL O. D. JOHNSON*

MONTH AND YEAR *MARCH 1965*

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	24		Discussed situation with Ambassador.	
			Search and destroy operation Quyet Thang 510 by 2 Bn 5 Regt and 3 Bn 5 Regt (WO2 N. F. Richardson) inflicted casualties 10 KIA on VC. Large VC cave complex found by Richardson.	
	25		WOs Kealy and Baxter Nung patrols reached Kham Duc Special Forces post in Western Quang Tin Province. Patrol results 5 VC KIA and 3 WIA, destroyed 22,000 pungee stakes dumps, 47 VC way station buildings, 7 foot bridges. Confirmed location one of main Ho Chi Minh Trails and VC use of elephants and buffalo. Ten day patrol too long; five days sufficient when lifted into and out of target area by helicopter.	
	26		First accepted and identified contact between ARVN and PAVN troops near Duk Sut in Kontum Province (elements 325 Div PAVN). 357 tons of bagged VC rice seized in Phoc Thanh Province. A significant loss to the VC.	
	27		Search and destroy operation by "Black Panther" coy (1 Div heliborne reserve) (WO2 R. G. Harris) one coy 2 Bn 1 Regt and heliborne coy 3 Bn 2 Regt (WO2 D. G. Yench) against	



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COMMANDER'S DIARY  
NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION *AATTV*

MONTH AND YEAR *MARCH 1965*

COMMANDING OFFICER *COL O. P. JACKSON*

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	2 (Cont'd)		located VC coy 2 km SE of Quang Tri inflicted light casualties on VC.	
	Summary for week ending 28 March 1965		VC initiated activity at an even lower level than last week. Still no major attacks and VC avoiding main ARVN forces. Highway 1 still closed in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen Provinces. ARVN operations being maintained. No real progress in pacification in I Corps, continued regression in II Corps particularly due to terrorism in Western areas, some progress in III and IV Corps. Reduction in major VC activity other than terrorism and sabotage has now reached the TET Lunar New Year holiday level. There can be two basic reasons for this:  a. A reassessment of the situation by Hanoi made necessary by:  1. USAF and VNAF strikes against targets in North Vietnam.  2. Use of USAF jets in attacks on ground targets in South Vietnam.  3. Landing of 3500 strong 9 Bde USMC at Danang.  4. Use of the Fleet elements close inshore.  b. A pause to regroup and establish a large concentration of main force units most probably in Western Quang Tin, Kontum and Pleiku with a view to major operations in the course of the next few weeks. While there is much to be said for possibility (a) above, possibility (b) seems the more likely particularly as the onset of the wet	



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COMMANDERS DIARY  
NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION *AATTV*

MONTH AND YEAR *MARCH 1965*

COMMANDING OFFICER *COL O.D. JACKSON*

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			Summary (Cont'd)	
			may limit the use of our airpower and reduce the mobility of reserve forces.	
	29		--	
	30	1050	Vicious terrorist bomb attack against US Embassy. Explosive charge estimated at 200 lbs. Contained in civilian vehicle driven up to Embassy and exploded shortly afterwards. Building fortunately did not collapse but considerable damage particularly to first three floors and to civil buildings nearby. Casualties were:  US Personnel, 2 killed 49 injured.  Vietnamese Personnel, 14 killed, 98 injured.	
	31		Beginning of operation Quyet Thang 512. Search and destroy operation by 5 Regt and 5 Airborne Bn with air, artillery and helicopter support. (WO2 J. Husband 1st Bn 5 Regt; WO2 D.H.Hague 2nd Bn 5 Regt; WO2 N. F. Richardson 3rd Bn 5 Regt) vicinity Viet An outpost (period 3 to 6 Mar) and border between Quang Tin and Quang Nam Provinces. VC Force two main force battalions. 1st Bn 5 Regt moved to blocking positions. 3 Bn 5 Regt advanced seized initial task force objective. 5 Airborne Bn heavily engaged in helicopter landing zone. 2 Bn heavily attacked and withdrew.	



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COMMANDER'S DIARY  
NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION ..... AATTV

MONTH AND YEAR MARCH 1965

COMMANDING OFFICER *COL O. R. JACKSON*

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AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM

REPORT NO 32

FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1965

BY

COLONEL O.D. JACKSON, OBE, COMMANDING

GENERAL.

1. The early part of the month saw sustained VC activity in the Northern and Central Provinces with reducing activity in the South. There was considerable evidence of the build up of VC main force units particularly in KONTUM, PLEIKU, QUANG NGAI and BINH DINH Provinces with continued proof of their ability to close Routes 1 and 19 at will. In the face of this deteriorating situation little to no progress was made in the pacification programmes in I and II Corps areas. This period also saw a large increase in the influx of refugees into the coastal areas of the Northern and Central Provinces.
2. The second half of the month was characterized by a marked decrease in VC main force operations. In spite of sustained ARVN activity the VC avoided contact with major ARVN units. There was however an increase in terrorist and sabotage activities particularly in the Northern and Central Provinces. There was also intensive sabotage of Highway I in BINH DINH, however, the first convoys since 30 Jan 65 moved successfully from QUI NHON to PLEIKU along Highway 19 during the third week of the month.
3. By the end of this period VC initiated activity in most areas had fallen to the low levels of the TET Lunar New Year mutual truce.

I believe that there could be one of two basic reasons for the marked reduction in main force VC activity:

- (a) A pause to enable regrouping of main force units and preparation for renewed offensive activity in the wet season when the effectiveness of air operations and the mobility of the ARVN reserve forces may be reduced, or
- (b) A reevaluation of the situation by the HANOI regime made necessary by the continuation and increase in the tempo of airstrikes against NORTH VIETNAM, use of US jet aircraft in attacks against ground targets in SOUTH VIETNAM; the employment of elements of the 7th Fleet close inshore and the landing of 9Bde USMC at DANANG for airbase security duties.

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4. Other factors to be taken into account are:

- (a) The, at least temporary, increase in the stability of the QUAT Government in SAIGON.
- (b) The significant losses in VC-weapons which have been brought in from the sea and the seizure of large quantities of VC rice stocks e.g. recently in PHUOC THANH Province.
- (c) Some heartening progress in the HOP TAC Programme in the SAIGON area.

5. On balance it would appear that the VC main force build up in the mountainous areas of I Corps area and in the North of II Corps has reached ominous proportions and leads to the conclusion that major offensive operations against I Corps are likely.

6. The month ended with the vicious terrorist attack on 30 March against the US Embassy building in SAIGON.

7. A summary of the main AATTV operational activities is at Annexure 'D'

DEPLOYMENT

8. Lt Col A.V. FREECE, MVO is now stationed at DANANG. His duties are Australian Liaison Officer I Corps and Deputy Commander AATTV. The appointment of Senior Advisor DONG DA National Training Centre, previously filled by Lt Col JG MONAGHAN, has now been taken over by a US Army Lt Col. Maj MJ MUSGRAVE is now the senior Australian Officer at DONG DA and is employed on training advisory duties.

9. Agreement in principle has been reached that the additional members of the Team will, when they arrive, be employed on Regional and Popular Force advisory duties in the I Corps area.

10. Current deployment of the Team is at Annexure 'C'

MORALE

11. Very good

SECURITY

12. Satisfactory. Again our luck holds. Several members of the team were lucky not to become casualties during field operations.

HEALTH

13. WO2 HJ. CHARLES was evacuated to SINGAPORE on 20 Mar 65 for medical

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treatment to an abscess on the liver. He was returned to AUSTRALIA from SINGAPORE on 5 Apr 65 for further treatment.

14. Capt A.G. THOMPSON was discharged from BMH SINGAPORE on 19 Jan 65 passed fit for duty. He resumed duty with AATTV on 22 Jan 65

15. Other illnesses have been of a minor nature

COMMENDATIONS

16. Letters of commendation for the following for inclusion in the members records, are attached to this report (Coy 1 only)

26953 WO2 HJ. CHARLES  
28910 WO2 FW. RILEY  
41335 WO2 RG. HARRIS  
26165 WO2 JT. MALONE  
28010 WO2 WJ. LAPHORNE  
28878 WO2 JR. STEWART  
3975 WO1 GE. CHINN  
13163 WO2 CR. KEALY  
13388 WO2 SJ. CARRUTHERS

CURRENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES

17. DONG DA (National Training Centre)

Fourth Battalion Fortieth Regiment commenced training on 9 Mar 65. Desertion and AWOL rate from the training centre continues to be high. Considerable problems have arisen over the shortage of potable water for troops in the training centre. This is due to poor maintenance of equipment provided for obtaining water.

18. DUC MY (Ranger Training Centre)

No battalion has arrived at DUC MY for training. Operational commitments do not allow release of battalions for refresher training. A new recruit company commenced training with the RTC on 9 Mar 65. There are now six recruit companies in training at DUC MY.

19. R/F - P/F Training Centres  
No change at all centres.

20. SPECIAL FORCES

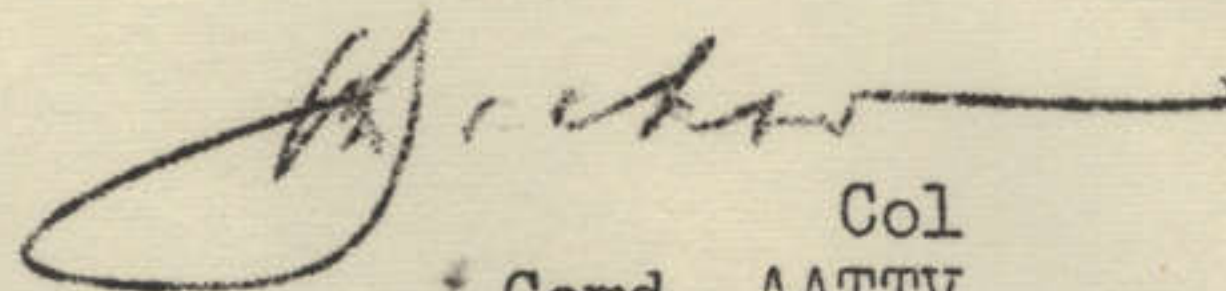
A new Special Forces camp is being opened at BA TO, about 30

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kilometres EAST of GIA VUC. WO2 SEAL will move from GIA VUC camp to BA TO, CIDG and NUNG company training continues at other camps.

  
Col  
\* Comd, AATTV

DISTRIBUTION

AHQ (8)  
COMUSMACV  
MACIMAO  
AUST EMBASSY  
AUST SINGAPORE  
DANANG DET SF (5)  
SENIOR AUST ADVISOR I CORPS (1)  
DEPUTY COMMANDER (1)  
DONG DA DET (4)  
DUC MY DET (2)  
DIARY (2)  
FILE (2)  
FLOAT

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Annex 'A' to  
AATTV Report No 32

ARRIVALS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Arrival</u>	<u>Station</u>
1113	Lt Col	A.V. PREECE	19 Mar 65	DANANG
1635	WO2	L. STEELE	16 Mar 65	THUA THIEN
23357	WOI	L.J. DOWSETT	16 Mar 65	DANANG
32183	WO2	J.R. COUTTS	16 Mar 65	LONG THO
1773	WO2	J. GORDON	16 Mar 65	QUANG TRI
13927	WO2	J.R. BISHOP	16 Mar 65	KHE SANH
28829	WO2	E.R. WADE	16 Mar 65	1 DIVISION
35799	WO2	L.B. FIRTH	16 Mar 65	VAN THANH
15628	WO2	V.L. HARRIS	16 Mar 65	2 DIVISION
12128	WO2	S.T. KENT	16 Mar 65	QUANG TRI
141027	WO2	I.J. LANGRIDGE	16 Mar 65	ASHAU
213006	WO2	R.A. SCOTT	16 Mar 65	2 DIVISION
36266	WO2	B.W. SUTHERLAND	16 Mar 65	RANGER BN
29890	WO2	K.A. WHEATLEY	16 Mar 65	1 DIVISION
23450	WO2	K.D. STOCKLEY	23 Mar 65	1 DIVISION

DEPARTURES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Departure</u>	<u>Station</u>
335054	Maj	I.G. McKEOWN	2 Mar 65	DANANG
3975	WOI	G.E. CHINN	13 Mar 65	DANANG
52362	WO2	J.H. STEEN	8 Mar 65	QUANG TRI
31951	WO2	K.W. RAMSDALE	13 Mar 65	DANANG
28010	WO2	W.J. LAPTHORNE	13 Mar 65	LONG THO
26953	WO2	H.J. CHARLES	20 Mar 65	THUA THIEN
28878	WO2	J.R. STEWART	13 Mar 65	I DIVISION

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Annex 'B' to  
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CASUALTIES

13343	Capt WJ GREGG	Admitted hospital 20 Mar 65 with muscular pains. Discharged from hospital 26 Mar 65.
26953	WO2 H.J CHARLES	Evacuated to BMH SINGAPORE 20 Mar 65 for treatment to abscess of the liver. Returned to AUSTRALIA for further medical treatment on 5 Apr 65
24492	WO2 R.S. SIMPSON	Still at ZAMA Field Hospital JAPAN. Is now walking with crutches.
27583	WO2 K.F. McDONALD	Treated for Amoebic Dysentery-fit for duty
34563	WOI W.D. HODGART	Treated for Amoebic Dysentery-fit for duty
3897	WO2 G.D. HARRIS	Reptured small blood vessels in the intestine-fit for duty.

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Annex 'C' to  
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1. SAIGON

Colonel O.D. JACKSON	:	Comd
Capt A.S. COCHRANE	:	Adm Offr
WO2 K.C. HOLLAND	:	Adm WO
WO2 W.H. ABIGAIL	:	Adm WO

2. CSD

Capt I.C. TEAGUE	:	DANANG-QUANG NGAI
WO2 J.P. CLARKE	:	DANANG-QUANG NGAI
Capt A.B. PETERSEN	:	BAN ME THUOT
WO2 L.G. McGARRY	:	BAN ME THUOT
WO2 H.W. HAMMOND	:	VUNG TAU
Capt D.W. McDOWELL	:	VUNG TAU
WO2 E.H. GRAHAM	:	VUNG TAU
WOI B. OSTARA	:	VUNG TAU
Capt A.G. THOMPSON	:	TUY HOA-PHU YEN
Capt J.H. DEVITT	:	BINH DINH-QUI NHON
Lt R.J. BROCKETT	:	QUANG NAM-HOI AN

3. DANANG (SPECIAL FORCES)

Capt G.C. SKARDON	:	S3 Air-DANANG 'C' Team
WO2 A.J. LANE	:	'C' Team DANANG
WO2 J.R. BISHOP	:	'A' Team KHE SANH
WO2 P.M. CERDA-PAVIA	:	'A' Team KHE SANH
Capt W.J. GREGG	:	'A' Team KHE SANH
WO2 R.F. SIGG	:	'A' Team ASHAU
WO2 G.E. MUNRO	:	'A' Team ASHAU
WO2 I.J. LANGRIDGE	:	'A' Team ASHAU
WO2 A.R. FOLBIGG	:	'C' Team DANANG (Communication Offr)
WO2 H.E. PATCH	:	'A' Team ARO
WO2 C.B. JUDD	:	'A' Team ARO
WO2 A.J. SEAL	:	'A' Team BATO
WO2 C. KEALY	:	'C' Team DANANG (Trg NUNG Coy)
WOI L.J. DOWSETT	:	'C' Team DANANG (Engr Construction)
WO2 R.A. MONKHOUSE	:	'C' Team DANANG

4. DONG DA

Maj M.J. MUSGRAVE	:	Senior Aust Advisor
Capt J.C. JACKSON	:	Chief Weapons Committee
Capt K.W. MACKENZIE	:	Chief General Subject Committee
WOI A.C. DUNCAN	:	General Subjects Committee
WOI E.J. MORRISON	:	WO/RSM
WO2 A.S. SELVA	:	HQ 2 Regt (Attached)

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Annex 'C' to  
AATTV Report No 32

- |                 |   |                   |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| WO2 H.F. HUDSON | : | Weapons Committee |
| WO2 J.A. McCRAE | : | Weapons Committee |
| WO2 D.R. CHERRY | : | Weapons Committee |
| WO2 F.W. RILEY  | : | Tactics Committee |
5. DUC MY
- |                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Maj T.C. BANNISTER  | : | Senior Training Advisor, Senior Aust Adv. |
| WO2 D. CASSIDY      | : | Ranger Unit Training                      |
| WO2 B.E. CHAPMAN    | : | Medical Advisor                           |
| WO2 A.H. MORRIS     | : | Advisor, Jungle, Mountain Swamp School    |
| WO2 S.J. CARRUTHERS | : | Ranger Unit Training                      |
6. LONG THO
- |                 |   |                  |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| WO2 J.R. COUTTS | : | Training Advisor |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
7. VAN THANH
- |                |   |                  |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| WO2 L.B. FIRTH | : | Training Advisor |
|----------------|---|------------------|
8. QUANG TRI SECTOR
- |                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| WO2 L HOAD       | : | Training Advisor                        |
| WO2 R.J. KENNEDY | : | Sector Advisor (Sub-sector at CAM LO)   |
| WO2 S.T. KENT    | : | Sector Advisor                          |
| WO2 J. GORDON    | : | Sector Advisor (Sub-sector at GIO LINH) |
9. DONG HA
- |               |   |                |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| WO2 R.J. BRAY | : | Sector Advisor |
|---------------|---|----------------|
10. QUANG NAM(HOI AN)
- |                   |   |                |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| WO2 J.V. FERGUSON | : | Sector Advisor |
| WO2 W.C. THOMPSON | : | Sector Advisor |
11. QUANG TIN (TAM KY)
- |                |   |                |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| WO2 R.D. PRATT | : | Sector Advisor |
| WO2 M COFFEY   | : | Sector Advisor |
12. THUA THIEN
- |              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| WOI L STEELE | : | Training Advisor |
|--------------|---|------------------|
13. I DIV
- |               |   |                   |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| WO2 R.B. WADE | : | Battalion Advisor |
|---------------|---|-------------------|

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Annex 'C' to  
AATTV Report No 32

WO2 L.D. OSBORN	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 G.D. HARRIS	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 R.J. PENMAN	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 K.J. RUDD	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 K.D. STOCKLEY	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 E.R. WADE	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 D.G. YENCH	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 R.G. CARTER	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 K.A. WHEATLEY	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 D. WALLNER	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 N.C. CAMM	: Reconnaissance Company
WO2 J. McKEWAN FERGUSON	: Reconnaissance Company
WO2 R.G. HARRIS	: Panther Company

14. 2 DIV

WO2 H. POPE	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 R.A. SCOTT	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 V.A. WATTS	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 N.E. RICHARDSON	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 VL. HARRIS	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 J.C. STEWART	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 J.G. MOODY	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 B.A. HAGUE	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 W.M. BAXTER	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 B.W. SUTHERLAND	: Battalion Advisor
WO2 K.F. McDONALD	: HQ 2 Div Adm WO.
WO2 J.D. ROY	: 51st Regt

15. I CORPS HQ

Maj J.C. HARDING	: S3 and Liaison Aust personnel 1 Div and 2 Div
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16. DANANG

Lt Col A.V. PREECE	: Deputy Commander AATTV: Senior Liaison Officer I Corps
WOI W.D. HODGART	: RSM AATTV

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Annex 'D' to  
AATTV Report No 32

LOG OF INCIDENTS

- 1 Mar - Operation LAM SON 154 - search and destroy operation by 3/3 (WO2 G.D. HARRIS) and 1/3 (WO2 J.R. STEWART) contacted two VC companies-heavy firefight with VC dug-in in a long communication trench - WO2 HARRIS silenced VC crew of a 60mm mortar - results of contact 4 ARVN wounded 10 VC KIA and nine taken prisoner-assorted weapons and ammunition captured.
- 3 Mar - Search and destroy operation QUYET THANG 285 - estimated two battalions of VC near VIET AN which had been isolated 30 kilo metres NW TAM KY - Major friendly force 1/5 (WO2 HUSBAND) 2/5 (WO2 HAGUE) 11 Ranger Bn (WO2 THORP)
- 6 Mar - QUYET THANG ended-VIET AN not relieved-heavy VC casualties-initial success but operation not pressed home
- 15 Mar - Special forces Nung patrols (170 men) under WO2 C. KEALY and WO2 W.M. BAXTER lifted by helicopters from DANANG to patrol HO CHI MINH trails area in mountains SOUTH WEST of QUANG TIN Province
- 16 Mar - 2/1(WO2 R.J. PENMAN) inflicted casualties on VC 20 kilometres NW of TAM KY
- 17 Mar - Search and destroy operation DIEN NAM 27 in area junction THAC MA River and Route 1 to SE of QUANG TRI. 1 Div reserve "Black Panther" company (WO2 R.G. HARRIS) used in successful Eagle Flight airmobile operation. VC casualties-31 KIA including a District Chief. 2/1 (WO2 R.J. PENMAN) made contact at TRUNG AN 20 kilometres NW of TAM KY - claimed 23 VC killed or captured.
- 20 Mar - WO2's KEALY and BAXTER's patrol made their third contact-
- 21 Mar - WO2 L.D. OSBORN of 1/3 accompanying party going to aid of U.S. personnel in a vehicle accident came under enemy fire on arrival at the scene of the accident. VC force forced to withdraw by the rescue party - no friendly casualties on confirmed VC casualties.
- 22 Mar - Operation DANANG 12/65 helicopter lift of elements of 11 Ranger Bn (WO2 A THORPE) and 5 Airborne Bn into LZ 24 kilometres SW of DANANG-Minor contacts only.
- 24 Mar - Search and destroy operation QUYET THANG 510 by 2/5 (WO2 N.F. RICHARDSON) killed 10 VC-large cave complex discovered by RICHARDSON

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- 25 - WOs KEALY and BAXTER Nung patrols reached KHAM DUC Special Forces comp Western QUANG TIN province. Patrol results 5VC KIA, 3 WIA, destroyed 22,000 pungee stakes and dumps, 47 VC way station buildings, 7 foot bridges. They also confirmed location of one of HO CHI MINH Trails and VC use of elephants and buffalo
- 27 Mar - "Black Panther" (WO2 GD HARRIS) company search and destroy operation, one coy of 2/1 (WO2 PIENMAN) and 3/2 (WO2 YENCH) against located VC coy 2 kilometres SE QUANG TRI - inflicted light casualties on VC
- 31 Mar - Beginning of operation QUYET THANG 512-Search and destroy operation by 5 Regt, 5 Airborne Bn with air artillery and helicopter support. (WO2 J HUSBAND 1/5, (WO2 DH HAGUE) 2/5, (WO2 NF RICHARDSON) 3/5 vicinity VIET AN outpost and border between QUANG TIN and QUANG NAM provinces. VC force was two main force battalion 1/5 blocking positions and 3/5 advanced to size initial task force objective. 5 airborne Bn heavily engaged in LZ. 2/5 heavily attacked and withdrew 2,000 metres.

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OFFICE OF THE SECTOR ADVISOR  
THUA THIEN PROVINCE  
ADVISORY TEAM 3  
APO US FORCES 96258

23 Mar 1965

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation, WO Howard J. Charles, RAASC, 26953

THRU: Senior Advisor  
1st Inf Div Adv Det  
Advisory Team 3  
APO US Forces 96258

THRU: Colonel O.D. Jackson O.B.E.  
Senior Advisor, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

TO: WO Howard. J. Charles, 26953  
Royal Australian Army Service Corps

1. It is with great pleasure that I forward this letter to commend you for your outstanding service while assigned as Infantry Advisor to the Regional and Popular Forces of Thua Thien Sector, during the period September 1964 through March 1965.

2. Your service with the Sector Advisory Team was performed in an exemplary manner. Through your devotion to duty, patience and persuasiveness you contributed materially to the implementation of programs and actions which proved highly beneficial to the training, equipping and employment of the Popular Forces. You consistently demonstrated an excellent knowledge of military matters and outstanding military bearing and professionalism.

3. In addition to your advisory role you made a significant contribution in the maintenance of the filing system and in preparation and submission of administrative reports and statistical data pertaining to Regional and Popular Forces.

4. I sincerely regret that your serious illness has caused your premature transfer from the Sector Advisory Team. I extend to you congratulations on a job well done.

WILLIAM B. MIDDLEMAS  
Major Inf  
Sector Advisor



OFFICE OF THE SENIOR ADVISOR  
ADVISORY TEAM #2  
APO US FORCES 96337

MAGTN-DN

22 Mar 1965

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Senior Officer, Vietnam  
Australian Army Training Team  
MACV-2  
APO US FORCES 96243

1. I wish to commend to you, the exceptionally fine performance of duty by WO2 Frank W. Riley, 28910, AATT. During the period 11 August 1964 to 9 March 1965, WO2 Riley demonstrated great professional knowledge, tenacious courage and coolness under fire as he served as Assistant Battalion Advisor to the 2d Battalion, 6th Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam. His positive straight-forward attitude gained for him the respect and admiration of his seniors, contemporaries, and the Vietnamese whom he advised. WO2 Riley showed great personal poraries, and the Vietnamese whom he advised. WO2 Riley showed great personal courage on several occasions. He frequently volunteered to go on small unit operations in Viet Cong infested areas even with platoon size units. On one occasion he voluntarily spent three weeks with a company size unit in a clearing operation under hostile fire during the devastating floods in Central Vietnam in October and November 1964. In furtherance of the pacification program in the Phuoc Chau area he personally arranged for the American Medical Service Corps Advisor to the 2d Division, AFRVN, to accompany him on small patrols to villages and hamlets throughout the Phuoc Chau area often into Viet Cong areas to administer medical aid to the population.
2. WO2 Riley demonstrated decisive action when he and an American Officer personally manned an artillery piece at Phuoc Chau and brought highly effective and punishing fire on the Viet Cong forces attacking the Regimental CP at Phuoc Lam. This fire cause the Viet-Cong to abandon their attack. WO2 Riley's quick wit and pleasant personality contributed greatly to the furtherance of a fine and effective working relationship of his Advisory Team with its counterparts.
3. WO2 Riley's performance reflects great credit upon himself, his Advisory Team, the Military Assistance Command Vietnam, and the Royal Australian Army.

HENRY KOEPCKE JR.  
Colonel, Infantry  
Senior Advisor



MACTN HU

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

Office of the Senior Advisor, 1st Infantry Division Advisory Detachment,  
Advisory Team #3, APO US Forces 96258, 2 March 1965

THRU: Commander, Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

TO: Warrant Officer Robert G. Harris, 41335  
Black Panther Company, 1st Infantry Division  
Advisory Team #3, APO US Forces 96258

1. The outstanding manner in which you performed your duties while assisting in our advisory effort is greatly appreciated. Your willingness to assist in every way possible, your calmness under enemy fire, and your demonstrated knowledge of your profession represent a notable contribution to accomplishment of the mission of the 1st Infantry Division Advisory Detachment and were in the highest traditions of the Military service.

2. Congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for continued success in your future service.

D. A. BISSET, JR  
Colonel, Infantry  
Senior Advisor



OFFICE OF THE SENIOR ADVISOR  
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ADVISORY DETACHMENT  
ADVISORY TEAM 3  
APO US FORCES 96258

MACTN HUG3

26 February 1965

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

THRU: Senior Advisor  
1st Infantry Division  
Advisory Team 3  
APO US Forces 96258

Commander  
Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

TO: Warrant Officer Robert G. Harris, 41335  
Black Panther Company, 1st Infantry Division  
Advisory Team 3  
APO US Forces 96258

1. Upon my departure from Advisory Team 3 and the duty assignment as Unit Advisor to the Black Panther Company, 1st Infantry Division, Military Assistance Command Vietnam, I take this means and opportunity to commend you for your outstanding performance of duty during the period of 31 November 1964 through 28 February 1965.

2. I would especially like to express my appreciation for the assistance you have given the Black Panther Company (1st Division Reaction Force) during the many successful counterinsurgency operations which included heli-borne, mechanized and jungle types. Your vast amount of professional competency and experience, as well as your ability to employ these attributes while sharing the hardships involved, was a contributing factor to the efficiency displayed by my advisory element. The assistance you have given the government forces during their many reaction type operations against the communist Viet Cong guerillas is immeasurable. For this, the Republic of South Vietnam has appropriately awarded you the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. Your calm and composed manner while under hostile fire has gained the respect and trust of all officers and enlisted men within the division area.



MACTN HUG3

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

26 February 1965

3. During your assignment for duty with the Black Panther Company you have proven yourself to be an exceptional soldier and I would be happy to serve again with you in peace or war.

4. Along with my appreciation goes the wish that you will have continued success in your future assignments, with continued credit upon yourself and the Australian Armed Forces serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

*John R. Schwartz*  
JOHN R. SCHWARTZ  
1st Lt, USMC  
Unit Advisor



MACTN-QN (23 Feb 65) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

OFFICE OF THE SECTOR ADVISOR, Quang Nam Prov, Adv Tm 2, APO US Forces 96337,  
5 Mar 65

TO: Warrant Officer John T. Malone 26165

1. It is indeed a pleasure to forward the attached letter of commendation
2. Your broad background and experience in counter-insurgency operations has and will continue to provide a constant source of sound advice. Your cheerful personality and ready wit has won the respect and friendship of Americans and Vietnamese alike. Your personal bravery and professional attitude has like-wise been an inspiration and example to all. You are indeed a soldier.
3. Speaking for the entire advisory team I add my congratulations for a job well done.

LONNIE V. WHARTON  
Major, Arty  
Sector Advisor



OFFICE OF THE SECTOR ADVISOR  
QUANG NAM PROVINCE  
ADVISORY TEAM 2, MACV  
APO U.S. Forces 96337

23 February 1965

MACTN-RF/PF

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Warrant Officer John T. Malone 26165  
Quang Nam Province  
Advisory Team 2,  
APO U.S. Forces 96337

1. I would like to take this opportunity, on the occasion of my reassignment, to commend you for outstanding meritorious service, while serving as Advisor to the Regional and Popular Forces, Quang Nam Military Sector, during my tour of duty here.
2. You quickly grasped the problems and capabilities of the units you advised. Your advisory duties included counterinsurgency tactics, military tactics, and logistics. You were able to rapidly establish rapport with the Vietnamese and developed a very close working relationship. Based on your field experience you were able to make sound recommendations that were readily acceptable. On field operations you conducted yourself in an exemplary manner under adverse conditions.
3. By your actions you won the respect of your counterpart's as well as the soldiers of the units you advised. Your devotion to duty and professional bearing has been inspirational to all who have come in contact with you. Your service reflects credit upon yourself and the Australian Army.
4. I know you will continue to maintain these same high standards in your duties and wish you continued success in your military service.
5. A copy of this will be forwarded to the Commander, Australian Army Training Team in Saigon.

ROBERT A. CERRATO  
Captain, Armor  
RF/PF Advisor



1st Ind

MACTN HU

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

Office of the Senior Advisor, 1st Infantry Division Advisory Detachment,  
Advisory Team #3, APO US Forces 96258, 3 March 1965

TO: Commander, Australian Army Training, Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

I wish to add my commendations to that of the Sector Advisor. The outstanding manner in which Warrant Officer Lapthorne performed his duties while assisting in our advisory effort is greatly appreciated. His willingness to assist in every way possible and the professional knowledge which he displayed has contributed greatly to the accomplishment of our mission.

D.A. BISSET, JR  
Colonel, Infantry  
Senior Advisor



OFFICE OF THE SECTOR ADVISOR  
THUA THIEN PROVINCE  
ADVISORY TEAM 3  
APO US FORCES 96258

1 March 1965

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

THRU: Senior Advisor  
1st Inf Div Adv Det  
Advisory Team 3  
APO US Forces 96258

TO: Colonel O.D. Jackson O.B.E.  
Senior Advisor, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

This letter is to commend WO2 William J. Lapthorne, 28010, Infantry, Australian Regular Army, for his outstanding performance of duty while assigned as Advisor, Thua Thien Sector Popular Force Training Center, Thua Thien Sector, Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Lapthorne has executed his duties in an exemplary manner, displaying initiative, intelligence, perseverance, and a complete mastery of the military skills of the Infantryman. It has been by his efforts that training at the Sector Camp has achieved it's present high level. He has faced and helped solve the problems of physically relocating and reestablishing the Training Camp with all the allied problems of building ranges, selecting training areas, adjusting schedules, etc. He has had to overcome terrific administrative blocks to the training caused by the vacillating Government policies. Throughout he gained and maintained a good, sound working relationship with the Camp Commander and staff, and in the final analysis without such a relationship nothing could have been accomplished.

Mr. Lapthorne's service with this Sector has been of the highest order and his departure leaves a void which will be difficult to fill. He is a credit to the military profession and we of this Sector are proud to have served with him.

WILLIAM B. MIDD LEMAS  
Major                      Inf  
Sector Advisor



MACTN HU

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

Office of the Senior Advisor, 1st Infantry Division Advisory Detachment,  
Advisory Team #3, APO US Forces 96258, 16 Mar 1965

THRU: Commander, Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

TO: Warrant Officer John R. Stewart  
Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

1. The outstanding manner in which you performed your duties while assisting in our advisory effort is greatly appreciated. Your willingness to assist in every way possible, your calmness under enemy fire, and your demonstrated knowledge of your profession represent a notable contribution to accomplishment of the mission of the 1st Infantry Division Advisory Detachment and were in the highest traditions of the Military service.

2. Congratulation on a job well done and best wishes for continued success in your future service.

D.A. BISSET, JR  
Colonel, Infantry  
Senior Advisor



1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ADVISORY DETACHMENT  
ADVISORY TEAM #3  
APO US Forces 96258

MACTN HU

11 March 1965

SUBJECT: Lett of Commendation

THRU: Senior Advisor  
1st Infantry Division  
APO US Forces 96258

Commander  
Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam  
APO US Forces 96243

TO: Warrant Officer John R. Stewart

1. As the Senior Advisor to the 3rd Regiment, 1st ARVN Division, I would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your outstanding performance of duty during the period 20 October 1964 - 1 March 1965, while assigned to the 2nd Battalion and 3d Battalion Advisory Teams.

2. Throughout this period you were exposed to considerable personal danger and at all times acted with the highest degree of personal courage setting a fine example for the Vietnamese soldiers to emulate. On numerous occasions you volunteered to accompany small units on dangerous missions so that you might better advise your counterparts. On one such occasion, your accurate fire in the face of a heavy volume of enemy small arms fire was successful in killing a machine gun crew and enabling the unit to regain fire superiority and ultimately make a successful assault. Also, during a large part of this period you lived in isolated villages where the population was strongly pro-communist and where the main propaganda theme was to kill advisors, where absolute trust could be placed with no one save the other advisor, and where you were always a primary target for assassination.

3. You proved your ability to live under adverse conditions by living solely on Vietnamese rations consisting mainly of rice and tea supplemented with that which could be procured from the land. Operations required that you occasionally miss meals, move over difficult terrain, carry all to sustain life for prolonged periods, and, in general, live under very physically demanding and exhausting conditions. Through your excellent knowledge of map and compass navigation you were many times able to help your counterpart in guiding his unit to reach its objective. Your experience in Malaya and other parts of S.E. Asia proved invaluable in the type of jungle and lowland counterinsurgency warfare encountered here in Vietnam.



MACTN HU

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

4. Throughout this period and under these circumstances and conditions, you performed your duty in an outstanding manner, giving sound and timely recommendations, both to the senior battalion advisor and to your Vietnamese counterparts on methods and tactics to be employed to improve battalion operations. Your personal courage during times of danger, fortitude during times of hardship, and outstanding performance of duty have been in keeping with the highest traditions of the professional soldier and reflect great credit upon yourself and the Military Service of Australia.

MALCOLM W. CHANDLER

Major Infantry

Senior Advisor, 3rd Regt