

Australian Army Training Team
Vietnam (AATTV)

Narrative, Annexes
1 - 31 March 1966

Series: AWM95 - Australian Army
commanders' diaries

Item: 1/2/38

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 117-3-1

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) [Signature]

Appointment [Signature]

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

RECEIPT FORM

(To be detached and returned by recipient)

Please return to
this address:

ARTTV
AFPO
GPO
SYDNEY.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of:

Army Form C 2118 (Adapted) MAR 66 (Month and year)

Signature

Date

SECRET

ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM - VIETNAM

From 1 MAR 66 To 31 MAR 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

..... to
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† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on.....

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

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, the relevant papers should be grouped as annexes starting at B.
9. Documents concerned with future planning for operations form Annex "Z", "TOP SECRET Supplementary Diary" of the formation originating the document. It is to be prepared and disposed of as shown in Paragraph 16.

CONTENTS

10. The diary is to contain:
 - a. Changes in command, (giving place names as well as map references), establishment, equipment and organization.
 - b. Information received, decisions made and orders given.
 - c. Where applicable, a short summary of the day's fighting, including company movements.
 - d. Opinions and recommendations of the commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization and morale.
 - e. Progress of defensive works.
 - f. Weapon state.
 - g. Weather and ground conditions, if of potential importance.
 - h. Major causes and number of casualties to officers, men and equipment.
 - i. A note of all prisoners and enemy equipment captured.
 - j. A statement showing how the unit was employed in the time not accounted for. The type of training, etc, should be specified.
11. In order to ensure accuracy and completeness and to save work as much information as possible is to be included in annexes consisting of copies of documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All annexes are to be referred to in the column provided and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.
12. The narrative is to supplement and connect the annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)

COMMA **DISPOSAL** DIARIES

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:

- 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, the relevant papers should be grouped as annexes starting at 13.

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CONTENTS

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- a. Changes in command, (giving place names as well as map references), establishments, personnel and organization.
- b. Information received, decisions made and orders given.
- c. Where applicable, a short summary of the day's fighting, including necessary movements.
- d. Opinions and recommendations of the commander with regard to equipment, terrain, organization and morale.
- e. Progress of defensive works.
- f. Weapon state.
- g. Weather and ground conditions, if of potential importance.
- h. Major causes and number of casualties to officers, men and equipment.
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1 B P Coy—274/65—55m

12. The narrative is to supplement and connect the annexes, but need not give a précis of any of them.

1/21 Mar 66

(continued on back cover)

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Australian Army
UNIT/FORMATION Training Team VIETNAM

MONTH AND YEAR March 66

LT COL
COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col A. J. MILNER

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
SAIGON	1	1100	RSM AATTV 12128 WO1 S.T. KENT departed for Aust. Posted to 42 RQR Bn (CMF)	
SAIGON/HUE	2-5		CO AATTV, Lt Col MILNER, visited AATTV member in QUANG TRI, THUA THIEN and QUANG NAM Provinces. Investigated circumstances death WO ANDREWS. Visited Advisor/Unit locations.	
HUE	3	1700	Memorial Service held in MACV Chapel HUE in honour of WO2 J H ANDREWS who was Killed in Action on 21 Feb 66. Service was conducted by Padre HOFFMAN, AAFV and attended by CO AATTV and Australian and US Advisors in the area.	
SAIGON	6	2300	52028 T/Capt G.L. MANSFORD joined AATTV ex 6 RAR. Assigned as advisor to the Ranger Training Centre, DUG MY, KHANH HOA Province.	
MALAYA	7		212536 T/WO2 R. TILLEY, 23971 T/WO2 G H LAWRENCE and 213628 T/WO2 J.N. SHEEHAN were evacuated from 4 RAAF Hospital BUTTERWORTH to RGH CONCORD NSW.	
SAIGON	8	1100	3753 WO1 A C DUNCAN (DONG DA National Training Centre) and 23450 WO2 K D STOCKLEY (Adm WO DA NANG) returned to Australia. DUNCAN to School of Army Health; STOCKLEY to 11 RWAR	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Army Form C 2119
Australian Army
Training Team VIETNAM

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER LtCol A. J. MILNER

MONTH AND YEAR

March 66

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
SAIGON/DUC MY	8 - 10	1100	CO AATTV visited AATTV members at Range Training Centre DUC MY.	
QUANG NGAI	18	0830	1423 WO1 J. N. SELMES and 42352 T/WO2 T. D. PHILLIPS were both wounded in action, SELMES GSW to left shoulder, PHILLIPS multiple GSW to stomach. Both evacuated to US Marine Corps Aid Station CHU LAI, thence to US Navy Hospital DA NANG. SELMESS condition good. PHILLIPS SIL.	See attached
SAIGON	18	1650	13769 Capt K. F. ASPINALL arrived in VIETNAM from WAUR. Assigned to QUANG TRI Sector vice Maj ROBERTSON.	
DA NANG	20	0345	12128 WO1 S. T. KENT awarded DCM - 29893 T/WO2 R. J. PENMAN awarded MM. T/WO2 PHILLIPS died in US Navy Hospital as result of wounds received on 18 Mar 66.	
SAIGON	23	1100	6420 WO2 J. H. McFADZEAN and 310027 WO2 W. S. DAVIES returned to AUSTRALIA. McFADZEAN posted to ⁵ Cadet Bde; DAVIES posted to SME CASULA.	
SAIGON	26	1650	52636 T/WO2 R. L. WEIR arrived in VIETNAM from SAS Regt. Assigned to US Special Force DA NANG. (NUNG REaction Force)✓	
SAIGON	29	1100	52153 Maj D. G. ROBERTSON (QUANG TRI), 21934 WO1 D. M. STAHL (HUE) and 32358 WO2 W. R. EVERETT returned to AUSTRALIA. Maj ROBERTSON to 65 GL Sec; WO1 STAHL to AHQ; WO2 EVERETT to ^{9 RQR} 9RQR Bn (CMF).	
MOC HOA	29 - 31		CO AATTV visited KIEN TUONG and KIEN PHUONG Provinces, to familiarise himself <i>with</i> Rural Reconstruction Programme.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

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

Australian Army
UNIT/FORMATION Training Team VIETNAM

COMMANDING OFFICER LtCol A. J. MILNER

MONTH AND YEAR

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
SAIGON	31	1040	34992 T/WO2 D. G. ANNETTE arrived in VIETNAM from School of Artillery. Assigned to RF/PF HOI AN vice 28886 WO2 E. F. MILLER	

S.O.1730 Wt. T577/5802 41m 2/61 999/267 JHL Ltd.

AATTV

Attachment to WAR DIARY - Mar 66

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Place : LO DUC, 15 km South of QUANG NGAI City
Time : 0800 hrs 18 Mar 66
Units : 423 RF Coy - WO2 PHILLIPS. 236 RF Coy - WO2 SELMES.

In addition to the two Aust WOs, there were also three US Lts acting as advisors. These Coys had been in the area for the past ten days on clearance and pacification tasks. Coy Comd 423 Coy, had reported a VC BN in the area and had requested reinforcements. However only light sniper fire had been experienced in the past ten days.

On 18 Mar at 0745 both Coys linked up and at this stage 2 RF soldiers standing by advisors 'accidentally' discharged their weapons, shooting four of their fellow soldiers. From 0810 - 0820 the position began receiving overhead fire and a Coy of PAVN troops were observed moving from the East about 200 yds away. At this stage the troops of both Coys, except for approximately twenty, abandoned the position. The remainder moved to a better position in a hamlet. They were receiving 81 mm fire from a position 300 yds away.

When the advisors, who with the two Coy Comds were now left on their own, attempted to withdraw two of the US Lts were wounded. SELMES went to their aid while PHILLIPS gave him covering fire. PHILLIPS was then shot in the stomach. SELMES went to his aid and was shot in the shoulder. A call for assistance brought a few rounds of gunfire which stopped the VC attack. Two gunships called for arrived about 0900 and all were evacuated by 0910.

The enemy force was considered to be a minimum of 1 BN VC with at least one Coy of these-PAVN troops.

IN CONFIDENCE

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM

REPORT FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1966

DEPLOYMENT

1. Deployment of The Team as at 31 Mar 66 is at Annex 'A'

MORALE

2. Good

HEALTH

3. Apart from two Team members who were wounded (See below) members hospitalized because of illness were:

- Maj I. G. McNEILL, hospitalized at US NAVY Hospital, DANANG EAST, from 14 Mar to 25 Mar 66. Diagnosis Amoebic Dysentery.
- T/WO2 SHEENAN, admitted to USS REPOSE 12 Mar 66. Discharged 31 Mar 66. Diagnosis Amoebic Dysentery.

4. WO2 s TILLEY, LAWRENCE and SHEEHAN, previously reported under treatment in 4 RAAF Hospital BUTTERWORTH, were evacuated to AUSTRALIA on 6 Mar 66.

CASUALTIES

5. At approx 0830 hrs on 18 Mar 66, 1423 WO1 J. N. SELMES (2 Aust Inf) and 42352 T/WO2 T. D. PHILLIPS (RAAC) were both wounded in action. PHILLIPS subsequently died. Circumstances were:

The action took place at LO DUC, approx 15 kilometers south of QUANG NGAI City. SELMES and PHILLIPS, together with three US Lts were acting as advisors to the 236 and 423 Regional Force Companies respectively. At 0810 hrs they were engaged by a battalion sized VC force which included at least a company of PAVN troops.

After 15 minutes of fighting, during which supporting fire, though requested, was found not to be available, all but 20 of the RF troops abandoned the position. Shortly after, those 20 also started drawing to the rear, causing the advisors party and the Vietnamese 2Lts (company commanders) to finally abandon their position. Whilst the group were attempting to break contact and withdraw, two of the US Lts were wounded. SELMES assisted the wounded Lts while PHILLIPS gave covering fire. PHILLIPS was then hit in the stomach by small arms fire. In going to PHILLIPS' aid SELMES was shot through the left shoulder.

The group called for Artillery fire and a few rounds broke up the VC attack. Two armed helicopters were called for and evacuated all the advisors at 0910 hrs. Both SELMES and PHILLIPS were eventually moved to the US NAVY Hospital at DANANG EAST. WO PHILLIPS died at 0345 hrs 20 Mar 66.

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

OPERATIONS

6. See Annex 'C'

7. During March the US Special Forces 'NUNG' Reaction Force in 1 Corps, advised by an AATTV group commanded by Capt FAZEKAS, proceeded on operations for the first time since its reorganization. Operations were conducted out of the Special Forces Camps at BATO and TRABONG. Capt FAZEKAS reports that the force requires more training before they will become effective in their operational role.

During this period the force was also stand by for reinforcement of ASHAY SF Camp which was eventually overrun by VC. However, due to bad flying weather Capt FAZEKAS and his NUNG Force with 4 Aust Advisors were not deployed.

Brig
Comd AAFV

Attachments

- Team Deployment Annex 'A'
- Arrivals and Departures - Annex 'B'

IN CONFIDENCE

Annex A to AATTV
Report for Mar 66 (44)

TEAM DEPLOYMENT AS AT 31 MAR 66

1. SAIGON

Brig O.D. JACKSON	:	Comd
LT COL A.J. MILNER	:	CO AATTV
Capt P.H. DAVIS	:	Adm Offr
WO2 S.A. ARBLASTER	:	Adm WO
WO2 N.F. MATHEWS	:	Adm WO

2. AATTV DANANG

WO1 S.A. AIKEN	:	RSM
WO2 T.F. DOLAN	:	Adm WO
WO2 D.I. HAWKSWORTH	:	Awaiting RTA

3. I CORPS HQ

Maj I.G. McNEILL	:	G3
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4. CSD

Capt J.E. CAMPBELL	:	KIEN GIANG
Capt A.G. NESBITT	:	KIEN PHONG
Maj P.L. TILLEY	:	QUINHON
Capt J. SCALES	:	QUANG NGAI
Lt R.J. BROCKETT	:	QUANG NAM
WO1 E.B. OSTARA	:	VUNG TAU
WO2 E.B. HEWSON	:	VUNG TAU
WO2 J.C. STEWART	:	QUANG NGAI
WO2 T.A. DICKSON	:	VUNG TAU
WO2 A.W. BONE	:	VUNG TAU

5. PFF

WO1 G.F. McGEE	:	DALAT
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6. SPECIAL FORCES
C TEAM DANANG

WO1 E.D. LOUND	:	S4 AIR
WO2 K.J. MacPHERSON	:	Air Movements
WO2 I.A. THOMSON	:	" "

NUNG FORCE

Capt F. FAZEKAS
WO2 T.J. FITZPATRICK
WO2 V.L. HARRIS
WO2 C.F. EMERY
WO2 E.J. BOWMAN
WO2 S.C. COLLEY
WO2 J.E. BARKER

IN CONFIDENCE

Annex A to AATTV
Report for Mar 66 (44)
(Con't)

WO2 F.J. LUCAS
WO2 W.J. DAVIES
WO2 M.F. SHARPLES
WO2 K.A. GABRIEL
WO2 D.G. CAMERON
WO2 R.L. WEIR

TRA BONG

WO2 W.C. GREEN
WO2 R.H. WITTEN

7. RANGER TRAINING CENTRE
DUC MY

Capt G.L. MANSFORD : Senior Aust Advisor
WO2 C.J. SCOTT : Training Advisor
WO2 PIRANI : Medic

8. HQ 5 SPECIAL FORCES GP
NHA TRANG

Capt V.N. MURPHY : Asst S3.

9. I DIV BN ADVISORS

WO2 T.W. GILL : Panther Coy
WO2 C.J. ISON : Recce Coy
WO2 H.H. BEEZELEY : 1/1 Bn
WO2 C.G. NEITZ : 2/1
WO2 G. BATISTE : 4/1
WO2 K.J. DALY : 1/2 Bn
WO2 R.W. FOSTER : 2/2 Bn
WO2 F.R. VERCOE : 3/2 Bn
WO2 R.G. EVANS : 4/2 Bn

10. 2 DIV BN ADVISORS

WO2 A.J. SEAL : 11 Ranger Bn
WOs J.H. PETTIT : 2/4 Bn
WO2 K.W. STOKER : 1/5 Bn
WO2 J.R. FUGE : 2/5 Bn
WO2 C.Y. JAMIESON : 3/5 Bn
WO2 W.S. DICKEY : 1/6 Bn
WO2 T.W. HOWARD : 3/6 Bn
WO2 G.D. HARRIS : 4/6 Bn
WO2 W.E. SHENNAN : 2/51 Bn (QUANG NAM Special Sector)
WO2 J.D. ROY : 3/51 Bn

11. RF/PF ADVISORS
QUANG TRI SECTOR

Capt K.F. ASPINALL : TRIEU PHONG
WO2 R.M. KING : QUANG TRI
WO2 B.F. DAVIS : QUANG TRI
WO2 G. ARMSTRONG : GIO LINH

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

Annex A to AATTV
Report for Mar 66 (44)
(con't)

12. THUA THIEN SECTOR

MAJ D.N. KERR	:	NAM HOA
WOI M.C. MACARTNEY	:	HUE
WO2 T.W. BARRETT	:	NAM HOA
WO2 P. McCRELLIS	:	LONG THO
WO2 A.G. HINSON	:	PHU LOC

13. QUANG NAM SECTOR

CAPT M.B. DARCY	:	RF/PF HQ
WO2 R.D. SMITH	:	HOA VANG
WO2 L.I. MORRISON	:	HOA VANG
WO2 E.F. MILLER	:	HOI AN
WO2 C.F. KROSKIE	:	HOI AN
WO2 G.M. POLKINGHORNE	:	HIEU DUC
WO2 A.J. ARNOLD	:	HOA KAM
WO2 D.G. ANNETTE	:	HOI AN

14. QUANG TIN SECTOR

WO2 S.H. RAWLINGS	:	TAM KY
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15. HOSPITAL

WOI J.M. SELMES	:	BUTTERWORTH (MALAYA)
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IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

Annex 'B' to AATV
Report for Mar 66

ARRIVALS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Station</u>
52028	Capt	G. L. MANSFORD	6 Mar 66	DUC MY
13769	Capt	K. H. ASPINALL	19 Mar 66	QUANG TRI
52636	WO2	R. L. WEIR	25 Mar 66	DA NANG

DEPARTURES

52153	Maj	D. G. ROBERTSON	29 Mar 66	QUANG TRI
3753	WO1	A. C. DUNCAN	8 Mar 66	VUNG TAU
12128	WO1	S. T. KENT	1 Mar 66	DA NANG
21934	WO1	D. M. STAHL	29 Mar 66	HUE
23450	WO2	K. D. STOCKLEY	8 Mar 66	DA NANG
6420	WO2	J. H. McFADZEAN	22 Mar 66	DA NANG
310027	WO2	W. S. DAVIES	22 Mar 66	DA NANG
212536	WO2	R. TILLEY	6 Mar 66	BUTTERWORTH
23971	WO2	G. H. LAWRENCE	6 Mar 66	BUTTERWORTH
213628	WO2	J. N. SHEEHAN	6 Mar 66	BUTTERWORTH

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

Annex C to AATTV
Report for Mar 66

LOG OF REPORTED INCIDENTS

Date	Place	Narrative
21 Feb	TRIEU PHONG: (Quang Tri)	District At 0300 hrs, TRIEU PHONG-HQ, defended by 45 Popular Force with two advisors including WO2 R. M. KING AATTV, was overrun by an estimated VC Coy. The action lasted approx 1 hr and district HQ buildings were destroyed by satchel charges. Friendly casualties were 22 KIA, 18 WIA. Enemy casualties unknown.
22-26 Feb	THANH HOI (Quang Tri)	On 23 Feb, the 2nd Bn 2nd Regt, during an engagement with a VC Coy, captured a VC Lt, together with documents relating to the raid on TRIEU PHONG. 2/2 Bn was accompanied by WO2 R. W. FOSTER AATTV. On 26 Feb at 1500 hrs 2/2 Bn entered THANH HOI and came up against heavy fire from a large VC force. At approx 1520 the 2/2 Bn broke and rather hurriedly withdrew, leaving the 4 advisors. The latter had no option but to follow and in the course of this, pursued by the VC, 2 advisors were wounded. Other casualty figures unknown.
25-29 Feb	QUANG TRI Province	Accompanied by WO2 MEITZ AATTV, 2 Bn. 1st Regt, conducted a successful, operation involving several heavy contacts and inflicting moderate casualties on VC elements of Bn strength.
13 Mar	HIA LANG (Quang Tri Province)	2/1 Bn (WO2 MEITZ) mounted search and destroy operation in this area. Following several contacts six VC (including Bn Comd of 1 Bn 6th Regt (VC)) were killed and two captured. A quantity of weapons was also taken.
30-31 Mar	HOA LAN (Quang Nam)	Combined Popular Force - US Marine Corps operation, accompanied by WOs R. D. SMITH and L. I. MORRISON, mounted to protect rice harvest in this area. Several contacts resulted in ten VC KIA. Number of VC tunnels discovered and quantity of rice recaptured.

IN CONFIDENCE