

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Armour & Cavalry units

Item number: 2/4/10

**Item: A Squadron 3 Cavalry
Regiment**

Narrative

[1-31 Oct 1967]

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) *B. Hollis*

22 MAR 1968

Appointment *LO*

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL }
~~DUPLICATE~~ } Strike out where
 } not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation *A Sqn 3 Cav Regt*

From *1 Oct 67* To *31 Oct 67*

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

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† 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 NII, will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular headquarters, starting at B.

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

TENTS

ies as well as map references), establishment, equipment
1 orders given.
he day's fighting, including company movements.
nmander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.
o officers, men and equipment.
pment captured.
employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to
uments issued and received, routine returns, etc. All
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)

AWM 95
[2141 04 67]

COMMANDERS DIARIES

SECRET

VE C 3118 (Adapted)

EXCEL 3

COLLECTING FEELERS

EXCEL 3

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.

7. Commanders of a detachment of a unit when so ordered.

COMPILATION

Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:

- a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
- b. Index as shown in form.
- c. Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
- d. Appendices as shown in the Index.

7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit) must be covered and exclusive 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 annexes for an annex VII, will be entered on the cover.

for operations form Annex "Z", TOP SECRET the document. It is to be prepared and despatched as

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as well as descriptions, establishments, etc. and orders given. The day's fighting, including company reports, and commander with regard to equipment, losses, etc.

tential importance. Officers, men and equipment. Personnel captured. employed in the fire are concerned for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to annexes issued and received, routine returns, etc. All and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

be annexes, but need not give a précis of any of them.

1 B P Coy—274/65—55m

AWM 95
[2141 04 67]

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sep 3 Cav Regt*

MONTH AND YEAR *Oct 67*

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER *Maj G J MURPHY*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>GR Y5 679 586</i>	<i>1 Oct</i>	<i>0630</i>	<i>1 and 2 Tps selected their general daylight positions which were to the east of the FSPB in the high sand hills.</i>	
		<i>2245</i>	<i>Two lights were seen in close to the beach off the HO TRAM CAPE (Y5 680579). A carrier of 1 Tp was stood to in case they came in to the beach but they moved away.</i>	
<i>GR Y5 679 586</i>	<i>2 Oct</i>	<i>0700</i>	<i>2 Tps tried to recover 2/5 RIB which had sunk at the mouth of the Song Rai. Sqn rear at Min Dat was trying to get white light to provide illumination for low tide at night, it was not available and the net was not recovered.</i>	
<i>GR Y5 679 586</i>	<i>3 Oct</i>	<i>0800</i>	<i>Maj G J Murphy returned from tour and resumed command of the sqn.</i>	
		<i>1000</i>	<i>The RIF arranged for a water recovery expert from Vung Tau to be flown out to 2 Tps.</i>	

1 B P Coy - 275/65 - 55m

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR *October 67*

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 3 Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Maj Gen J. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	<i>4 Oct</i>		<i>The Squadron continued participation on Op Henmore.</i>	
<i>YS 679 586</i>	<i>5 Oct</i>		<i>13p patrolled from AO Wattle to the Mouth of the Song Rai and returned. 23p remained at the Mouth of the Song Rai awaiting recovery of the drowned APC.</i>	
	<i>6 Oct</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>23p had its drowned APC recovered by a floating crane and taken to Vung Tau.</i>	
	<i>7 Oct</i>		<i>Op Henmore continued.</i>	
<i>YS 7562</i>	<i>8 Oct</i>	<i>0600</i>	<i>13p moved to FSPB Cat to secure an LZ for the fly in of 106 Fd Bty. The Tp remained in the area for protection of the FSPB.</i>	
	<i>9 Oct</i>	<i>0715</i>	<i>13p patrolled in the area of FSPB Cat 2433p continued security of AO Wattle.</i>	
	<i>10 Oct</i>	<i>0700</i>	<i>13p patrolled from Cat to Wattle, refuelled then returned to its task at FSPB Cat.</i>	
	<i>11 Oct</i>	<i>1230</i>	<i>Op Henmore concluded and the Squadron returned to base after crossing the Song Rai.</i>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR *October 67.*

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION *A Coy 3 Bn Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Maj G. J. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	<i>12 Oct</i>	<i>0730</i>	<i>1 Section 3 Bp moved to Soui Nghe for an Engr protection task.</i>	
	<i>13 Oct</i>	<i>0735</i>	<i>3 Bp changed over the Infantry Coy at Soui Nghe.</i>	
	<i>14 Oct</i>	<i>0730</i>	<i>1 Section 3 Bp resumed its protection task at Soui Nghe. 2 Section escorted a convoy to the Horseshoe.</i>	
	<i>15 Oct.</i>		<i>Vehicle servicing.</i>	
	<i>16 Oct</i>	<i>0730</i>	<i>2 Section 3 Bp provided Engr protection at the Soui Nghe hamlet area.</i>	
	<i>17 Oct</i>	<i>0730</i>	<i>1 Section 1 Bp moved to the Hamlet for Engr protection. 3 Bp provided protection for engineers repairing the battle fence in the area of Long Tan.</i>	
	<i>18 Oct</i>	<i>0740</i>	<i>2 Section 1 Bp moved to the Hamlet for Engr protection.</i>	
		<i>0940</i>	<i>2 Bp moved to the Hamlet and changed the boys.</i>	
		<i>1345</i>	<i>3 Bp escorted a convoy to the Horseshoe.</i>	
	<i>19 Oct</i>		<i>Vehicle servicing.</i>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR Oct 67

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj. G. J. Murphy

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	20 Oct	0800	2 Section 13 p protected engs at the Hamlet	
	21 "	0730	2 Section 23 p protected engs at the Hamlet	
	22 "	0730	3 Section 13 p protected engs at the Hamlet	
	23 "	0715	13 p conducted a sweep patrol to and around Soui Nhe	
	24 "	0725	3 Section 23 p protected engs at the Hamlet	
	25 "	0735	13 p escorted 63 p (M108, SP 105 mm) up Rte 15 so that 63 p could shoot at targets in the Nui Thi Vai hills from the area of 452773. The shoot was successful and the group returned in the afternoon.	
	26 "	1250	3 the Sqn carried 2RAR to an assembly area in the region of 4675 in preparation for Op Santa Fe.	
	27 "	0730	3 the Sqn moved out to secure FSPB Wilton at 455476 for the flying of the Artillery Bty. The 2IC was flown out to replace the OC who returned to base for medical reasons. 13 p also returned to base.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR Oct. 67.

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major G. J. Murphy

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	28 Oct	0800	243 Sps continued security of FSPB Wilton 13 p escorted AB ty 2/35 US Arty from Nui Dat to "Wilton" and then returned to base	
	29 "	1300	243 Sps remained in the area of "Wilton" 13 p escorted a resupply convoy of trucks to Wilton and returned with them.	
	30 "	0900	The Sqn less 13 p remained at "Wilton" 13 p escorted a B veh convoy to "Wilton" and returned with the convoy to base.	
	31 "	1020	Sqn less 13 p still at Wilton 33 p was despatched to take up a blocking position from YS 542778 to YS 541785 in an attempt to block some VC contacted earlier by RAR in the area of YS 561784. There was no further contact with the VC.	