

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
Royal Australian Armoured Corps

Item number: 2/4/14

**Item: A Squadron 3 Cavalry
Regiment**

Narrative

1-29 February 1968

PART 1

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 107-4-1

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.

Received 24 OCT 1968

(Signature) [Signature]
Appointment OCA Sqn 3 Cav Regt
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

SECRET

ORIGINAL } Strike out where
DUPLICATE } not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation A Sqn 3 Cav Regt
From 1 Feb 1968 To 29 Feb 1968

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

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on.....

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, 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

ITEMS

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment

d orders given.

ie day's fighting, including company movements.

nmander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

otential importance.

o officers, men and equipment.

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employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

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

ie 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 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.

AWM 95
[2/4/ Feb 68]

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 3rd Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Ltj GJ. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>NUY DAT</i>	<i>1 Feb</i>	<i>0600</i>	<i>NTR.</i>	
		<i>0720</i>	<i>37D 408608</i>	
		<i>0400</i>	<i>Qs 31 Under fire. One walking wounded for CASEVAC as soon as a secure LZ is avail. There are a couple of RPG2s in the area</i>	
		<i>0915</i>	<i>Qs 31. Sunray can't move due to super fire. The DUSTOFF had is only 1504 away however we are having trouble getting the Infantry out. There is one walking wounded and one being dragged. As soon as we can get them to the pad we will send details.</i>	
		<i>0925</i>	<i>Qs 31. There is a VC Squad in the stadium. We can't extract any bodies at the moment because we don't know where all the VC are. We are securing the crossroads 379608 and drawing regular fire.</i>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqdn 1st Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Key Capt. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>BARIA</i>	<i>1 Feb</i>	<i>0935</i>	<i>C/S 31. There are 5 Aust 6 WIA and 2 US WIA. DUSTOFF has landed in BARIA on the main road. C/S 33 is taking the wounded down to the aircraft</i>	
		<i>1000</i>	<i>C/S 31. C/S 30A has been hit by an RPG. Driver has been hit in the rectum, don't know how bad</i>	
		<i>1005</i>	<i>C/S 31. 30A hit by RPG in the right front. It came out behind the driver hitting him in the back. The FO was wounded in the left arm and shoulder. The driver is awaiting DUSTOFF</i>	
		<i>1031</i>	<i>C/S 31. Surray thinks we have a VC squad plus covered</i>	
		<i>1053</i>	<i>C/S 31. There is at least a VC Bn in the area in groups of 10-12</i>	
		<i>1105</i>	<i>DUSTOFF details. 6 Walking wounded Aust 6 1 Litter Aust 3 US Pers. 1 Octer.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 8th Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Key Col Newbery*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>BURIA</i>	<i>1 Feb</i>	<i>1115</i>	<i>C/S 31. I am securing the cross road from NUI DAT 33 is securing the road to VUNG MAU</i>	
		<i>1133</i>	<i>C/S 31 There is no sniper fire at the moment however there is some movement around the hospital. We are checking this.</i>	
		<i>1150</i>	<i>Sectors are firing 50 cal, 30 cal, M79 and M72 to the east. There are no enemy in the hospital and innocent people are being shot.</i>	
		<i>1157</i>	<i>C/S 31. There are 17 ARVN wounded including 2 stretcher cases. There could be 2 more. 2 of 3 P1. people are wounded. C/S 32 is taking them for DUSTOFF</i>	
		<i>1313</i>	<i>C/S 31 30A hit by RPG at 317608. 31B and 32A has also been hit The crew of 32A WIA, the veh is immobilized 3 people KIA one advisor.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqdn 3 Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Major G. J. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>BARIA</i>	<i>1 Feb 68</i>	<i>1450</i>	<i>LOCSTATS 31 + 32B 380606 33 379661 31B + 32A 379606 31A + 30B 380609</i>	
		<i>1520</i>	<i>3Tps informed by 2IC that they would remain in BARIA overnight. 3Tps waiting on a Casual.</i>	
		<i>1600</i>	<i>C/S 31 There are now 5 US vets here.</i>	
		<i>1930</i>	<i>C/S 31 moved to west side of BARIA to secure a bridge.</i>	
		<i>1945</i>	<i>C/S 30A awaiting DUSTOFF C/S 31 to catch comd.</i>	
		<i>2030</i>	<i>DUSTOFF attempted to come in however it was taking fire so it departed.</i>	
		<i>2045</i>	<i>31. A Porseum appears to be coming in to take the wounded out.</i>	
		<i>2115</i>	<i>The Porseum took the wounded out one at a time. They are all now on their way to VUNG TAO.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 274 Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Major G.J. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>BARIA 3760</i>	<i>1 Feb</i>	<i>2200</i>	<i>LOCSTAT 374610 just to the east of the bridge. We are open to sniper fire.</i>	
		<i>2250</i>	<i>SITREP NTR.</i>	
		<i>2400</i>	<i>NTR.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>2 Feb</i>	<i>0350</i>	<i>TF RED ALERT</i>	
		<i>0415</i>	<i>Movement reported on Sqn perimeter.</i>	
		<i>0430</i>	<i>M108 fired from the perimeter.</i>	
		<i>0455</i>	<i>50% stand to</i>	
<i>BARIA 3760</i>		<i>0830</i>	<i>0531 We have about 20 VC KIA. We killed 8-10 of them. They are definitely 274 Regt and a few NVA.</i>	
		<i>0925</i>	<i>274 Engineer mine team taking fire at Y7206118. 1 VC fired 2 shots and disappeared.</i>	
<i>TRANG BOM YT 2011</i>		<i>1005</i>	<i>1 VC bodies have been found on a sweep through the village. We are just about to sweep through. Should be finished by 1100 hrs.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YT*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqr 2 Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Col G.S. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>TRANG BOM YT 2011</i>	<i>2 Feb</i>	<i>1121</i>	<i>Nationals have found half charred bodies shot by us. 4 definite, 2 possible. 5KBA</i>	
		<i>1126</i>	<i>2Tps. Have found burnt webbing and a shirt. There have been 6 civilians KBA in the centre of the village.</i>	
		<i>1208</i>	<i>2Tps. The sweep of the village has been completed. The villagers are being allowed to return to their homes.</i>	
		<i>1600</i>	<i>NTR</i>	
		<i>2400</i>	<i>NTR</i>	
	<i>3 Feb 68</i>		<i>1 & 2 Tps continued Op Coburg without contact. SHQ = 2TP YT 214172. 1TP YT 165203 conducting routine patrols. 3Tp moved to LONG DIEN Y54359 with D/3RAR.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Feb 68

REFERENCE MAP

YS-YT

UNIT/FORMATION

1 Sqr 2 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER

Col G. M. Murphy

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>YT 214172</i>	<i>4 Feb 68</i>		<i>SHQ + 2TP YT 214172 ITP YT 166176.</i>	
<i>TRANG BOM.</i>			<i>Continued OP Coleung without contact.</i>	
			<i>Routine patrolling and setting up Road Blocks.</i>	
			<i>3Tp remained in IATF Base.</i>	
<i>TRANG BOM</i>	<i>5 Feb</i>		<i>1 + 2Tp continued routine patrolling.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>			<i>3Tp moved on a clearing task to HOA LONG</i>	
			<i>YS4264. Returned 051300H.</i>	
<i>TRANG BOM</i>	<i>6 Feb.</i>		<i>OP Coleung continued without contact.</i>	
			<i>3VC walked into the perimeter adjacent to</i>	
			<i>2Tp however they could not get clearance</i>	
			<i>to fire 50 cal. VC engaged by SA and</i>	
			<i>day more by 2Tp and 1/D/2RAR. 2VC KIA.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>			<i>3Tp conducted convey escort to VUNG TAU.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS + YT*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqdn 3 Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Major G. J. Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>YT214172 NUI DAT</i>	<i>7 Feb</i>		<i>1/2 2Tb cont ab OP Coburg without contact 3Tb conducted convey escort BARIA to NUI DAT. Reported outpost ab HOA LONG YS4364 in contact</i>	
<i>YT214172 NUI DAT</i>	<i>8 Feb</i>	<i>0710</i>	<i>2Tb convey escort to LONG BINH 1Tb continued routine clearing and patrolling</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>		<i>0730</i>	<i>3Tb conducted convey escort to BARIA.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT YT214172</i>	<i>9 Feb</i>	<i>0810</i>	<i>3Tb moved to BARIA on convey escort task</i>	
		<i>0857</i>	<i>2Tb moved out of FSPB Anderson YT214172 to pick up a convey ab LONG BINH and escort back to Anderson.</i>	
<i>YT214172</i>	<i>10 Feb</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>2Tb convey escort to LONG BINH</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEB 68

REFERENCE MAP YS 2 YT

UNIT/FORMATION A 5th Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major GJ Murphy

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YT 214172	11 Feb		SHO 1TP 2TP continued Op COBURG without contact. Routine patrolling. 3TP remained 1 ATF Base.	
YT 214172	12 Feb	0930	2TP Conway escort to LONG BINH NFTR	
NUI DAT	13 Feb	0735	3TP moved to HOA LONG on escort task with hovercraft.	
YT 214172			Coaling continued without contact	
NUI DAT	14 Feb	0815	3TP hovercraft escort to HOA LONG	
		0820	2TP & SHO departed from FSPB ANDERSON (YT 214172) with a Conway to escort to NUI DAT. No incidents.	
			1TP moved to FSPB ANDERSON with 1 Sect now under Opcon 3RAR.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqr Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Maj G J Murphy*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>15 Feb</i>		<i>The Sqr carried out pers admin and net work. 1TP continued COBURG without incident.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>16 Feb</i>		<i>2TP commenced OP OKLEIGH, cordon and search of HOA LONG. 3TP were used as reaction tp. 1TP continued at COBURG without contact.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>17 Feb</i>		<i>OP OKLEIGH concluded. 1TP mortared at FSPB ANDERSON. 3 Sqr pers wounded.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>18 Feb</i>		<i>OP DANDENONG initiated. Cordon and search of AP SOU NGHE Y54271. 2TP used in the cordon. 3TP conducted a company march to LONG BINH. 1TP continued routine patrolling on OP COBURG.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>19 Feb</i>		<i>Op DANDENONG completed. 2TP returned to base. 1TP continued Op COBURG. 3TP remained IATF Base.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Feb 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

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
<i>YS4259</i>	<i>20 Feb</i>		<i>Op CLAYTON initiated. Cordon and search LONG DIEN YS4259. SHQ, 2 Tp and 3 Tp plus M108 used in cordon. 1 Tp continued Op COBURG. No contact.</i>	
<i>YS4259</i> <i>LONG DIEN</i>	<i>21 Feb</i>	<i>0700</i> <i>1600</i> <i>1700</i>	<i>Search of village initiated. Search completed. No contact. A Sqn (-) returned to IATF Base. 1 Tp continued COBURG without contact.</i>	
<i>YT214172</i> <i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>22 Feb</i>	<i>0900</i>	<i>1 Tp conducted convey escort to LONG BINH. 2 Tp allocated defense task at BARIA YS3761.</i>	
	<i>23 Feb</i>		<i>Tp continued OP COBURG without contact. 3 Tp replaced 2 Tp at BARIA YS3761.</i>	
	<i>24 Feb</i>		<i>1 Tp continued at OP COBURG without contact. 2 Tp remained at IATF Base. 3 Tp remained in BARIA.</i>	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Feb 68

REFERENCE MAP

YS

UNIT/FORMATION

A Sqr 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER

May KELDIE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	25 Feb		May KELDIE assumed command A Sqr 3 Cav Regt. 1 Tp continued OP COBURG ab FSPB ANDERSON YT 219129. 2 Tp remained 1 ATF Base 3 Tp continued ab BARIA YS 372611	
NUI DAT	26 Feb		1 Tp continued OP COBURG. Routine patrolling and road blocks 2 Tp remained in base 3 Tp continued ab BARIA. One section 3 Tp moved to LONG DIEN YS 4359 on a short task	
NUI DAT	27 Feb		1 Tp continued op COBURG 2 Tp assisted in a search of HOA LONG YS 4263 3 Tp continued protection task ab BARIA YS 372611 without contact.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Feb 68

REFERENCE MAP YS

UNIT/FORMATION A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj J D MELDRE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<u>NUI DAT</u>	<u>28 Feb 68</u>		<u>1 Tp continued Op COBURG</u> <u>2 Tp assisted DIV INT and A/TRAR in</u> <u>small op to clear further tunnels in HOA LONG.</u> <u>3 Tp continued at BARIA</u> <u>SHQ and an M108 went to AP SOU NGHE</u> <u>on routine patrol.</u>	
<u>NUI DAT</u>	<u>29 Feb</u>		<u>1 Tp cont. Op COBURG</u> <u>2 Tp continued with A/TRAR in search</u> <u>SOUTH EAST of HOALONG</u> <u>3 Tp continued at BARIA</u> <u>SHQ and M108 patrol to AP SOU NGHE 4271</u>	