

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries

Royal Australian Armoured Corps

Item number: 2/4/15

**Item: A Squadron 3 Cavalry
Regiment**

Narrative

1-31 March 1968

PART 1

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 907-A-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) Alexander Jones Capt MAJ
Appointment OC A Sqdn 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 Sqdn 3 Cav Regt

From 1 Mar 68 To 31 Mar 68

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

Table with 2 columns: Enclosure Number (A-Z), to

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on.....

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

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:
- Commanders of all formations.
 - Each branch of the staff at formation headquarters commanded by a brigadier or above.
 - Heads of services not below the rank of lieutenant colonel.
 - Personal staffs and officers holding special appointments.
 - Unit commanders.
 - Commanders of a detachment of a unit when so ordered.

COMPILATION

6. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:
- Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
 - Index as printed on cover.
 - Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
 - Annexes as shown in the Index.
7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be shown on the cover. If there has been a change of command since the last report, the date of assumption by the new commanding officer is to be included.
8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown on the cover. If there are no enclosures for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular headquarters, starting at B.

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

ANNEXES

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

orders given.

the day's fighting, including company movements.

in the commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

of special importance.

names of officers, men and equipment.

equipment captured.

of personnel employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to be recorded. Reports of orders issued and received, routine returns, etc. All reports are to be dated and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

of the annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)

DISPOSAL OF 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.

AWM 95
[2/4/mar 68]

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 Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP YS

UNIT/FORMATION A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major J.D. KELDIE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	1 Mar 68		<p>Op COBURG completed. SHQ and 2Tp moved to FSPB ANDERSON to assist in escort of return vets. One vet of 2Tp involved in a collision with a civilian vet on the return journey at YT 123122. 1 vet accidentally killed and 3 injured.</p> <p>3Tp contact at YS 448578 with unknown number of VC. One vet completely destroyed by incoming RCL 57 or RAG 7.</p>	
NUI DAT	2 Mar.		<p>Op being conducted in LONG DIEN YS 4959 by 2RAR assisted by 3Tp as allocated op nickname PINAROO. 3Tp cont at YS 372611.</p> <p>2Tp and 1Tp remained IATF Base.</p>	
NUI DAT	3 Mar 68		<p>1Tp and part of 2Tp went to VUNG TAU on swimming party.</p> <p>3Tp continued to assist 2RAR in op around BARIA.</p>	

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 *Mar 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 3 Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Major J.D. Keldie*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>4 Mar 68</i>		<i>1 Tp remained 1 ATF Base screening sector 2 Tp commenced protection of Land clearing Op at Ap Soui Nghe. 2 Sects 3 Tp returned to 1 ATF base Protection work at BARIA YS 372611 continued by sect 3 Tp and M108</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>5 Mar 68</i>		<i>1 Tp continued in 1 ATF base cleaning up Sqr area and improving defences 2 Tp continued to protect land clearing teams at AP SOU1 NGHE YS 422723. 1 Sect 3 Tp and M108 comb protection at BARIA YS 372611.</i>	
	<i>6 Mar</i>		<i>1 Tp 3 Tp (-) remained in Base preparing for involvement in OP PINAROO in LONG HAI area 2 Tp to change sect 3 Tp. 1300. 3 Tp on taking over Land clearing protection</i>	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

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 *Mar 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Coy 2nd Para Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Major J. D. Richardson*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>6 Mar</i>		<i>last was fired on by unknown number of VC in vicinity YS 481727. Search of the area revealed 1 VC Subject and 5 draught dodgers. 1 Tp replaced 1 Sect 3 Tp with 3 Sect 1 Tp at BARIA YS 372611</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>7 Mar</i>		<i>Major KELDIE & Capt LARNACH-JONES conducted an recon of LONG HAI Hill in preparation for move into the area by 1 & 2 Tps. 3 Sect 1 Tp continued on BARIA. 3 Tp continued protection of land clearing.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>8 Mar</i>	<i>1 1030 1100</i>	<i>2 Tp commenced OP PINAROO in Sp of 3RAR. 2 Sect 1 Tp relieved 1 Sect 1 Tp at BARIA. 3 Tp continued on protection task. 2 Tp contacted VC no results (493551). 2 Tp at YS 492541 found some tunnels containing 10 lb rice and some eating utensils.</i>	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *March 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 3 Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Major TO KERRIE*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>9 Mar 68</i>		<i>5HQ 1Tb and 2M108s conducted an SAS insertion into area Y53266. 1Tb then continued with an engineer recon party to PHU MY airstrip Y53277. Task completed 1700 hrs.</i>	
<i>YS 486552</i>		<i>0920</i>	<i>2Tb led 1 x RPG round fired at them. No results</i>	
<i>YS 486551</i>		<i>0930</i>	<i>Further round RPG fired. Damaged sets 2 slightly WIA. Search of the area failed to reveal any V.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>10 Mar 68</i>		<i>1Tb (2) continued 1977 Base. 2 Sect 0 1Tb continued at BARIA. 2Tb at Y5502549 located 4 bundles containing 1x M16 mine, 5 detonator sets for M16 mine and a small quantity of rice in cooking pots. 3Tb continued to provide protection for land clearing at AP 5004 NCHIE Y5443722.</i>	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Mar 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 3 Cav Rego*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Maj J D KELDIE*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>11 Mar</i>		<i>1Tp remained in base. 2 Sect 1Tp comd at BARIA 2Tp comd op PINAROO in sp 3RAR. 3Tp continued protection of land clearing.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>12 Mar</i>		<i>SITREP NO change 1Tp moved to FSPB HARRISON YS 495552 to recover damaged carrier 2 Sect 3Tp inserted patrol from 7RAR at YS 413748.</i>	
		<i>1400</i>	<i>1Tp conducted training with 1ARV.</i>	
<i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>13 Mar</i>		<i>SITREP. LOCs unchanged. No incidents during the day.</i>	
	<i>14 Mar</i>		<i>1Tp commenced trg with C Sqn 1ARMO and D/3RAR 2Tp continued OP PINNAROO</i>	
<i>YS 503555</i>		<i>1259</i>	<i>Vet from 2Tp hit M16 1. Just WIA remained on duty vet not damaged</i>	

L B P Coy-275/65-55m

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 March 68

REFERENCE MAP YS

UNIT/FORMATION A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major J. O'KELLY

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	14 Mar		3TP continued to provide protection for the land clearing. 2 Sec 3TP and 1 AMIOB continued at BARIA	
YS 398664	15 Mar		1TP comb big with C Sqn 1 Armd and D/3RAR	
YS 495552			2TP comb OP PINNACROO in sp 3RAR.	
YS 4291			3TP continued protection tasks of land clearing.	
YS 492551	16 Mar	0800	1TP, D/3RAR and C Sqn 1 Armd moved to FSPB HERRING (492551)	
		0900	2TP returned from FSPB HERRING to the HORSESHOE YS 4962 to escort C Sqn etc vehicles to HOI MY YS 5055	
		1300	2TP escorted ABty 2/35 Arty from NUI DAT YS 4367 to HORSESHOE YS 4962	
		1430	SHQ employed on escort task to the HORSESHOE 3TP continued protection of land clearing team	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR March 68

REFERENCE MAP YS

UNIT/FORMATION A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major J D MELDF

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 492551 NUI DAT	17 Mar		1 Tp contd OP PINNAROO in sp 3RAR no contact 2 Tps remained 1 ATF Base servicing nets. 3 Tps on completion of land clearing team at AP SOVI NGHE returned to 1 ATF Base	
NUI DAT	18 Mar 68		Locations unchanged 1 Tp continued OP PINNAROO without contact.	
NUI DAT	19 Mar 68		1 Tp contd OP PINNAROO at YS 492542 a net hit a booby trap and was slightly damaged 2 Tps deployed 1 Sec 0 to YS 371611 to contd protection task at BARIA 2 Tps and 3 Tps remained 1 ATF Base servicing nets	
YS 492551 NUI DAT	20 Mar		1 Tp contd OP PINNAROO without contact. 2 Tps 2 Sec 0 2 Tps with 1/D/2RAR set up a road block on Route 44 at YS 4353 1 Sec 0 2 Tps contd at BARIA	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

YS

UNIT/FORMATION

A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER

Major D REIDIE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	20 Mar	0830	3TP carried IARU patrol to AP SOVI NGHE YS4271 and returned to IATF BASE	
		1030	3TP conducted convoy escort from YS358605 to HORSESHOE YS4962	
YS4955 NUI DAT	21 Mar		1 TP continued OP PINNAROO without contact 2TP conducted convoy escort with engr convoy to FSPB HERRING YS4955 and return 3TP conducted convoy escort to HORSESHOE SHQ on land clearing protection task YS4166.	
YS50710	22 Mar	1400	1TP continued OP PINNAROO without contact 3TP(-) conducted convoy escort to DUC THANH and returned (YS5571) 1 Sec 6 3TP cont land clearing protection task with SHQ YS4166. 2TP remained IATF Base	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Mar 68*

REFERENCE MAP *YS*

UNIT/FORMATION *A Sqn 3 Cav Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Mag J.D. KEIDIE*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>YS 4955</i> <i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>23 Mar</i>		<i>1 Tp cont OP PINNAROO without contact</i> <i>2 Tps cont IATF Base improving defenses and servicing nets provided 1 Sect on land clearing protection task</i>	
<i>YS 371611</i>			<i>3 Tps provided Sect on protection task at BARIA</i>	
<i>YS 4955</i> <i>YS 4166</i> <i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>24 Mar</i>		<i>1 Td cont OP PINNAROO</i> <i>2 Tps provided 2 Sects on land clearing protection at YS 4166</i> <i>3 Tps remained IATF Base</i>	
<i>YS 4955</i> <i>YS 451488</i> <i>NUI DAT</i>	<i>25 Mar</i>		<i>1 Td cont OP PINAROO without contact</i> <i>SHQ & 2 Tps came under opion 2 RAR for OP ASHGROVE TRAM (Cordon and Search of PHUOC HAI YS 4251</i> <i>3 Tps provided Sect on land clearing protection, 1 Sect at BARIA and 1 Sect for convey escort to HORSESHOE</i>	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

YS

UNIT/FORMATION

A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER

Major J. D. Keldie

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS4955 NUI DAT	26 Mar		1 Tp comb OP PINNAROO without contact 5 HQ and 2 Tp returned from OP ASHGROVE TRAM without contact 3 Tp(-) conducted Inf/Armd try with IARU	
YS4955 NUI DAT	27 Mar		1 Tp comb OP PINNAROO in sb 2 RAR. 2 Tp provided secb for escort trucks to HORSESHOE and return to NUI DAT 3 Tp remained IATF Base	
YS4955 YS5367	28 Mar		1 Tp comb OP PINNAROO without contact 2 Tp(-) used to take patrol from IARU to are Y55367 3 Secb 2 Tp with 2 M108, conducted Eng recon to FSPB HERRING YS4955 via route 326 and returned to NUI DAT via Route 44 and Route 52	
NUI DAT			3 Tp remained IATF Base	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP YS

UNIT/FORMATION A Coy 3 Cav Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major J O KILDE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 4955	29 Mar		1 Tp comb OP PINNAROO 2 Tp (-) conducted protection task for engrs conducting road maint on ROUTE 52	
NUI DAT			3 Tp remained IATF base preparing to relieve 1 Tp on OP PINNAROO	
NUI DAT	30 Mar		1 Tp returned to IATF Base	
YS 4955			2 Tp escorted vets to FSPB HERRING	
YS 4955			3 Tp replaced 1 Tp on OP PINNAROO	
YS 4488	31 Mar		1 Tp came under opcom 7RAR from 1600 hrs for cordon and search in LONG DIEN YS 4458	
YS 4955			2 Tp conducted escort to FSPB HERRING	
YS 4955			3 Tp comb OP PINNAROO under opcom 3RAR.	