

Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV)

Narrative, Annexes
1 - 28 February 1963

Series: AWM95 - Australian Army
commanders' diaries

Item: 1/2/9

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 211

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM - VIETNAM
UNIT/FORMATION

MONTH AND YEAR..... FEBRUARY 1963.....

SECRET

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	1		Visited DON PAU, DON MRONG, DALAT with RICHARDSON, CONEIN (US Embassy), MURRAY, KING (Br), Capt HAGERTY, Lt CLARK Sgts SIMPSON and KENNEDY arrived from HIEP KHANH and PHU BAI. Capt HEALY arrived from DANANG.	
	2	1830	Paid informal call on Comd RAN Flotilla - QUEENBOROUGH and QUIBERON Australia Day Reception at Ambassador's residence.	
	4		RAN Flotilla departed Capt WADE and Sgt FLANNERY departed for DUC MY	
	5		Lt Col MANN visited TU DUC Lt CLARKE departed for PHU BAI.	
	6		Had discussion with JENKINS on the redeployment of HEALY and YOUNG to the PLEIYIT area. Full program of personal abuse by Radio HANOI. Capt HEALY and HAGERTY returned to outstations. Monthly Report to AHQ.	13
	7		Despatched material on Australian R&D participation; recommended a three man team of Army Air Force/Supply to work with YORK and none for BANKOK. Talked to Col THANG (J3 JGS) about jungle training, USAF Demonstration	

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NARRATIVE

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM - VIETNAM
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MONTH AND YEAR FEBRUARY 1963

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COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			of supply dropping excellent.	
	8		Arrival of CAS RAAF Air Marshall Sir V. HANCOCK. CAS says there will be no C47 because "nobody wants it", Disabused him on the latter score. Took him to 2 Air Div for briefing in which he got some fact and some dreams but asked some shrewd questions. Wants to put an RAAF officer in here.	
			Talked to General KIM about the recent reorganisation. Lt Col MANN returned from TU DUC.	
			Sgts KENNEDY and SIMPSON departed for PHU BAI.	
	9		CI (Lt Col GREINER) has sent release on my talk to Senior Advisers to FORT BRAGG.	
			J2 - J3 briefing for CAS. Standard line	
	10		CAS departed.	
	11		Arrival ROBINSON. Briefed by RICHARDSON, LAYTON, STRATTON.	

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COMMANDERS DIARY
NARRATIVE

Army Form C2118

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM
UNIT/FORMATION.....
COMMANDING OFFICER.....

MONTH AND YEAR..... FEBRUARY 1963

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or Information	Annex letter enclosure and number
			Working lunch at Ambassador's. Excellent value. Personally briefed ROBINSON on overall strategy.	
	12		Departed for DANANG with ROBINSON, JENKINS. Met by HEALY and YOUNG and local representative GUGELMAN. Air r&cce. Hit by BAR type fire about 12 miles WEST of DANANG.	
	13		Flew to PLEIKU with ROBINSON, JENKINS, HEALY and YOUNG. Transshipped from CARIBOU to two helicopters to visit PLEIYIT and PLEI MRONG. Decided that YOUNG and HEALY should "work out of" PLEIYIT rather than be stationed there. I am not satisfied with the external and internal security of PLEIYIT or its interior administration.	
	14		Final briefing for ROBINSON who agrees on the proposed lines of future developments here Discussed with THOMPSON the formation of a "Directorate of Operations".	

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Army Form C2118

NARRATIVE

UNIT ~~INFORMATION~~ AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM - VIETNAM

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COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or Information	Annex letter enclosure and number
	15		Discussed with Ambassador message from AUSTRALIA on diplomatic status of AATTV, in particular the desire of External Affairs Minister for right to decide if a person is to be removed. No difficulty in this.	
			Discussed project lists with ACTIV and JOEG-V.	
	16		Began preparation of Strategic review.	
	18		Briefed Ambassador and Services attache on the overall strategic situation.	
	19		Call from Mr Kelly of Auckland University.	
	20		Talked to Col SCHAAD on concentration of Australian materials in the "Three Provinces" area. Agrees we should concentrate future consignments in the north.	
			Ambassador agreed to ask CANBERRA's agreement to above.	
			Pay and Acquittances to AHQ. Total expenditure for month \$US.5265.45 \$VN24.974.	

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Place and grid reference	Day of Month	Hour	Event or Information	Annex letter enclosure and number
	21		CANBERRA, Psy Ops Committee meeting. Group depressed because amnesty program seems to be grinding to a halt.	
	22		Holiday - Washingtons Birthday.	
	25		Briefed USIS on Strategic Concept	
	27		Handover of Railway Carriages by the Australian Ambassador to VN Railways. Travelled by train to THU DUC and back. Good carriages. Impressive ceremony of its type.	
	28		Letter from General YARBOROUGH asking me to lecture at FORT BRAGG accepted for May. Signal from AHQ saying no sign of R&D report despatched 7 Feb. Sent another.	

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

File

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM
VIETNAM
REPORT NO.7
FOR MONTH ENDING 28 FEB 63
BY
COLONEL F. P. SERONG
COMMANDING

Tng Team
AUSTRALIAN ARMY COMPONENT
VIETNAM

A. H. Q. (4)

INTRODUCTION:

1. February has been a comparatively quiet month, with a notable reduction in the tempo of VC initiated operations, and a rise in our own.
2. Apart from this minor matter of Captains Healy, Young and myself receiving some ground small arms fire while travelling in a Caribou west of Danang 12 February (reported at this time) there has been no noteworthy incident).

WELL BEING:

3. I am concerned that several individuals, in particular the married NCOs, feel their financial position to be such that they cannot afford to take advantage of the facilities that have been created for their rest and recreation.
4. The weather in the north continues cool, even bleak. Warm clothing is necessary. Replacements should bring sweaters. The replacement clothing programme from Singapore is working.
5. There have been some ups and downs in reports on rationing in quantity and quality. Overall, there is no station at which the ration situation is unsatisfactory. In most it is good to excellent. The fluctuation comes from new committees in the co-operative messes attempting to reduce ration costs to within the US allowances. This is a little unsettling to the Australian Component because of their different financial basis.
6. At Duc My, a local arrangement has been effected by which meals taken at Nha Trang may be debited against the individual's Duc My account. It is hoped to effect a similar arrangement at other stations.

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HEALTH:

7. No noteworthy matter for this period under review.

MORALE:

8. The morale of this team remains high. There exists, however, one problem area namely a feeling of individual inadequacy by members because of the restrictions of postings to training units. This I am meeting by arranging temporary detachments of individuals to observe operations by units they have trained. This helps, but it is not the full answer. This matter, and my recommendations will be covered in a separate report.

GENERAL:

9. Special mention should be made of the excellent work of WO TOGHILL and Sgt KENNEDY at PHU BAI. Both these men have achieved excellent advisory results through a blend of professional competence and a commonsense approach, and are held in high regard by both their Vietnamese counterparts and their American Colleagues.

WO TOGHILL's most recent achievement in producing two first class demonstration platoons in a very short time was outstanding.

10. WO QUEE has returned from Khe Son, and has been replaced by Sgt Robinson. This continuing attachment is rewarding. It produces interest and variety, and the contribution of the Australian component to the Village Defense work of the Special Forces is significant.

11. The Hiep Khanh detachment hosted a party for three hundred and fifty village children during the Vietnamese New Year (TET) - a huge success. I saw it start. After leaving, I could hear it in the distance.

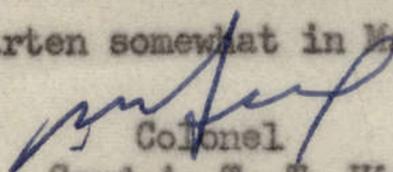
CONCLUSION:

12. This rather quiet month was probably the aftermath of the long TET festivities and their even longer carryover - not to say hangover.

We may expect the pace to smarten somewhat in March.

COPIES:

COMUSMACV
Embassy
Phu Bai Detachment
Hiep Khanh "
Da Nang "
Duc My "


Colonel
Comd A. T. T. Vietnam
7 Mar 63

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ANNEX 1

TO AATTV REPORT NO 7

APPOINTMENTS

Reference Appendix A to report No. 1

1. Duc My

No change

2. Hiep Khanh

No change

3. Phu Bai

No change

4. Danang

No change

ANNEX 2

TO AATV REPORT NO 7

CASUALTIES

1. NIL