

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries

Royal Australian Armoured Corps

Item number: 2/4/35

**Item: A Squadron 3 Cavalry
Regiment**

Narrative

1-30 September 1971

PART 1

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)

J. The...

Appointment

OC A SQN 3 CAV REGT
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

SECRET

ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation

A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

From

1 Sep 71

To

30 Sep 71

INDEX

Narrative (AF C 2118)

Enclosure Numbers

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

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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, starting at B.

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

CONTENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment and orders given. The day's fighting, including company movements. Commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

to officers, men and equipment.

equipment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to be given. All orders issued and received, routine returns, etc. All orders 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

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.

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 211 (Adapted)
Revised Jun 1966

A SQN 3 CAV REGT
Major T.F.H. WALKER OC

MONTH AND YEAR Sep 71

REFERENCE MAP _____

Place/Grid Reference	Date	Time	Event or Information
	01	1600	Sqn dispositions as at 011600 Sep 71:
			a. SHQ at YS611684 with indep sections at NDP TANUNDA, FSB ROBIN, FSB CENTENNARY and DUC THANH.
			b. 1TP(-) NUI DAT with elements at FSB DEBBIE and FSB ROBIN
			c. 2TP(-) YS437872 with elements at YS428881, YS613657.
			d. 3TP(-) YS613677 with elements at YS620670, NDP TANUNDA and YS617674
			e. Cav TP at YS613691
			f. Support TP at YS613703
FSB CENTENNARY YS660698	02	2110	Movement outside the wire of the Fire Support Base was engaged with S.A. fire and M79. At 022255H further movement was noted and 2-3 enemy were observed. The area was again engaged. At 022330 further movement was heard and 83 section (Cpl J.J. HANNAH) conducted a sweep. One enemy was seen to move away and the section engaged the area with nil results.

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Place/Grid Reference	Date	Time	Event or Information
FSB CENTENNARY YS660698	02	2110	The FSB was engaged by the enemy and the section was withdrawn inside the perimeter. A sweep was conducted at first light with nil results.
FSB ROBIN YS4376	12	2305	Movement was heard on the perimeter wire and illumination was fired. A figure was seen to run towards the rubber. C/S 82 engaged the enemy with .50cal. Nil results.
FSB DEBBIE YS443893	17	0105	A torch light was sighted approx 300M S.E. of the FSB and the area was engaged by .30cal by C/S 41. At 172000 more lights were sighted and were engaged by 76MM HE and .30cal. Results unknown.
YS461821	20	0745	While moving from NUI DAT to Courtney Hill area 1/B (2LT LAWRENCE) and 11 sect (Sgt McLAY) were ambushed by approximately 20 enemy. The enemy initiated the ambush with RPG fire. The initial round missed the leading C/S but the Crew Comd of 11A (Cpl I. ROBIN) was slightly wounded by splash off the road. The C/Ss engaged the area with .30 and .50 cal fire, killed one enemy, by body

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Place/Grid Reference	Date	Time	Event or Information
YS461821	20	0745	count and captured 1 AK47 and a quantity of equipment. The enemy ambush position was approx 100M in length and the enemy were in three locations.
YS637873	21	1015	SP TP (Lt R. McCORMACK) engaged one enemy who was seen moving along a track. Results. 1 enemy KIA, 1 AK47 CIA.
<u>NOTE</u>			1TP was used as a blocking force during the battle between D/4RAR and the enemy which resulted in 5 Aust KIA and 23 Aust WIA.
YS456877	22	2230	Elements of 2TP engaged enemy movement in front of their ambush position with claymores. Nil results.
YS642877	22	1430	SP TP (Lt McCORMACK) located a camp/trg area consisting of 24 structures and 10 bunkers. Lecture rooms were found under the larger houses, ranging in size from 4'x14' to 8'x10'. The camp was extremely well camouflaged.
YS635877	23	0850	Elements of 3TP (Capt R.B. WADE) engaged one enemy who was moving away. Nil results.

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Revised Jun 1966

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MONTH AND YEAR _____

REFERENCE MAP _____

Place/Grid Reference	Date	Time	Event or Information
YS490895	25	1220	C/S 11A (Cpl ROBIN) detonated a mine. The mine blew a hole which measured 3ft deep x 6ft wide. Cpl ROBIN and Tpr BRAKEWELL were wounded and were dusted off to Vampire (1 Aust Fd Hosp). The carrier was extensively damaged.
YS486859	25	1230	While proceeding to the area of 11As mine incident C/S 12B (Cpl TURNER) detonated a mine. The vehicle was extensively damaged and Cpl TURNER and one of the Mini Team members were dusted off to Vampire. The resultant hole measured 4ft deep and 5ft wide.
			The mines were thought to be a CHICOM block type and were pressure detonated. It is thought that the mining was carried out by elements of the former D65 Engr Bn, had been in place for approximately 12 months and had just recently been fitted with initiating switches. None of the wounded soldiers were seriously injured.

SUMMARY

1. The Squadron was kept fairly busy during the month with normal tasks. 1TP was put under operational control of 4RAR and 2TP became the TF Ready Reaction TP, with the Cav TP on protection tasks at FSBs DEBBIE and ROBIN.
2. On 18 Sep 71 the remainder of the squadron was deployed along Route 328 from the vicinity of the junction 327/328 North. As the squadron was given a large area in which to operate the opportunity was taken to reorganize the SP TP (4 x FSVs) into two cav tps, using APCs from 3TP. Whilst this was based on a four vehicle tp (2 x APC and 2 x FSVs) the absence of any infantry to form an assault section made the third APC unnecessary for the purpose of the exercise.
3. This limited use of cavalry extending over two weeks proved the worth of the cavalry troop organization. The use of APCs as scout vehicles supported by the readily available 76MM gun proved a viable organization. Little difficulty was experienced in mobility and depended only on the experience of the FSV crews.