

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/1

Item: 161 Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[7 Sep - 31 Oct 1965]

SECRET

HQ AF C2119
6503
Fd's
PPS SECRET

ORIGINAL+
DUPLICATE+
TRIPLICATE+

Instructions for compiling this Commander's Diary are printed inside this cover. They will be strictly observed by all responsible for compiling these Diaries.

COMMANDER'S DIARY
OF

..... 161 RECCE FLT

(Unit or Formation)

Name of Commanding Officer. MAJ P. D. LIPSCOMBE

From.. 7. SEP. 65 to..... 31 OCT 65

Signature of OC unit or senior staff officer

..... *P. D. Lipscombe*

..... OC 161 RECCE FLT

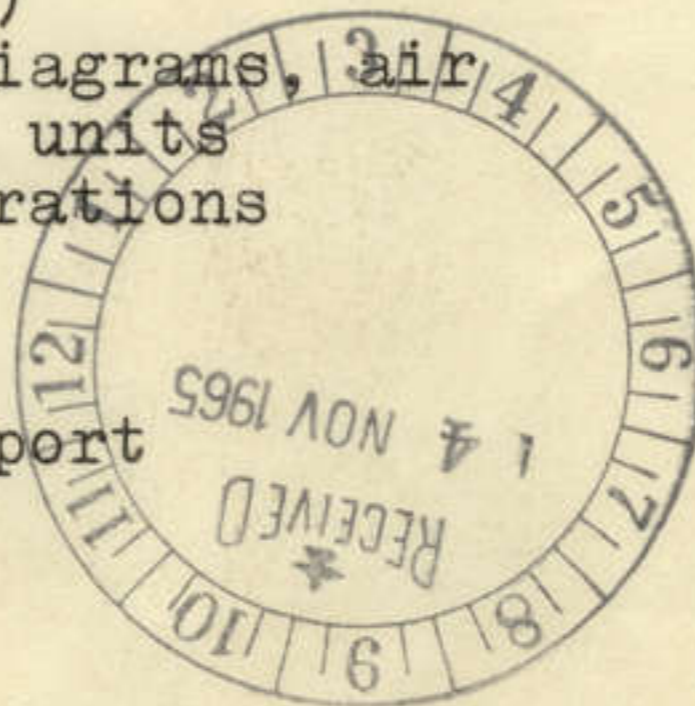
INDEX

3 NOV 1965

Narrative (AF C2118)

Annexes

	Enclosure Numbers
*A Duty Officer's Log	.....to.....
*B Messages connected with log	.....to.....
C Operation orders and instructions issued	.....to.....
D Operation orders and instructions received	.....to.....
*E Sitreps issued	.....to.....
F Orders of battle and location reports issued	.....to.....
G Intelligence reports and summaries issued, appreciations made	.....to.....
H Administrative orders and instructions issued	.....to.....
J Administrative orders and instructions received	.....to.....
*K Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns	.....to.....
L Standing Orders issued	.....to.....
M Commander's policy and demi-Official letters	.....to.....
N Action reports (if required)	.....to.....
O Other papers eg, maps and diagrams, photos, reports from sub units	.....to.....
P Periodical summaries of operations	.....to.....
Z Top Secret Supplementary Report	.....to.....



{ NIL+
RETAINED+
DESPATCHED to
.....
on.....(date)

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

Lipscombe

SECRET

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form 118.
(Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 Recce Flt Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AMBERLEY	7 Sep 65	0830	D-7 days. Preparations for move under control.	
	8 Sep 65	0830	D-6 days.	
		1700	Cpl D P MELLING medically unfit - removed from Nominal Roll.	
	9 Sep 65	0830	D-5 days.	
	10 Sep 65	1630	D-4 days.	
	11 Sep 65	1630	D-3 days.	
	12 Sep 65	0830	D-2 days - Aircraft departed for transit area - stores loading in progress.	
	13 Sep 65	0830	D-1 days.	
	14 Sep 65	0800	Embarked 7 Offrs 41 OR's on HMAS SYDNEY.	
		1100	Sailed from BRISBANE in company with HMAS MELBOURNE and HMAS ANZAC.	
At Sea	15 Sep 65	0915	Ship board training commenced.	
	16 Sep 65	0915	Trg continues - routine progressing.	
		1400	Refuelled HMAS ANZAC.	

(11)

SECRET

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE//SUMMARY.

Army Form 118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 Recce Flt Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
At Sea	17 Sep 65	0800	Soldiers and Airmen on duties.	
		1100	Offrs visited HMAS MELBOURNE.	
		1700	^{SOME} Two minor ailments - swollen feet, tinia, seasickness.	
	18 Sep 65	1700	Normal trg.	
	19 Sep 65	1230	Tied up for refuel MANUS ISLAND.	
	20 Sep 65	0700	Departed MANUS ISLAND with HMAS VENDETTA and DUCHESS.	
		0830	Flt on duties.	
	21 Sep 65	0915	Normal trg - small arms practice.	
		1515	Soldiers paraded for OC's Orderly Room.	
	22 Sep 65	1800	Normal trg - refuelled HMAS DUCHESS and VENDETTA.	
	23 Sep 65	1730	Flt on duties.	
	24 Sep 65	0700	Entered PHILLIPINO waters.	
		0915	Normal trg.	
SUBIC BAY	25 Sep 65	0730	Berthed SUBIC BAY for refuel.	

(11)

SECRET

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form 118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 Recce Flt Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
SUBIC BAY	25 Sep 65	1750	Departed.	
At Sea	26 Sep 65	1830	Flt on duties - aircraft deinhibiting commenced.	
	27 Sep 65	1400	Vehicles deinhibited. SIOUX ground run - both serviceable.	
VUNG TAU	28 Sep 65	0930	SIOUX flown off SYDNEY to VUNG TAU.	
		1630	Flt disembarked. CESSNAS lifted to VUNG TAU by C A 34's.	
		1030	Flt (- RW pilots and drivers) by HERCULES to BIEN HOA.	
		1700	FW Sec returned and Maint Sec.	
		2200	X and C1 vehicles arrived on shore.	
	29 Sep 65	1515	SIOUX departed VUNG TAU. Only VFM radio available to the Sec.	
		1615	SIOUX arrived BIEN HOA.	
		1000	Maint Sec vehicles arrived ashore.	
BIEN HOA	30 Sep 65	1700	Camp administration.	
	"	1400	Pilots attended Int briefing 1 RAR.	
	1 Oct 65	1730	CESSNAS arrived this location.	

(11)

SECRET

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form 118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 Recce Flight Date and Time.—From To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	2 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration - some problems obtaining AVGAS and UHF crystals .	
	3 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration.	
	4 Oct 65	0630	Lt's VON MUENCHHAUSEN and GUILD orientation flights with 120 Avn Coy as gunners on UH-1B's.	
	5 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration.	
	6 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration - CESSNAS ground run.	
	7 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration - recreational trg.	
	8 Oct 65	1400	Flt offr ^{acting} acting Duty offr at 1 RAR CP during current operation.	
	9 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration.	
	10 Oct 65	1000	Lt VON MUENCHHAUSEN and 2Lt COCKERELL toured location and Bn HQ Group over 24 hrs, BEN CAT area.	
	11 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration.	
	12 Oct 65	1000	Orientation rides with 70 Avn Coy (FW pilots)	
	13 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration.	

(11)

SECRET

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE//SUMMARY.

Army Form 118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 Recce Flight Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	14 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration.	
	15 Oct 65	1730	Flt informed of new, permanent location.	
	16 Oct 65	1730	Camp administration.	
	17 Oct 65	1400	Troops entertained by LUCKY STARR.	
	18 Oct 65	1700	Camp administration and preparation of new Flt area.	
	19 Oct 65	1700	" " " " " " " "	
	20 Oct 65	1700	" " " " " " " "	
	21 Oct 65	1700	" " " " " " " "	
	22 Oct 65	1700	First operational Sortie - Recce for 1 RAR in TAOR for next operation.	
	23-26 Oct	1700	Tasks in support of 1 RAR.	
	27 Oct 65	1700	Camp administration and preparation of new Flt area	
	28 Oct 65	1700	" " " " " " " "	
	29 Oct 65	1700	" " " " " " " "	
	30 Oct 65	0900	Moved to new Flt area.	

SECRET

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, the relevant papers should be grouped as annexes starting at B.
9. Documents concerned with future planning for operations form Annex "Z", "TOP SECRET Supplementary Diary" of the formation originating the document. It is to be prepared and disposed of as shown in Paragraph 16.

CONTENTS

10. The diary is to contain:
 - a. Changes in command, (giving place names as well as map references), establishment, equipment and organization.
 - b. Information received, decisions made and orders given.
 - c. Where applicable, a short summary of the day's fighting, including company movements.
 - d. Opinions and recommendations of the commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization and morale.
 - e. Progress of defensive works.
 - f. Weapon state.
 - g. Weather and ground conditions, if of potential importance.
 - h. Major causes and number of casualties to officers, men and equipment.
 - i. A note of all prisoners and enemy equipment captured.
 - j. A statement showing how the unit was employed in the time not accounted for. The type of training, etc, should be specified.
11. In order to ensure accuracy and completeness and to save work as much information as possible is to be included in annexes consisting of copies of documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All annexes are to be referred to in the column provided and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.
12. The narrative is to supplement and connect 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.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 1st Recce Coy Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
At Sea	16 Sept 65	0915	Tug continues - routine progressing.	
		1400	Refuelled HMAS ANZAC.	
"	17 Sept 65	0800	Soldiers and Airman on duties.	
		1100	Offrs visited HMAS MELBOURNE.	
		1700	Two minor ailments - Swollen feet, tinea, sea-sickness.	
	18 Sept 65	1700	Normal tug.	
	19 Sept 65	1230	Tied up for refuel MANUS IS.	
	20 Sept 65	0700	Departed MANUS IS with HMAS ^{VENDETTA.} VENDETTA and DUCHESS.	
		0830	Fit on duties.	
	21 Sept 65	0915	Normal tug - Small arms practice.	
		1515	Soldiers paraded for OC's Orderly Room.	
	22 Sept 65	1800	Normal tug - Refuelled HMAS DUCHESS and VENDETTA	
	23 Sept 65	1730	Fit on duties.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form O-2118
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 RECCO FLT

Date and Time.—From

To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
At Sea	24 Sep 65	0700	Entered Philippine waters.	
		0915	Normal log.	
Subic Bay	25 Sep 65	0730	Berthed SUBIC BAY for refuel.	
		1750	Departed.	
At Sea	26 Sep 65	1830	Flt on duties - ac demobilizing commenced.	
	27 Sep 65	1400	Vehs demobilized. Sicuro ground run - both serviceable.	
VUNG TAU	28 Sep 65	0930	Sicuro flown off SYDNEY to VUNG TAU.	
		1630	Flt disembarked. Cessnas lifted to VUNG TAU by C-34's.	
		2030	Flt (- 2W pilots & crew) by Hercules to BIEN HOA.	
		1700	FW Sec returned + Maint. Sec.	
"	"	2200	X + CI vehs arrived on shore.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 RECCO FLW Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
VUNG TAU	29 Sep 65	1515	Sonic departed VUNG TAU. Only 15FM radio avail to the Sec.	
		1615	Sonic arrived BIEN HOA.	
		1800	Main Sec vech arrived ashore.	
BIEN HOA	30 Sep 65	1700	Camp adms	
		1400	Pilots attended Int briefing 1KTH.	
"	1 Oct 65	1730	Lessnas arrived this loc.	
	2 Oct 65	1730	Camp adms - some problems obtaining AVGWS and UHF crystals.	
	3 Oct 65	1730	Camp adms	
	4 Oct 65	0630	Lt's Von HUENCHHAUSEN + GUILD execution flights with 120 Avon Coy as gunners on UH-1B's.	
	5 Oct 65	1730	Camp adms.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

Unit 161 RECCO FLT Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	6 ^{Oct} Sept 55	1730	Camp admin. - Essmors ground run.	
	7 Oct	1730	Camp admin - rec. log.	
	8 Oct	1400	Set offrs acting Duty offrs at 1200 CP during current op.	
	9 Oct	1730	Camp admin.	
	10 Oct	1000	Lt Ven MURCHHAUSON and Jt COCKERELL secured loc and Bn HQ Group over 2 hrs, BEN CHI area.	
	11 Oct	1730	Camp admin.	
	12 Oct	1000	Orientation rides with 72 Bn Coy (FW pilots).	
	13 Oct	1730	Camp admin.	
	14 Oct	1730	Camp admin.	
	15 Oct	1730	Set informed of new permanent location!	
	16 Oct	1730	Camp admin.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit 161 Recce Flt

Date and Time.—From

To

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
BIEN HOA	17 Oct 65	1400	Troops entertained by <u>LUCKY STARR!</u>	
	18 Oct 65	1700	Camp admin and prep of new Ilt area	
	19 Oct 65	1700	"	
	20 Oct 65	1700	"	
	21 Oct 65	1700	"	
	22 Oct 65	1700	First operational sortie - Recce for IRAB in ^{TRAC} area for next operation	
	23-26 Oct	1700	Tasks in sp of IRAB	
	27 Oct 65	1700	Camp admin and prep of new Ilt area.	
	28 Oct 65	1700	"	
	29 Oct 65	1700	"	
	30 Oct 65	0900	Moved to new Ilt area.	
	31 Oct 65	0800	Camp admin	
		1730	First general Mess Meeting	

