

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Infantry units

Item number: 7/1/88 PART 2

**Item: 1 Battalion Royal Australian
Regiment**

Duty Officer's log

Operation Platypus

[5-6 Aug 1968]

O P PLAT Y PLUS

AAB 95

Reprinted Sept., 1966

PLAT Y P.W.



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

ARTILLERY SIGNAL LOG BOOK

Signaller.....

Suty Officer

Army No.....

Unit.....

PERIOD 5-6 Aug.

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
0150	HA I fired in ep of B Coy.	/			
0410	Groans from wounded ^{possibly two} VC outside our _{one} perimeter, appears very badly wounded. C/321 heard 10 mins ago metallic noises in NORTH of perimeter (contact on SOUTH)	Z		Reamed to TF	
0425	Have you heard any further noises to NORTH.	OA		C/S 2: No.	
0635	Move to KOMUFWD (337857) on high ground ^{then} to JRO1WHR (324858) look along Blue line to NORTH on second leg.	OA		Reamed to C/S 4 through 2	
0645	IVC KIA on perimeter with AK47	Z.		Reamed to TF	
0647	One body to WEST. Now investigating	3.			
0708	B Coy clearing pte in contact outside perimeter	Z.		Reamed to TF	

Date Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
0710	Now have 1 VC (KIA) no own car. Total 2.	2.		Panel to TF	
0715	1 VC body with AK47, no down, with ammo pouch. Dressed in greens.	3.			
0732	A Carback C/53 1940 B 042015 C 378 R O-5 D 1.3 (316837) D 1 En in green F 1 VC KIA 1 AK47 G. W-E H. En moved w/ track sheet by gun.	F3 As			
	A Macey Bone				
	B Nil				
	C No				
	D NA				

Date Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	E N/A			TTF	
	F 1 AK47 + 4 Mags				
0740	denanter with Russian writing when the denanter have a fuse setter. Are still searching. Have three packs which they are still searching.	F2			
0743	LP's back in sac.	F1			
0758	C/S 3 have a pack to be back loaded.	F3		T/AQ	

Date Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
0807	A. dustoff 0735	F3			
	B. c/s 3			TTK	
	C. 379 R.O.5 D.I.6				
	D. Some time back				
	loader reset				
	E. Priority				
	F. 1 sitting				
	G. Bad news as disorder				
	H. Swat. 1. 830 J. broke				
	K. Grad. L. Same M.No.				
0810	A. Contact c/s 3	F2			
	B.				
	C.				
	D. Possibly to super				
	AK47 range of				
	contact 5 metres				
	now west to E				
	Main force dressed				
	in black				

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date.....

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	F. 2VC KIA IVC	F3			
	WIA IAK47				
	H.				
0810.	A Contact c/s 2	F/R			
	B 042115				
	C c/s 7 in line				
	D possibly 5				
	E Man face dressed				
	one in blue black one in green				
	F 2VC KIA I WIA				
	IAK47				
	G. W → E				
	H En moving				
	along track from				
	W → E. Contact opened				
	at 5 metres, body				
	found on which				

Date 5 Aug 63

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	sweep 12c killed by cleaning pth. 1 blood tract leading away to the east.	K/3		TTF	
0834	H Moreybase c/sv	K/2			
	A. Nil				
	C. Yes				
	D. To be advised				
	E. " " "				
	F. 1 character				
	1 combination fuse				
	spinner				
	1 equator generator				
	1 AK47				
	200 mds AK47				
	official certificates				
	which off.				

Date 15 Aug 63

IN

OUT

Date.....

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	snaps of paper work				
	calculations				
	small photographs				
	3x packs + some				
	basic welding				
	small qty med				
	supplies				
	1 transistor radio				
	any type. 2 hard.				
	appar on 9mc's				
	shack main.				
	some transistor				
	units parts				
	is hammer &				
	saw				
	assorted staking				
	including green				
	1 bag gen satter				
	1 stretcher				

Date 15 Aug 67

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
	(from arch on pal)	
	1 diary up to date	
	Several documents dated 3 Aug.	
0842	Additional to contact. Wounded VC had a dress by woman which was received late yesterday. Could appear he was carried on stretcher	F/2
0855	L/S 4/47 358 43.6 D 0.8 334 862 C/S 41 342 43.7 D.09 333865	F/4

TIME	TEXT	Received by
	TTF	
	T T T	

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date.....

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	C/S 42 403 L2.0			TTF	
	U 2.9 330 859				
0945	C/S 41 360 R 0.5	FC		TTF	
	D 2.6 325 869				
	A/A 3 409 L1.7				
	U 2.9 533 859				
	C/S 42 191 L6.1				
	U 3.0 329 860				
0950	Are continuing sweep of camp, there more than are kaechi. are also several more burbers	F3			
1010.	Burbers found by 3 have 18" O/C with kaechis at top	FG			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
	are lumber has mine's leading from it - suspect badly injured	
1015	20-40 lumber still reaching	F3
1050	Move to Easting AUR then to JDXREKQ parallel track from your present loc. Talk with C/S 3 when you are near them loc.	T2 FOA

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Received by
	Require estimate of explosives required.	T3
	32 Easting 317849.	

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	1 Mamb job.				
	# Fuzes.				
	Assorted AK47 rounds.				
	Surgical operating kit				
	2 Ripple switches.				
	1,000 lb rice				
	50 lb salt.				
1225	Documents - Interpreter views	F/B.			
	list. 33 names - claimed				
	No 1 Pl of 4 Coy 2 Bn Arty -				
	NVA unit.				
1238	D Coy 405 L2-2 U2-8 (328858)	F/G19			
1243	CS 2 - contact.	F/B.			
1244	HP ready - 60 mins.	F/B			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 32 Aug

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1245	Lossam 13 - warned of fire - 3284			He is in contact with 4	
1246	316846 clear ground.	T/G19			
1243	403 L2.2 U2.8 (328858)	F/G10			
1247	2VC with RPG - small bunker system. We were clearing area 150 m WEST of previous loc. approx (326843)	F/2			
1255	Lt out for 5 min.	F/82			
1256	Still clearing area by fire and mov.	F/2.			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1200	C/S 41 LRVNFWJ (322865)	R/K			
	4/43 367 208 40.4 360 A.O.S D 3.3 (328857)				
	42 RVD CV JV (323866)	T/19			
1310	A. Justoff				
(NP)	B. 2 (32158)				
(Time)	C. To be advised				
	D. To be advised				
	E. PRIORITY				
	F. 1 Sitting				
	G. Minor cas. Shrapnel wound to chin and left leg				
	H. Aust				
	I.				
	J. SMK on panels.				
	K.				
	L.				
	M.				
	N.				

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
B10	A. CONTACT	F/R		TTF	
	B. 051245 H				
	C. 377 R1.5 D0.7				
	D. 2 2 to 3 seen, unknown no				
	E. N/K.				
	F. N/K				
	G. N/K				
	H. En secured c/s 21 fire with AK 47, 1 CD mine and 2 RPG rockets. 1 own mine WIA. C/S 2 withdraw and engaged area with arty, now sweeping through bunkers.				

Date.....

IN

OUT

Date.....

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1321	Dlog - contact. 1/4 moving S to N along back. 4/43 astride back.	F/4			
1321.	Lead loc 4/43 360 Ro-8 D 3-3 (328857)	T/4			
1330	Dartoff cancelled at this stage.	T/TT.			
1335	Dand failed to clear LP.	F/3.			

Date Sept 68

IN

OUT

Date Sept 68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1405	As fwd elms were approaching area of previous contact fired on by 2VC. c/s returned the fire.	F/2.			
1405	VC had no pos wpm, had radio on 11.5 mc/s. Wore green shirt black trousers.	F/4			
1415	Hit rear c/s - some CD mines and MGs.	F/2			
1423	Pulling two pls back to our loc to go into a deep posn - then hope to call in ART	F/2			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1435	Pyron	F/TF		TTT	
	A. Strike on area 377				
	377 R 1.5 D 0.7 (325843)			Pyron	
	Occupied			A. Strike on area	
	B. Run bunker system -			377 R 1.5 D 0.7 (325843)	
	at R on top axis			B. Occupied bunker system.	
	C. TOT 1500 ¹⁵³⁰ km			C. TOT 1530 km.	
	NOT BEFORE 1500 km.			NOT before 1500 km.	
	D. 400 m to EAST of			D. 400 m to EAST of Sgt.	
	Sgt.			E. Run in N-S. Freq	
	E. Run in N-S			98T (43.20) c/s 2. Panels	
	Freq (43.20) 98T.			and smoke to mark own	
	c/s 2.			troops.	
	Panels and smoke to				
	mark own troops.				

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 22/5/68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1440	c/s 41 344 L5.1 D0.8 (319862)	F/4			
	4/43 363 R0.5 D3.3 (325857)				
	42 378 R.1 U1.4 (321864)				
1450	Fire looks good	F/P21			
1455	Present rounds on target	F/2.			
1507					
1507	loc c/s 2 327843 - secure - this loc.	F/2.		given as last night loc.	
1515	314850 - clear for 155mm				
1515	20-25 mi - Jade will be in area Jade is in c/s.	F/2			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1519	1 cas (WIA) cuts to hand and chin	F/1			
1525	Water - perum do try and locate water and direct c/s to it. If not in there any clearip where he could lower some in.	F/1			
1531	2 more cas 1 to back 1 to thigh (can't walk only limp).	F/2			
1535	442/43 359 Ro. 2 D2.8 (32862) 41 42LBJMC 88861	F/1			

Date 5 Aug

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1645	Fuel 319861	F/4		TTF	
1650	Manning up to area of camp.	F/2			
1708	2/c/s with Survey are mowing fuel to contact area. One mowing very slowly	F/2			
1725	Elms are nearing lumber system.	F/2			
1730	Fuel elms under RPB fine. and automatic cups. Request LFT	F/2		TTF TTF	

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date.....

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1737.	Have taken cas standing dustoff. one being fire- movement to try and extricate cas. 1 Cas leg wound.	E/2		T T F.	
1740	No further developments still under fire. Making fire to try and extricate cas.	E/2			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1755	A Austaff	F/p			
	B C/S 2				
	C 401 12.3 U1.3				
	D Approx 10 mis				
	E Urgent.				
	F. Gas exact				
	meads unknown.				
	known to be				
	several C/S in				
	to leg				
	included F				
	H. Aust				
	I 235 C/S 2				
	J Snake & pines				
	K 40000 canopy				
	L secure from				
	direct fire				
	M. Has request & State letter.				
	N. Austaff to appear				

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
	and leave to from 50. LFT requested. Further details of cas as anat.	F/2
1805	CS W to h leg & chest.	F/2
1806	Shustoff 34 in lac in 15 min	FTE
1808	Count on cars 1 litter 5 sitting	F/2
1810	Ref Sidman's key reserve for Shustoff	F/2

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Received by
	+ T F	518
		818
		508
		701
		801
		701
		018
		618

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
1817	Case to sitting 2 letters	F/R
1819	Mustoff on its way	F/T
1837	Mustoff taking out first case now.	F/Z
1905	Mustoff complete	F/R
1909	Moving to in for shortly. Demol will take place tonight.	F/S
1910	Standing patches in.	F/I
1945	Demol successful. 2 final loc.	F/R

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Received by
	TTF	
	(1-13352) 202 218 888	
	TTF	
	All my cases out.	
	7 Taken.	

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	A. Contact c/s 2.				
	B. 051715H				
	C. 379 R13 Do.6 (323844)				
	D. Unknown - 6 or more				
	E. Unknown - possibly main force.				
	F. for known 2 VC KIA (pos).				
	G. Remained in contact area.				
	H. c/s 2 approached en route after air strike. On left flank saw undamaged bunkers, started to deploy, found c/s hit by claymore MGs and the possible RCh.				
	Sustained 5 cas and used fire and was to extract them.				
	Then withdrew. Bunkers are just SE of airstrike area. This would indicate complex in fact, large as it is was center of airstrike area.				

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
1952	325804 clear	T/8			
	During airstrike on of 20 base camp you are to move towards this base. If it is still occupied then you are to pull back for more airstrike.				
1954	316835 - Blay C Coy	F/G19			
2000	Most effective approach would be from EAS to WES. No info is avail of on search of WES of obj.	F/2			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
	Python	
	A. 323844	
	B. K. bunker system occupied - approx 100 m square. long axis E to W.	
	C. 3 strikes requested.	
	TOT 1000 hrs.	
	NOT BEFORE 1000 hrs.	
	NOT LATER THAN 1200 hrs.	
	D. Own troops	
	ops 330844 ops 319861	
	ops 3319840	
	E. Reg 98T (43.20)	
	Control strike	
	2 ops brief from ops 4A - request Jade 01 to central strike	

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68

TIME	TEXT	Received by
	Python	
	A. IGOBJRT (323844)	
	B. Occupied bunker system - approx 100 m square. long axis E to W.	
	C. 3 strikes requested.	
	TOT 0 + 24 hrs (1000)	
	NOT BEFORE 0 + 24 hrs (1000)	
	NOT LATER THAN 0 + 26 hrs (1200)	
	D. Own troops	
	ops 2 330844. FHWLEOR	
	ops 3 319840 KACEAOR	
	ops 4 319861 ODTFRXT	
	E. In flight brief from ops 4A - request Jade 01 to central strike.	
	Reg 98T (43.20)	

Date 5 Aug 48

IN

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
	<u>Air Task Request</u>	
	Serial No 1/8	
	C/S 72	
	A. 23 pax	
	B. 1 Albatron	
	C. PINE	
	D. 330844	
	E. 061000H	
	F. On completion	
	G. Direct	
	H. Reinforcements for	
	C/S 2	
	freq 83C	
	P2 C/S 6	
	H2 C/S 2	
	PRIORITY	

OUT

Date 11/11/48

TIME	TEXT	Received by
	<u>AIR TASK REQUEST</u>	
	SERIAL NO 1/8	
	C/S 72	
	A. 23 pax	
	B. 1 Albatron	
	C. PINE	
	D. 330844 WVEVFX4	
	E. Q + 24 hrs. (061000)	
	F. On completion	
	G. Direct	
	H. Reinforcements for	
	C/S 2	
	freq 83C	
	P2 C/S 6	
	H2 C/S 2	
	PRIORITY	

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
2015	Certain that this c/s had 2 VC KIA (pen). Shot down by members of c/s 21.	F/2
2020	Would like to claim re/ dressed in white shirt as pen KIA. He was seen to run into bunker after being shot. Later inspection of this bunker found blood and general signs of extremely bad wound.	F/3

TIME	TEXT	Received by
2015	[Faint handwritten text]	[Faint handwritten text]
2020	[Faint handwritten text]	[Faint handwritten text]

Date 5 Apr 68

IN

OUT

Date 5/4/68

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
2045	<u>HFT Request</u> Request HFT in station at the completion of air strikes for follow up ^{opportunity} targets in occupied en base camp at IGOBJRT (323844) freq 98T.	T/TF			
2050	Sub unit debrief. Additional information to contact reports revealed by sub unit debriefs. Contact c/s 3 at 041600H, at to go on at 02030H last night. VC in white shirt was seen to be hit and ran into a bunker. Investigation of this bunker	PR			

Date 5 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
	during 10- days search	TIF			
	revealed much blood				
	and signs of extensive				
	bleeding. 4 c/s 3 claim				
	1 VC KIA (pos).				
	Contact c/s 2 at 051715H				
	1 VC sent to you at				
	1936 hr.				
	2 VC were seen to				
	be hit ^{by GPMG tracer} and fall. Bodies				
	could not be counted				
	due to requirement for				
	c/s 21 to withdraw.				
	1 VC claim 2 VC KIA (pos).				
	Amend para F in this				
	report to read 2 VC KIA (possible). TIF.				

Date 5 Aug 68.

IN

OUT

Date 5 Aug 68.

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
2220	Brigadier spoke to CO. Crypto to follow.	F/TF			
2232	CP 44 C Squ group less one loop to return this loc at first light 6 Aug. One loop to remain AVENGER.	F/TF to CS-			
2255	SEARCH will arrive this loc at Q + 21 1/2 (0930). Mor will be based on timing of Q + 24 (1000).	F/TF.			
0250	120 0817 MA (MOSS) POW.	F/92			
0700	CP 1/2 moving	F/TF			
0732	CP 4 moving	F/4			

Date 6 Aug 68

IN

OUT

Date

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by	TIME	TEXT	Received by
0800	C/S 2 message in 2 min	F/3			
0805	C/S 2 message in 15 min	F/2			
0821	C/S 2 message	F/2			
0853	377 R0.7 D1.7 (317883)	F/3			
0850	379 R2.0 D0.9 (330841)	F/2			
0902	4/41 359 R0.2 D2.3 (322867)	F/4			
	42 345 L4.7 D0.5 (323865)				
	43 377 R1.0 U1.6 (320866)				
0910	381 R2.1 D1.0 (331840)	F/2			

Date **6 Aug 68**

IN

TIME	TEXT	Transmitted by
0930		
0933	P2 323875 - D Coy.	F/Q.
0940	P2 Coy 377 Ro. 7 D2.1 (317829)	FB
1004	C/S 378 R2.3 D1.6 (333834)	F/2
1004 -	1400 - In moved by air	
	left to TIGER FIVE.	

OUT

Date.....

TIME	TEXT	Received by

Date.....

INJO

TIME

TEXT

Transmitted
by

Handwritten notes in blue ink:

- A large circle at the top with two short horizontal lines inside.
- A vertical line with several small 'x' marks.
- A small square to the left of the vertical line.
- A larger circle at the bottom containing the number '02'.

OUT

Date.....

TIME

TEXT

Received
by