

**Series: AWM95**  
**Australian Army commanders' diaries**  
**[Vietnam]**

**Army Aviation units**

**Item number: 8/1/61**

**Item: 161 [Independent]**

**Reconnaissance Flight**

**Narrative**

**Annex**

**[1-30 Sep 1971]**



1. I enclose Commanders Diary (AF C 2118) (Adapted) as indicated at Part 2.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) ..... Mai

*Appointment* **OC 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT**  
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

ORIGINAL  
~~DUPLICATE~~

**Strike out where**  
**not applicable**

# COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation..... 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

**From** ..... 01 SEP 71 **To** 30 SEP 71 .....

## 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

† 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:
  - 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

TENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

l orders given.

the day's fighting, including company movements.

commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

o officers, men and equipment.

oment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to  
ments issued and received, routine returns, etc. All  
and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

he 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.



This form is to be enclosed with annexes in AF - C2119 (Adapted)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)

Revised Apr 69

COMMANDERS' DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj N.H. HARDEN

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				<b>SUMMARY</b>	
				Since the phasing out of the last Sioux helicopter on 13 Sep, the Kiowas have been carrying out all rotary wing tasks. Several maintenance problems have begun to emerge, the most common of these being failure of the oil seals on the main drive short shaft and the illumination of various caution and warning lights. In all cases, the actuation of the light systems has been due to a malfunction of that system, and not failure of any aircraft components.	
				Surveillance task hours increased by approximately 35% due to an increased requirement for this service during the withdrawal of the Task Force.	
				Approval has now been given to fly the Porters back to Australia. Preparations for this trip, together with the in country E servicing of Porter A14-692 by Air America, are well under way.	
				Preparations for the planned move to Vung Tau have continued throughout the month. The advance party commanded by Capt Monteith, departed	



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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
				Nui Dat on 13 Sep and have now completed their task of erecting accomodation	
				and working areas both at 1 ALSG and Vung Tau airfield. The Flight headquarters	
				and administrative services are situated in the 2 AOD car park and accomodation	
				for all ranks is in the respective 2 AOD lines. The operation element and	
				RAEME workshops are situated in one of the north-western revetments,	
				adjacent to 35 Sqn RAAF, on the Vung Tau airfield.	
				Lt D.J. Bell departed the unit for Australia on 2 Sep and was	
				replaced by 2lt C Meham. Lt T.J. Hayes and Lt F.M. Gibson marched out	
				to RTA on 9 Sep and were not replaced.	
				As a result of Operation TIMOTHY, reduction, and the non replacement	
				of other unit personnel because of impending RTA, the unit strength is now	
				15 officers and 83 ORs with 1 padre attached. However an additional 4 ORs	
				have been posted in early to fill vacancies that will be caused by	
				National Serviceman returning to Australia in Oct/Nov 71.	
				Lt M.C. Reynolds completed an instructor pilot course on the	
				OH-58A with the 5th Aviation Detachment in Vung Tau, and is now carrying	



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COMMANDING OFFICER Maj N.H. HARDEN

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
		1 SEP 71	0630	Lt HAYES and Lt GIBSON (DS 3 RAR) assisted in operations against a bunker system at YS 605656. Lt GIBSON marked for three airstrikes. The subsequent sweep through the area revealed extensive stores, indicating that 20-30 persons had occupied the system.	
			1530	Lt GIBSON carried out a precautionary landing in KIOWA 70-15237 at 6169 due to the illumination of the "Transmission Oil Hot" warning light. The area was secured by APCs from 1 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt whilst the fault was rectified and the aircraft returned to Nui Dat 30 minutes later.	
				VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		2 SEP 71	1330	2Lt C Mechem marched in to replace Lt Bell.	
			2230	A Porter was scrambled to provide illumination over FSB CENTENARY (YS 6569) following reports of movement outside the perimeter. The aircraft was released from the area at 030015 hrs.	
				VRs revealed nothing of significance.	
		3 SEP 71	1010	2Lt SONNEVELD carried out a precautionary landing at YS 614818 following the illumination of both "Transmission Oil Hot" and "Transmission	



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MONTH AND YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP PHOU C TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj N.H. HARDEN

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				Oil Pressure" warning lights. The area was secured by a platoon from 3 RAR who were diverted from an extration to Nui Dat. The fault was rectified by Capt BARLOW and the aircraft returned to Nui Dat.	
				VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		4 SEP 71	0655	Whilst on a first light recce, Lt McGhie saw an explosion on the beach at YS 552555 and sighted a Vietnamese in the near proximity holding what appeared to be a cord or rope in his hand. Lt REYNOLDS and 2lt MECHAM diverted from the RW Docs Run and on overflying the area found a young boy lying on the beach and 4 armed Vietnamese who fired 10 rounds of small arms fire at the Kiowa. 2lt MECHAM returned the fire with an M16 until the arrival of Bushrangers who engaged the area with rockets and miniguns.	
			0745	Maj HARDEN together with the senior district advisor and the DAT DO District Chief directed an RF sweep up the beach from LONG PHOUC HAI to the mouth of the SONG RAI.	
			0810	Capt MONTEITH took over from Lt REYNOLDS and sighted another Vietnamese cycling along the beach to aid the young boy. He maintained sur-	



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MONTH AND YEAR SEP 71

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj N.H. HARDEN

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
				veillance over the pair until the RF forces arrived to carry out a sweep of the area. The two Vietnamese were apprehended and searched prior to Capt MONTEITH flying them to DAT DO.	
				VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		05 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		06 SEP 71	1000	Capt MATHESON sighted eight tracks running from the waters edge to the scrub line at YS 710613. The tracks which were less than 3 days old were followed until lost at YS 714631.	
			1330	Maj HARDEN, Capt BARLOW and Capt MONTEITH carried out a recce of proposed Flight areas at 1 ALSG and the airfield at Vung Tau.	
		07 SEP 71	1100	VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		08 SEP 71	1615	Capt MATHESON sighted two old weapon pits with overhead protection at YS 371894. Numerous footprints and rubbish, less than two weeks old were seen in the vicinity.	
		09 SEP 71	1100	2Lt TRIPLETT sighted a freshly cut tree stump at YS 564874 and a tree with a notch cut in the base at YS 682834.	



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COMMANDING OFFICER Maj N.H. HARDEN

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
			1800	Capt MATHESON sighted nets across the river at YS 574569 and	
				YS 595585. There were numerous fresh footprints near the first net.	
		10 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		11 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance.	
				2Lt TRIPLETT and 2Lt MECHAM left for Vung Tau to begin their	
				Kiowa conversion with the 5th Aviation Detachment.	
		12 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		13 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance.	
				The advance party, led by Capt MONTEITH, departed for Vung Tau.	
			1745	Lt REYNOLDS flew Sioux A1-738, flanked by 3 Kiowas flown by	
				Capt MATHESON, Lt STEEL and 2Lt SONNEVELD, in a formation flypast to	
				commemorate the last flight of an Australian Sioux in SVN.	
		14 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance.	
		15 SEP 71	1100	Lt WRIGHT sighted a Vietnamese carrying a rifle at YS 526823. The	
				area was immediately engaged with artillery, but the subsequent BDA revealed	
				no sign of the person.	



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Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure N (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
			1400	Capt MATHESON sighted several, fresh N-S tracks in YS 4178 and YS 4179. The tracks showed both military pattern boots and sandal prints.	
		16 SEP 71	0915	Lt STEEL sighted a track at YS 564906 which had been used by 20 plus persons in the last 24 hours.	
			1800	Lt REYNOLDS found 2 bunker entrances and signs of recent digging at YS 296794.	
		17 SEP 71	1400	Lt REYNOLDS found a bunker system at YS 610913. Although various articles of clothing and paper were seen, the area did not appear to have been recently used.	
		18 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance.	
				Seven RAEME members commenced an OH-58A maintenance course with the 5th Aviation Detachment at Vung Tau.	
		19 SEP 71	1000	Following a night harassment of the RF post at XA BANG, Lt WRIGHT sighted a 57 mm RCL firing position at YS 463829. A track led from this point to YS 478826 where it was lost in thick jungle.	
			1300	2Lt TRIPLETT sighted a fresh track used by 15-20 persons at	



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REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj N.H. HARDEN

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
				YS 519900. He also saw a Vietnamese dressed in a green uniform at this point.	
				The person immediately took cover and could not be relocated.	
			1700	Lt REYNOLDS and Lt WRIGHT searched for and found a cabin cruiser adrift off the back beach at Vung Tau. The vessel was towed ashore behind the Kiowa from 5 miles out to sea.	
		20 SEP 71	0715	Following an attempted ambush of elements of A Sqn 3 Cav Regt, Lt STEEL found a VC body and an AK 47 at YS474818. Tracks from the ambush site at YS 463819 were followed until lost in heavy jungle 1000 metres to the East.	
		21 SEP 71		VRs reported nothing of significance. However continuous contacts by 4 RAR around and to the East of the COURTNEY rubber kept the RW section fully occupied. Lt Sonneveld flew 11.30 <sup>HRS</sup> in support of 4 RAR.	
			2000	A Porter was scrambled to provide radio relay for both infantry and artillery nets to D Coy 4 RAR. An aircraft was continuously airborne until 220230 hrs. when enemy harassment stopped.	
		22 SEP 71		VRs were mainly concerned with detecting movement out of the contact	



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MONTH AND YEAR SEP 71

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COMMANDING OFFICER Maj N.H. HARDEN

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
				area at YS 5085; however no sightings were made.	
		23 SEP 71	1000	Lt REYNOLDS found several tracks, less than 24 hours old, indicating movement of small groups in a northerly direction through YS 5690, YS 5791 and YS 5891.	
		24 SEP 71	0900	Capt MATHESON sighted several tracks, less than 48 hours old, indicating movement of several small groups in a south-easterly direction through YS 5379	
			1200	Lt STEEL found an E-W track used by 25 plus persons in the last 48 hours, running from YS 521811 to YS 532814.	
		25 SEP 71	1200	2lt TRIPLETT found a heavy track used by 20-30 persons running from YS 498844 in a south westerly direction. The track was less than two days old.	
		26 SEP 71	1300	Lt WRIGHT found a Vietnamese hiding in shallow water at YS 584578.	
		27 SEP 71		VRs mainly concerned with the area between NUI DAT I and NUI DAT II. Sightings of recent civilian movement and woodcutting were made by Capt MATHESON and 2lt TRIPLETT.	



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REFERENCE MAP PHOU TUI PROVINCE

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MONTH AND YEAR **SEP 71**

REFERENCE MAP PHOUIC TUY PROVINCE

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REFERENCE MAP PHOU C TUY PROVINCE

Serial	Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Events or information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
				<b>ANNEX A PART 2 FW HOURS AND SORTIES</b>	
				<b>DAY</b>	
				<b>HOURS SORTIES</b>	
				<b>NIGHT</b>	
				<b>HOURS SORTIES</b>	
				PILOT RECCE 73.00 53 1.35 1	
				PAX RECCE NIL NIL NIL NIL	
				LIAISON 73.05 122 1.45 2	
				AIR OP NIL NIL NIL NIL	
				547 SIGS 318.05 164 1.00 1	
				PSY OPS NIL NIL NIL NIL	
				FLARE DROP NIL NIL NIL NIL	
				SNIFTER 19.55 16 NIL NIL	
				MISC 1.20 3 11.55 10	
				TRG NIL NIL 0.35 1	
				TEST 2.40 6 NIL NIL	



RESTRICTED

12 Sep 71

ADMIN INSTRUCTION 1/71

MOVEMENT TO AND OPERATION FROM VUNG TAU

General Outline.

1. 161 (Indep) Recce Flt is to be fully operational at Vung Tau by 6 Oct 71. The flight will operate from Vung Tau airfield but will be accommodated in the 2 AOD/1 ALSG area. The flight advance party will move to Vung Tau on 13 Sep 71 and the rear party will vacate Nui Dat by 5 Oct 71.

Movement Details

2. Advance Party

- a. Composition: The advance party will consist of the 2ic, FSM and 12 OR's to be nominated by the AO and EO. The ASM will join the advance party on 20 Sep 71 and some change of personnel will be necessary to release tradesmen for Kiowa training.
- b. Movement. The advance party will depart Nui Dat by 0900 hours 13 Sep 71. One ¾ ton GS vehicle and trailer will be permanently allocated to the party.
- c. Duties. The 2ic will maintain close liaison with OC 2 AOD and OC RAAF Contingent and ensure the following tasks are completed:
  - (1) 13 Sep-19 Sep 71.
    - (a) Movement and re-erection of barbed wire in the officers living area.
    - (b) Erection of six 16'x16' tents with flc oring for officers accommodation.
    - (c) Erection of all office tentage as below.
  - (2) 20 Sep-26 Sep 71.
    - (a) Erection of all airfield tentage.
    - (b) Preparation of aircraft revetments if deemed necessary.
    - (c) Reception and security of stores delivered from Nui Dat.
    - (d) Preparation of storage facilities for aircraft ammunition at Vung Tau airfield.

/ (3)

RESTRICTED



(3) 27 Sep-1 Oct 71.

- (a) Arrange installation of power to tentage
- (b) Receive air portable cabins from RAAF and set up as HQ Wksps and CP.
- (c) Ensure that the following radios are operational by 1200 hours 30 Sep 71.
  - i. Flight Command Net in CP.
  - ii. TF Command Net out station in HQ area.
- (d) Lay internal telephone lines and install "Telecall" system. No telephone line is required between 2 AOD and the airfield.

3. Main Body.

- a. Composition. 161 (Indep) Recce Flt less advance party, rear party and detached elements.
- b. Movement. The majority of the main body will move to Vung Tau on 1 Oct 71. However some personnel will move on 30 Sep 71 to assist unloading and security of stores.

4. Rear Party.

- a. Composition. The rear party will consist of the LO, WO2 Bell, FQMS, one cook, one hygiene dutyman, one driver and two persons from Wksps, to be nominated.
- b. Movement. Move to Vung Tau as soon as their tasks are completed, but not later than 1500 hours 5 Oct 71. One ¾ ton GS vehicle with trailer will be allocated to the rear party.
- c. Duties.
  - (1) Prepare, pack and despatch any remaining stores.
  - (2) Clean and inspect area.
  - (3) Handover to nominated occupying unit.

5. Detached Elements.

- ج. a. Composition. OIC of detached elements is to be SATCO who is responsible for remaining ATC's and the Fire Crew.

/ b.



- b. Movement. Remain Nui Dat and pass to under command of 4 RAR as from 1200 hrs 1 Oct 71. On completion of duties below, on or about 6 Nov 71 rejoin flight at Vung Tau complete with stores and equipment.
- c. Duties. Maintain ATC and Fire Services at Luscombe Field until the field closes.

#### 6. Attached Units.

Attached units, 11 MC Group Adn Det 1 Comm Z Postal unit, will cease to be attached to 161 (Indep) Recce Flt as from 1200 hrs 1 Oct 71, or earlier depending on 1 ATF instructions. AO 161 (Indep) Recce Flt will advise OIC's of fostering units, etc. FQMS is to arrange the necessary transfer of stores.

#### Accommodation Plan AOD, 1 ALSG Areas.

#### 7. Layout of the flight HQ in the 2 AOD is shown in Annex A;

##### a. Living Accommodation.

- (1) Officers. Six 16X16 tents are to be constructed, with floors, sides and lighting.
- (2) Sergeants/WO's. One prefabricated hut supplied by 2 AOD.
- (3) Other Ranks. Three prefabricated huts supplied by 2 AOD.

##### b. Office Accommodation.

- (1) OC's Office. Billy Hut from Nui Dat to be pulled down by 27 Sep 71.
- (2) 2IC/Signal Centre. 11'X22' tent.
- (3) Pilots Briefing Room. 11'X22' tent.
- (4) Orderly Room. 20'X40' tent. Also to house AO and FSM.
- (5) Q Store. 20'X40' tent plus one 11'X22' tent as a packaging tent.
- (6) Transport are to share facilities with 2 AOD but one 11'X22' tent will be available if required for office space/CES Store.  
(Vehicles - 2 X 5 Ton, 9 X ¾ Ton GS, 6 trailers)

#### Vung Tau Airfield.

#### 8. Layout of the flight area at Vung Tau Airfield is shown in Annex B:

a. Accommodation RAAF. No sleeping quarters are available in the RAAF Contingent living area but it has been arranged that, one Officers, one Sgts, one OR's change room be made available. Also a rest/ready room suitable for sleeping, is located at the airfield.

b. HQ Wksp/MCS/Ord Cell/CP. Will be located in an airportable cabin provided by RAAF.

.../c. Hangar



- c. Hangar. 20X40 tent.
- d. Tarmac. 11X22 tent.
- e. Pilots Briefing Room. 11X22 tent.

#### Security

9. Security at the airfield is extremely poor and all ranks are to ensure that items, personal and otherwise are secure, in trunks, conexes or the HQ Cabin.

#### 10. Requirements For Conex.

##### a. Airfield.

- (1) B2 Store, 1 X BMSS (20X8X8) or 1 X US type and 1 small type.
- (2) B1 Store, 2 X US Conex (8X6X6).
- (3) Eng/Air Fr/Elec/Radio/Inst, 5 X US Conex (8X6X6)
- (4) Tarmac, 1 X AP Small (8X6X6).
- (5) Ammo Stores, 3 X US Conex.

##### b. HQ (2 AOD)

- (1) Q Store, 1 X US Conex or AP Small (8X6X6).
- (2) Tpt (CES), 1 X US Conex (8X6X6).

#### 11. Availability of Conex

##### a. Held by unit.

- (1) 4 X US Conex (8X6X6).
- (2) 3 X AP Small (4X6X6).

##### b. Requested from 1 ATF.

- (1) 5 X US Conex (8X6X6).
- (2) 1 X BMSS (20X8X8). To be delivered direct to airfield by 1 ALSG.

c. Availability at 2 AOD. 2IC is to liase with OC 2 AOD with regard availability and use of conex as necessary.

#### 12. Preparation of Conex.

- a. OC Workshops is to ensure all Conex are lockable before movement to Vung Tau. This includes conex acquired from 1 ATF.
- b. AO will arrange delivery of 1 ATF Conex as requested by OC Workshops.
- c. FQMS is to arrange locks for Conex whilst at Vung Tau.

...../13. Security



13. Security of Vehicles.

- a. OC Workshops is to ensure all vehicles are capable of being locked before movement to Vung Tau. This includes Advance Party vehicles.
- b. FQMS is to arrange for locks for vehicles at Vung Tau.

14. Security of Weapons

OC Advance Party is to advise the AO of states of weapon readiness in force in 1 ALSG and the airfield. Information including weapons security will be published in an RO Part 1 prior to departure of the main body.

Messing and Rations

15. The main body will consume fresh rations until departure to Vung Tau. Cut lunches will be issued for the actual move. The Rear Party will be fostered by 3 RAR for rations 1 Oct - 5 Oct 71.

a. Messing System.

- (1) Officers will be rationed at 1 ALSG Officers mess.
- (2) Sgts/OR's will be generally rationed at 2 AOD messes respectively.
- b. 2 AOD is to be warned 3 days prior to arrival of personnel to arrange rations for them.
- c. RAAF will, if required, ration for 10 persons at breakfast and dinner and for 40 persons for lunch. However this system will not be introduced until the main body has been established.
- d. OC Workshops is to arrange for water coolers giving priority of distribution to the airfield.
- e. The flight Offrs and Sgts messes will cease to function at 1 Oct 71. Stocks held at this date are to be handed to the corresponding messes at Vung Tau. A sum of money, to be decided later, is also to be handed over.
- f. An Audit stocktake is to be conducted in all messes on 30 Sep 71.

Transport

- 16.
- a. Advance Party - 1 X  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton GS vehicle plus trailer.
  - b. Rear Party - 1 X  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton GS vehicle plus trailer.
  - c. AO is to coordinate all transport requirements for the move, and as 1 ATF tpt is to be utilised all requests for transport are to reach the AO by 1200 hrs prior to the day required. Where a vehicle will be required to remain overnight loaded, requests are to reach the AO 2 days prior to the requirement.
  - d. The AO is to coordinate all loads and is to ensure where possible they are in lots of 5 tons.
  - e. The Tpt Supervisor is to ensure that scheduled servicing and general routine maintenance is up to date at all times.

.../17 Medical



Medical

17. The Flight Aid Post is to remain operational until 1 Oct 71. Arrangements for Vung Tau will be advised as soon as they come to hand.

Laundry

18. a. The Flight will operate its own laundry account while at Vung Tau.  
b. The OC Advance Party is to liase with OC 2 AOD for retention of XT laundry marks and the policy of marking linen.

Leave

19. a. The policy for 1 ALSG is that at any one time 25% of a unit may be on leave. Due to the increased work on the Flight this may not be possible however every effort will be made.  
b. The same system of application will apply. Members are warned that Vung Tau local leave ceases at 2300 hrs when the gates of 1 ALSG are closed.

Luscombe Field

20. The operation of Luscombe after 1 Oct 71 and the handover of 161 (Indep) Recce Flt area will be issued later.

Command and Signals

21. a. 161 (Indep) Recce Flt remains under the operational control of 1 ATF but passes to under command 1 ALSG for administration at 1200 hrs 1 Oct 71.  
b. The Flight HQ will close at Nui Dat and open at Vung Tau at 1200 hrs 1 Oct 71

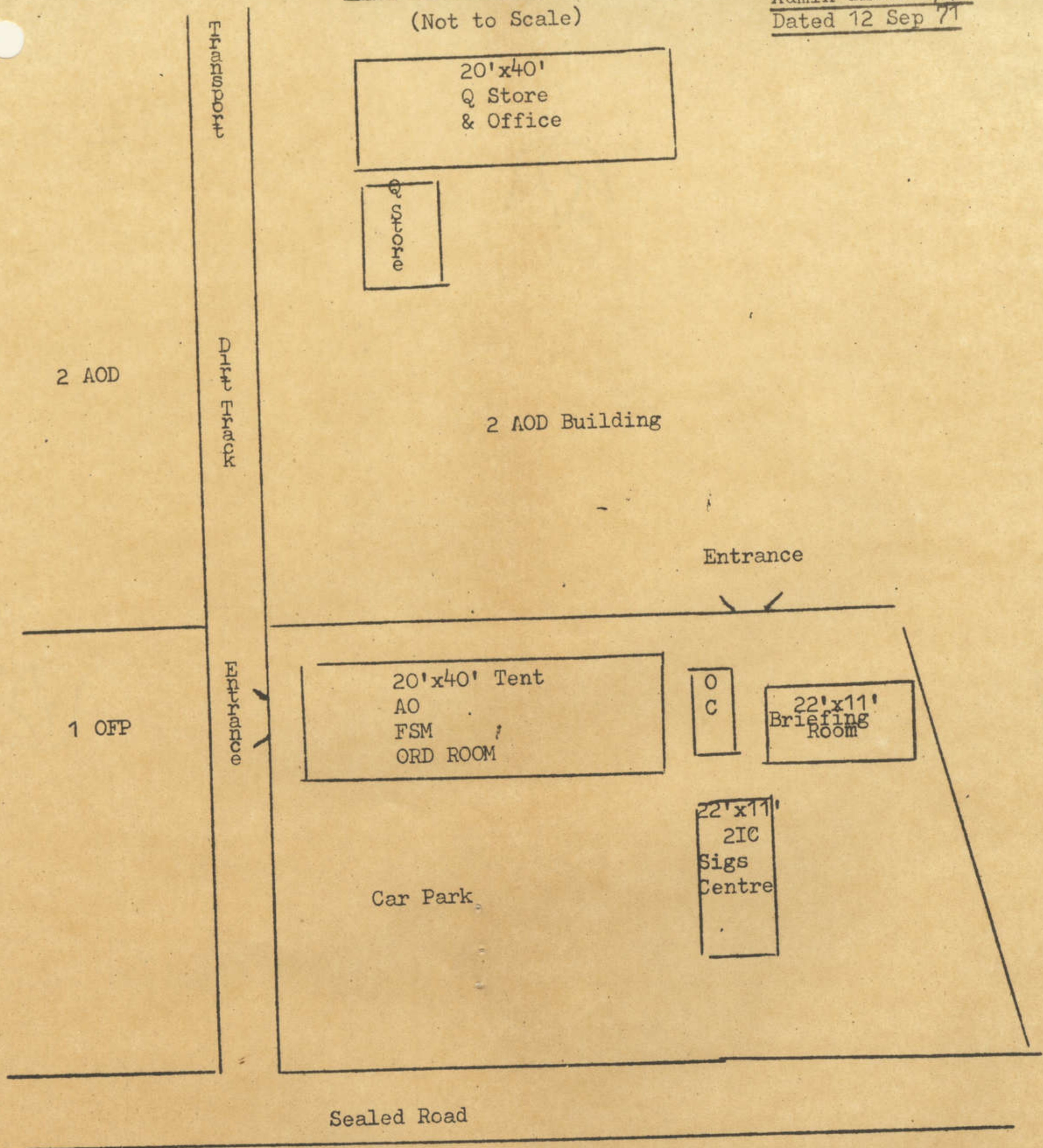
*Lo* *HBa wea* AO  
M H HARDEN  
Maj  
OC



FLIGHT LAYOUT - 2 AOD AREA

(Not to Scale)

Annex A to  
Admin Instr 1/71  
Dated 12 Sep 71





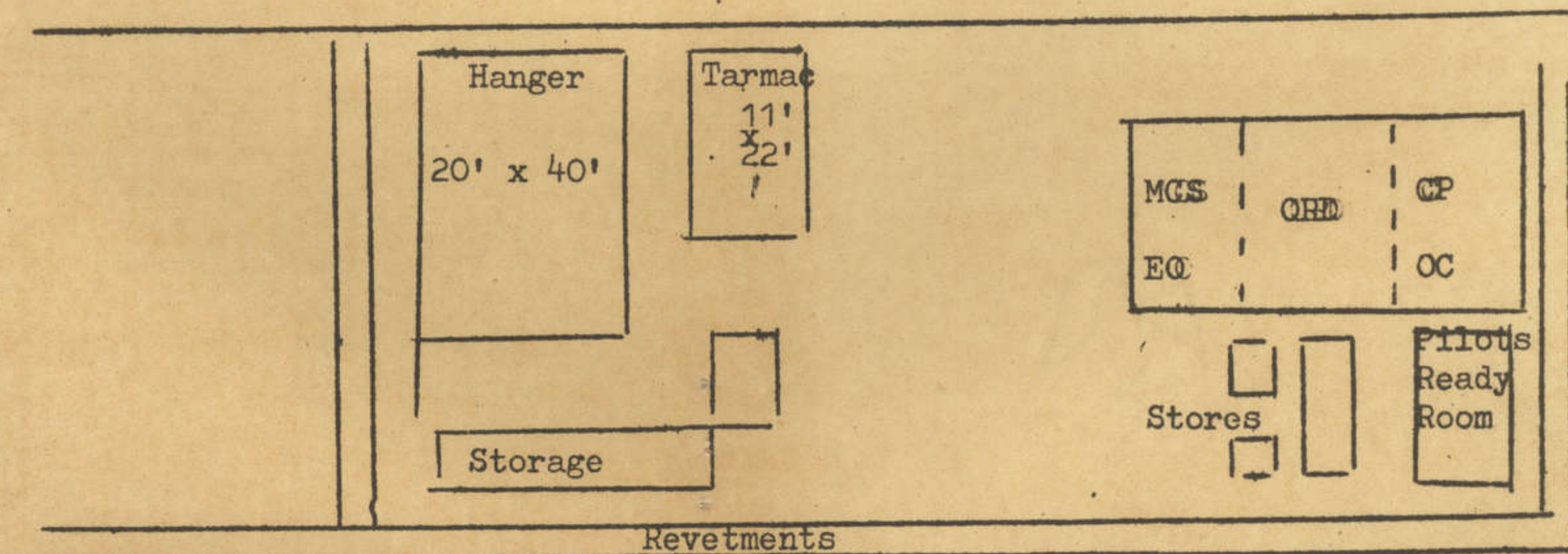
LAYOUT OF FLIGHT - AIRFIELD  
(Not to Scale)

Annex B to  
Admin Instr  
Dated 12 Sep 71

Aircraft Revetment



Disused Runway





RESTRICTED

ANNEX C TO  
COMD DIARY  
SEP 71

161 (Indep) Recce Flt  
Luscombe Field  
NUI DAT RVN

21 Sep 71

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 2/71

MOVEMENT OF MAIN BODY TO VUNG TAU

General Outline.

1. This instruction details the movement of the main body element to Vung Tau between 29 Sep-1 Oct 71. Some movement of personnel and equipment will be necessary before these dates to ensure the flight retains its operational capacity during the move. This instruction is to be read in conjunction with Administrative Instruction 1/71.

Main Body Reconnaissance.

2. The following personnel will conduct a detailed reconnaissance for the layout of their respective areas on 22 Sep 71: OC, FQMS, LO, AO, Chief Clerk, Tpt Supervisor. Movement will be by Porter aircraft departing Nui Dat at 1300 hours.

Preparation of Stores.

3. All section commanders are to prepare all stores and equipment for movement at the times indicated in Annexes A, ~~B, C, D, E~~. Boxes (30"x15"x15") for the carriage of small items are to be constructed from stocks held by OC Wksps and moved to section areas by 241600H Sep 71.

Conex.

4. The following Conex are to be prepared for movement as detailed below:

a. By 201600H Sep 71.

- (1) Wksps Rag Store for tarmac store at airfield.
- (2) Wksps POL Store for oil store.

b. By 211600H Sep 71.

- (1) B2 Store, both conex for B2 stores.
- (2) Offrs Mess, for B1 store.
- (3) Sgts Mess for B1 store.
- (4) OR Canteen Store for pilot crew room.
- (5) Jade conex for ammunition storage.
- (6) Hygiene Store for ammunition storage.
- (7) Flare Bunker for ammunition storage.

c. By 281600H Sep 71.

- (1) Q Store Armory, for Flight HQ area.



### Unit Property.

Refrigeration. Section Commanders are to prepare the refrigerators, detailed below, for movement by 291600H Sep 71. This will include defrosting, cleaning and, where advised by OC Wksps, securing of the motor:

- a. OR's Deep Freeze to OR's Canteen, 2 AOD.
- b. Ice Making Machine to OR's Canteen, 2 AOD.
- c. OR's Mess Refrigerator to Wksps area.
- d. Offrs Mess Refrigerator to 2 AOD officers quiet room.

### Engineer Refrigerators.

6. 2 AOD require approximately 150 cubic feet of additional refrigerator capacity. HQ 1 ATF will advise before movement, if this is to be taken from 161 Recce Flt area. If so, the Admin Officer will arrange for engineer advice on packing and movement of the required units.

### Lighting.

7. The requirement for fluorescent lighting at Vung Tau is not yet firm. When known the Admin Officer is to liaise with the OC Wksps for removal of the required number of lights.

### Transport.

8. All unit vehicles will be issued with a basic CES by 24 Sep 71, which will be withdrawn soon after establishment at Vung Tau. Transport for movement of stores and personnel will be generally arranged through 1 ATF, however unit transport is to be available to supplement this at short notice.

### Ammunition.

9. All unserviceable airfield ammunition and opened cans of ball ammunition is to be returned to 1 ATF Ammo point by 1600 hours 29 Sep 71. By 1600 hours 29 Sep 71, all ammunition for movement to Vung Tau is to be consolidated at the present ammunition bunker for loading.

### Personal Belongings.

10. All members are to have their personal property neatly packed the day prior to movement. Accommodation stores, including beds, bedding and steel lockers, are to be available for collection from 0800 on the day of movement indicated in Annex B. Personnel listed before 30 Sep-1~~0~~ Oct 71 will not be returning to Nui Dat.

### Communications.

#### 11. Telecall System.

- a. The two Telecall boxes between the tower and the fire shack will be removed by 261600H Sep 71. These will be installed between the Flight CF and Wksps hut at Vung Tau airfield by 301600H Sep 71.
- b. Flight HQ (Nui Dat) Telecall system will be removed by 301900H. Details for installation at Vung Tau are to be advised.

12.

a.



12.

Telephones.

- a. By 261600H Sep 71, the following telephone extensions are to be removed and the remaining extensions installed into one switchboard.
- (1) Padre.
  - (2) Radio Section.
  - (3) 2IC.
  - (4) FSM.
  - (5) CP number 2.
  - (6) Sgts Mess.
  - (7) Ordnance Store.
  - (8) FAP.
  - (9) Orderly Room.
- b. The remaining switchboard and extensions will be removed after 011200H Oct 71.

13.

Radios.

- a. The following radios will be moved to Vung Tau after 011200H Oct 71.
- (1) Three AN/PRC 25.
  - (2) One AN/GRC 125.
  - (3) Two GRC 292 Antennae.
- b. Remaining radios and antenna ~~will~~ be removed after 011200H Oct 71. The VRC 46, with battery and charger, at present used as the control station on the Flight Command Net is to be moved to Vung Tau as soon as possible after removal.

Installation at Vung Tau.

14. Communications. 104 Sig Sqn will provide two signalmen to replace two presently attached to 161 Recce Flt, who are to move to Vung Tau on 27 Sep 71. These personnel will be responsible for:

- a. Installation of the flight radio on the Task Force Command Net (VHF) by 301200H Sep 71. The call sign will be the normal flight call sign with the suffix A. Prior to joining the net, 1 ATF CP is to be advised by telephone.
- b. Assist in the installation of 161 Recce Flt command net control station by 301200H Sep 71.
- c. Assist in the laying of line for Flight HQ and installation of ENDEAVOUR switchboard by 301500H Sep 71. The switchboard is to contain the following extensions:



- (1) OC.
- (2) 2IC.
- (3) Admin Offr.
- (4) Orderly Room.
- (5) Officers Annex.
- (6) Sergeants Mess.
- (7) Q Store.
- (8) Transport.
- (9) Two lines from EMU swich.
- (10) Flight CP at Vung Tau airfield.

Movement of the Main Body.

15. As the majority of movement will occur on 29 Sep, 30 Sep and 1 Oct 71, a need for coordination between elements of the flight is essential. Movement to Vung Tau will be in convoy.

16. Loading. Beginning 25 Sep 71 all vehicles will be loaded the afternoon prior to the day of movement. Stores will be loaded primarily by personnel of the element involved, however the FSM is to have a work party of six members available to assist. Accommodation stores and personal belongings are to be loaded on the morning of departure.

17. Departure Timings. Every possible effort is to be made to depart Nui Dat by the time laid down in Annex A. If this is not possible, the section commander of the stores involved is to advise the Admin Officer.

18. Convoy Protection. If the situation at the time warrants it, convoy protection will be arranged. If a convoy is despatched without protection all members are to remain alert and vigilant at all times. Weapons and ammunition are to be carried and all vehicles will have a "shotgun" passenger riding in the cabin with the driver.

19. Convoy Commanders.

a. Convoy Commanders for dates laid down in para 15 are as follows:

- (1) 29 Sep 71 - Sgt Watson.
- (2) 30 Sep 71 - Capt Barlow.
- (3) 1 Oct 71 - 2Lt Barwell.

b. Convoys prior to the above dates will be commanded by the senior member travelling with the convoy.



c. The convoy commander is responsible for the briefing of members of the convoy and is to ensure the following:

- (1) Loads are secure before departure from Nui Dat.
- (2) Loads do not shift whilst convoy is moving.
- (3) All members remain alert.
- (4) Correct convoy spacing is employed.
- (5) Orders of march are adhered to.
- (6) Road speeds are obeyed.
- (7) Breakdowns are reported as soon as possible.

20. Cleanliness of Area. It is the responsibility of all members to leave the flight area at Nui Dat in a clean condition. Consequently all rubbish is to be sorted and disposed of prior to movement. All construction stores, including picquets, sheet iron, sheet timber and wood are to be placed neatly in the area at the bottom of the OR's accommodation lines.

Rear Party.

21. Composition. The composition of the Rear Party is shown in Annex B.

22. Tasks. The following tasks are to be completed prior to departure of the Rear Party from Nui Dat on 5 Oct 71.

- a. Cleaning, packing and despatch of kitchen fittings.
- b. Collection and despatch of remaining telephones, radios and antennae.
- c. General clean up and inspection of the area.
- d. Hand over area to 4 RAR when task complete but not later than 1500 hours 5 Oct 71.

23. Contact with Main Body. The OC Rear Party is to maintain communications with the flight at Vung Tau. All requests for transport and other assistance are to be bid through the flight, and supplied by unit resources if possible.

*N.H. Harden*  
for (N.H. HARDEN) 140  
Major  
Officer Commanding



a	b	c	d	e	f	g
300830	Wksps	15 pers	Pers equipt & accdn stores	1 ALSG	3x5 ton	See para 10.
	Admin	-	Deep Freeze Ice Machine Mess Property	2 AOD	1x5 ton	
301030	Wksps	-	Wksps complete OR refrig	Airfield	11x5 ton	6 29 5 30
30 pm	Ovs	-	1xOH-58A	Airfield	-	Standby aircraft.
010830	Admin	1x 1x ?	Ord Room Stores Q items Transport	2 AOD	(1xSEMI) 4x5 ton	Tpt sect to use own vehicles and carry as much pers gear as practicable.
	ops	1x  1x	Ammunition Remining CP stores & maps Brief room stores	Airfield  Airfield	1x5 ton & tarp  1x5 ton	
011100	ops	Pilots	CH-58A's & Porters	Airfield	-	All sorties and VR terminate at VT.
011200	Wksps	8	Pharm stores Pers equipt	Airfield 1 ALSG	2x5 ton HS	See para 10.
011200	Admin	15	Pers & accdn stores Offrs accdn stores 13	1 ALSG	1xDiamond Reo 1x5 ton TCV	See para 10.



MOVEMENT TABLE FOR 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

Date/Time	Element	Pers	Stores	Destination	Tpt Required	Remarks
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
210800	Wksps	-	2xsmall Conex Alum antenna	1 ALSG & Airfield	5 ton HIAB	
220830	Wksps	-	7xlarge Conex 1xsmall Conex	Airfield	5 ton HIAB 3x5 ton FT	
250830	Admin	-	Tpt stores	Tpt Compound 2 AOD	1x5 ton FT	
251030	Wksps	-	Screen room Spray booth	1 ALSG	5 ton HIAB	
270830	Admin Ops	2 Sigs	OC Billie Hut Ord Room stores Comms	2 AOD Airfield	1x5 ton FT	
290830	Wksps	1 Sgt	Large Wksps equipment	1 ALSG & Airfield	5 ton HIAB	Pers to take personal gear and accomodation stores. See para 10.  Depends upon availability of RAAF Air Portable Cabin.
	Admin	3 Cpls	Q items, fire extinguishers, 8xwater tanks, Armory.	2 AOD	3x5 ton	
	Ops	CP Staff	CP stores & 292 antennae	Airfield	1x5 ton HS	



ANNEX B TO  
161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT  
ADMIN INSTR 2/71  
CF SEP 71

PERSONNEL MOVEMENT TO VUNG TAU

CUT  
LUNCHES

Date/Time	Personnel Involved		
	Wksp	Admin	Ops
270830			Sig Knight Sig Pyke
290830	Sgt Watson	Cpl Pullen Cpl Dover Lcpl Bryan	Bdr Walsh Gnr Paxton
300900	WO2 Matthews Pte Mitka Pte Ahern Cpl Dean Lcpl Saunders Cfn Murphy Opl Wood Cpl Foyle Ofn Jeffrey Cpl Heapy Cpl Dupree Ofn Jones Sgt Elek Cpl Hunphreys Cfn Edie		
010830			Cpl Grosvenor
011200	Sgt Turl Cpl Benfield Lcpl Ross Cfn Kemp Cpl Baryla Cfn Graham Cpl Carroll	2lt Barwell Sgt Keane Pte Collins Lcpl Pinker Pte Jorgensen Sgt Clarke Sgt Lee Pte Heard Pte Johnston Cpl Ruming Pte Reid Pte Bamford Bdr Leslie Cfn Hambly	Pte Livingstone Tpr Thurlow Pte Zeilstra Pte Petersen
051500	WO2 Bell Lcpl Murton Cfn Rupe	Ssgt Polkinghorne Cpl de Loryn Pte Tibballs Pte Fisher	Capt Matheson

7

16

30