

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/65

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-31 Jan 1972]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 245

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.

Receipt
13/3/72
(Signature) [Signature]
Appointment OC DET 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL } Strike out where
DUPLICATE } not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation DET 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

From 1 JANUARY 1972 To 31 JANUARY 1972

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

- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to

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

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to
on.....

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

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.

of 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 included in the documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All documents and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

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.

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

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr 69

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION Det 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

MONTH and YEAR JANUARY 1972

REFERENCE MAP PHOUC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt H.M. Matheson

Serial	Place and Grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				<u>SUMMARY</u>	
				The detachment continues to fly the majority of its liason missions between Vung Tau, Saigon and Long Binh. Visual reconnaissance tasks, which until 21 Jan were confined to the ^{first} light recce of Route 15 between Vung Tau and Baria, have now increased. 1ATF tasks permitting, the unit now carries out three coastal recce missions per week for the Third Coastal Zone Intelligence Office.	
				The AO includes Binh Tuy, Phouc Tuy, Gia Dinh, Go Cong, Kien Hoa and Vinh Binh Provinces. For convience The AO has been subdivided into North East and South West of Vung Tau. Even with the 1ATF imposed minimum altitude of 1500' agl, pilots are detecting large numerous movements of persons and small ^{non} craft in civilian access areas. Particularly over the Long Toan and Binh Dai Secret Zones, the aircraft have continually taken ground fire, however no hits have been recorded. On separate occasions Capt Matheson, 2Lt Triplett and 2LT Mecham have carried out AOP tasks using Vietnamese artillery. Due to extreme ranges, the language problem and apparently non calibrated weapons, results	

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

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				have been mediocre.	
				During the last week of the month, HQ AATTV moved from Free World to Van Kiep and experienced communication difficulties between Van Kiep, Vung Tau and Saigon. For this reason the unit commenced a twice daily courier service between the three locations carrying personnel, private and official mail. Due to the scaling down of US Army aircraft, AATTV have been frequently using the aircraft for liasion between the various training bases in Phouc Tuy Province.	
				On the 1 Jan, the RAEME element towed the 4 Porters from the airfield to De Long Pier, where they were loaded aboard the Harima Maru for RTA.	
				The detachment is required to provide two aircraft daily in support of 1ATF, and the workshop, led by Sgt Watson has produced a serviceability rate of 82%. This figure however, has only been achieved by continual interchanging of aircraft components. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain OH 58A spares at short notice through US Army sources.	

AF - C2118 (Adapted)
Revised Apr 69

UNIT/FORMATION ~~Det 161 (Indep) Reece Flt~~

REFERENCE MAP PHOUK TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Capt H.M. Matheson

Serial	Place and Grid reference	Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to annex letter and or enclosure No
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				<u>ANNEX A PART 1 RW HOURS and SORTIES</u>	
				<u>DAY</u>	
				<u>HOURS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>
				<u>NIGHT</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>
				<u>HOURS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>
				PILOT RECCE	29.55 39 NIL NIL
				PAX RECCE	22.15 10 NIL NIL
				LIASION	243.10 183 3.20 4
				AIR OP	NIL NIL NIL NIL
				SNIFFER	NIL NIL NIL NIL
				RESUP	NIL NIL NIL NIL
				DUST OFF	NIL NIL NIL NIL
				MISC	NIL NIL NIL NIL
				TRG	33.05 19 10.25 5
				TEST	3.35 9 NIL NIL