

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/66

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-29 Feb 1972]

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

ANNEXES

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

and orders given.

of the day's fighting, including company movements.

of the commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

of potential importance.

of officers, men and equipment.

of equipment captured.

of equipment employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

of equipment and to save work as much information as possible is to be given. All documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All documents 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)

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SECRET

AF C 2118 (Adapted)

SECRET

SECRET

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.

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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 FEBRUARY 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 (f)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
				<u>SUMMARY</u>	
				<p>The flying rate has shown a large increase from previous months, all pilots exceeding 130 hours for the period. This has been due to an increased requirement for liasion tasks between Vung Tau, Long Binh and Saigon. On the majority of flights the aircraft carried maximum all up weight. On th 14 Feb the telegraph links between Free World and 1ATF were greatly reduced and the twice daily courier task was increased to 4 missions. A RA Sigs member travelled on each flight to handle the large amount of classified material being carried.</p>	
				<p>During 29 Feb, the detachment flew numerous liasion tasks between 1ATF and HMAS Sydney. The last operational sortie being flown by Capt Matheson who carried the detachments heavy baggage to Free World at 2100 hrs.</p>	
				<p>During the first two weeks of February the two drivers and RAEME personnel spent considerable time at 1ATF preparing and painting vehicles and trailers prior to RTA. The majority of unit stores were loaded on the Haima Maru for RTA on 16 Feb.</p>	

