# 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]

#### COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 246

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.

Receed. 13/3/72

(Signature) #- Man

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

### SECRET

ORIGINAL DUPLICATE Strike out where not applicable

# COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation DET 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

From 1 FEBRUARY 1972

To 29 FEBRUARY 1972

INDEX

Narrative (AF C 2118) Enclosure Numbers ANNEXES Duty officer's log Messages connected with log ..... to ...... Operation orders and instructions issued ..... to ...... Operation orders and instructions received ..... to ..... Sitreps issued ..... to ...... Orders of battle and location reports issued ..... to ..... Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made Administrative orders and instructions issued ..... to ..... Administrative orders and instructions received ..... to ..... Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns ..... to ..... Standing orders issued ..... to ..... Commander's policy and demi-official letters ..... to ..... Action reports (if required) ..... to ..... Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units ..... to ..... Periodical summaries of operations ..... to ..... Top Secret Supplementary Diary † NIL RETAINED † Despatched to \* Only to be included during operations.

on.....

# 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, tarting at B.

for operations form Annex "Z", "TOP SECRET the document. It is to be prepared and disposed of as

#### **TENTS**

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment

i orders given.

ne day's fighting, including company movements.

mander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

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 uments 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)

1 B P Coy-274/65-55m

F8/11 Feb 72]

#### DISPOSAL

- 13. Original Commander's Diary. This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered, 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(Formatio	on or Unit)
	to	

c. The duplicate supplementary diaries must be despatched as shown in Paragraph 14 as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.

1 B P Coy-274/65-55m

[8/1/Feb 72]

AF - C2118 (Adapted) Revised Apr 69

COMMANDER'S DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION DET 161 (INDEP ) RECCE FLT

MC	NTH and YEAR F	EBRUARY	1972	REFERENCE MAP PHOUG TUY PROVINCE  COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT H.M. MARH	
Seria	1 Place and Grid referer	be Date	Time	Event or Information	Reference to
(a)-	——(ъ)——	(a)	(6)	(e)	and or enclosure No
1			ļ	SUMMARY	(f)
				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.	
+				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.	
+				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.	
		man hand			
1					

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

mil.	Place and Grid referen	ce Date	Time	The Atomic and Transfer of the Atomic and Transf	Reference to annex letter
.)- -	— (b)——	—(e)	(a)		and or onelosure
+				On the 27 FEB the RAAF handed thier cantonment area back to the US Army	
+				and 161 Recce moved to temporary sleeping quarters in the hangar. Members were	
1_				paid a ration allowance and ate in US Army messes.	
-					
1		Transaction of the Control of the Co		It is intended that the detachment will prepare the Kiowas for return	
+				to the US Army and hand them in to 166AMS at Hotel 3 on 2 Mar.	
-					
1					
1		1			
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1		2			
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		Market State			

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

riel	Place and Grid referen	ce Date	Time	REFERENCE MAP PHOUG TUY PROVINCE COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT H.M. MA					Reference to annex letter
2)	(b)	(0)	(e) (d)						and or enclosure  (f)
				ANNEX A PART 1 RW HOURS AND SORTIES					
-				<u>DAY</u> <u>NIGHT</u>					
+					HOURS	SORTIES	HOURS	SORTIES	
+				PILOT RECCE	23.55	29	NIL	NIL	
+				PAX RECCE	21.25	13	NIL	NIL	
+				LIASION	361.20	258	2.35	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 (	NIL	NIL	0.25	1	
+				TEST	2.50	8	NIL	NIL	
+									
-									
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		~ I							