

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/28

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-30 Sep 1968]

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

EVENTS

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment

d orders given.

he day's fighting, including company movements.

commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

ential importance.

officers, men and equipment.

ment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

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

annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)

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DISPOSAL

13. Original Commander's Diary. This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered, by 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.

AWM 95
[8/1/sep 68]

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION....161.(INDEP).RECCE.FLT

MONTH AND YEAR.....SEP 68.

REFERENCE MAP...PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER...MAJOR H.A.F. BENSON

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	1 Sep 68		FW ac programmed to recce Route 15 first light daily	
			FW and RW tasks in sp HQ 1 ATF. Many reports of huts and used tracks	
	2 Sep 68		" " " " " " " "	
	3 Sep 68		2Lt Duns and Moffatt discovered large VC camp grid squares YS 3284 and YS 3184	
			2Lt J.S. McClymont arrived from Aust as RW replacement pilot	
			Capt Coggan, Capt Forrest and 2Lt Colclough departed Nui Dat RTA	
	4 Sep 68		FW and RW tasks in sp HQ 1ATF. Reports of bunkers, huts & tracks	
	5 Sep 68		1. 2Lt Heron landed RW ac successfully after a poncho blew up into his tail rotor & sheared the drive shaft. AC in sp 3RAR on operation Diamantina. Accident occurred FSB "Longreach".	
			2. F.W. & R.W. ac reports of base camps and used tracks.	
	6 Sep 68		F.W. & R.W. ac in sp HQ 1ATF	
	7 Sep 68		F.W. V.R. reports used tracks in various areas.	
	8 Sep 68		F.W. & R.W. report many used tracks & suspected huts.	
	9 Sep 68		1. 2Lt Duns & Moffatt found VC camp GR 487536. 4VC seen in camp. BDA after artillery fire revealed 4 structures damaged, 12 bunkers damaged, 1 poss VC. KIA. Fol remained undamaged, 4 structures, 2 bunkers, 1 table of webbing & full pack.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION. 161. (Indep). Recce. Flt...

MONTH AND YEAR. Sep 68....

REFERENCE MAP.... Phuoc Tuy. Province

COMMANDING OFFICER. Maj. H. A. F. Benson...

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	9 Sep		2 RW Ac report bunkers tunnels and used tracks.	
-	10 Sep		1. FW&RW Ac reports tracks	
			2. Capt Donald found 1 VC & camouflaged bunkers GR 766643 engaged with rockets - slight damage 1 bunker.	
			3. 2Lt Tippet reported 1 VC YS 767644 in hut - no comms & LFT released.	
	11 Sep		1. Capt Donald marked targets GR 766643 for airstrike. BDA revealed 1 hut destroyed, 2 man fire trench with top cover uncovered beside hut, 2 huts uncovered - one with undefinable items inside.	
			2. Targets GR 764650 +BDA + 8 bunkers underground caches uncovered, food found drying GR 763652.	
			3. Bundles removed from GR766643	
			4. Footprints and galvanized iron hut GR YS352774	
	12 Sep		RW&FW Ac report trenches, footprints and ox cart tracks.	
	13 Sep		1 2Lt Tuzzard engaged 7 oxen with fire - 1 oxen WIA YS627797 lage base camp:- one tunnel entrance with OHP, 2 huts numerous fresh tracks, seven pits.	
			2. Reports of tracks, footprints and possible camp continue.	
	14 Sep		1. FW&RW reports of tracks, footprints and bunkers continue	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION. 161. (Indep). Recce. Flt...

MONTH AND YEAR. Sep .69.....

REFERENCE MAP.. Phuoc Tuy. Province

COMMANDING OFFICER.. Maj. Benson.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	14 Sep		2. Capt Donald reports Route 2 breached at river crossing GR 438915	
	15 Sep		1 FW&RW Ac is Sp HQ 1 ATF	
	16 Sep		" " " " " " "	
	17 Sep		1. FW Ac reports many footprints sighting in various locs	
			2. Capt O'Brien engaged fire targets in Long Hai area. Four tgts not apparently damaged	
			Tgt hit caused secondary explosion.	
			3. Air strike on camp 395856. 2Lt McClymont 12 pits uncovered	
	18 Sep		1. Tracks discovered leading into camps at 675621, 673618, 666615.	
			2. Capt Brooker En camp engaged with arty Results 2bunkers destroyed, 2 bunckers uncovered	
			1 tunnel entrance uncovered. 1VC KBA (Poss) YS260882. En camp at YS 272895. Results:	
			4 bunkers, several slit trenches, 1 Aust type poncho, 2 Tuah Tich gardens picked. Ox cart	
			tracks led to suspected base camp YS 697835	
	20 Sep		1. 2Lt Tippet large well used base camp YS594917. One VC sighted at YS596917 on large track	
			2. FW&RW Ac report track movement	
	21 Sep		1. FW&RW ac report track movement and evidence of bunkers etc being used	
			2. Capt O'Brien VC base camp YS585588 & YS560585	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.161.(Indep).Recce.Flt...

MONTH AND YEAR..Sep.69.....

REFERENCE MAP.Pluoc.Tuy.Prevince.

COMMANDING OFFICER..Maj H.A.F. Benson...

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	23 Sep		1. Capt O'Brien marked tgt YS666615 for air strike. Results : 1 Bunker destroyed, 4 firing posas destroyed, 1 Mil structure destroyed, 1 Mil structures were damaged, 1 Mil structure uncovered, 12 bunkers uncovered. Mil structures were subsequently destroyed by Capt O'Brien using WP FRAG GRENADES.	
			2. 2Lt Moffatt in sp 1RAR marked two airstrike tgts	
	22 Sep		1. New base camp YS620865	
			2. RW&FW in sp HQ 1 ATF reports of road damaged by rain.	
	24 Sep		FW&RW in sp 1 ATF	
	25 Sep		1 2Lt Frost discovered dead body 247754. Body appeared blindfolded.	
			2. 3 groups of people seen YS 408662, 404662, 398664.	
	26 Sep		RW&FW in sp 1 ATF	
	27 Sep		" " " "	
	28 Sep		1. " " " "	
			2. Crachs discovered in frames of 3 Sioux	
	29 Sep		1. Sioux grounded	
			2. FW ac reported route 15 blown at 206831. Capt Donald, 2Lt Gerard	
			3. 2Lts Muir & Tuzzard discovered small base camp 617866	

