

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/31

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-31 Dec 1968]

PART 1

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. R707 - 1 - 1

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.

(Signature)

[Handwritten Signature]

Appointment

OC
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

*Received
27 Aug 69*

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

SECRET

ORIGINAL

~~SECRET~~

Strike out where

not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLA

From 1 Sep 68 To 7 Aug 69

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Narrative (AF C 2118)

ANNEXES

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- * B Messages connected with log
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- * 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)
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- O Periodical summaries of operations
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Enclosure Numbers

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

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)
Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR Dec 68.....

REFERENCE MAP Phouc 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	1 Dec		2Lt Tizzard marked for air strike at YS 735795. 12 bunkers & 4 pits opened up.	
			Capt Brooker/2Lt Frost while on "sniffer" mission discovered 4 huts & 3 bunkers recently used at YS 243887.	
			2Lt Tizzard marked for an air strike at YS 735795 second for day. Base camp at YS 740769.	
			2Lt Frost Voice op GR 4560 1930-2100.	
	2 Dec		Capt Donald/2Lt Tippet while on VR reported heavy activity in Song Rai & boat landings during night. Food drying YS 768661. Old camp YS 567610.	
			2Lt Moffatt/2Lt Stevens while on VR discovered old camp in good condition at YS 326708.	
			2Lt Tizzard marked for air strike at YS 735795 3 bunkers, 1 pit & 1 hut damaged. AT YS 740769 5 bunkers damaged.	
			Capt Donald on VR reported heavy track activity recently in Long Green.	
	3 Dec		Capt Donald while on VR discovered base camp at 544894. Also camp complex at YS 585918	
			588916 & 588918. Air strike on camp at YS 576902 results 5 bunkers uncovered 2 structures destroyed 1 bunker destroyed 1 trench destroyed.	
			Lt Ellis/2Lt McClymont on VR discovered possible base camp at YS 252880.	
			Capt Brooker while on OS 1 ATF discovered 3 small camps at YS 575747, 577751 & 571755.	
			Air strike at camp YS 576744 destroyed 2 huts & 2 huts damaged.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

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

MONTH AND YEAR. Dec 68.....

REFERENCE MAP. Phouc 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	4 Dec		2Lt Moffatt/2Lt Stevens while on VR discovered new camp at YT 264946. Engaged with arty & uncovered 4 bunkers one very large 4 pits uncovered 1 bunker destroyed. Camp probably occupied at time of sighting & needs air strike to destroy it. Camp again engaged with arty & 4 large cages found.	
			Capt Donald marked camp at YB 588918 for an air strike. Results 2 bunkers destroyed 3 bunkers damaged 30m trench destroyed. Also marked YT 582917 results 4 bunkers destroyed 2 tunnel exposed 1 secondary explosion - small arms cache. Total of 8 camps in complex.	
	5 Dec		Capt Donald marked air strike on camp at YS 544894 BDA 5 bunkers destroyed. Discovered base camps at YS 548897, YS 564904 & YS 544891.	
			2Lt Tizzard while on VR found occupied camp at YS 562573 and a new camp at YS 606585.	
	6 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1ATF.	
	7 Dec		Capt Brooker/2Lt Crook while on VR discovered a base camp at YS 463547.	
			Capt Donald marked for air strike on camp at YS 548897 BDA 8 bunkers damaged 200 metres trench damaged. Marked air strike at YS 591916 BDA 3 bunkers destroyed. Five camps in area not yet bombed.	
	8 Dec		Capt Donald/2Lt Gerard while VR discovered large food cache at YS 764688 & suspected camp at YS 743699.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

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

YEAR Dec68

REFERENCE MAP Phouc Tuy Province

COMMANDING OFFICER. Maj. H A F Benson

grid ce	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
Nui Dat	8 Dec		Capt Donald marked for air strike at YS 588918 3 bunkers destroyed & also for air strike at YS 582912 BDA 7 bunkers destroyed 4 bunkers damaged.	
			Capt Donald/2Lt Gerard while on VR discovered suspected base camps at YS 527917, 550925 & 574930.	
	9 Dec		Capt Brooker/2Lt Stevens while on VR discovered suspect camp at YS 365791 engaged with arty nil BDA.	
			2Lt Clymont while on VR discovered camp at YS 339775 engaged with arty BDA 15 metres trench 3 bunkers & 2 tunnel entrances uncovered .	
	10 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	11 Dec		Maj Benson while on VR discovered base camp at YS 268949 engaged with arty BDA 3 bunkers destroyed 2 bunkers uncovered 1 foot bridge destroyed. Capt Donald while on VR discovered base camps at YS 667628, YS 668631 & YS 677626 also large hut at YS 671621 marked air strike at YS 666614 BDA 7 bunkers damaged 1 hut destroyed & at YS 658618 BDA 7 bunkers destroyed 3 bunkers damaged. On return to Nui Dat 3 VCsighted at YS 562652 but ran to tunnel entrance on sighting.	
	12 Dec		FW & RW ac on task at 1 ATF.	
	13 Dec		FW & RW ac on task at 1 ATF.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)
Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR Dec68.....

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

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
Nui Dat	14 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	15 Dec		2Lt Stevens while on DS tasks 4 RAR sighted 3 VC at YS 163849 & small bunker system & cache at 163849 which was destroyed by LFT 5 VC sighted YS 169846 1 KIA 4 escaped through mangroves 4 sampans at YS 161847 destroyed by LFT.	
	16 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	17 Dec		2Lt Stevens/2Lt Mc Clymont while on VR discovered an occupied camp at YS 3387, 3388, 3389 engaged with air strike & arty BDA 2 caches 3 bunkers 1 tunnel entrance exposed 2 huts destroyed .	
	18 Dec		Lt Ellis marked for an air strike YS 710710 target not found. 1hut 4 pits destroyed at YS 719618.	
	19 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	20 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 1 ATF.	
	21 Dec		Maj Benson/Lt Ellis while on VR discovered a base camp at YS 264970 engaged with LFT to clear vegetation.	
	22 Dec		Capt Brooker/2Lt McClymont while on VR discovered a suspect base camp at YS 3984.	
	23 Dec		2Lt Stevens marked for air strike at YS 328898/BDA/1/bunker/collapsed/Recently/used old/camp/at/YS/3984 349911 BDA 1 hut damaged 1 bunker & hut exposed.	

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MONTH AND YEAR. Dec. 68.....

REFERENCE MAP .Phouc .Tuy .Province .

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

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
N ^u i Dat	23 Dec		2Lt McClymont marked for air strike at YS 328898 BDA 1 bunker collapsed.	
			Recently used old camp at YS 328903.	
	24 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	25 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	26 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	27 Dec		Lt Ellis/2Lt Rogers while on VR discovered base camp at YS 333812	
			Lt Ellis marked for air strike at YS 328897 BDA 3 bunkers destroyed also air strike at YS 377721. Numerous bunkers tunnel entrances & pits uncovered.	
	28 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	29 Dec		FW & RW ac on task 1 ATF.	
	30 Dec		Lt Ellis marked for air strike at YS 316819 BDA 1 bunker & 15 metres of trench destroyed 4/ metres bunkers & 50 metres of trench uncovered	
			Maj Benson while VR discovered base camp at YS 387775.	
	31 Dec		2Lt Stevens/2Lt Thomson while on VR discovered base camp at YS 592600 Built in last month possibly occupied .	
			2Lt Clymont marked for air strike at YS 381718 BDA 2 bunkers collapsed 2 tunnel entrances 2 pits & 2 bunkers uncovered.	