

**Series: AWM95**  
**Australian Army commanders' diaries**  
**[Vietnam]**

**Army Aviation units**

**Item number: 8/1/35**

**Item: 161 [Independent]**

**Reconnaissance Flight**

**Narrative**

**[1-30 Apr 1969]**



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)

Appointment

(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) RECCO FLT

From 1 Sep 68 To 7 Aug 69

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Narrative (AF C 2118)

Enclosure Numbers

ANNEXES

- \* A Duty officer's log ..... to .....
- \* B Messages connected with log ..... to .....
- C Operation orders and instructions issued ..... to .....
- D Operation orders and instructions received ..... to .....
- \* E Sitreps issued ..... to .....
- F Orders of battle and location reports issued ..... to .....
- G Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made ..... to .....
- H Administrative orders and instructions issued ..... to .....
- I Administrative orders and instructions received ..... to .....
- J Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns ..... to .....
- \* K Standing orders issued ..... to .....
- L Commander's policy and demi-official letters ..... to .....
- M Action reports (if required) ..... to .....
- N Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units ..... to .....
- O Periodical summaries of operations ..... to .....
- Z Top Secret Supplementary Diary ..... to .....

† NIL  
† RETAINED  
† Despatched to

on.....

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



COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)  
Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR Apr. 69.....

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 Apr		Lt Ellis marked for airstrike results 3 X bunkers destroyed † bunker damaged 1 bunker exposed & numerous other defensive positions either destroyed, damaged or exposed.	
	2 Apr		Other unit ac RW & FW in support 1 ATF. Unit RW & FW ac in support 1 ATF.	
	3 Apr		Unit RW & FW ac in support 1 ATF.	
	5 Apr		Lt Flanagan (NZ) on VR found large bunker complex & received ground fire from the area.	
	4 Apr		Lt Ellis/2Lt Rowe on a VR found at YS 470876 an en base camp complex. Numerous bunkers & trenches plus 4 VC Black Horse arty engaged BDA 10metres trench collapsed, 1 bunker exposed & a large secondary explosion.	
	5 Apr		Unit RW & FW ac in support of † ATF.	
	6 Apr		Lts Flanagan & Long lands at YS 4176 found numerous fresh tracks & a large bunker complex. LT Rodgers at YS 531863 an airstrike nil BDA. Lt Ellis airstrike at YS 470877 BDA 3 bunkers exposed, 3 damaged 10metres trench exposed <del>collapsed</del> 4 bunkers exposed, 2 huts destroyed & 1 bicycle destroyed 1 bicycle exposed.	
	7 Apr		2Lt Rowe airstrike at YS 800697 BDA 3 bunkers damaged and 35 metres trench damaged. 2Lt Thompson BDA of a combat sky post 2 bunkers destroyed subsequent VR revealed at YS 597691 200-300 metres of trench with O/H cover, 1 bunker & 1 <del>trench</del> structure.	



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MONTH AND YEAR Apr. 69.....

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	7 Apr		2Lt Jillie airstrike at YS 588611 BDA 1 bunker destroyed 1 damaged & 1 exposed.	
			Lt Ellis at YS 6688 found numerous fresh tracks.	
	8 Apr		2Lt Rodgers on naval AOP BDA nil at YS 485535 found 15 bunkers 2 metal bipods, 1 container	
			2' X 4' and numerous fresh tracks.	
			Lt Ellis airstrike at YS 641829 BDA 1 structure destroyed 1 exposed & 1 hut damaged	
			undamaged 6 bunkers & 4 hut frames.	
			2Lt Rodgers airstrike at YS 485535 BDA 3 bunkers destroyed 7 exposed and damaged 2 wpn	
			pits exposed & webbing and equipment scattered.	
			Capt Woodley airstrike at YS 543893 BDA 100 metres trench exposed 1 bunker destroyed 2 damaged.	
	9 Apr		2Lts Rowe & Thompson found camps at YS 643621, 650605 & 688618 in extremely good condition.	
			2Lt Rodgers found camps at YS 333778, 340803 & 331801	
			2LT Thompson airstrike at YS 597691 BDA 10 metres trench collapsed 10 metres exposed, 2	
			bunkers destroyed & 1 pit exposed.	
			2Lt Rodgers airstrike at YS 485535 BDA 3 bunkers destroyed 7 exposed and damaged with	
			clothing and documents scattered	
	10 Apr		Lt Ellis airstrike at YS 642826 BDA 1 bunker exposed 1 table exposed.	
			2Lt Jillie airstrike at YS 302729 BDA Nil.	



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AF -C 2118(Adapted)  
Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR. Apr 69.....

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	10 Apr		2Lt Hanagan airstrike at YS 773705 BDA 5 huts destroyed area burnt with napalm.	
-	11 Apr		2Lt Rowe airstrike at YS 333738 BDA 3 bunkers 1 pit destroyed	
			2Lt Rodgers air strike at YS 5386 BDA 1 bunker exposed.	
	12 Apr		2Lt Jillie found a VC garden at YS 726723.	
			2Lt Frost airstrike at YS 322707 1 bunker damaged 3 exposed. 1 structure exposed 1 table	
			exposed & 1 500lb bomb exposed.	
	13 Apr		2Lt Rodgers airstrike at YS 376887 BDA 2 bunkers exposed 1 damaged 2 platforms exposed	
			& 6 ventilation holes exposed & 2 platforms destroyed.	
	14 Apr		2Lt Rodgers airstrike at YS 3788 BDA 1 bunker destroyed 2 damaged 1 table destroyed &	
			1 gas cylinder 1½' X 4' exposed - Second airstrike BDA 2 bunkers damaged 2 exposed 1 gas	
			cylinder destroyed	
			2Lt Stevens VR found a camp under construction at YS 656620.	



COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

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

MONTH AND YEAR...Apr 69.....

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	15 Apr	1250	2Lt Rodgers AS BDA 1bunker damaged 1 table destroyed. YS 376887.	
YS 393848		1230	2Lt McLymont on VR found base camp and bunker complex. Numerous breather holes & trenches	
YS 742742	16 Apr	0830	2Lt Jellie on VR found a base camp in new condition. bunker s had good overhead gover reccomend a/s.	
YS 396854		1300	2Lt McLymont A/S - base camp BDA 2L shaped trenches destroyed. 4 bunker with o/h cover extensively damaged.	
YS 373848		1405	2Lt Stevens on VR <del>with 1/2 of 22 found 2 camp complexes with</del> found numerous well used tracks leading into an under ground complex. Several spider holes and breather holes.	
YS 590856		1415	2Lt Thompson on VR with Rohe 22 found 2 camp complexes with numorous trenches spider holes and bunkers.	
YS 426834	17 Apr		2Lt McLymont on VR found 1 thatched hut approx 35ft long X 15ft wide in good condition, beside it.	
YS 598859	18 Apr	1245	2Lt Thompson A/S 1 bunker destroyed 4 bunker extensively damaged.	
YS 302729		1500	2Lt Rodgers/Jade03 A/S - BDA 1bunker destroyed - 2 bunkers exposed and damaged - 2 bunkers exposed 30metres of comm trench exposed	
YS 742742	19 Apr	1300	2Lt Jellie/JOS A/S - base camp BDA 4 bunker exposed, 1 hut damaged, 3 huts exposed 3 tunnels entrances exposed. Further A/S reccommended.	



COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

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

MONTH AND YEAR. Apr 69.....

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 373886	19 Apr	1300	2Lt Rodgers/Jo <sup>2</sup> A/S bunker complex - BDA 1 bunker damaged 2 bunkers exposed 1 spider hole exposed 1 platform destroyed further FW & RW a/c in support 1 ATF operations .	
YS 371892	20 Apr	1300	2Lt Stevens /Jade 04 A/S BDA 1 hut destroyed 1 bunker destroyed 3 bunkers damaged 1 spider hole exposed. 4 large bunkers exposed further A/S recommended.	
YS 599884	21 Apr		2Lt Clymont on VR found extensive track activity leading into well concealed complex Recommend airstrike	
YS 395882			2Lt Rodgers/Jade 01 A/S on bunker complex BDA 1 bunker destroyed 2 bunkers exposed and extensively damaged.	
YS 593883		1300	2Lt McClymont/Jade 03 on VR found a small complex good condition recently occupied. Extensive track movement in area.	
YS 383902		AM	2Lts Stevens & Rodgers on VR sighted 3 VC in area of new base camp & bunker complex under construction.	
		PM	Marked for A/S on this target BDA 6 bunkers exposed 1 bunker under construction exposed 1 animal cage exposed 1 VC KBA (poss). 2nd A/S BDA 2 bunkers exposed 1 bunker destroyed 1 X 44 gal drum destroyed.	
YS 383902	22 Apr	0800	2Lt Stevens/Jade 04 A/S BDA 2 bunkers exposed 2 bunkers under construction exposed.	
YS 392887		1225	2Lt Rodgers/JO <sup>5</sup> A/S BDA 1 bunker exposed and 1 extensively damaged 1 exposed lightly damaged.	
YS 396882		PM	2Lt Rodgers A/S BDA 2 bunkers <del>destroyed</del> destroyed. 1 bunker exposed and damaged, 1 bunker exposed. Further RW and FW A/c on task 1 AT F ops.	



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AF -C 2118(Adapted)

Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR.....April 69

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
YS 395881	23 Apr	1255	2Lt Rogers/503 A/s BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 hut destroyed, 1 table destroyed, 1 tunnel entrance exposed.	
			Further RW & FW A/C on task 1 ATF ops.	
YS 554905	24 Apr		2Lt Stevens on VR sighted 4 VC on track & engaged with arty with neg. results.	
YS 569900			On same VR found base camp complex called for. immediate A/S. BDA: 1 bunker damaged, 1 hut exposed while waiting for second A/S sighted 2 VC in vicinity of camp.	
YS 395881			2Lt Rogers / Jade 04 FW & RW in support 1 ATF ops. A/S nil BDA.	
<del>YS 395881</del>				
YS 568880	25 Apr	0645	Lt Flanagan located 2 camps. One consisting of huts built on bank of stream the other contained several bunkers (12) Old hut in good condition. Further RW & FW A/C on task 1 ATF ops.	
YS 422889	26 Apr	0930	2Lt Mc Clymont on VR found VC camp. Engaged with 155mm guns from Blackhorse. BDA: 1 hut exposed and partially damaged, 2 tunnel entrances exposed, 1 table & chair exposed.	
YS 563903	9		2 Lt Mc Clymont A/S BDA: 4 bunkers exposed, 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker damaged, 1 structure destroyed. Further FW & RW A/C in support 1 ATF ops.	
YS 301895	27 Apr		2 Lt Frost/2Lt Longlands on VR found 6 bunkers in a well used area as well as several new bunkers under construction.	
YS 397887		1255	2Lt Rogers A/S BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 3 bunkers extensively damaged & exposed. 1 hut destroyed.	



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MONTH AND YEAR.....Apr 69.....

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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
	27 Apr		Further FW & RW A/C in support of 1ATF ops.	
	28 Apr		----- "----- -----	
YS 557887	29 Apr		2Lt Frost/2 Lt Longlands on VR found a base camp complex although old was in heavy use. Contained several bunkers and tunnel entrances.	
YS 582912		1600	2Lt McClymont A/S BDA: 6 bunkers exposed, 1 bunker damaged, 1 tin hut destroyed, 1 structure damaged. Further RW & FW A/C in support 1 ATF ops.	
YS 378890	30 Apr		Lt Flanagan/2Lt Rowe on VR found base camp complex. Extensive new bunkers through area. Recommended A/S.	
YS 582912		1300	2Lt McClymont A/S BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker exposed, 1 bunker entrance exposed 3 structures destroyed. Further RW & FW support 1 ATF ops.	
YS 309800	1 May	1300	2Lt Stevens marked for A/S on base camp which exposed 3 bunkers.	
	2 May		A/C on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 563903	3 May	1000	2Lt Mc Clymont marked for A/S 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 303918			Lt Ellis/2Lt Longland sighted a base camp of 4 bunkers while on VR.	
YS 370931	4 May	1430	Lt Flanagan marked for A/s 11 sheets of galvanised iron destroyed, 1 large new bunker destroyed.	
YS 575905		1000	2Lt Stevens/2Lt Longlands while on VR sighted 10 VC in bunkers. 2Lt Stevens marked area for Aust Light Fire Team.	