

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/36

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-31 May 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) RECCE FLT

From 1 Sep 68 To 7 Aug 69

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Narrative (AF C 2118)

Enclosure Numbers

ANNEXES

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- 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

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

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

on.....

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

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

MONTH AND YEAR..... May 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
			and received approx 12 rounds of automatic fire. Another VC (3) were sighted and area	
			was engaged with arty with unknown results. A/S was put in and 2 bunkers were destroyed and 5 were exposed.	
YS 557891		1430	2Lt Longlands marked for an A/S BDA: 4 structures destroyed and 1 possible VC killed by A/S.	
YS 773741	5 May	1230	Lt Ellis and 2Lt Jellie while on VR located 3 large bunkers under construction & 3 large bunkers completed. A/C had previously received ground fire from this location A/S recommended.	
YS 762747	6 May	1000	Lt Ellis on VR with US FAC A/C found a camp of 6 huts. 11 bunkers still under construction. A/S recommended	
YS 55 370931		0930	Lt Flanagan marked for an A/S BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 554923		1430	2Lt McClymont marked for A/S in previously hit camp. Bunkers had been re-camouflaged. BDA: 5 bunkers exposed.	
	7 May		FW & RW A/C on task to 1 ATF	
YS 162 747	8 May	1000	Lt Ellis marked for an A/S BDA: 5 huts destroyed. 1 hut damaged, 1 large bunker exposed.	
YS 333818		1300	2 Lt McClymont on VR with US FAC sighted a base camp which was possibly occupied.	
YS 5490		1000	2Lt Frost while on VR with US FAC sighted several camps of bunkers and tunnel entrances.	
YS 344826	9 May	0830	2Lt Frost /2Lt Smith while on VR sighted a large camp of 15-20 bunkers under construction.	
YS 298835	10 May	0930	Maj Benson/2Lt Longlands while on VR sighted a large bunker system which had been previously Air struck, under re-construction.	
YS 366888		1000	Lt Flanagan while on VR found 2 bunkers under construction.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)

Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR.....May 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 753751	10 May	1315	Lt Ellis while on VR with US FAC found a large base camp in good condition. Recommended A/S.	
			At YS 788691 6 bunkers appear to be in use.	
YS 733754	11 May	1430	2Lt Frost while on VR sighted 4 large huts & 3 bunkers. Recommended A/S.	
YS 383792		1400	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 6 bunkers exposed.	
YS 762747		1800	Lt Ellis marked for an A/S BDA: 3 huts destroyed, 4 bunkers exposed.	
YS 758753	12 May	1015	Lt Ellis marked for an A/S BDA: 1 hut & 5 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 269851		1315	2Lt Longlands ¹ 2Lt Sedgers while on VR found 4 large bunkers under construction. At YS 290833 7 bunkers possibly being used were found.	
YS 652821	13 May	1000	2Lt McClymont marked for an A/S BDA: 1 bunker destroyed 2 bunkers exposed.	
YS 570743	14 May	0930	Lt Flanagan while on VR sighted an Old bunker system with signs of recent use.	
YS 344826	15 May	1500	2Lt Frost marked for an A/S BDA: 1 bunker destroyed 13 exposed.	
DAT DO		0730	Maj Benson while flying surveillance over DAT DO was fired on on 3 occasions	
YS 315844	16 May	0730	2Lt Smith while on VR sighted 2 huts under construction and 2 bunkers.	
ys 3391		1130	Lt Ellis on BDA: of B52 strike found 3 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged and 200 metres trench destroyed.	
	17 May		RW & FW A/C on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 315844	18 May	1300	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker damaged.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)

Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR...May 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 615617	19 May		RW & FW A/C on task to 1ATF	
YS615617	20 May	1000	2Lt Longland while on VR sighted 2 huts and 3 bunkers. Re commended A/S.	
		1500	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S BDA: 2 huts destroyed 3 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 608760		1400	2Lt Rogers/2Lt Sedgers while onVR sighted 4 bunkers in good condition. Fresh track activity marked. Recommended A/S.	
YS 313818	21 May	1430	2Lt McClymont marked for A/S BDA: 4 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers exposed. Further A/S recommended.	
YS 564805	22 May	0900	2Lt Longlands while on VR with US FAC sighted old bunker system being used again. Recommended A/S.	
YS 308760		1440	2Lt Rogers marked for an A/S BDA: 4 bunkers destroyed 1 bunker damaged 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 581668		PM	2Lt Jellie on return from XUYEN MOC located 10 VC in camp who crawled into bunkers. 4 weapons sighted against tree. On further VR a/c took ground fire and petrol was smelt and A/C was forced to land. Xuyen Moc. Immediate A/S was put in on camp. A/C was recovered 1030 am 23 May.	
YS 581668		1710	Lt Ellis marked for A/C on occupied base camp BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker damaged, Clothing & utensils scattered throughout the area.	
	23 May		RW & FW A/C on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 315800	24 May	0745	2Lt McClymont marked for an A/S BDA: 2 huts destroyed, & 4 bunkers exposed.	
YS 5768, 5767		0740	2Lt Jellie while on VR sighted several camps & fresh tracks activity throughout the area.	
YS 318799		1820	Lt Ellis on VR with US FAC sighted a base camp in good condition which had been recently used. Recommended A/S	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)

Revised Jun 1966

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

MONTH AND YEAR.....May 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 267848	24 May	1325	Lt Flanagan while on VR located a recently used camp.	
YS 308760		1435	2Lt Rogers marked for an A/S BDA: 1 bunker destroyed & 4 bunkers damaged.	
YS 564804	25 May	0815	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S with 1 RAAF Canberra. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed, 7 bunkers damaged.	
YS 625178		1330	2Lt Rogers/2Lt Longland while on a VR sighted camp of 8 bunkers and 1 hut Recommended A/S.	
			Also at YS 628765 2 huts & 2 bunkers sighted. Recommended A/S.	
YS 333818		1430	2Lt McClymont marked for an A/S BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed & 3 bunkers damaged.	
YS 731752	26 May	1030	2Lt McClymont/2Lt Rogers on VR sighted a camp of 7 huts and 5 bunkers A/S recommended.	
YS 269850		0715	Lt Flanagan marked for an A/S 9 bunkers exposed comms trench exposed.	
YS 628765	27 May	0815	2Lt Longlands marked for an A/S BDA: 7 bunkers exposed 2 structures destroyed. Area much larger than first thought.	
YS 568927		0900	Lt Flanagan/Lt Frost while on a VR found a large base camp. Recommended A/S.	
YS 628765	28 May	0825	2Lt Longlands marked for an A/S with 1 RAAF Canberra. BDA: 2 bunkers damaged 6 bunkers exposed.	
YS 548902		0845	2Lt Frost/2Lt Rogers while on a VR found 5 new bunkers in old camp area. 5 VC sighted. Immediate A/S was put on. Recommended further A/S.	
YS 731752		1530	2Lt Rogers marked for an A/S BDA: 2 huts destroyed 2 huts damaged, 3 bunkers exposed. Further A/S recommended.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)
Revised Jun 1966

UNIT/FORMATION...161 (Indep) Recon Plt

MONTH AND YEAR... May 69

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
YS 620857	29 May	0930	2Lt Smith while on VR sighted camp complex which appears to be in use. Other FW & RW A/C	on task to 1 ATF
YS 578795	30 May	0900	2Lt Rogers/2Lt Thomson while on a VR found large well concealed base camp of 2 huts 4 bunkers. Also at YS 571792 a large bunker was found. Other FW & RW A/C on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 381681	31 May	0715	Lt Ellis & a US FAC on VR of possible VC Rocket sites were found 3 rows of blast marks pointing towards BARIA. Several lengths of 2 strand blue flex.	
YS 604744	31 May	1300	2Lt McClymont while flying convoy cover for APC's sighted 5 VC . The APC's assaulted area and light fire team engaged enemy area results 5 VC KIA.	
YS 59406143		1400	Lt Ellis/2Lt Smith while on VR sighted an old but freshly used base camp.	