

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/40

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-30 Sep 1969]

SECRET

ORIGINAL
DUPLICATE

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT - AFV

From 8 AUGUST 1969

To 11 FEBRUARY 1970

INDEX

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Narrative (AF C 2118)

ANNEXES

- * A Duty officer's log
- * B Messages connected with log
- C Operation orders and instructions issued
- D Operation orders and instructions received
- * 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)
- N Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units
- O Periodical summaries of operations
- Z Top Secret Supplementary Diary

Enclosure Numbers

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on.....

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

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, they should be grouped as annexes starting at B.

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

ENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment orders given. day's fighting, including company movements. commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

ntial importance.

officers, men and equipment.

ment captured.

mployed 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.

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

(continued on back cover)

DISPOSAL

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR SEPTEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ HILL-SMITH

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 371742	1 SEP 69	0840	2Lt Longland marked for an airstrike. BDA: 10 bunkers damaged, 12 bunkers exposed.	
YS 368892	1 SEP 69	1000	2Lt Thomson while on a VR sighted a camp of 10 bunkers which had signs of recent use.	
	2 SEP 69		FW and RW aircraft on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 710887	3 SEP 69	0930	2Lt Jellie while marking for an airstrike sighted a camp of 10 bunkers and a galvanised iron hut.	
YS 295754	3 SEP 69	1100	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 2 huts exposed, 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 411761	3 SEP 69	1400	Capt Flanagan & Capt Donald engaged a camp with artillery. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 532747	3 SEP 69		A camp was engaged by artillery. BDA: 7 bunkers and 2 tunnel entrances destroyed.	
YS 710887	4 SEP 69	1000	2Lt Smith marked for an airstrike. BDA: 9 bunkers destroyed, 15 bunkers exposed.	
YS 3490	5 SEP 69	0830	2Lt Smith marked for an airstrike. BDA: 2 large bunkers exposed.	
YS 548790	6 SEP 69	0745	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike for a camp under construction. BDA: 2 bunkers exposed, 1 hut destroyed.	
	7 SEP 69		FW and RW aircraft on task to 1 ATF.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR SEPTEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ G. HILL-SMITH

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS562573	8 SEP 69	1145	Capt Donald & 2Lt Dick sighted 1 concrete well and 3 weapon pits or tunnel entrances. The area showed sigas of recent use.	
YS299800	8 SEP 69	1545	Capt Panagan & Capt Donald sighted a camp under construction, consisting of 4 large bunkers and flooring for a hut approx. 30' long. The camp showed sigas of recent use.	
YS527776	10 SEP 69	0900	2Lt Rogers sighted 1 hut.	
YS526779	10 SEP 69	0915	2Lt Rogers sighted a hut with sigas of recent activity.	
YS303676	10 SEP 69	1030	2Lt Jellie sighted a camp with 3 huts.	
YS442836	10 SEP 69	1530	Capt Flanagan & Capt Donald sighted 2 well camouflaged bunkers with an E-W track running through the area.	
YS412832	10 SEP 69	1550	Capt Flanagan & Capt Donald sighted 2 thatched roof huts which were well camouflaged.	
YS405833	10 SEP 69	1630	Capt Flanagan & Capt Donald sighted 6 bunkers in good condition located between 2 bombed out areas.	
YS384859	10 SEP 69	1645	Capt Flanagan & Capt Donald sighted 4 new bunkers in good condition near an old camp.	
YS644617	11 SEP 69	0830	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike BDA: Nil	
YS405837	11 SEP 69	1030	Maj Hill-Smith marked for an airstrike BDA: 1 hut & 1 bunker destroyed. There were many well constructed bunkers in good condition in the camp.	
YS270941	12 SEP 69	1015	Capt Flanagan sighted 4 VC hidden at the base of a tree. A hunter-killer team was called in and resulted in 1 VC KBA (BC).	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR SEPTEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ HILL-SMITH

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	13 SEP 69		FW & RW aircraft on task to 1 ATF.	
YS5659	16 SEP 69	0730	2Lt Smith marked for an airstrike BDA: Nil.	
YS365740	16 SEP 69	1145	2Lt Dick conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 7 bunkers destroyed, 2 huts destroyed, 1 table destroyed & 25 metres of trench destroyed.	
YS364740	17 SEP 69	1000	Capt Donald conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker damaged and 1 weapon pit damaged.	
YS294850	17 SEP 69	1300	2Lt Smith sighted 15 plus bunkers in good condition with fighting pits around the perimeter. Articles on the ground suggested recent occupation.	
YS463804	17 SEP 69	0640	Capt Markorow sighted 2 persons, dressed in black, who ran into trees upon the approach of the aircraft.	
YS905733	18 SEP 69	0655	Capt Donald found a squad size camp which appeared to be in use.	
YS748709	18 SEP 69	0930	2Lt Rogers marked for an airstrike. BDA: Nil.	
YS589606	19 SEP 69	0730	2Lt Smith marked for an airstrike. BDA: 4 weapon pits exposed.	
YS564600	19 SEP 69	0815	2Lt Smith marked for an airstrike. BDA: 1 hut destroyed.	
YS269848	19 SEP 69	1100	Capt Donald & 2Lt Longland sighted 200 metres of communications trench & about 15-20 bunkers in good condition.	
YS263857	19 SEP 69	1130	Capt Donald & 2Lt Longland sighted several bunkers which had been used recently by many people.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

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UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR SEPTEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ HILL-SMITH

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS378710	19 SEP 69	1540	2Lt Dick sighted a large complex of trenches & weapon pits in good condition.	
YS652624	20 SEP 69	0800	Capt Flanagan carried out BDA on an airstrike. BDA: 1 tunnel exposed, 1 bunker destroyed and 3 weapon pits exposed by napalm.	
YS626922	20 SEP 69	0900	Capt Flanagan carried out BDA on an airstrike. BDA: 3 bunkers exposed.	
YS378710	20 SEP 69	1045	Capt Donald conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed & 2 weapon pits destroyed.	
YS289848	21 SEP 69	0930	2Lt Jellie sighted 2 bunkers and the framework of 1 hut.	
YS 288845	21 SEP 69	1300	2 Lt Smith sighted several fresh bunkers, 1 table & 1 hut.	
YS289847	21 SEP 69	1330	2Lt Smith sighted 3 hut frames covering bunkers.	
YS292847	21 SEP 69	1345	2Lt Smith sighted 1 hut & 15 plus bunkers.	
YS295905	22 SEP 69	0915	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Smith sighted 4 plus bunkers which appeared to have recent use.	
YS408779	22 SEP 69	1100	2Lt Smith sighted a camp which showed signs of recent use and had 14 plus bunkers in the area.	
YS408779	22 SEP 69	1315	Capt Donald & 2Lt Smith conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 1 bunker exposed, 2 spider holes exposed, 1 hut exposed & 2 tables exposed.	
YS674638	23 SEP 69	0855	Capt Flanagan sighted 3 well camouflaged huts which were approx. 18' X 12'.	
YS363800	23 SEP 69	0845	Maj Hill-Smith & 2Lt Longland sighted 1 VC dressed in a blue grey shirt and carrying a weapon. The VC who appeared to be moving East, was engaged with small arms with negative results.	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR SEPTEMBER

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ G. HILL-SMITH

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS408779	23 SEP 69	1500	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike. BDA: 5 bunkers exposed, 3 tables exposed, 1 table destroyed, & pieces of clothing scattered around the area.	
YS	24 SEP 69		RW & FW were on task to ATF.	
YS410778	25 SEP 69	1145	Capt Donald & 2Lt Driver conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 2 structures destroyed, 4 tunnels destroyed, 1 CP sized bunker damaged & 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS408779	25 SEP 69	1415	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers exposed, 4 tunnel entrances exposed, 1 table destroyed & 1 hut partially collapsed.	
YS610776	25 SEP 69	1630	2Lt Kerr conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 4 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 4 bunkers exposed & 2 spider holes exposed.	
YS676634	26 SEP 69	0800	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike. BDA: 2 huts damaged, 2 huts exposed & 2 bunkers exposed.	
YS345811	26 SEP 69	1400	2Lt Longland marked for an airstrike. BDA: 8 weapon pits exposed, 4 bunkers damaged, 2 bunkers destroyed and 20 metres of trench exposed.	
YS375716	27 SEP 69	0930	Capt Donald & Capt Wark conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 2 spider holes exposed, 3 weapon pits damaged, 2 weapon pits destroyed & 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS630956	28 SEP 69	1230	Capt Flanagan sighted a bunkers system containing 6 bunkers & 2 tunnel entrances which appeared to be in good condition.	
YS632692	28 SEP 69	1300	Capt Flanagan sighted approx. 12 bunkers. Several had recent use.	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR.....SEPTEMBER

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ HILL-SMITH

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1 B P Coy—275/65—55m