

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/42

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-30 Nov 1969]

PART 1

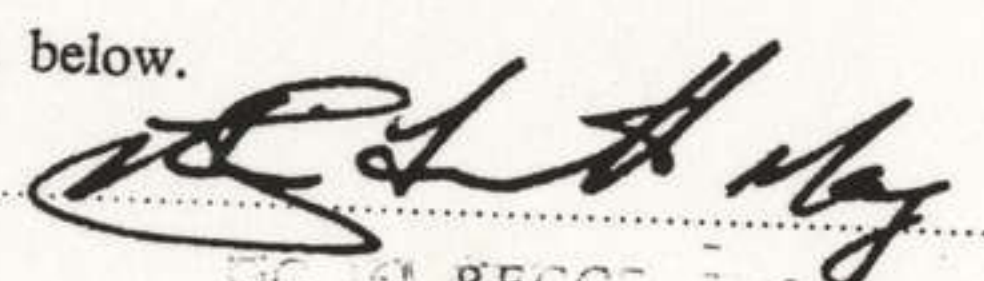
COVERING LETTER

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 1st RECCE FLT

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965**SECRET**ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~Strike out where
not applicable**COMMANDERS DIARY**

OF

Unit or Formation 161 (INDEF) RECCE FLT - AFVFrom 8 AUGUST 1969To 11 FEBRUARY 1970**INDEX**

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

..... to

..... to

..... to

..... to

..... to

..... to

..... to

..... to

..... to

..... 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, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 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
	1 Nov 69		RW and FW on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 434918	2 Nov 69	0645	2Lt Dick sighted a road block consisting of clumps of grass and sticks which were on the edge of an old mine crater.	
YS 732892	2 Nov 69	0830	2Lt Longland marked for an airstrike. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 1 hut damaged, 1 bunker exposed and 1 KBA possible.	
YS 564569	3 Nov 69	1400	Maj Hill-Smith & 2Lt Longland sighted footprints of 2-3 people which were approximately 24 hours old.	
YS 475499	3 Nov 69	1100	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA: Nil.	
YS 306610	4 Nov 69	0630	Capt Markerow sighted a road block.	
YS 831728	4 Nov 69	0815	Maj Hill-Smith sighted a well kept vegetable garden with fresh tracks in the vicinity.	
YS 793859	4 Nov 69	1245	2Lt Dick sighted 2 small hut structures and 1 table but there was no sign of recent use.	
YS 473532	4 Nov 69	1000	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike. BDA: Nil.	
YS 782801	4 Nov 69	1415	2Lt Jellie sighted several rice paddies which were in the process of being harvested. Near these were rice which had been camouflaged.	
YS 799752	4 Nov 69	1445	2Lt Jellie sighted 5 pieces of green plastic which were approximately 4' x 5' and had rice husks on them.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 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 470527	7 Nov 69	1500	2Lt Thomson sighted tracks of 2-3 people going through an old camp which had several bunkers in useable condition & several sheets of galvanised iron were in the immediate proximity.	
YS 835747	8 Nov 69	1000	Maj Hill-Smith & Capt Donald conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 5 huts destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 3 bunkers exposed & 1 table destroyed.	
YS 835759	8 Nov 69	1100	Maj Hill-Smith & Capt Donald conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 1 weapon pit damaged, 1 table damaged & clothing scattered in the area.	
YS 513864	8 Nov 69	1255	2Lt Dick sighted 3 bunker entrances, 1 table & 1 construction resembling the side of a hut.	
YS 619605	9 Nov 69	0910	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Dick sighted 2 bunkers near a well-used E - W track.	
YS 550571	9 Nov 69	0940	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Dick sighted the top of a large bunker which had a plastic sheet near the entrance.	
YS 405837	9 Nov 69	1000	Maj Hill-Smith & Capt Donald sighted a camp in excellent condition which was under construction. An airstrike was put in. BDA: 4 bunkers destroyed, 4 bunkers exposed & 2 huts destroyed.	
YS 405837	9 Nov 69	1130	2Lt Earley marked for an airstrike. BDA: 3 bunkers exposed & 1 destroyed by fire.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 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
YS 841757	9 Nov 69	1245	Capt Markerow & 2Lt Jellie sighted drag marks beside a very fresh E-W track.	
YS 307674	10 Nov 69	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike. BDA: 1 large bunker destroyed, 1 bunker exposed & 20m of communications trench exposed.	
YS 482513	10 Nov 69	1415	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 set of black clothing located at a cave entrance.	
YS 477509	10 Nov 69	1430	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 large cave entrance with cooking pots and stone jars nearby.	
YS 519577	10 Nov 69	1230	2Lt Jellie sighted 1 VC wearing a blue shirt in a large camp. He conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 KBA possible, 7 bunkers destroyed, 7 bunkers exposed, & numerous items scattered in the area.	
YS 523576	10 Nov 69	1515	2Lt Jellie sighted a camp consisting of approximately 8-10 bunkers which appeared to be occupied. He conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 303898	11 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike. BDA: 2 bunkers damaged & 3 bunkers exposed.	
YS 523577	11 Nov 69	0840	Maj Hill-Smith sighted an old camp with 2 bunkers under construction which had had recent use.	
YS 562798	11 Nov 69	1300	Capt Markerow & 2Lt Earley sighted a camp with 8 bunkers, 1 galvanised iron roofed hut & several tables. One person was seen in a bunker entrance. An airstrike was called in. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker damaged & 1 KBA possible.	

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 NOVEMBER 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
YS 824784	13 Nov 69	0930	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike. BDA was not carried out because napalm was burning over 2 dud bombs.	
YS 505829	13 Nov 69	1000	2Lt Bysouth sighted a well camouflaged hut with signs of recent use	
YS 388798	13 Nov 69	1100	Maj Hill-Smith sighted a track leading from a camp at YS 388798 to a camp at YS 400798. The track had had considerable use since an airstrike had gone into YS 388798.	
YS 377682	13 Nov 69	1355	Lt Sedgers conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 2 weapon pits damaged & 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 281844	13 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Longland marked for an airstrike. BDA: 2 bunkers damaged & clothing scattered in the area.	
YS 535588	13 Nov 69	1500	Capt Donald conducted an AOP shoot on a reported VC concentration point. BDA: Nil.	
YS 674637	14 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike. BDA: Nil.	
YS 532582	14 Nov 69	1300	2Lt Jellie sighted 1 VC wearing a brown shirt and approximately 30m East another 4 VC wearing brown shirts were sighted sitting on top of bunkers. Bushrangers were called in. BDA: 1 bunker exposed, 2 packs & food exposed & other items scattered around the area.	
YS 482516	14 Nov 69	1230	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike. BDA: 1 wave entrance exposed & clothes scattered in immediate proximity.	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj H. Smith

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 532582	14 Nov 69	1415	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike . BDA: 4 bunkers damaged, 4 bunkers exposed & 5 VC KBA possible.	
YS 687602	15 Nov 69	0705	Lt Sedgers sighted 2 VC in shorts & green shirts & one of these appeared to be carrying an LMG.	
YS 687602	15 Nov 69	0805	Capt Markcrow marked for an airstrike. BDA: Nil.	
YS 279846	15 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA: 7 bunkers destroyed and 2 bunkers damaged.	
YS 574592	15 Nov 69	1245	Capt Flanagan sighted a bed roll, a pair of boots & other items outside a bunker entrance. He conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 bunker damaged, 1 bunker exposed, 1 tunnel entrance exposed & clothing was scattered.	
YS 565595	15 Nov 69	1300	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 well camouflaged bunkers with a S - N foot track going through them.	
YS 574592	16 Nov 69	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike. BDA: 1 bunker damaged & 3 bunkers exposed.	
YS 469495	16 Nov 69	1000	2Lt Longland marked for an airstrike. BDA: Nil.	
YS 584595	16 Nov 69	1300	Capt Flanagan sighted 4 VC dressed in black at the edge of a bunker. He marked for an immediate airstrike. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed, 1 VC KBA (BC), 1 VC KBA possible & several articles of equipment were scattered around the area. Capt Flanagan then conducted an AOP shoot, BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 1 tunnel entrance exposed.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 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
YS 531581	16 Nov 69	1200	Capt Donald conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker damaged & clothing was scattered in the area.	
YS 454534	17 Nov 69	1000	2Lt Kerr & 2Lt Earley sighted a camp consisting of 5 bunkers & 2 tunnel entrances.	
YS 461544	17 Nov 69	1045	2Lt Kerr & 2Lt Earley sighted a living area under a flat rock & there were clothes in the immediate vicinity.	
YS 273845	17 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Longland marked for an airstrike. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers exposed & 20m of communications trench was damaged.	
YS 779675	17 Nov 69	1440	2Lt Dick sighted 1 thatched hut with a bunker entrance beside it.	
YS 791759	17 Nov 69	1515	2Lt Dick sighted a large rice paddy which was in good condition.	
YS 347611	18 Nov 69	0630	Maj Hill-Smith sighted an earth road block approximately 75m long.	
YS 454534	18 Nov 69	0845	2Lt Jellie marked for an airstrike. BDA: 6 bunkers exposed & 1 VC KBA possible.	
YS 454534	19 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Dick marked for an airstrike. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 4 bunkers exposed & 1 hootchie damaged.	
YS 454534	19 Nov 69	0945	2Lt Thomson conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed & 2 bunkers exposed.	
YS 283697	20 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Earley marked for an airstrike. BDA: Nil. He received one round of ground fire but it did not hit the Sioux.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 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
YS 564919	20 Nov 69	0915	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Kerr sighted 1 large camp consisting of 2 large bunkers, bamboo tables & chairs. There were sheets of iron, cooking utensils & stone jars in the centre of the camp.	
YS 564919	20 Nov 69	1245	Capt Flanagan marked for an airstrike. BDA: 3 large bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers exposed, 1 tunnel entrance exposed, sheets of iron & cooking utensils scattered in the area.	
YS 324698	20 Nov 69	1340	Maj Hill-Smith sighted a camp consisting of several bunkers beside a well used track.	
YS 632609	21 Nov 69	0830	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut destroyed & 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 643623	21 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 592615	21 Nov 69	1000	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 bunkers in good condition beside a well used track.	
YS 454534	21 Nov 69	1200	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 bunkers damaged.	
YS 458532	21 Nov 69	1345	2Lt Kerr sighted 3 bunkers in good condition among some old ruins.	
YS 471525	21 Nov 69	1415	2Lt Kerr sighted a living area under a flat rock which had food, clothing & other items underneath it.	
YS 501813	21 Nov 69	1500	2Lt Jellie sighted a camp consisting of 5 bunkers in good condition which could possibly have been occupied as a dog was seen in it.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 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
YS 475505	22 Nov 69	0815	2Lt Earley sighted 1 VC & called in an immediate A/S. BDA: 1 VC KBA possible.	
YS 472527	22 Nov 69	0800	2Lt Dick sighted an old camp with fresh signs of movement.	
YS 475505	22 Nov 69	0815	2Lt Dick sighted a living area under a flat rock. 1 VC was sighted & due to lack of fuel 2Lt Earley was sent to mark for an A/S.	
YS 476505	23 Nov 69	1030	2Lt Earley sighted a black wooden container with a wicker-work lid.	
YS 460546	23 Nov 69	1045	Maj Hill-Smith conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed & 2 structures destroyed.	
YS 779807	23 Nov 69	1100	2Lt Jellie marked for an A/S. BDA: 10 bunkers damaged, 1 hut exposed & damaged & 3 structures destroyed.	
YS 571598	24 Nov 69	0830	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Kerr sighted 2 bunkers in good condition but there were no signs of occupation.	
YS 501813	24 Nov 69	0845	2Lt Jellie marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 bunkers exposed & 3 structures destroyed.	
YS 430847	24 Nov 69	1045	2Lt Jellie sighted a camp consisting of 3 large bunkers in good condition.	
YS 479508	24 Nov 69	1300	2Lt Dick marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 tunnel entrance destroyed & 1 Breather hole exposed.	
YS 473518	24 Nov 69	1100	2Lt Kerr & 2Lt Dick sighted 3 bunkers in good condition beside a well used track.	
YS 479508	24 Nov 69	1145	2Lt Dick & 2Lt Kerr sighted 1 VC without a shirt near a cave entrance. Bushrangers and an A/S were called in but due to lack of fuel 2Lt Dick & 2Lt Kerr had to return.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj H. -Smith

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 523578	26 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Jellie conducted an AOP shoot, BDA: 5 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers exposed & several items were scattered in the area.	
YS 664608	26 Nov 69	1015	Maj Hill-Smith sighted 1 hut near 3 vegetable gardens which were very fresh.	
YS 430847	26 Nov 69	0945	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker exposed & 3 bunkers damaged.	
YS 316730	26 Nov 69	1100	2Lt Bysouth conducted an AOP shoot, BDA: 3 bunkers & 10m of communications trench exposed.	
YS 548562	26 Nov 69	1230	2Lt Earley sighted several bunkers, 1 hut & 4 packs in a camp which appeared to be occupied. The Bushrangers were called in. BDA: 1 bunker exposed, 4 packs destroyed & 1 VC KBA possible.	
YS 460546	26 Nov 69	1315	2Lt Dick marked for an A/S, BDA: 6 bunkers destroyed & 3 bunkers exposed.	
YS 413845	26 Nov 69	1700	2Lt Jellie sighted smoke from a cooking fire but the light prevented any action.	
YS 657934	27 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 488510	27 Nov 69	1200	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 cave entrance destroyed & 1 VC KBA possible.	
YS 548562	27 Nov 69	1215	2Lt Kerr sighted 3 bunkers and 1 small construction.	
YS 830760	27 Nov 69	1400	Capt Donald & 2Lt Dick sighted fresh cultivations.	
YS 855740	27 Nov 69	1415	Capt Donald & 2Lt Dick sighted 6 bunkers in excellent condition.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

MONTH AND YEAR NOVEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj H. A. Smith

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 879745	27 Nov 69	1445	Capt Donald & 2Lt Dick sighted 2 bunkers, 1 structure & 2 water containers.	
YS 665908	28 Nov 69	0700	2Lt Jellie marked for an A/S. BDA: 9 bunkers exposed, 1 tunnel entrance exposed, 2 structures destroyed & 1 structure exposed.	
YS 574593	28 Nov 69	0930	Capt Flanagan conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 1 large bunker damaged, 1 large bunker exposed & 3 smaller bunkers destroyed.	
YS 639952	28 Nov 69	1015	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 huts damaged.	
YS 485499	28 Nov 69	1100	2Lt Kerr conducted a BDA on a B52 strike in the Long Hai Mts. BDA: Good coverage but only one camp was covered by a rock slide.	
YS 659782	28 Nov 69	1245	2Lt Longland found a camp and called in an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 656931	29 Nov 69	0900	2Lt Thomson marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 bunkers destroyed and 105m of communications trench was damaged.	
YS 646939	29 Nov 69	1300	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed and 3 bunkers damaged.	
YS 771662	29 Nov 69	1245	Capt Flanagan conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 2 bunkers damaged, 1 large bunker exposed, 1 rice cache destroyed.	
YS 782709	29 Nov 69	1245	Capt Flanagan conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 4 bunkers destroyed, 7 bunkers exposed & damaged, 2 huts damaged & numerous items of clothing were scattered throughout the area.	

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

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun. 1965

MONTH AND YEAR.....NOVEMBER 69

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj. J. L. Smith

[illegible]

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m