

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

**Army Aviation units**

**Item number: 8/1/43**

**Item: 161 [Independent]**

**Reconnaissance Flight**

**Narrative**

**[1-31 Dec 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)

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Appointment

OC 161 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 (INDEP) RECCE FLT - AFV

From 8 AUGUST 1969

To 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

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

† NIL  
† RETAINED  
† Despatched to

on.....

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 DECEMBER 1969

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 710929	1 Dec 69	0830	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 large bunker destroyed, 3 bunkers exposed & 1 structure exposed and damaged.	
YS 626921	1 Dec 69	1200	2Lt Dick sighted 2 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 648935	2 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Earley marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 secondary explosion, 30m of communications trench destroyed and 20m of communications trench exposed.	
YS 720875	2 Dec 69	1015	2Lt Thomson sighted 2 huts in good condition.	
YS 477866	2 Dec 69	1100	2Lt Bysouth sighted 6 bunkers with no signs of recent use.	
YS 713915	3 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Jellie marked for an A/S, BDA: 2 structures destroyed, 2 bunkers destroyed & 4 bunkers exposed.	
YS 367893	3 Dec 69	1600	2Lt Kerr sighted an old camp consisting of approximately 15 bunkers.	
YS 384902	3 Dec 69	1645	2Lt Kerr sighted 2 bunkers and 2 structures which showed signs of very recent use.	
YS 456717	3 Dec 69	2233	Capt Donald and 2Lt Jellie were returning from a night training mission when the aircraft was hit by enemy ground fire. The aircraft Porter A14-686 was destroyed and both pilots were KIA.	
YS 469528	4 Dec 69	0815	2Lt Bysouth sighted a rice cache and a shelter around which there were several items. The Bushrangers were called in, BDA: 1 shelter destroyed and the rice cache was set on fire.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 717903	4 Dec 69	0830	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 668950	5 Dec 69	0830	2Lt Earley marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 584595	5 Dec 69	0915	2Lt Earley marked for an A/S, BDA: 5 bunkers damaged by napalm.	
YS 581604	5 Dec 69	1430	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 well camouflaged bunkers which showed signs of recent use.	
YS 574583	5 Dec 69	1445	Capt Flanagan sighted a long, green bomb shaped object.	
YS 646757	5 Dec 69	1600	2Lt Earley sighted 3 disused bunkers which were approximately 20' x 20' in size.	
YS 455534	6 Dec 69	1000	2Lt Longland sighted 6 bunkers, 1 hut and several tables which were in good condition.	
YS 750869	6 Dec 69	1030	2Lt Thomson sighted 3 small huts with no signs of recent use.	
YS 768820	6 Dec 69	1100	2Lt Thomson sighted 2 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 640616	6 Dec 69	1500	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 camouflaged bunker, 1 table and there were several items around the area.	
YS 526883	6 Dec 69	1525	2Lt Longland sighted a camp consisting of 2 large bunkers, 1 hut, 1 table and 1 full water container.	
YS 523883	7 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 table destroyed and several domestic items were scattered in the area.	
YS 455534	7 Dec 69	0930	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S, BDA: 2 secondary explosions.	
YS 542879	7 Dec 69	1000	Maj Hill-Smith sighted a camp consisting of 15 bunkers in good condition.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 541874	7 Dec 69	1100	Maj Hill-Smith sighted 4 bunkers in good condition beside a well used foot track.	
YS 622623	8 Dec 69	0900	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 persons dressed in black trying to hide at the base of a tree. They had packs and filled sandbags but no weapons could be seen. The Bushrangers were called in and they engaged the area. BDA: 1 VC KBA (BC) and 1 VC KBA possible.	
YS 640616	8 Dec 69	0930	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 large bunker destroyed & 3 tunnel entrances exposed.	
YS 455534	8 Dec 69	1030	2Lt Bysouth sighted 4 VC dressed in black trousers & blue shorts carrying AK47s. The Bushrangers were called in. BDA: 4 VC KBA possible and clothing was scattered in the area.	
YS 544714	8 Dec 69	1230	2Lt Longland sighted a base camp under construction and conducted AOP shoot on it. BDA: Nil but a good coverage was evident.	
YS 640816	9 Dec 69	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S, BDA: 3 large bunkers destroyed and sheets of corrugated iron were scattered in the area. A second A/S was called in, BDA: 2 tunnel entrances destroyed & 1 tin roofed hut damaged.	
YS 448537	9 Dec 69	1115	2Lt Dick sighted 3 bunkers and 1 person was in one of the bunkers. An A/S was put in. BDA: 1 bunker exposed & clothing was scattered in the area.	
YS 575690	9 Dec 69	1230	2Lt Monteith sighted a camp consisting of 4 bunkers.	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 963655	9 Dec 69	1430	2Lt Thomson sighted 2 bunkers and 1 hut framework in good condition.	
YS 711812	10 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Earley marked for 2 A/Ss, BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed and 1 hut with an iron roof which was approximately 20' x 10' was damaged.	
YS 447537	10 Dec 69	0915	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S, BDA: 2 VC KBA possible, 1 bunker destroyed, 3 bunkers exposed & damaged, 1 cache exposed, 1 table destroyed, 1 pack destroyed, several items were scattered in the area.	
YS 833743	11 Dec 69	0800	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut destroyed & 3 huts damaged.	
YS 768820	11 Dec 69	0925	2Lt Longland marked for an A/S. BDA: 4 bunkers exposed & 2 huts damaged.	
YS 345611	11 Dec 69	0700	Maj Hill-Smith sighted a road block & while investigating its extent his aircraft was fired at by an automatic weapon.	
YS 638585	11 Dec 69	1100	2Lt Earley sighted a double entrance bunker which showed signs of recent use.	
YS 501813	11 Dec 69	1230	Maj Hill-Smith conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged & 2 structures destroyed.	
YS 545825	11 Dec 69	1315	Maj Hill-Smith conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 587583	12 Dec 69	0930	2Lt Monteith sighted 5 mounds of rice beside a wild rice paddy which had just been harvested.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 664608	12 Dec 69	1000	Maj Hill-Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 4 large bunkers destroyed, 4 bunkers damaged, 1 hut destroyed & 1 hut damaged.	
YS 623583	13 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Dick marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 698745	13 Dec 69	1300	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 bunker & 1 tunnel entrance in new condition.	
YS 714660	13 Dec 69	1315	Capt Flanagan sighted a large camp consisting of 6 large thatched huts and several tables which had food on them. An immediate A/S was called in. BDA: 3 huts destroyed, 3 huts exposed, 1 bunker destroyed, 4 bunkers exposed, 1 tunnel entrance exposed, 1 well exposed, 4 packs destroyed by fire & there were several items of clothing scattered in the area.	
YS 687627	13 Dec 69	1120	2Lt Dick sighted 2 huts, 2 wooden structures & 1 bunker in good condition.	
YS 714660	14 Dec 69	0830	Capt Flanagan noticed that the camp which was struck yesterday had fresh tracks in it. Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 3 huts destroyed by fire.	
YS 714660	14 Dec 69	1050	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 700620	15 Dec 69	1200	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut which was approximately 50' x 20' badly damaged.	
YS 643622	15 Dec 69	1000	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 304682	15 Dec 69	1255	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed & 1 bunker exposed.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 253694	16 Dec 69	0645	2Lt Driver sighted a culvert that had been blown on Route 15.	
YS 687627	16 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Dick marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut damaged, 1 bunker damaged & 1 hut exposed.	
YS 523579	17 Dec 69	1000	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 new bunker in an old camp.	
YS 549597	17 Dec 69	1030	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 bunker & 1 tunnel entrance in good condition.	
YS 569608	17 Dec 69	1135	Capt Flanagan sighted 4 large old bunkers.	
YS 687627	17 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Dick marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 huts destroyed, 1 hut damaged & 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 530590	17 Dec 69	1230	2Lt Earley sighted a wireless antenna which was approximately 1/16" thick & 25' long.	
YS 549597	18 Dec 69	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S, BDA: 2 huts destroyed, 4 bunkers destroyed & 10m of communications trench was exposed.	
YS 518714	18 Dec 69	1015	2Lt Earley sighted 1 decomposed body in a white shirt & black trousers, there was also 1 grave approximately 200' SW of the body.	
YS 802706	18 Dec 69	1100	2Lt Kerr & 2Lt Driver sighted 1 shelter over a bunker which appeared to be old.	
YS 650868	18 Dec 69	1230	Maj Hill-Smith sighted what appeared to be a cache which consisted of 3 x 44 gallon drums located in a square hole which was partly uncovered.	
YS 656858	18 Dec 69	1300	Maj Hill-Smith sighted a camp consisting of 1 bunker & 2 bamboo structures which showed signs of recent use.	
YS 414779	19 Dec 69	1015	2Lt Monteith sighted 12 bunkers under construction which were nearing completion.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 408779	19 Dec 69	1215	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 656858	19 Dec 69	1300	Maj Hill-Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 2 bunkers exposed & several items were scattered in the area.	
YS 195846	20 Dec 69	0630	2Lt Aird sighted a road block consisting of a concertina wire barricade.	
YS 406772	20 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 bunkers destroyed & 3 bunkers damaged.	
YS 661609	20 Dec 69	1400	Capt Flanagan sighted several drying mats which were well hidden on the Northern edge of an old camp. The mats were covered with rice & there appeared to be a caretaker group occupying the hut.	
YS 542879	20 Dec 69	1500	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 bunkers destroyed, 7 bunkers damaged & 1 table destroyed.	
YS 661609	21 Dec 69	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 huts destroyed, 1 hut damaged, 10 bunkers destroyed, 7 bunkers damaged & several tables & jars were also destroyed.	
YS 341612	21 Dec 69	0700	Lt Sedgers sighted a road block consisting of approximately 50 small mounds of dirt.	
YS 526799	22 Dec 69	1000	2Lt Dick sighted an unexploded bomb.	
YS 648862	22 Dec 69	1400	Capt Flanagan sighted a camp consisting of 4 large bunkers and 1 hut which had a strong smell coming from it. The camp could possibly be occupied as there are items all around the immediate vicinity.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 822741	22 Dec 69	1430	Maj Hill-Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 iron roofed huts destroyed, 2 thatched huts destroyed & 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 661609	23 Dec 69	1100	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 huts destroyed, 2 huts damaged, 4 bunkers destroyed & 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 401825	23 Dec 69	1325	2Lt Monteith sighted 1 tunnel entrance & 5 bunkers in very good condition.	
YS 390823	23 Dec 69	1400	2Lt Monteith sighted 6 bunkers in good condition which showed signs of recent use.	
YS 839745	23 Dec 69	1500	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 bunker destroyed & 1 hut frame destroyed.	
YS 822747	23 Dec 69	1530	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S, BDA: 1 hut damaged & 1 hut exposed.	
YS 390823	24 Dec 69	1000	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S, BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 3 bunkers exposed & 15' of communications trench exposed.	
YS 625726	24 Dec 69	1100	2Lt Earley sighted 1 bunker with an entrance which was approximately 10' x 6' and was in good condition.	
YS 526782	24 Dec 69	1315	2Lt Dick sighted 3 grass huts which were approximately 30m apart & were in good condition.	
YS 783887	24 Dec 69	1400	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut damaged.	
	25 Dec 69		RW & FW on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 464517	26 Dec 69	0800	2Lt Bysouth conducted a BDA on a B52 strike. BDA: No apparent damage but a good target coverage was evident. Tracks of 2-3 persons ran through the bomb craters at this point.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 485513	26 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 cave entrances destroyed & 1 cave exposed.	
YS 765896	27 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker damaged, & 1 hut damaged.	
YS 569901	27 Dec 69	1015	2Lt Monteith sighted 4 bunkers, several tables & chairs & 1 bunker approximately 100m to the North of these. The area showed signs of recent use.	
YS 610842	27 Dec 69	1030	2Lt Kerr sighted smoke coming from a camp fire.	
YS 408779	28 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Earley marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed, 1 table destroyed, 2 bunkers badly damaged & 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 647862	28 Dec 69	1500	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers exposed & 6 structures were exposed.	
YS 304673	29 Dec 69	0900	2Lt Dick marked for an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 245758	29 Dec 69	0800	Lt Sedgers sighted a road block consisting of piles of sticks and mounds of earth.	
YS 388798	30 Dec 69	0900	Maj Hill-Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 1 bunker exposed and 2 bamboo structures were destroyed.	
YS 831747	30 Dec 69	1500	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 1 hut damaged and 3 bunkers exposed. During the A/S a piece of shrapnel struck the tail section of the aircraft.	

