

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/44

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-31 Jan 1970]

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
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- * 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
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Enclosure Numbers

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

† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JANUARY 1970

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 390772	1 Jan 70	1000	Maj Hill-Smith sighted a camp consisting of 10 plus bunkers which showed signs of recent activity.	
YS 846777	2 Jan 70	0900 8	Capt Flanagan sighted a camp consisting of 6 large thatched huts and called in an A/S. BDA: 6 huts destroyed, 4 bunkers damaged and exposed, 1 well exposed and 3 huts exposed.	
YS 8070	2 Jan 70	1000	2Lt Bysouth & 2Lt Partridge sighted several fresh gardens.	
YS 460545	2 Jan 70	1300	Maj Hill-Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed and 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 82878	2 Jan 70	1400	2Lt Smith sighted fresh vegetable gardens and 1 hut frame.	
YS 828759	2 Jan 70	1415	2Lt Smith sighted 5 bunkers and 1 hut which did not show signs of recent use.	
YS 686682	2 Jan 70	1200	2Lt Dick sighted 4 bunkers which showed signs of recent use.	
YS 839744	3 Jan 70	1000	Capt Flanagan sighted a camp and garden area in good condition. The camp consisted of 1 large hut, 3 tables and 2 packs were located beside one of the tables.	
YS 460545	3 Jan 70	1500	Maj Hill-Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed and 1 bamboo structure destroyed.	
	4 Jan 70		RW and FW on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 846777	5 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 566586	5 Jan 70	1500	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed and 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 723727	5 Jan 70	1530	2Lt Dick sighted 3 huts which showed no signs of recent use.	

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UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 828759	6 Jan 70	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged and exposed and 20m of communications trench was exposed.	
YS 793786	6 Jan 70	1045	2Lt Earley sighted 2 huts, 1 table and a cooking pot in a previously struck camp.	
YS 846777	6 Jan 70	1500	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 1 hut damaged, 1 well damaged.	
YS 410925	6 Jan 70	1545	2Lt Smith sighted 1 bunker under construction.	
YS 793786	7 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut frame damaged.	
YS 616607	7 Jan 70	1045	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 bunkers which showed no signs of recent activity.	
YS 616609	7 Jan 70	1055	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 bunker under construction.	
YS 619604	7 Jan 70	1105	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 huts and 1 table which were in good condition.	
YS 614604	7 Jan 70	1135	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 hut and 2 bunkers which were in good condition.	
YS 286557	7 Jan 70	1400	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Kerr sighted 2 large bunkers which were in good condition.	
YS 247564	7 Jan 70	1455	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Kerr sighted 1 bunker and there could possibly be more. The existing bunker was in good condition.	
YS 752770	7 Jan 70	1400	2Lt Monteith sighted 4 bunkers in a camp area which showed signs of recent use.	
YS 752770	7 Jan 70	1455	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 706835	8 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 old bunkers damaged.	
YS 739895	8 Jan 70	1000	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S, by 10,000 lb. bombs. BDA: 9 bunkers destroyed and clothing scattered in the immediate 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

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JANUARY 1970

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COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ HILL-SMITH

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 652610	8 Jan 70	1115	2Lt Monteith sighted 2 old bunkers.	
YS 614604	8 Jan 70	1500	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 862862	8 Jan 70	1600	2Lt Dick sighted 5 old huts and several old bunkers.	
YS 752770	9 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Dick marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers exposed and 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 692846	9 Jan 70	1000	2Lt Bysouth & 2Lt Earley sighted a large camp consisting of 9 huts and several tables.	
YS 692846	9 Jan 70	1500	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: 4 huts destroyed, 2 huts damaged, 6 bunkers exposed and damaged, 2 weapon pits exposed and 1 table destroyed.	
YS 752770	10 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Earley marked for an A/S. BDA: 4 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 1 bunker exposed and 10m of communications trench exposed.	
YS 918834	10 Jan 70	0930	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 916829	10 Jan 70	0940	Capt Flanagan sighted a small camp, consisting of 1 bunker and several caves.	
YS 903840	10 Jan 70	1000	Capt Flanagan sighted 3 bunkers beside a well used E - W track.	
YS 882885	10 Jan 70	1020	Capt Flanagan sighted an old camp which was under repair.	
YS 614604	10 Jan 70	1545	2Lt Earley marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 670615	11 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 8 bunkers destroyed and 100m of communications trench was exposed.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
XS 011929	11 Jan 70	0915	Capt Flanagan sighted a base camp consisting of 3 huts in very good condition.	
YS 460545	11 Jan 70	1000	2Lt Partridge marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker damaged and 2 bunkers exposed.	
ZT 040079	11 Jan 70	1320	Capt Flanagan sighted a fresh garden area which was very well used. There were 2 huts in the immediate vicinity. There were packs, dishes and clothing outside the huts and they appeared to be occupied.	
YS 847944	11 Jan 70	1340	2Lt Dick sighted 1 hut and 1 cave entrance.	
YS 472534	12 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Smith sighted 1 bunker which was covered by a tent and had a pack and a water bottle beside it. The bunker appeared to be occupied.	
YS 900120	12 Jan 70	0930	Capt Flanagan sighted several large fresh gardens which were being looked after. There were mats with rice and fruit on them on the ground.	
YS 472524	12 Jan 70	0930	2Lt Smith sighted up to 10 cave entrances. There were 3 VC dressed in green and several others dressed in black. An immediate A/S was called in. BDA: 2 VC KBA, 3 VC KBA possible and 10 cave entrances were destroyed. Bushrangers were called in resulting in a minor secondary explosion.	
YS 912128	12 Jan 70	1000	Capt Flanagan sighted 4 large huts which were occupied and he called in an A/S. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 2 huts damaged, 6 bunkers exposed and damaged, 6 x 44 gall drums exposed, 1 VC KBA confirmed and 1 VC KBA possible.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YT 9221270	12 Jan 70	1040	Capt Flanagan & 2Lt Driver sighted a camp consisting of 12 large huts spread over an area of 200 m.	
YS 472524	12 Jan 70	1100	2Lt Partridge marked for an A/S. BDA: 4 bunkers collapsed. Again the Bushrangers were called in with the result of 1 VC KBA.	
YS 460545	13 Jan 70	0845	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker exposed.	
YT 810030	13 Jan 70	0900	Capt Flanagan sighted 20 large gardens in an area bounded by EASTINGS: YT 81 to 84 and NORTHINGS: YT 03 to 06 which were in excellent condition. Signs suggest a lot of people work and live in the area.	
YS 472524	13 Jan 70	0930	2Lt Smith sighted fresh tracks which had been made after the previous day's airstrike. The bodies of the VC had been removed. All tracks were fresh and had been used extensively.	
YT 827056	13 Jan 70	0945	Capt Flanagan sighted a large camp consisting of 8 large huts, several bunkers and tables and there was clothing and utensils spread throughout the camp area. The camp appeared to be occupied and an A/S was called in. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 2 huts damaged, 2 huts exposed and 3 bunkers exposed. Each of the gardens, previously mentioned, had at least 1 or 2 huts with bunkers beside them on the jungles' fringes. There were piles of rice outside most of the huts.	

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
XS 801071	13 Jan 70	1050	2Lt Hick sighted 4 huts and 1 bunker which were in good condition.	
YS 739909	14 Jan 70	0920	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S, BDA: Nil.	
	15 Jan 70		RW and FW aircraft on task to 1 ATF.	
	16 Jan 70		RW and FW aircraft on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 718909	17 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Earley marked for an A/S, BDA: Nil.	
YS 562800	17 Jan 70	1430	2Lt Earley sighted 4 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 474523	18 Jan 70	1000	2Lt Kerr sighted 5 to 6 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 681782	19 Jan 70	1300	Capt Flanagan sighted 2 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 488519	19 Jan 70	1415	2Lt Smith sighted a wooden seat in a cave which was possibly an observation point.	
YS 627923	19 Jan 70	1500	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 3 bunkers destroyed, 5 bunkers damaged and exposed, 50m of communications trench exposed and 1 bridge damaged.	
YS 570907	20 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 bunkers damaged.	
YS 350612	21 Jan 70	0700	2Lt Earley sighted a road block consisting of grass tufts and sticks which was 300 yards long.	
YS 475523	21 Jan 70	0845	2Lt Kerr marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 512747	21 Jan 70	0955	Capt Flanagan sighted 1 tunnel entrance and 1 bunker.	
YS 569902	22 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker destroyed and 5 bunkers exposed and damaged.	

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COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 475523	22 Jan 70	1500	2Lt Bysouth marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 bunker burnt by napalm.	
YS 734892	23 Jan 70	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 4 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged and 40m of communications trench damaged.	
YS 733889	23 Jan 70	0945	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 huts destroyed, 6 bunkers destroyed and 3 bunkers exposed.	
YS 808718	24 Jan 70	0900	Capt Flanagan marked for an A/S. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 608881	24 Jan 70	1045	2Lt Earley sighted a built up landing platform on a river bank. Fresh tracks were running through the area in an E-W direction.	
YS 840760	24 Jan 70	1245	2Lt Smith marked for an A/S. BDA: 5 huts destroyed and 10 bunkers destroyed.	
	25 Jan 70		RW and FW aircraft on task to 1 ATF.	
YS 455525	26 Jan 70	0930	2Lt Partridge marked for an A/S. BDA: Nil.	
YS 745900	27 Jan 70	0900	2Lt Monteith marked for an A/S. BDA: 1 hut destroyed, 1 hut exposed, 1 table destroyed and 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 555589	28 Jan 70	1030	2Lt Earley sighted 3 bunkers in useable condition.	
YS 580586	29 Jan 70	1000	Capt Flanagan conducted an AOP shoot. BDA: 2 bunkers destroyed and 4 bunkers damaged.	
YS 765940	29 Jan 70	1100	2Lt Longland carried out a BDA on an A/S. BDA: 5 weapon pits exposed.	

