

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/46

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-30 Jun 1970]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 226

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)

OC, 161 (Indep) Recce Flt

Maj

SECRET

ORIGINAL

~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where

not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

From 1 JUN 70

To 30 JUN 70

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

to

to

† 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, starting at B.

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

CONTENTS

names as well as map references), establishment, equipment

and orders given.

the day's fighting, including company movements.

Commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

potential importance.

to officers, men and equipment.

equipment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

ess and to save work as much information as possible is to documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All d and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

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

(continued on back cover)

CD 70

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

94846 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

Commanders Diary of..... (Formation or Unit)

From..... 1 JUN 70 to..... 30 JUN 70 (Dates)

c. The duplicate supplementary diaries must be despatched as shown in Paragraph 14 as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.

TELEPHONE

COVERING SECRET



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Quote in Reply

R707-1-1

ADDRESS 161 (Indep) Recce Flt
AFV AFPO 4
c/o GPO SYDNEY 2890

14 Apr 71

OIC Military History Section
Russell Offices
AHQ CANBERRA
ACT

COMMANDERS DIARY

Reference: A. Staff Duties (Aust) Chap 2, Sec 12.

1. Enclosed are Commanders Diaries for this unit dating from Jun 70 to Feb 71.
2. The delay in submission is regretted. The diaries for Jun 70 to Jan 71 were only located during a recent reorganisation of the unit CP. It would appear that the submission of these documents was overlooked during the recent handover of command and the sudden RTA of the unit 2IC for compassionate reasons.
3. This unit will comply with the procedure outlined in Reference 'A' in future.


(N.H. HARDEN)
Major
Officer Commanding

COVERING SECRET

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) BATTAL FLT

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert
AA AVN C

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<u>SUMMARY</u> The month of Jun 70 saw the comd of the unit change from Maj G. Hill-Smith AA AVN C to Maj P.J. Calvert AA AVN C. Capt T.F. Wark completed his tour of duty as LO and was replaced by Lt D.J. Mackworth. Lt T.J. Gygar arrived to take up his appt as Admin Offr and Lt D.A. Collins completed his tour with the unit wksp and was reposted to 1 Avn Regt Wksp. 2Lt A.G. Kerr completed his att to 3/17 Air Cav US Army Avn and was replaced by 2Lt D.H. Earley. During the month Capt M.F. Jameson (NZ) was att to the flight for operational experience. Operationally it was a busy month with the flt flying a total of 1196 hrs 40 mins sp of 1 ATF. Ac strength remained 100% and the monthly serviceability was 96%. There were two ac safety incidents during the month. When Lt Ellwood (NZ) was marking for an airstrike in the LONG HAI mountains, the ac was struck by shrapnel from a bomb blast, suffering lt damage to the synchronised elevation. The ac was flown back to NUI DAT and minor repairs carried out. The second was on 29 Jun 70, when 2Lt A.G. Kerr was marking for an airstrike in the LONG HAI mountains and was engaged by ground fire. The ac suffered no hits or damage.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert

AA AVN C

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<u>INCIDENTS</u>	
YS 688884	1 June	1500	Capt Jameson sighted 3 bunkers 40'x20'	
YS 690885	1 June	1520	Capt Jameson sighted weapon pits on side of river.	
YS 677814	2 June	0830	Capt Jameson sighted 6 bunkers along 150 metres of trench.	
YS 669819	2 June	0900	Capt Jameson sighted a bunker system and 250 metres of comms trench.	
YS 510920	2 June	1300	2Lt Partridge sighted a very fresh track with westerly direction across clearing. Track enters heavy foliage at GR YS 506921.	
YS 571902	2 June	1330	2Lt Partridge sighted 4 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 815856	2 June	1400	Capt Jameson sighted an earth mound 6'x30", possible grave.	
YS 658814	2 June	1430	Capt Jameson sighted 3 'lean to' huts on western side of cultivation. Bamboo and grass had been cut around area within last 48 hours.	
YS 423594	3 June	0700	2Lt Bysouth sighted a culvert on route 23, partially destroyed. Still usable by light traffic.	
YS 683884	3 June	0900	2Lt Earley marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil.	
YS 533834	3 June	1030	Capt Jameson sighted track showing signs of use within last 48 hours.	
YS 573863	3 June	1130	Capt Jameson sighted a shelter 10'x8' of black plastic.	
YS 580849	3 June	1145	Capt Jameson sighted a major track system showing signs of use within last 7-10 days.	
YS 373750	3 June	1300	2Lt Earley sighted 4-5-bunkers south of a previously airstruck area.	
YS 337768	3 June	1430	Lt Ellwood sighted a table in a logging clearing.	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert
AA AVN C

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS557942	4 June	1045	2Lt Bysouth sighted fresh track running N-S, lost in jungle.	
YS 588948	4 June	1100	2Lt Bysouth sighted an occupied camp approx 150 m in diameter containing 7 large bunkers, 3 T shaped bunkers under construction, 3 lean to huts, 1 plastic hootchi and tables, cups & pots on tables, clothing on top of bunkers.	
YS 585959	5 June	1130	2Lt Partridge sighted tins and clothing (possibly sandbags) scattered in area.	
YS 594613	5 June	1230	Capt Hills sighted fresh heavy tracks around old camp, some bunkers still usable. On Southern edge of camp 10 full sandbags seen.	
YS 602938	6 June	1300	2Lt Dick sighted suspected occupied camp, fresh camouflaged bunkers, not wilted.	
YS 602938	6 June	1400	2Lt Dick marked for an airstrike. BDA 11 bunkers damaged, 1 suspected tunnel damaged.	
YS 588948	7 June	0900	2Lt Monteith marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 528685	7 June	1500	2Lt Monteith sighted an old camp with several of the pits redug. No pits have overhead cover but the camp appears to be in the process of rebuilding.	
YS 627593	8 June	0800	2Lt Bysouth sighted a camp consisting of 4 bunkers and a living area of 15 square metres.	
YS 588948	8 June	0900	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA 4 bunkers exposed, 1 bunker destroyed, 7 bunkers damaged.	
YS 603938	8 June	1000	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA 5 bunkers destroyed, 8 bunkers damaged, 1 well exposed.	
YS 486507	8 June	1100	Lt Ellwood sighted light tracks in area of a deep cave located near a creek.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEF) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert
AA AVN C

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 834758	8 June	1300	Maj Calvert sighted a bunker 8'x8' in reasonable condition.	
YS 393828	9 June	1500	Lt Ellwood sighted 5 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 383828	10 June	0900	2Lt Dick marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 3 bunkers exposed.	
YS 854846	10 June	1100	Maj Calvert sighted a small bunker with overhead cover.	
YS 390781	10 June	1500	2Lt Dick sighted fresh tracks leading to GR YS 388777.	
YS 727813	10 June	1400	2Lt Bysouth sighted a harbour site with 2 small cooking fires.	
YS 513697	10 June	1600	2Lt Bysouth engaged camp with artillery. BDA 2 weapon pits damaged, 10 metres of comms trench caved in.	
YS 273660	11 June	0630	2Lt Aird sighted a roadblock during first light recce.	
YS 253725	11 June	0700	2Lt Aird sighted a roadblock during first light recce.	
YS 684883	11 June	0900	Capt Jameson marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker damaged, 2 huts destroyed, 1 hut damaged, 150 metres of comms trench and 2 bunkers exposed.	
YS 678936	11 June	1100	2Lt Monteith sighted a woman on her own with 3 jugs and 4 full sandbags. In the area were 15 logging trucks and junks and a total of 43 people.	
YS 409891	11 June	1530	Maj Calvert sighted 2 bunkers.	
YS 393884	11 June	1700	Maj Calvert sighted 5 bunkers in good condition. Airstruck with Jade 09. BDA 1 bunker destroyed and 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 7379	12 June	1300	2Lt Partridge marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged.	

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 JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert

AA AVN 0

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 373828	12 June	1500	Maj Calvert sighted 3 bunkers and 50 metres of comms trench.	
YS 737798	13 June	0900	Capt Hills marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed, 4 bunkers damaged, 1 bunker exposed, 1 tunnel entrance exposed.	
YS 602918	14 June	0900	2Lt Kerr marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil.	
YS 625924	14 June	1100	2Lt Dick sighted an old camp with fresh track through area.	
YS 627928	14 June	1130	2Lt Dick sighted small bunker system, possibly occupied.	
YS 626929	14 June	1200	2Lt Kerr marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 613933	14 June	1230	2Lt Kerr sighted 3 bunkers with tables outside two of them. Also sighted were 6 bunkers under construction.	
YS 627928	15 June	0900	Lt Ellwood marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 629927	15 June	1030	2Lt Monteith sighted a previously airstruck camp with 4 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 627916	15 June	1100	2Lt Monteith sighted fresh track activity with signs of occupation under trees & shrubs.	
YS 556927	15 June	1700	2Lt Monteith marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil.	
YS 613933	16 June	0900	2Lt Monteith marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 hut destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged.	
YS 438544	16 June	1100	2Lt Partridge sighted several fresh tracks from undergrowth in re-entrant to South-West.	
YS 448543	16 June	1200	Capt Jameson sighted a well and 2 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 626916	16 June	1500	2Lt Monteith sighted an old bunker system under light canopy containing 6 bunkers plus several pits and trenches. Bunkers are in good condition.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	AA AVN C Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 488511	17 June	0830	Lt Ellwood marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil.	
YS 478511	17 June	1000	Lt Ellwood did a BDA for an airstrike. BDA No signs of damage to caves in the area.	
YS 632859	17 June	1030	Capt Jameson sighted an East/West track showing signs of heavy use in last 24 hours.	
YS 641886	17 June	1130	Capt Jameson sighted a track used within the last 48 hours.	
YS 825777	17 June	1435/1620	Capt Jameson sighted a bunker system, 2 bunkers visible with fire trenches around what appears to be a perimeter. Fire trenches appear to be 'T' shaped. Capt Jameson also did a VR of BIN CHAU garden area. Gardens consisting of mixtures of corn, maize, rice and vegetables were located at the following grid references; YS 834759, YS 832759, YS 831761, YS 818755, YS 829715 to YS 825700, also sighted were 2 tracks from high water mark to bush edge at GR YS 736615.	
YS 487864	18 June	1300	2Lt Monteith sighted a fresh camp under bamboo, 4 bunkers sighted.	
YS 629927	18 June	0900	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil.	
YS 629927	19 June	0900	2Lt Partridge marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed, 1 bunker damaged.	
YS 629916	19 June	0945	2Lt Partridge sighted a boat in good condition on shore. Engaged and extensively holed with M16.	
YS 7174	19 June	1330	2Lt Partridge sighted numerous tracks in open paddy. All appear to be about 24 hrs old.	
YS 487864	20 June	0900	Lt Ellwood marked for an airstrike. BDA 15 metres of comms trench destroyed, 3 weapon pits damaged, 2 bunker entrances exposed.	

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) BPCCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert
AA AVN C

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 486684	21 June	0900	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA 3 weapon pits exposed and damaged, 3 weapon pits exposed.	
YS 575668	21 June	1100	2Lt Partridge sighted fresh footprints around a small water hole.	
YS 555695	21 June	1130	2Lt Partridge sighted pits and holes, some covered by palm leaves,	
YS 539694	21 June	1300	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers damaged, 1 lean to destroyed, 1 camp area burnt.	
YS 592739	21 June	1430	2Lt Partridge sighted a track junction.	
YS 447544	22 June	0900	Maj Calvert marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 3 bunkers uncovered.	
YS 446546	22 June	0930	Maj Calvert marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers uncovered.	
YS 463539	22 June	1000	Maj Calvert sighted 3 apparently fresh bunkers with overhead cover.	
YS 738794	24 June	0900	Capt Jameson marked for an airstrike. BDA 14 bunkers and fire trenches exposed, 3 bunkers damaged, 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 786733	24 June	1030	Capt Jameson sighted a covered well.	
YS 789696	24 June	1130	Capt Jameson sighted a garden with corn and ground crop. Also sighted were 3 bunkers in good repair.	
YS 627593	25 June	1200	2Lt Bysouth sighted a camp which does not appear to be in use.	
YS 874779	25 June	1230	Maj Calvert sighted 2 bunkers.	

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 JUN 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj P.J. Calvert

AA AVN C

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 876779	25 June	1235	Maj Calvert sighted 2 bunkers and track system.	
YS 832801	25 June	1300	Maj Calvert sighted 3 bunkers and 10 metres of comms track.	
YS 772741	26 June	0900	2Lt Kerr marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 738797	27 June	0900	Maj Calvert marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers destroyed, 6 bunkers damaged, 6 bunkers exposed.	
YS 738796	27 June	0930	Maj Calvert did BDA of airstrike carried out 26 June. BDA 3 bunkers destroyed, 9 bunkers damaged, 8 bunkers exposed.	
YS 685595	27 June	1100	2Lt Partridge sighted fresh tracks of 2/3 people from beach into undergrowth.	
YS 699619	27 June	1130	2Lt Partridge sighted large square hole/bunker covered with heavy logs.	
YS 735785	27 June	1300	2Lt Dick sighted 3 large garden areas.	
YS 728769	27 June	1330	2Lt Dick sighted fresh tracks.	
YS 702724	27 June	1430	2Lt Partridge sighted several stacks of freshly cut timber in clearing.	
YS 703697	27 June	1500	2Lt Partridge sighted fresh footprints of 1/2 people in dry creekbed.	
YS 685718	27 June	1515	2Lt Partridge sighted a garden an clearing.	
YS 685756	27 June	1545	2Lt Partridge sighted fresh tracks of 6 people.	
YS 738797	28 June	0900	2Lt Monteith marked for an airstrike. BDA 3 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker exposed.	
YS 279777	30 June	0900	2Lt Kerr sighted 2 bunkers in good condition.	