

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/47

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-31 Jul 1970]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 227

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]

Maj

Appointment OC, 161 (Indep) Recce Flt
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Receipt
27-4-71

SECRET

ORIGINAL

~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where

not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

Unit or Formation

1 JUL 70

From

To

31 JUL 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
- 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 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

TENTS

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

ntential importance.
o officers, men and equipment.
pment captured.
employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

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

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

(continued on back cover)

AWM 95

[8/1/20170]

SECRET

VE C310 (V)

TABLE 3

COVERING LETTER

TABLE 1

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 JUL 70 to 31 JUL 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.

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 references for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional references are given for a particular annex, a starting at is to be given.

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

TERMS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

if orders given.

the day's fighting, including company movements.

remainder with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

essential importance

a officers, men and equipment

pages covered.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to give work as much information as possible in documents issued and received, previous returns, etc. All and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

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

AWM 95

[8/11/Jul 70]

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

MONTH AND YEAR JUL 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ P. CALVERT

AA AVN G

Annex letter and enclosure number

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p><u>SUMMARY</u></p> <p>During July the wet season reached full force but flying operations were not affected to any marked degree. Occasionally a mission requiring a minimum altitude of 2000 ft or above had to be cancelled due to low cloud base but it was found that most rainstorms were reasonably localised and we were able to operate around them. The flying rate was down with a total of 981.45 hours for the month. Ac serviceability was good at 95%.</p> <p>2Lt Earley remained on detachment to 3/17 Air Cav US Army Avn at Dian.</p> <p>There were four ac incidents during the month. 2Lt Coffey, whilst flying a voice mission over the Long Hai mountains was engaged by groundfire and suffered one hit of 7.62 calibre through the starboard flap. Capt K.R. Cairns in A1-638 and 2Lt D.B. Coffey in A98-045 suffered birdstrikes both causing minor damage. 2Lt G.D. Monteith in A1-727, whilst on low level VR in the Long Hai mountains was engaged by groundfire and suffered several hits in the cockpit area.</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 668794	1 Jul	1130	2Lt Dick sighted many tracks, they appear fresh. Old bunkers sighted.	
YS 648788	1 Jul	1500	2Lt Dick sighted fresh tracks in this area.	
YS 465552	1 Jul	1225	Capt Hills sighted a folded sandbag on track.	
YS 469546	1 Jul	1235	Capt Hills sighted small area of scrub showing signs of recent movement. Four photographs were sighted.	
YS 466543	1 Jul	1300	Capt Hills sighted a well used track running from YS 466543 to YS 466538.	
YS 449532	1 Jul	1315	Capt hills sighted tracks commencing at YS 449532, YS 451533, YS 449530, and YS 453529 all appear to terminate in clumps of trees and bamboo at YS 455533.	
YS 565678	2 Jul	1100	2Lt Partridge sighted a hole covered by approx 12 pieces of wood laid parrallel, no sign of recent movement in area.	
YS 648783	3 Jul	1100	2Lt Bysouth sighted a fresh camp, 2 huts and one bunker.	
YS 392780	3 JUL	1230	Capt Cairns sighted three very clear tracks, 1-2-days old.	
YS 386776	3 Jul	1250	Capt Cairns sighted a platform about 12'x12', no signs of bunkers.	
YS 361706	4 Jul	1245	2Lt Partridge sighted fresh track.	
YS 378702	4 Jul	1310	2Lt Partridge sighted fresh track.	
YS 351734	4 Jul	1330	2Lt Partridge sighted marked track.	
YS 465537	6 Jul	0900	Capt Hills marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 cave destroyed.	
YS 455532	6 Jul	0930	Capt Hills sighted four tracks joining, all fresh.	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

UNIT/FORMATION.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 595767	6 Jul	1100	2Lt Partridge sighted track.	
YS 343765	6 Jul	1445	2Lt Partridge sighted old friendly harbour posn. Recent signs of movement.	
YS 288687	7 Jul	1100	Capt Cairns sighted three bunkers.	
YS 465537	7 Jul	0900	Capt Hills marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil.	
YS 455532	7 Jul	0930	Capt Hills marked for an airstrike. BDA 8 bunkers exposed and damaged.	
YS 455532	7 Jul	1100	Capt Hills marked for an airstrike. BDA 4 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 644612	7 Jul	1315	Maj Calvert sighted a fresh hole 5'x5'x4'.	
YS 280682	8 Jul	0900	2Lt Kerr sighted 11 people on an ox cart track. Also sighted were fresh tracks.	
YS 343683	8 Jul	1250	Maj Calvert sighted a cave with two entrances.	
YS 435532	8 Jul	1430	2Lt Kerr marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil.	
YS 465536	9 Jul	0730	2Lt Bysouth sighted one VC.	
YS 455532	9 Jul	0900	Maj Calvert marked for an airstrike. BDA 1 bunker destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 2 bunkers exposed.	
YS 362688	9 Jul	1015	Capt Cairns sighted a track junction. Track disappeared at YS 347695.	
YS 343698	9 Jul	1030	Capt Cairns sighted fresh track running to YS 342695.	
YS 455532	10 Jul	0830	Lt Ellwood marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 361762	10 Jul	1100	2Lt Monteith sighted a camp system.	
YS 423768				

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.....

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 423768	10 Jul	1230	Lt Ellwood sighted a well worn track from YS 423768 to YS 417777.	
YS 417777	10 Jul	1300	2Lt Monteith sighted a network of fresh tracks.	
YS 308670	11 Jul	1245	2Lt Bysouth sighted fresh tracks.	
YS 573707	11 Jul	1500	Lt Ellwood sighted fresh tracks in a clearing.	
YS 552702	11 Jul	1530	Lt Ellwood sighted fresh tracks.	
YS 295751	13 Jul	1015	2Lt Dick sighted a camp system, 2 huts and 2 bunkers observed also fresh tracks in area.	
YS 8270	13 Jul	1030	Capt Hills sighted large corn fields.	
YS 828708	13 Jul	1100	Capt Hills sighted a track to YS 834710.	
YS 658813	13 Jul	1200	Capt Hills sighted 2 plots of corn.	
YS 649782	13 Jul	1300	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 huts destroyed, 3 bunkers exposed & damaged.	
YS 820745	13 Jul	1500	2Lt Bysouth sighted gardens, YS 820745, YS 838745, YS 835758, YS 829760 & YS 846765.	
YS 825750	13 Jul	1500	2Lt Bysouth sighted the central camp area for the above gardens.	
YS 472535	14 Jul	0630	2Lt Dick sighted a used track from YS 478535 to YS 474520.	
YS 649782	14 Jul	1300	Capt Hills marked for an airstrike. BDA 2 bunkers destroyed, 4 bunkers damaged, 4 bunkers exposed.	
YS 627615	15 Jul	0900	2Lt Partridge sighted track from grid to route 328.	
YS 595610	15 Jul	0930	2Lt Partridge sighted heavy recent track from grid to 600m to SE.	
YS 566574	15 Jul	1000	2Lt Partridge sighted an ox cart in good condition under bushes.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

UNIT/FORMATION.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 333638	15 Jul	1100	Lt Ellwood sighted an extensive cave system with iron and timber constructions inside some cave entrances.	
YS 649782	15 Jul	1230	2Lt Partridge marked for an airstrike. BDA. 1 hut destroyed, 4 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers exposed and damaged.	
YS 334660	15 Jul	1500	Lt Ellwood sighted an old camp with some bunkers and huts in useable condition.	
YS 603615	16 Jul	0700	Lt Ellwood sighted many fresh tracks on the West bank of the Song Rai River which led North into paddy fields.	
YS 332638	16 Jul	0820	Maj Calvert sighted 2 caves with iron and wooden materials inside entrances.	
YS 328637	16 Jul	0900	Maj Calvert sighted 2 caves with wooden structures inside and a track leading south from the caves to a creek.	
YS 325634	16 Jul	0930	Maj Calvert sighted a charcoal kiln which showed signs of use as a cache.	
YS 466536	16 Jul	1300	Maj Calvert marked for an airstrike. BDA, 3 bunkers damaged, 2 bunkers exposed.	
YS 656595	17 Jul	0830	Lt Monteith sighted a fresh track from the South which ended at this grid.	
YS 649782	17 Jul	1300	Lt Monteith marked for an airstrike. BDA, 3 bunkers destroyed.	
YS 414779	17 Jul	1500	Lt Ellwood located a fresh heavy track which led from the NW corner of Binh Ba Rubber to this grid.	
YS 651610	18 Jul	1130	Maj Calvert located 4 bunkers covered by iron.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.....

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 465537	18 Jul	1300	2Lt Partridge marked for an airstrike. BDA, 2 living areas and caves destroyed.	
YS 583751	19 Jul	1500	Capt Cairns located 2 old bunkers with some signs of recent activity.	
YS 331720	20 Jul	0830	2Lt Partridge found a junction of three tracks which converged from the N, S and E.	
YS 325735	20 Jul	1300	2Lt Partridge marked for an airstrike. There were five unexploded bombs, BDA Nil.	
YS 325735	20 Jul	0930	2Lt Partridge found a previously airstruck camp containing damaged tables and shelters and 7 bunkers in good condition.	
YS 414779	21 Jul	1300	Lt Ellwood marked for an airstrike, BDA, 1 bunker destroyed.	
YS 325735	21 Jul	1430	2Lt Dick reported many bunkers undamaged.	
YS 377721	21 Jul	1500	2Lt Dick noted that a previously reported old bunker complex showed signs of fresh activity.	
YS 3670&YS 3769	22 Jul	0830	Lt Ellwood located fresh foot tracks around the edge of a paddy.	
YS 376687	22 Jul	0900	Lt Ellwood followed a heavy track from this grid to thick bamboo at YS 338695.	
YS 356705	22 Jul	1100	2Lt Partridge found signs of movement on a N-S track at this grid.	
YS 467537	23 Jul	1300	2Lt Dick marked for an airstrike. BDA 3 bunkers destroyed and clothing scattered in area.	
YS 465537	24 Jul	1300	Maj Calvert marked for two airstrikes. BDA. 2 bunkers destroyed, 7 bunkers damaged, 3 bunkers exposed.	
YS 629614	25 Jul	1300	2Lt Monteith located several fresh tracks made by small groups of people which led into a thick patch of bamboo. Signs indicated possible bunkers and grid was recommended for Artillery.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.....

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 285697	26 Jul	0900	Maj Calvert found a fresh track leading to a gap in some rocks. The gap was covered by logs.	
YS 465536	26 Jul	1300	Capt Cairns marked for another airstrike on suspected headquarters of Long Dat Coy. BDA, Nil.	
YS 224692	27 Jul	0700	Capt Smith flying first light recce observed two smoke columns which disappeared when the area was circled by aircraft.	
YS 418782	27 Jul	1500	2Lt Monteith located a fresh bunker and sign and recommended an airstrike as further bunkers were suspected in area.	
YS 303709	27 Jul	1630	Lt Kerr marked for an airstrike on area of previous 2 RAR contact, BDA 2 cave entrances damaged.	
YS 303709	28 Jul	1300	2Lt Bysouth marked for an airstrike, BDA, 2 cave entrances destroyed and pottery scattered.	
YS 542591	28 Jul	1500	2Lt Dick located a hut with a possible bunker underneath.	
YS 8785 & YS 8786	29 Jul	1600	Capt Smith observed four large gardens in these two grid squares. The gardens were in early stages of cultivation.	
YS 366733	30 Jul	1500	2Lt Dick observed a possible bunker and one bunker.	
YS 374713	30 Jul	1530	2Lt Dick found fresh tracks which led to a cleared area under trees.	
YS 357672	30 Jul	1545	2Lt Dick located an old iron hut 20'x20'.	

1 B P Coy—275/65—55m