

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Army Aviation units

Item number: 8/1/49

Item: 161 [Independent]

Reconnaissance Flight

Narrative

[1-30 Sep 1970]

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

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

potential importance. to officers, men and equipment. ipment captured. employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

is and to save work as much information as possible is to cuments 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)

AWM 95
[8/1/Sep 70]

COMMANDERS DIARIES
DUPLICATE
ORIGINAL
SECRET

AF C 2118 (Adapted)

SECRET

COMBING TELLER

SECRET

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

Commanders Diary of 94846 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT (Formation or Unit)

From 1 SEP 70 to 30 SEP 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.

AWM 95
[8/1/Sep 70]

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 SEP 70

REFERENCE MAP PHUOC TUY PROVINCE

UNIT/FORMATION 161 (INDEP) RECCE FLT

COMMANDING OFFICER MAJ P. J. CALVERT
AA AVN C

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p><u>SUMMARY</u></p> <p>During September en activity in Phuoc Tuy was at a low level. This was reflected in the flying rate which resulted in a total of 1054.15 hrs for the month. Ac serviceability remained high at 97%.</p> <p>2Lt Kerr completed his tour of duty and was reposted to OAKLEY, whilst three replacement RW staff pilots arrived namely 2Lt D.J. BELL, 2LT F.M. GIBSON, and 2Lt T.J. HAYES.</p> <p>September was a month free of ac incidents.</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
E 36-39 N67-70	2 Sep	1220	Lt Mackworth sighted a track running from the North of the Nui Dinh to Hoa Long. The track was very fresh and appeared to have been used by many people. Movement was towards the South-East.	
YS 373688	3 Sep	1005	Lt Mackworth sighted many tracks, some being very fresh. There appeared to be a meeting place as many tracks converged there. Under some bushes on both sides of indicated track there was an area of trodden grass. There were ration tins and perhaps a fireplace. All this area had been well covered by H&I. At least one track had been made after the H&I's as it went neatly around two fresh craters.	
YS 362800	6 Sep	0800	2Lt Partridge found a lying up position beneath some trees which appeared to be well used. A heavy track ran 500m to the West into bamboo thickets. The track was at least a week old.	
YS 738619	6 Sep	1005	Lt Warley found a track running parrallel to the coast with regular light activity extending from Eastings 72 to 755 where it entered thick canopy and was not followed further. Further off the track was a small ly-up position which contained 1 blue shirt, stacked firewood and one small shelter.	
YS 474511	7 Sep	1220	Capt Cairns marked for an airstrike on the HQ of the Long Dat protection unit. BDA, unknown as fighters reported flashes of ground fire from the area and no low level BDA was conducted.	

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 643738	8 Sep	0810	2Lt Partridge sighted a track running E-W which appears quite recent with several large prints near a stream and in other soft areas. Also found were other tracks, at YS 612744 running approx 700m to the E, YS 615753 running 400m to the E and another at YS 692748 running 500m W.	
YS 342730	8 Sep	1400	2Lt Partridge found the junction of several tracks in a bamboo thicket on the edge of a stream.	
YS 475520	9 Sep		2Lt Partridge while DS 7 RAR sighted in the Long Hai mts an old track skirting the Eastern edge of the mts and running into the Southern feature via the re-entrant at GR YS 475520 had been used recently. From YS 472535 to YS 475517 the track was heavy and footprints had been brushed out over the entire length of the track.	
E60-63 N77-80	10 Sep	0800	2Lt Monteith found fresh track activity in the Southern part of the area. Movement in area appeared constant by approx 10-20 persons.	
YS 408749 - YS 404750	11 Sep	1000	Lt Earley sighted a heavy track 2-4-weeks old. At YS 372751 a light track led into what appeared to be a camouflaged tunnel entrance.	
YS 384728	12 Sep	0800	2Lt Partridge sighted a heavy track running to the West for 500m. At grid YS 372688 track ran South from grid to bamboo clump at YS 375684. Tracks appeared to originally come from the re-entrant in grid 3568 and joined heavy marked track.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR.....

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COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 632 586 - YS 592578	13 Sep	0630	Lt Earley found tracks in swamps and muddy areas. These tracks were 3-4 days old and used by 5-6 people.	
YS 606610	13 Sep	0800	2Lt Monteith found a bunker in fair condition. Track activity in area showed recent occupation, and possibility of more bunkers.	
YS 352736	14 Sep	1200	Lt Ellwood sighted a large cleared area under canopy, sticks logs and still green bamboo poles. A track 400m SW running NW/SE was well worn and had been used in the last 24 hrs. The track itself appeared to have been made about two weeks ago and is well worn.	
YS 652633	14 Sep	1430	Lt Mackworth sighted a wire stretched between the tops of two trees 20ft apart. The ground outside a cave on the Western side of Nui Dat looked freshly trodden down.	
YS 603666	15 Sep	1400	Lt Earley sighted fresh tracks used by about 15-20 people moving across the creek from South to North then West into thick canopy. At Grid YS 582674 a track system indicated a possible camp.	
YS 336732	16 Sep	1000	2Lt Monteith marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil, target was a camp previously blown by ground troops.	
YS 345659	16 Sep	0800	2Lt Partridge sighted a track which ran N to S on the W side of numerous bomb craters. The track could only be seen in long grass and disappeared on rocky ground. It appeared to lead to a well defined lay-up position 100m SW of the above Grid. A recent track ran from Grid YS 352692 to lay-up area beneath foliage at Grid YS 364687.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)
Revised 7 1966

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

UNIT/FORMATION.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 352737	17 Sep	0810	Lt Mackworth sighted a track running North/South and bearing off to the North West and was followed for 150m.	
YS 357753 and YS 364754	17 Sep	1010	Lt Earley found two muddy areas which contained heavy tracks of animals and people under 1 week old. At Grid YS 368761 a foot track through grass led from NW crossing river at at this point, it then continued South on the Eastern bank where it was lost in heavy undergrowth.	
YS 612741	17 Sep	1400	Lt Earley found several tracks. A foot track led NE from Grid. At Grid YS 623756 a heavy track crossed the river and headed East, here it split and entered heavy undergrowth at Grids YS 631759 and YS 627756. Tracks of 10-15 people headed East from Grid YS 625775 along track marked on map.	
E 76-79 N 82-85	18 Sep	0805	Lt Earley looked over the gardens which were well attended with fresh, regular track led West from Grid YS 803846 and was lost at YS 800845. Other tracks led to Grids YS 808842 3 bunkers, YS 806847 tables and bunkers, about platoon size, YS 803846 tables built over two bunkers. In the D445 camp airstruck, are 3 huts and numerous bunkers undamaged and capable of reoccupation. An EW track running North of this grid had had regular recent use and was followed WNW to Grid YS 760855. A regularly used track ran NE from the camp area to YS 793880 on Route 331. This area showed vehicle and sandal	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF -C 2118(Adapted)
Revised J 1966

UNIT/FORMATION.....

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			prints made less than 48 hrs ago.	
YS 8485	18 Sep	1000	Lt Ellwood sighted numerous caves in the Soui Kieu Valley but no sign of occupation. A well worn track used in the last week led into the valley from the SE. Five old bunker systems were looked at within 500m of this point and although not in use there were indications of some recent movement about them.	
YS 698855	18 Sep	1400	Lt Ellwood sighted two rice gardens under cultivation adjacent to Grid. A large camp is located at the above grid consisting of seven huts, bunkers, tables and lean-to shelters. Some huts appeared fairly old, while others are recent or renovated. There was fresh track activity throughout the area and camp.	
YS 695845	19 Sep	1000	2Lt Monteith sighted a rice garden approx 100m x 50m with a fresh track from the garden leading to a camp at Grid YS 698853 with seven huts, several bunkers, tables etc in camp. A track ^{led} from the camp to Grid YS 703845 where one bunker was sighted. Rice gardens of a total 10 acres were located at Grids YS 700859 and YS 695854. These were very well looked after and tended daily. At Grid YS 694843 another camp was sighted containing two huts, three tables and two bunkers. This camp as well as others found were most probably in use.	
YS 732841	19 Sep	1200	2Lt Gibson sighted a track crossing a creek but could not be followed due to bamboo. At Grid YS 725852 a strong track was found and followed to Grid 722878 where it was lost.	

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
Y			This track appeared to come from the Maw TAos and followed the Soui Cao South and joined the fire trail near FSB Lynx.	
E72-75 N78-82	19 Sep	1400	2Lt Monteith sighted a fresh track at YS 732788 from the gardens at YS 738780 it entered the tree line at the first grid and ran SW into the jungle. The track was followed to YS 730783 where it entered a large camp containing 10 bunkers and trenches. This camp was well used and probably occupied. The same track continued through the camp to YS 726787 where it was joined by another fresh track from the gardens, the track then continued West to YS 719788 where it entered another camp containing four bunkers and 2 tables. Again this camp appeared fresh but looked to be more of a transit camp than a base camp.	
YS 694842	20 Sep	1000	2Lt Partridge marked for an airstrike. BDA two huts damaged and one bunker exposed.	
YS 562668	20 Sep	1220	Lt Mackworth found a track running North through the lone feature, it then turned East until it reached the river at YS 574688 where it ran North across the paddy.	
YS 304781	21 Sep	0800	2Lt Monteith sighted a fresh track which he followed back to the West and at YS 303781 it entered a sleeping area for about 8 people. This was very fresh and appeared to have been used the night before.	
YS 609783	21 Sep	1200	2Lt Monteith sighted a large camp which showed signs of fresh use. The camp is an old one with 8 plus bunkers of which about half seem to be in use. Two silver pots were lying	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION.....

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			beside one of the bunkers. The bunkers and tracks in the camp were quite fresh.	
YS 730788	22 Sep	1200	Lt Earley marked for an airstrike. BDA Nil	
E88-91	22 Sep	1400	Lt Earley sighted at Grid YS 888851 two small shelters on a vehicle track. At YS 902836	
N82-86			a track running NE-SW. At YS 882766 tracks of 20 plus moving NW along an established	
			track. At YS 908816 timber cutting operations employing wheeled vehicles occur as far	
			West as this grid, as far North as the gardens and East to Ham Tan.	
YS 695848	23 Sep	1200	Lt Ellwood sighted a well used track and followed it from the camp at this grid to another	
			camp at YS 691833. There were two bunkers, fresh tracks, tables and plates in the area.	
			The area appeared to be an old camp recently used.	
YS 801845	24 Sep	1000	Lt Mackworth marked for an airstrike. BDA Two bunkers exposed, 2 x 25m x 25m areas of rice	
			destroyed.	
YS 560670	24 Sep	1200	Lt Earley sighted a track which was heavy and fresh with movement less than 36 hrs old	
			running North to South across a clearing to the creek bank at YS 560671.	
YS 534706	25 Sep	1200	2Lt Gibson sighted a rest up area with a lot of movement in the area. Two possible camps	
			were sighted at grids YS 546701 and YS 544708.	
YS 820841	25 Sep	1355	Lt Earley sighted a fresh, well used track. This was initially followed North where it	
			contoured the foothills, finally being lost at YS 812855 in heavy canopy. It was then	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

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MONTH AND YEAR.....

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Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			followed East from the initial point where it also contoured the slope leading to a camp	
			at YS 826847. This camp consisted of at least 10 huts, attap roofed, measuring approx	
			20'x10'. Some had wooden walls, numerous tins, pots and cooking utensils were outside the	
			huts. Each hut was sighted under large palm clumps and was further camouflaged with	
			green palms on the roofs. The total coverage of the camp was approx 300m x 100m. A	
			definite body odour was detected over the huts.	
YS 8086	25 Sep	1400	Lt Earley noted that mapped foot tracks going SE have had light regular activity	
			most recent appears to have been about 2 weeks ago.	
YS 603613	26 Sep	0800	2Lt Partridge sighted a large well worn harbour area with a track leading into it. The	
			track appeared to have been used in the previous 5-10 days.	
YS 576700	26 Sep	1200	2Lt Partridge located footprints (square Ho-Chi-Minh sandals) of 1-2 people across	
			swampy ground. A light recent track was followed to the NW for 200m, movement was from	
			N to S. The track ran from N to S on the W side of the river, crossed the river at	
			YS 583725 then proceeded South on the Eastern bank. Track had not been used in the previous	
			week.	
YS 57707 -				

