

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Signals units

Item number: 6/2/2

Item: 104 Signal Squadron

Narrative

Annex

[1-31 May 1967]

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) [Signature] Capt.

Appointment 2IC 104 Sig Sqn
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Receipt
+ forwarded
9/16
4

SECRET

ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 104 Signal Squadron

From 1 May 67

To 31 May 67

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

NIL	to	
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
1	to	2
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
NIL	to	
3	to	
nil	to	

† NIL
† Despatched on

on N/A

* 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

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

orders given.
the day's fighting, including company movements.
commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

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

and to save work as much information as possible is to
orders issued and received, routine returns, etc. All
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)

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[6/2/may 67]

SECRET

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COMBAT DIARIES DISPOSAL

13. Original Commander's Diary. This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered, 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.....(Formation or Unit)

From.....to.....(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 shown on cover.
- c. Narratives (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.

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(continued on next page)

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[6/2/may 67]

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 104 Sig Sqn

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1967

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM: 1:50,000 sheets 6442
I to IV

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj G.J. LAWRENCE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	1 May 67		NTR	
YS 4367	2 May		NTR	
	3 May	1530	Mainbody 2 - remainder of squadron (2 Offrs and 55 OR's) arrived NUI DAT	
	4 May	0800	13 Members of 103 Sig Sqn left SVN for RTA Rebroadcast det deployed on Horseshoe feature (YS 4926) in support of operation	
	5 May		NTR	
	6 May	0800	Remainder of 103 Sig Sqn left for Australia. Changeover now complete.	
	7 May		NTR	
	8 May		NTR	
	9 May		NTR	
	10 May		Brother of Sig DEED (104 Sig Sqn) - Spr DEED DOW	
	11 May		NTR	
	12 May		Radio det despatched to VUNG TAU to assist in unloading JEPARIT	
	13 May		NTR	
	14 May		NTR	
	15 May		NTR	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1967

REFERENCE MAP VIETNAM 1:50,000 sheets 6442
I to IV

UNIT/FORMATION 104 Sig Sqn

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj G. J. LAWRENCE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	15 May	(continued)	Sig DEED RTA pending reposting	
YS 4367	16 May		NTR	
	17 May		Sqn warned for Operation 'COLLARROY'	
	18 May		Anti Jamming instruction for 1 ATP issued	Annex H enclosure 1
	19 May		VRC 19 installed on Air Tasking net in Sig Cen	
	20 May		NTR	
	21 May		NTR	
	22 May		Established HF link from NUI DAT to SAIGON (back up to RR)	
	23 May		NTR	
	24 May		Rebro det deployed at Horseshoe feature (YS 4962) in support of Op LEBTON	
	25 May		NTR	
	26 May		NTR	
	27 May		Radio det sent to V Coy (NZ) - Malaria control instruction issued	Anx H enclosure 2
	28 May		Wiring of perimeter almost completed	
	29 May		Mortar pits completed with 3 ft of overhead cover	
	30 May	1500	Wet season starting in earnest - heavy downpour	
	31 May		OCs monthly report produced	Anx H enclosure 3

original.

ANNEX "H" to
COMMANDER'S DIARY
MAY 67
ENCLOSURE ①.

RESTRICTED

104 Sig Sqn
NUI DAT

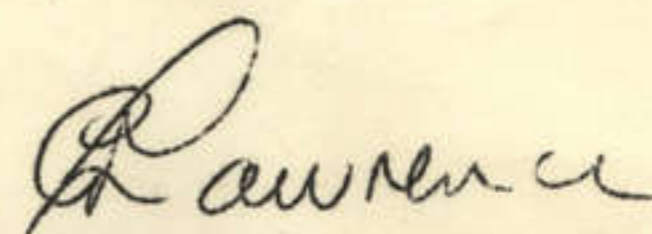
18 May 67

File No R193-1-2

See Distribution List

ANTI - JAMMING PROCEDURES

1. Attached as Annex A are notes on anti-jamming procedures. These notes may form the basis of unit SOPs.
2. The notes do not give a precise procedure as this depends on unit equipment. For example, a unit which has HF and VHF radios will have a different procedure to units which have only VHF radios. Should a unit require more detailed advice, please contact Radio Troop Officer, 104 Sig Sqn on EBONY 78.
3. 104 Sig Sqn has made arrangements to train all operators, including regimental signallers, who work on the TF Comd Net voice. Units must conduct their own training for regimental signallers who work on internal nets.


(G.J. Lawrence)
Maj
Officer Commanding

Attachment : Notes on Anti-jamming procedures

Distribution:

HQ 1ATF (Ops 1)	6
A Sqn 3 Cav Regt	5
1 Fd Regt	12
1st Bn 83 Artillery	4
1 Fd Sqn	7
6 RAR	8
7 RAR	8
1 SAS Sqn	3
161 (Indep) Recce Flt	3
1 ARU	1
HQ Coy (For Topo Svy Pro CA)	3

Internal:

Radio Tp	12
Spare	10

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ANNEX A TO
104 SIG SQN
R193-1-2
DATED 18 MAY 67

GUIDE FOR DEFENCE AGAINST RADIO JAMMING

General

1. It is known that the VC has jammed command radio nets at critical times. It is essential that all radio operators and users are aware of the practices which minimize the possibility of jamming and procedures to be adopted when jamming occurs.

How to Avoid Being Jammed

2. Use Your Radio Only When Necessary.

Use your radio only when you have NO other means of communications available. Don't make unnecessary transmissions.

3. Make Transmissions Short.

Say the minimum necessary to get your meaning across clearly, have your statement ready before you speak. The shorter your transmission the less chance the enemy has to understand you and the less chance he has to locate your frequency.

* SAY WHAT YOU HAVE TO THEN GET OFF THE AIR.

* IF YOU DONT KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR HOW TO SAY IT, ASK SOMEBODY BUT DONT USE THE RADIO UNTIL YOU KNOW.

4. Choose Your Site Well.

Get your aerials as high as you can. Site aerials for best communication. Move if the aerial is unsatisfactory.

5. Be Careful When Setting Up.

Make sure when you set up that you are on the correct frequency and that your aerials are adjusted to the correct frequency.

6. Security Is Vital.

Use of correct procedure, correct codes, avoidance of mannerisms, idiosyncrasies and of accent all tend to make you anonymous and indistinguishable from all other radio users. This makes it extremely difficult for the enemy to connect you with any particular net or formation. Faulty procedure or mannerisims mean that a unit or formation can be traced through listening to one man.

7. Remember

Before the enemy can jam your net, he must be able to hear you and find out roughly where you are. The more difficult you make it for him to do these things the less likely you are to be jammed. Only use your radio when you must and then make transmission as short as possible.

What To Do If You Are Jammed

8. Dont Tell The Enemy He Is Succeeding.

The enemy has no means of knowing whether his jamming is being successful or not. He can only find out by listening to your reactions and if you show none he will begin to wonder if the jamming is having any effect on you at all.

RESTRICTED

9. If Possible Keep On Working.

The jamming signal must be stronger than the desired signal at the receiving station for the jamming to be effective. Reduce the speed of sending if you are on morse and if on voice speak more clearly and slowly.

10. Check That It Is Really Jamming.

If you cannot work through the interference, the first thing to do is to check that it is really jamming. Do this:

- a. By recognizing the signal as being a definite jamming signal. This requires a good knowledge of such signals. Most VC jamming is likely to be of a simple type using a similar radio to yours.
- b. By disconnecting your aerial. If the interfering signal stops you know it is not your set and must be coming from outside.
- c. By varying your frequency a small amount either side to see how wide spread the interference is. If it is concentrated mainly on your frequency then it is most probably jamming. If you can hear it over a fair range of frequencies it is more likely to be some form of local electrical interference.

11. Operators Anti-Jamming Drill.

- a. Check your aerial and ensure that it is adjusted for your frequency, is the best aerial available and sited as well as possible.
- b. Switch from "Low Power" to "High Power" if this is provided on your set.
- c. Report the jamming to your immediate superior without delay. If it must be passed over the radio use your KAC codes. Don't let the enemy know he is succeeding.

12. Unit Anti-Jamming SOP.

Every unit which operates a radio net should have an anti-jamming procedure. This should include the following:

- a. Change frequency.
- b. Change location.
- c. Change aerial to higher gain type.
- d. Continue working. This may also include some form of unit radio deception plan.

13. Speed Is Vital.

Always remember that with communications speed is the vital factor. Immediate reaction for restoring your communications is ensured by proper training in anti-jamming techniques as laid down in the Unit SOPs.

Summary Of Points To Remember.

14. Intelligent use of your radio will greatly reduce the possibility of being jammed.

15. If you are jammed and it is possible to work through the interference then do so.

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-3-

16. If you cannot work through the interference then the drill laid down in unit SOPs must be carried out immediately.

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TS May 67

See Distribution List

MALARIA CONTROLGeneral

1. Over the next few months it is expected that the danger of contracting malaria will increase.
2. This instruction lays down the policy on the precautions to be taken and becomes effective immediately.

Base Area

3. Because of the danger of infected persons returning to the Base Area, malaria could be passed on here. The precautions to be carried out in the base area are as follows:
 - a. Every pool and waterhole must be covered with kerosene/diesolene to prevent breeding.
 - b. Maximum use to be made of Knockdown aerosol spray in tents and buildings.
 - c. At night, picquets/sentries are to wear mosquito veils and use insect repellent on the exposed parts of the body. In this case the spray is to be administered at least every three hours.
 - d. Mosquito nets must be used.
 - e. Sleeves are to be rolled down and long trousers are to be worn from dusk (1830hrs) to dawn (0630hrs).

During Operations

4. Depending on the tactical situation every effort must be made to harbour at least 500 yds clear of likely infected areas. These areas VC camp sites (which have been occupied during the preceding 10 days) villages and hamlets.
5. Insect repellent is to be used on the exposed parts of the body and clothing day and night.
6. Mosquito veils are to be worn by all picquets, sentries and ambush parties from dusk to dawn.
7. Mosquito nets are to be carried and used.

R and R/R and C

8. All members going on R and R/R and C are to be issued with sufficient paludrine to last them over the anticipated period of absence.
9. Members are to be warned that if they become feverish they should report sick to the nearest medical installation. Their fever may be MT (Malignant Tertian) malaria.

Clothing and Equipment.

10. Clothing is to be treated with anti mite solution once per month. This treatment assists in keeping the mosquito off the clothing.
11. All outer clothing and mosquito nets/veils are to be sprayed with Amazon pressure pack repellent every other day.

12. Mosquito nets/veils are to be inspected as often as possible. This inspection must occur before and after each operation or at least fortnightly.

Conclusion

13. Paludrine appears to be 100% safeguard against Benign Tertian (BT) malaria but only 30% proof against MT malaria.

14. Because of the 70% of resistant MT malaria all officers and all non-commissioned officers must be more than careful in ensuring mosquito precautions are carried out.

15. Troop commanders are responsible to see that the above precautions are carried out efficiently.

G. J. Lawrence
 (G. J. LAWRENCE)
 Maj
 Officer Commanding

Distribution

501 Sig Tp
 582 Sig Tp
 547 Sig Tp
 SHQ Tp
 Det 55? Sig Tp
 Det 110 Sig Sqn
 File (2) ✓

original

R723/1/4

HQ 104 Sig Sqn
NUI DAT
31 May 67

SO Sigs AFV (2)

MONTHLY REPORT - MAY 67

Equipment

1. Base Camp Switchboard This board is in very bad condition (see previous report). Priority demands for spare parts for the two SB-86/Pts have been raised and advice has been received that the parts are to be delivered shortly. However the solution is to provide a more suitable board. The lack of reaction to my proposals has been very disappointing.
2. Telegraph Machines The situation remains critical. We limp from day to day on a system of disaster maintenance. Priority demands have been raised for new machines but only two page printers have been received. As it is I can not deploy telegraph circuits from a forward TF HQ (ie, out of the NUI DAT base camp); if such a HQs should be established, CW is all that can be provided.
3. Cipher Equipment
 - a. KW 7 These overheat and are not working satisfactorily.
 - b. KL 7 These are so unreliable as to be hardly worth the maintenance effort. Heat seems to be the main factor contributing to unreliability.
4. Airconditioning Heat, humidity and dust are mainly responsible for the high fault incidence on all the above equipment. I am investigating airconditioning the sigcen but this is a long term project.
5. Generators The 110V power supply to the sigcen and to 547 Sig Tp has never been anything but critical. At present we are operating on 10 KVA generators borrowed from a US Sigs detachment in this area. I am now investigating provision of two 45 KVA 110V 60 cps generators to supply all Sigs units (incl US attachments) in this area. These generators, if they can be provided, will be installed in a power house which will include battery charging facilities. This will eliminate a number of separate generators which now have to be operated continuously. Incidentally, the total load in the Sigs area is 23 KVA.
6. AN/PRC-25 Retransmission Cables These cables continue to be unreliable. All troubles with rebroadcast are due to faulty retransmission cables. 104 Sig Sqn is entitled to 17 cables and holds 24 of which 6 work. A reliable cable is an urgent requirement.

Operations

7. LISMORE This was a 7 Bn group operation to the SE of NUI DAT. Unfortunately 104 Sig Sqn was taking over from 103 Sig Sqn. With many new men, communications were not particularly good but there were no major failures.

8. LEETON Currently, 7 Bn group is building the fence SOUTH of DAT DO. Communications are most satisfactory. The opportunity has been taken to gain experience in rebroadcast which was not very successful during LISMORE.

Training

9. There have been a number of attempts to operate aerial rebroadcast. After overcoming inexperience with the technique there has been some small success but faulty retransmission cables plague extended operating times.

Aerial Masts

10. There is a great need for a lightweight mast capable of supporting a RC-292 antenna or wire dipole about 70 feet high. This need has been long established but I know of no progress.

Other Activities

11. Defences arrangements in the Sigs sector were quite inadequate Improving the defences has involved a considerable effort which must continue for several weeks yet.

Law

(G. J. LAWRENCE)
Major
Officer Commanding

Copy to: 139 Sig Sqn

COPY ONLY