

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Signals units

Item number: 6/2/7

Item: 104 Signal Squadron

Narrative

Annex

[1-31 Oct 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)

..Capt..

2 IC 104 Sig Sqn

Appointment

(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..... 104 Sig Sqn

From 1 Oct 67

To.....31 Oct 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

* Only to be included during operations.

† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

Enclosure Numbers

N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
N/A	to	
1	to	-
N/A	to	
2	to	-
N/A	to	

† ~~NIL~~
† ~~RETAINED~~
† ~~Despatched to~~

on N/A

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 NII. 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

EVENTS

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment
l orders given.
e day's fighting, including company movements.
amander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

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

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

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

(continued on back cover)

PART 3

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.....(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

Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:

- Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
- Index as printed on cover.
- Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
- 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 annexes, the word "NONE" 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

ITEMS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

1 orders given.

20 day's fighting, including company movements.

3 remainder with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

4 tential importance.

5 officers, men and equipment.

6 men captured.

7 employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

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

9 e annexes, but need not give a précis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/~~FORMATION~~ 104 Sig Sqn.....

MONTH AND YEAR Oct 67

REFERENCE MAP Vietnam 1:50,000 sheets 442 I to IV COMMANDING OFFICER Maj G. LAWRENCE

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	1 Oct		NTR	
YS 4367	2 Oct		NTR	
	3 Oct		2Lt D. WATTS (US) of 53 Sig Bn assumed command of their NUI DAT RR det.	
	4 Oct		NTR	
	5 Oct		NTR	
	6 Oct		NTR	
	7 Oct		NTR	
	8 Oct		NTR	
	9 Oct		HF RTT with OLC test conducted Fwd area to near area Op Kenmore	
	10 Oct		NTR	
	11 Oct		Op Kenmore concluded - Fwd HQ det returned to base	
	12 Oct		NTR	
	13 Oct		NTR	
	14 Oct		Comsec Monitoring Report - Sep 67 was issued	ANX N ENCLOSURE 2
	15 Oct		Changeover of Ebony Swbd to Swbd TC-10 occurred.	
	16 Oct		Change of appointments = Lt GEORGE to 582 Sig Tp Comd and Lt POWER to HQ Tp Comd.	
	17 Oct		NTR	

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 Oct 67

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION 104 SIG SB N

COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<u>18 Oct</u>	<u>18 Oct</u>		<u>Increase in Aust Force Vietnam announced. Additional sqn commitment anticipated.</u>	
	<u>19 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>20 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>21 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>22 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>23 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>24 Oct</u>		<u>Critical stage of 300 Watt generator serviceability.</u>	
	<u>25 Oct</u>		<u>3 man det deployed to 1 ARU to operate Comd Det Voice Station.</u>	
	<u>26 Oct</u>		<u>Units began deployment for op Santa Fe</u>	
	<u>27 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>28 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>29 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>30 Oct</u>		<u>NTR</u>	
	<u>31 Oct</u>		<u>Monthly Report - Oct 67 was issued</u>	<u>Anx I enclosure 1</u>

SECRET

104 Sig Sqn
NUI DAT

31 Oct 67

R723-1-4

SO Sigs AFV (4)

MONTHLY REPORT - OCTOBER 67

Equipment

1. TC-10 Switchboard. This board was brought into operation 15 Oct 67. The change over took about 8 hours, the main time consuming activity being the requirement to alter telephones from magneto to CB working. It took about two days to eliminate all minor line faults and about a week for the operators to become proficient. Incidentally, all handles have been removed from the K phones used for CB extensions as it was found that switching the phone to CB does not disconnect the magneto so allowing inexperienced subscribers to apply excessive voltage to the switchboard signalling lamps.
2. Battery Charging. A crisis arose in charging batteries in the squadron. There are two methods used: rectifier and 300 watt generators. The one rectifier has been unserviceable for a considerable period and we have been unable to get it replaced. An RVE has been submitted for a second rectifier but approval has not yet been received. Thus we have been totally reliant on 300 watt generators. Constant use has resulted in them wearing out quickly and the stage was reached when only one generator out of 16 was working. No demands for replacements have yet been met though urgent action has been implemented. At present we are charging batteries with a rectifier borrowed from the RAAF and a few 300 watt generators borrowed from other units.

Operations

3. KENMORE. (See September report). The communications aspects of this operation worked exactly as planned. Apart from some slowness in getting established (see below), the operation was very pleasing from RA Sigs point of view. Lessons learnt were:
 - a. The build up in the Fwd TF HQ/fire support base area was extremely rapid (eg all RA Sigs personnel and stores moved in only three CH-47 chinooks). The air reception organization was inadequate to control the extensive air movement and consequently stores were not always unloaded in the required places. This is not an RA Sigs responsibility but in future we will be very cautious of the means of control so that our stores are delivered on the correct sites to avoid delays in establishing our facilities.
 - b. The HQ/FSB was not laid out in accordance with agreement resulting from the aerial reconnaissance. There was no good reason for some major variations which resulted in difficulties for RA Sigs (eg. insufficient cable for RR remotes). I plan to reduce the chances of this occurring again by changing the manner in which the squadron deploys.
 - c. The secure (using KW7) telegraph circuit. received little use (four to six messages a day). This was because the staff used the RR telephones for most communications

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

to the rear whereas, for the topics discussed, a secure circuit should have been used. This lack of security was pointed out on several occasions but it did not have the desired effect.

d. The RR was used extensively. It emphasised the need for this facility to be available within the task force.

4. SANTA FE. 9th (US) Div is controlling 1 ATF and other formations during this operation. 1 ATF commenced preliminary operations with all major units on 26 Oct but 9 Div D Day is not until 3 Nov. HQ 1 ATF is remaining in its present location for the time being but, depending on how the operation progresses, a move is possible later. The signal instruction for this operation is attached.

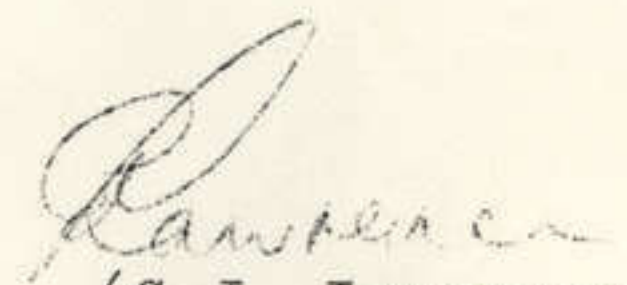
Increase in the Force

5. The full effect of this increase on the TF Sig Sqn is not yet known. Discussions with SO Sigs AFV have been held on manpower problems. Other problem areas are:

a. Line laying to the new units. As yet I have not been advised of their new location so the extent of the problem is unknown.

b. Incompatibility of the radios of the tank squadron with radios in use in this theatre. I lack an element of technical information (recently requested of SO Sigs) and information on the probable employment of the tanks to appreciate the problem.

c. Insufficient VHF frequency assignments. It is estimated that some 25 additional frequencies will be required and action is in hand to obtain them.


(G.J. Lawrence)
Major
Officer Commanding

Copy to:

139 Sig Sqn

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy No 104.....

1 ATF
NUI DAT

231200H Oct 67

SIGS 451

SIGNAL INSTRUCTION 3/67 (OPERATION SANTA FE)

Time zone used throughout this instruction : HOTEL

SOIs

1. Current 1 ATF SOIs apply. Note that these SOIs and associated codes change at 010800H Nov 67.
2. 9th Division will issue an SOI specifically for the operation. Copies will be held in the 1 ATF command post and signal centre.

Radio

3. Additional radio nets and stations to be operated are:
 - a. 9th Division Command Net 1 ATF will operate a sub-station on the 9th Division non-secure command net.
 - b. Radio Teletype 1 ATF will operate a sub-station on the 9th Division operations and intelligence radio teletype net. This is a secure net for the passage of operations and intelligence traffic. Messages for 9th Division are to be handed in to the 1 ATF signal centre.
 - c. 4 Field Regiment Fire Support Base Defence Net 4 Field Regiment will operate a local defence net at its fire support bases. The net will be controlled by 4 Field Regiment. Fixed callsigns are to be used. Frequencies are:

Frequency	Callwords	
	Before 010800H Nov	After 010800H Nov
43.00	PU	NC
44.60	KT	MN
59.20	WL	NP

4. Retransmission

- a. A retransmission station on the 1 ATF command net will be established at Fire Support Base LION. Any station which is unable to communicate direct with the control station is to change frequency to 75.95 Mc/s for retransmission.
- b. Retransmission facilities may be available from Fire Support Base LION for use by units on their internal nets. Details later.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

5. Manual Relay An airborne, manual relay will operate on the 1 ATF command net if communications cannot be maintained to battalion HQs when moving on foot. The station will use its normal aircraft callsign.

Telephone

6. The following additional telephone circuits will be available:

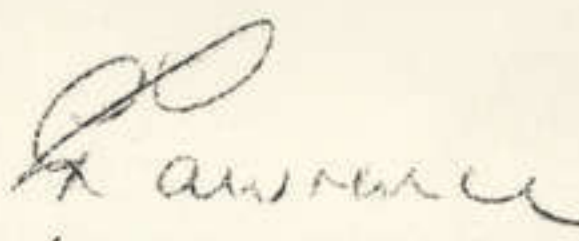
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. 9th Div Tac HQ | - GS02 (Intelligence) 1 ATF |
| b. 9th Div Tac HQ | - CP 1 ATF |
| c. 9th Div FSCC | - Arty Tac 1 ATF |
| d. 9th Div Tac HQ switchboard | - EBONY switchboard
(2 circuits) |

Air Messenger Service

7. Once a day 9th Division will operate an air messenger service which will include 1 ATF. Despatches for 9th Division HQ are to be handed into the 1 ATF signal centre.

Security

8. The codeword SANTA FE is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The word is not to be used over any telephone or radio circuit.


(G. J. LAWRENCE)
Major
1 ATF Sig O

Distribution

Attached to Operation Order

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DIARY
ANNEX L TO
104 SIG SQN
COMMANDERS DIARY
OCT 67.

104 Sig Sqn
NUI DAT

14 Oct 67

R723/1/2

List C
HQ 1 ATF (12)
SO Sigs 2 AFV (4)

COMSEC MONITORING REPORT - SEP 67

1. Attached is the Sep 67 comsec monitoring report.
2. The standard of comsec on line and radio is now generally good. Occasional serious breaches still occur but these can be reduced, if not eliminated, by units and sub-units ensuring that all ranks who use the telephone or radio are aware of the dangers of insecure conversations on unclassified circuits.

G.J. Lawrence
(G.J. Lawrence)
Major
Officer Commanding

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

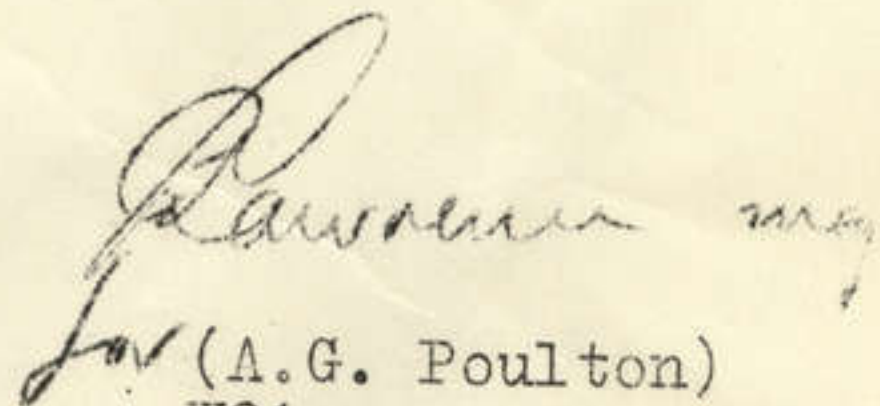
Comsec Det
532 Sig Tp
NUI DAT

16 Oct 67

OC 104 Sig Sqn

MONITORING REPORT - SEPTEMBER 67

1. The following nets were monitored during the reporting period:
 - a. Radio Relay Channels (EBONY - DEER - EMU) 1- 4 Sep
13-14 Sep
22-29 Sep.
 - b. 1 ATF Comd Net 5-14 Sep - Op AINSLIE
29-30 Sep - Op KENMORE.
 - c. 4 Fd Regt Comd Net 14-21 Sep.
 - d. 161 Bty Net (NZ) 14 Sep.
 - e. A Sqn 3 Cav Regt 30 Sep.
2. Radio Relay. The overall security on these channels was satisfactory with the exception of one major disclosure. On this occasion, vital information concerning Operation KENMORE was discussed over the EBONY - DEER circuit which is manned by civilian operators. See Annex A.
3. 1 ATF Comd Net. Satisfactory. No significant information recorded.
4. 4 Fd Regt Comd Net. Generally the procedure was good during the reporting period. However several significant departures from normal COMSEC requirements were recorded. In several instances these transmissions appeared to be unavoidable but are given in this report to emphasize the need for caution during all transmissions. Examples of the following departures are given in Annex A:
 - a. Unnecessary transmissions.
 - b. Contents of a crypto message.
 - c. Information revealing location of callsigns.
 - d. Location in clear.
5. A Sqn 3 Cav Regt. Satisfactory. No significant information recorded.


(A.G. Poulton)
WO1
IC Comsec Det

CONFIDENTIAL

Date Time	Calls		Transmission	Comments
	To	From		
131327	3	4	<u>1 ATF Comd Net</u> ----- a document has been recovered from one of the bodies which mentions C4 D445.	Intelligence in clear.
16 Sep	41	95	<u>4 Fd Regt Comd Net</u> Yes <u>tracers</u> are being <u>fired from this area</u> . They have not been given permission to test fire and it must be either a contact or <u>they are very naughty</u> .	Observation could reveal location of c/s 95. Last part of this transmission was unnecessary.
181231	95	90	----- aircraft is <u>circling this area</u> and appears ready to make a drop to local post. I feel that Kangaroo should know all about this.	As above.
	90	95	Kangaroo hasn't any knowledge of this but <u>we'll have a yarn with him</u> and see what we can do.	
181425	21	29	You will be interested in the <u>following targets shortly</u> ZU 3894 at grid <u>MBMZQMOMM</u> .	Could lead to compromise of code.
181439	29	39	Sunray speaking. <u>Good afternoon</u> . I've been following most of your conversation -----	Not necessary.
181525	10	95	For Seagull from Sunray. When is the blessed event due.	Hardly suitable for a tactical net.
	95	10 10	Ref your last - eight weeks time. On further conversation with Seagull - nine weeks time.	

Date Time	Calls		Transmission	Comments
	To	From		
191300	29	95	Sunray - In a few moments I will be sending you a <u>short crypto message</u> . It will be instructions to prepare a fire plan and lay down a certain amount of ammunition. You will recall our earlier conversation this morning -----etc-----	This could assist the enemy in "breaking" the code and reveal the format of future messages.
191917		90 29	Roger. Can you give me location of India 2. HORSESHOE.	Location in clear.
281512	Deer	Ebony	<u>Radio Relay</u> 7 RAR - Movements Saigon ----- I'm afraid your not going to have receipt numbers until about <u>3 weeks time</u> ----- you see the <u>battalion goes out Saturday for at least 10 days</u> with possible extension.	Previously reported to HQ 1 ATF