# Series: AWM95 Australian Army commanders' diaries [Vietnam]

Artillery units

Item number: 3/6/3

Item: 1 Field Regiment

[1 Fd Regt RAA]

Narrative, Annexes

[1-31 May 1966]

# SECRET

[3/6/May 66]

1-31 MAY 66

# SECRET

PART 2

## COVERING LETTER

		14	1	.1
Reference	No			-

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)	no	Capt
Appointment	3 Tun . E	Adjt
(00	Unit or senior stay	f officer)

# SECRET

ORIGINAL

† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

Strike out where not applicable



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Oun C	or Formation #89 ##6#W #198#W #10 ###	
From	1 May 66 To 31 May 66	45E
Poesir of	INDEX	Toring to the second
Narrati	ve (AF C 2118)	Enclosure Numbers
ANNEX	ES E	
* A	Duty officer's log	to
* B	Messages connected with log	to
C	Operation orders and instructions issued	to
D	Operation orders and instructions received	to
* E	Sitreps issued	to
F	Orders of battle and location reports issued	to
G	Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made	to
Н	Administrative orders and instructions issued	to
I	Administrative orders and instructions received	to
la l	Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns	1 to 6
* K	Standing orders issued	to
L	Commander's policy and demi-official letters	to
M	Action reports (if required)	to
N	Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units	to
0	Periodical summaries of operations	to
Z	Top Secret Supplementary Diary	† NIL
2 -2	NA + A Dh Sh	† RETAINED † Despatched to
	* Only to be included during operations.	1 Desparence to

# 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.
- 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, tarting at B.

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

## **TENTS**

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment

1 orders given.

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pment captured.
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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)

### DISPOSAL

- 13. Original Commander's Diary. This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered, by 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.

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 66

MONTH AND Y	EAR MAI	.90	REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER	
Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
MASCOT	1 May		A salute was fired in honour of the arrival of Vice Admiral Paul H RAMSEY,	
***************************************			Deputy Chief of US Naval Operations. The salute was fired by 102 Fd Bty	
	*** ***********************************		RAA, commanded by Lt G REED.	
HOLSWORTHY	1 May		12 Fd Regt RAA was officially formed. The Regiment is commanded by Major	
			R J A A RIDDLE RAA, and consists of 102 Fd Bty, commanded by Major G	
		L.	FITZGERALD RAA, 107 Fd Bty commanded by Major D QUINN RAA, and a	
			restricted RHQ and HQ Bty. AHQ Raising Instruction 18/66 dated 18 Apr 66	***************************************
			refers.	
VUNG TAU Republic of	4 May		HMAS SYDNEY, carrying the advance parties of 1 Fd Regt RAA and Det 131	Jl
VI ETN AM			Div Loc Bty RAA anchored at VUNG TAU. The Regimental advance party was	
			commanded by Capt I G DARLINGTON RAA and consisted of 22 all ranks.	
			The Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA was commanded by Capt J TOWNLEY RAA and	
			consisted of 19 all ranks. Both parties disembarked early in the	
***************************************			morning of the 5th and moved into a transit area adjacent to the National	•••••
	***************************************		Police Basic Training Centre.	
VUNG TAU	5 May		The advance party moving by air, commanded by the Quartermaster Capt D	J2
			HAYES RAA arrived at VUNG TAU and joined the ship borne group. This	
		l	brought the Regimental Group to a strength of two officers, six sergeants	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted) Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION.....

1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966 REFERENCE MAP

Place and grid reference	Date '	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	5 May		and thirty six other ranks. 131 Battery detachment received a draft of one Officer and fifteen ORs.	
TUNG TAU	6 May		The two AN/KPQl radar sets were brought into action; it was found that they had not reacted kindly to the sea trip.	
HOLSWORTHY	6 Мау		The Operational Instruction for Operation HARDIHOOD was received, in	
			which arrangements for the reception in VIETNAM were stated. The	
			Commanding Officer noted that 1 Fd Regt would have wider operational	
			commitments than other Australian Forces; currently this involved working	······································
			with US Forces throughout SOUTH VIETNAM. The presence of the third	
			battery, 161 Fd Bty RN ZA may enable the Regiment to carry out all tasks	
			given to it without placing too heavy a burden on its resources.	
UNG TAU	8 May		One locating radar was made serviceable and was placed on its vehicles	
			for quick deployment if necessary.	
UNG TAU	9 May		Both radars became unserviceable and remained so until the 16 May;	
*****			difficulty was also experienced with the BUCHWELL Generators.	
OLSWORTHY	9 May		Major R J A A RIDDLE RAA arrived at KOKODA Barracks to take command of	
			12 Fd Regt RAA.	
			Pre-embarkation medical examinations, following completion of the	

MONTH AND YEAR

MAY 1966

## COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Post 14 Lt Col R M C CUBLS. MVO

REFERENCE MAP

COMMANDING OFFICER Place and grid Date Time Annex letter and Event or information reference enclosure number HOLSWORTHY 10 May innoculation programme for those members accompanying the Regiment to VIETNAM were commenced. VUNG TAU 10 May Major General K MacKAY, MBE the Commander Australian Forces in VIETNAM visited the Regimental area accompanied by the Commander 1 ALSG, Lt Col D L ROUSE. He toured the area and then lunched with the officers. CANBERRA 12 May The Commanding Officer 1 Fd Regt, Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO and the Commanding Officer 12 Fd Regt, Maj R J A A RIDDLE, visited the DRA Col D H CROMPTON. Among the topics discussed were the operational obligations of 12 Fd Regt and its manpower situation, and the role and use of 1 Fd Regt while in VIETNAM. HOLSWORTHY On his return to the Regiment the Colonel received a pair of brass 12 May trumpets from Messrs BOOSEY & HAWKE of LONDON, which he then presented to 1 Fd Regt RAA. HOLSWORTHY 13 May The CRA 1 Div, Brigadier E J HOWARD, visited the Regiment to bid farewell to 1 Fd Regt prior to its departure for VIETNAM. He saw members of 103 Fd Bty and HQ Bty firing on the small arms range. The continual changes that have occurred in the allocation of personnel to

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

aircraft flying to VIETNAM between the 18th and 24th May has been a source

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Reat RA

COMMANDING OFFICER MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
OLSWORTHY	13 May		of irritation to the Regiment.	
		,	Including the LAD, 171 all ranks will move with the main body. The	
			BOEING 707 Aircraft of QANTAS that have been chartered to move the Task	
*************			Force carry 114 passengers. There is no apparent reason why all these	***************************************
			should not be lifted in two successive loads; in fact the group has been	••••••
			broken into four different flights; each travelling 48 hours apart. The	***************************************
			size of the various parties has been changed five times in the final ten	
			days, and each alteration requires that new nominal rolls be prepared by	
			the Regiment. The constant changes also meant that the soldiers were	
			required to alter and re-alter their personal arrangements for taking leave	
			of their families and the settlement of their domestic affairs. While	
			appreciating the magnitude of the task of moving the Task Force, it	
			appears that the lessons learnt from the despatch of Australian Forces	
			overseas during the last eight years have not been fully applied to the	
			techniques currently used in such operations.	
LSWORTHY	14 May		For the last two weeks the weather has been splendid; warm sunny days and	
			cold clear nights.	•••••
			With the monsoon having started in VIETNAM, we will miss HOLSWORTHY.	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted) Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Pegt QAA

COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
HOLSWORTHY	16 May		Lt General Sir John NORTHCOTT CB, KCMG, presented the STANHOPE Gold Medal	
***********			for Bravery for 1965 to Lt B J CAMPBELL RAA on behalf of the Royal Ship-	
***************************************			wreck Relief and Humane Society, which made the award. Before the	
			presentation Lt General Sir John NORTHCOTT addressed the members of the	
			1st and 12th Field Regiments who were assembled on parade. The guests	
			were entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.	
VUNG TAU	17 May		During the night a prowler was disturbed in the unit area; he fled when	
			the picquet fired two warning shots into the ground.	
RAAF Base	18 May	2359	The Commanding Officer, Lt Col R M C CUBIS MVO, the BC 103 Fd Bty, Major	J.3
RI CHMON D			N GAIR, the Adjutant, Captain I G A MACINNIS and the RSM, WOL A J SNEDDEN	
			left RICHMOND RAAF Base on a chartered QANTAS 707 Aircraft together with	
			the first flight of the main body of the Regiment. After stops to refuel	
			at TOWN SVILLE and MANILA the 'plane arrived at SAIGON Airport shortly	••••••
			after 1100 hours, local time. The party was met by Major P N O TEDDER, BC	***************************************
			105 Fd Bty, which has been serving in the theatre since September 1965, and	
			the BC HQ Bty Captain I G DARLINGTON who travelled from AUSTRALIA in HMAS	
			SYDNEY. The remainder of the journey was made in Cl30s of the USAF to	
		7	VUNG TAU Airbase, a trip of 20 minutes. The Regimental Area is separate	***************************************

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

## COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted) Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Reg RAA

Lt Col R M C Cosis, MVO

REFERENCE MAP

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			from the rest of the Australian Force. The latter is sited amongst the	***************************************
			sand dunes on the EAST coast of CAP St JACQUES, about one mile from VUNG	
***************************************			TAU. The Regiment is some four miles away, about 1000 yards NORTH EAST	
			of the Airport runway, in a less than desirable neighbourhood. Anti-	
			clockwise from the Airbase lie the Police Training College, a VIETNAMESE	
			para-military camp, a cemetery, and a petrol dump. Interspersed with	
			these are single storey hovels and waste ground. RVN personnel, both	
			military and palice, frequently move along the road bordering the camp, and	
			recruits from the Police Training School come to the outskirts and wave	
			to us in a friendly manner while they micturate against the wire.	
VUNG TAU	20 May		Following reports received, the Commanding Officer became concerned that	
			the Regimental area, Airbase, and the POL and ammunition dumps might be	
			mortared, and he wished to have a CB capability. The POL contains some	***************************************
******			two and a quarter million gallons of fuel. Finally an area to the NORTH	
			was given for free fire, and, with Major GAIR, BC 103 Fd Bty, effecting	
		(*)	liaison with the Airport, three guns of 103 Fd Bty were made ready, these	
			being all that could be manned because of the man power shortage with a	
			large part of Regimental strength still to arrive. The guns were	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

COMMANDING OFFICER MYO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			brought into action at the NE corner of the camp with two radars sited in rear.	
VUNG TAU	21 May		The Commanding Officer visited HQ 1 ATF and conferred with Brigadier O D  JACKSON, OBE, the Commander 1 ATF, who had just returned from a visit to the 173 (US) Airborne Bde who are engaged on the operation of clearing our intended base area. The only previous occasion that the Commanding Officer and the Commander had met was in 1946 at CANBERRA at the Royal Nilitary College, when the former was a Staff Cadet and the latter an Instructor.	
			Owing to doubts about the validity of the clearance given for the free shooting zone and to the fact that forces of the Republic of SOUTH VIETNAM	
			were likely to be setting ambushes in the area, shooting rights were cancelled, and the guns stood down. A rifle bullet slightly off line could easily kill an innocent by-stander, or set the petrol dump on fire.  We are trying to get shotguns to ease the local defence problems thus raised.	
			The second draft arrived, consisting of 66 all ranks of 103 Fd Bty and 131  Div Loc Bty Detachment. The draft included Lt J H GRIGGS, GPO 103 Fd Bty	J4

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd F-t Rat

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	21 May		and Lt D G RULE Section Commander 103 Fd Bty. Also included was WO2	
			B H TAYLOR, BSM 103 Fd Bty and formerly a TSM in 105 Fd Bty when the	
			Commanding Officer was BC 105 Fd Bty.	
	(***   2400000000000000000000000000000000000		At Stand To this evening, the lack of space caused the new arrivals to	
			crowd in shoulder to shoulder with those of longer residence and the men	***************************************
			resembled a square in a position more akin to that of preparing to receive	
			cavalry. The Commanding Officer noted that, when viewed from the flank,	
			the sight bore overtones of INKEHMAN, or the first MARNE. The	
***************************************			proceedings were watched with apparent pleasure by a large crown of	
			VIETNAMESE. This Stand To is held as an administrative check on	
inananiinaniinaniin			personnel, equipment, paludrine and to accustom members to operational	
			routine. The Premier of SOUTH VIETNAM, Marshal KY passed with a large	••••••
			escort and returned the salute of the troops who were called to attention.	
			After discussion between the Commanding Officer and Captain J TOWNLEY, it	
			was agreed that the designation of Captain TOWNLEY's command as "Det 131	
aciro (anomanio de la constante			Div Loc Bty RAA was cumbersome and misleading even though technically	······································
			correct. Letters sent from SAIGON to the Detachment were received by	
			131 Battery at HOLSWORTHY and had then to be redirected to VUNG TAU.	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Rest RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBLs, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			A recommendation has been made to HQ 1 ATF that it be re-designated "1 ATF	***************************************
			Locating Troop RAA", taking its designation from the unit of which it is a part, in the same manner as a LAD.	
UN G TAU	22 May		The Commanding Officer has been disturbed to find, during the few days	
			that he has been in VIETNAM, that the Regimental advance parties have	
			wantonly been called upon to provide work parties and to detach men by	
			the Australian Logistic Support Group, (sometime known as the Surf Life	
			Saving Group). This has seriously impaired the work of the advance party	
			in preparing for the arrival of the main body of the Regiment. The	
			arrival of the Commanding Officer, and the assumption of operational	
			command by HQ 1 ATF have, between them, eased this situation considerably.	*******************
			In contrast to this it is pleasing to note the name of some of the	***************************************
			officers of 1 ALSG who have been most considerate and helpful to the	······
	****		junior Regimental Officers of the advance parties; Major SINCLAIR and 21t	***************************************
			GRAHAM of the 1st Australian Re-Inforcement Unit, Major BYTH of 17	••••
			Construction Squadron RAE, and Captain BLAND, RAAOC. Despite considerable	
			and frequently unnecessary difficulties (e.g. being called upon quite	
			recklessly and at very short notice to supply soldiers and then to see the	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted) Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt CA

Lt Col R M C CU\_3, MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966 REFERENCE MAP

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
UNG TAU	22 May		same soldiers mal-administered when provided; the failure to be allotted	***************************************
	*** [2019]	,	even a fair proportion of the inadequate available supply of timber,	
			tentage and other accommodation stores) Capt I G DARLINGTON, the OC advance	***************************************
			party and Captain D HAYES the Quartermaster, have coped very well indeed	***************************************
			and have made excellent arrangements for the reception of successive	*******************************
***************************************			Regimental drafts as they have arrived. HQ 1 ATF, and in particular,	******************************
			Major R R HANNIGAN have been most helpful and the camp, although squalid	***************************************
***************************************			and generally below the standard befitting a RAA unit, is quickly	
***************************************			improving under the energetic direction of the RSM, WOL A J SNEDDEN.	
			The monsoon was heavy today, rain falling between 1330 and 1400 hours,	
			1700 and 1800 hours and again during the night.	
			Protestant and Roman Catholic church services were held at 1600 hours.	
***************************************			The Battery Commander 105 Fd Bty RAA, Major P N O TEDDER RAA and officers	***************************************
***************************************		-	of the Battery, visited the Commanding Officer and discussed arrangements	
***************************************			with him and with Major N GAIR, BC 103 Fd Bty for the forthcoming	
			operation, Operation HARDIHOOD, in which 105 Fd Bty and 162 Fd Bty RN ZA	
			are to support the 173 (US) Airborne Bde in its task of clearing the area	
			of the future TF location to the NORTH of PHUCC LE, near NUI DAT.	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Lt Col R M C CUBIS MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			They also discussed administrative arrangements and procedures in	
			connection with 105 Bty's coming under command of 1 Fd Regt on the 6th	
			June. The Commanding Officer commanded 105 Fd Bty in 1958/59, and notes	
			that it is six years since 105 Fd Bty left 1 Fd Regt to form 4 Fd Regt	
	***************************************	***************************************	at WACOL.	
			Both radar sets of 131 Div Loc Bty Det became operational and were	
			deployed in the Regimental area in accordance with the orders of the	
	*****	<u>k</u>	Commanding Officer 1 Fd Regt.	
VUNG TAU	23 May		Last Night's rain has stopped and the day is dry, though overcast with	***************************************
	****		heavy cloud.	******************************
			The third draft of the main body arrived this afternoon, 45 strong, and	J5
			included the Second in Command, Major A McDERMOTT.	•••••
			The Regiment sent a message of good wishes to 5 RAR on the eve of the	•••••
			Battalion's air movement into the operational area, and into its first	
			engagement since it arrived in VIETNAM.	
······			A signal was received requiring the Regiment to provide a Liaison Officer	
······································			to accompany various staff officers in connection with the selection of a	
			free shooting zone for 103 Bty's training, but nothing eventuated and we	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Lt Col R M C CUEL , MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			are still waiting news of permission to shoot.	
VUNG TAU	24 May		5 RAR flew out of VUNG TAU to the operational area passing over the	
			Regimental Area as they did. It was impressive to see groups of ten and	
			twenty IROQUOIS helicopters simultaneously lifting troops, when we are	
***************************************			used to having two at a time.	
			The Commanding Officer and Captain TOWNLEY, OC 1 ATF Loc Tp RAA decided	
			on an initial counter bombardment plan. On deployment one radar AN/KPQ 1	
			is to be situated in the gun area; the other at Tactical Headquarters;	
			this will permit one to operate should the other be under fire. A CB fire	
			plan based on selecting probable and likely enemy mortar positions inside	
(+x4+x+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++			an anulus is being prepared. The anulus circles the TF area; its outer	
			limit is approximately 5,000 yards from the forward edge of the battle	
			area and the inner limit is the limit of direct observation by OPs.	
	***		Targets are grouped in threes, (more as extra US Artillery move in) and	
			allotted, one to each Battery; the group is given a nickname. On	.,,.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
			ordering the nickname, batterys will engage their individual targets.	
			CB targets appear likely to figure prominently in selecting harassing and	
			interdiction targets for night firing owing to the VC habit, resulting	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt Fia

Lt Col R M C CUBIL, MVO

MAY 1966

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966		1966	REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER COMMANDING OFFICER		
Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number	
VUNG TAU	24 May		from their negligible survey resources, of sticking closely to tracks,	***************************************	
			creeks and houses etc., for both the movement and siting of mortars.		
			The Commanding Officer has discussed the CB policy with the Commander and	***************************************	
***************************************			a vigorously active policy has been agreed upon. The Commander concurred		
			with the Commanding Officers' recommendation to fix an optimum limit of		
			range to our guns of 7,000 metres. This is to prevent the VC from siting		
			their weapons and installations beyond the maximum range of our guns		
***************************************			where we would be unable to hit them. By limiting our range to 7,000 we		
			still have something up our sleeve.		
			The Commanding Officer is concerned at the state of the guns of 105 Bty		
			which result from excessive firing at charge seven. It has been		
			recommended that these guns return to Australia with 105 Bty in September,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
			and that 101 Bty bring new guns with it when it arrives. This had		
			previously been discussed and agreed with the DRA Col CROMPTON and the	••••	
			Commanding Officer 4 Fd Regt RAA, Lt Col R G GARDINER RAA. This policy		
			will produce reasonably matched Australian guns in the theatre although		
			the New Zealand guns of 161 Fd Bty RNZA are likely to be mis-matched.	***************************************	
			Calibration is becoming an urgent necessity. The Regiment sought		

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RA Lt Col R M C CUBIL, MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966			REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER	
Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
TUNG TAU	24 May		permission to calibrate in August 1965 but this was refused and therefore	
			none of our guns have ever been calibrated. To take all 18 guns out of	
			action for calibration is impossible. The Commanding Officer intends to select the three standard guns from 101 Bty when it arrives and to	
			calibrate them absolutely. Subsequently each Battery will comparatively	
			calibrate its guns against the Battery standard. In this manner only one	
			Battery need be out of action at a time. 105 Bty has had its guns	
			instrumentally calibrated by US methods but the results are reported to	
			be entirely unsatisfactory. Major TEDDER believes that the US Artillery	
			also has little faith in this method.	
			Initially 105 Bty is to be placed in direct support of 5 RAR and 161 Bty	
			in direct support of 6 RAR when the Battalion arrives in June. 103 Bty	***************************************
			is to act as a general support battery and the Commanding Officer has	
***************************************			earmarked the Battery Commander to produce a working plan for the Fire	
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			Support Co-ordination Centre (FSCC). The FSCC is, to us, a new	***************************************
			institution and is characteristic of this strange theatre where the skies	***************************************
			are black with aircraft and units have to queue up in turn to fight. The	
			FSCC co-ordinates the employment of guns, battalion mortars, close support	***************************************

MONTH AND YEAR

MAY 1966

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt TAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIL, MVO

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		aircraft, and the thousand and one Army aircraft that wander about on	
***************************************			reconnaissance, VIP, casualty evacuation, tasks etc. These latter are	
			expected to provide the greatest trouble. The FSCC consists of a	
	****		representative of the RAA, the Air-Liaison Officer (USAF) and the Army	
			Aviation Officer. Word has been received that the RAAF is contributing	
			a Group Captain and assorted other officers for the control of the RAAF's	
			aid to the war in the shape of seven or eight CARIBOU. The prospect is	
•••••	**** (*********************************		daunting and fraught with aweful pitfalls. Our experience is that the	
			USAF are excellent people to work with, but that our own airforce are, to	
			put it mildly, difficult. As a result we are seeking to get the FSCC	
			functioning well and early, before the RAAF can get here and dis-organise	
			matters. The Commanding Officer, who is charged with the responsibility	
			for constructing the FSCC has removed himself from the detailed working,	
			and has appointed Major GAIR to carry this out. To have an officer of	
			Major GAIR's commonsense, tact and flying experience is most fortunate,	
			and the Commanding Officer is confident that Major GAIR is beyond doubt	
			the officer best qualified to get the thing going. The Commanding Officer	·····
			retains arbitrary powers on behalf of the Commander; Major GAIR cannot be	

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

## COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Pegt TAA

COMMANDING OFFICER MVO

REFERENCE MAP

Place and grid Date Time Annex letter and Event or information reference enclosure number VUNG TAU 24 May expected to do this job all the time, and the need for a Liaison Officer, surplus to the Regiment's normal establishment, is now a necessity should the general support battery be committed. The Commanding Officer had foreseen this need while in Australia, but had been refused on the grounds of the manpower ceiling in the theatre. The tentage situation is still appalling, although it is understood that the Commander has managed to convince CANBERRA of the need for adequate cover. It is understandable, although still exasperating, that in Australia, it is difficult to comprehend the nature of this country, its climate, and the way that operations are conducted. The Commanding Officer was shocked to learn, as was the Commander, that soldiers are expected to pay cash for contraceptives. This appears to be the standard practice with US Forces. Whatever its moral rectitude it is an impractical and unrealistic procedure. Furthermore there are no Prophylatic Aid Centres here, despite contrary assurance given to the soldiers in their briefings in AUSTRALIA. HQ 1 ATF are attending to the matter but at present the supplies of prophylactics are totally inadequate. To alleviate immediate needs, and in an attempt to avert the almost inevitable outbreak of VD in 1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May	5	such circumstances, the Commanding Officer has bought a supply at his own	
			expense. He intends to submit a TS4 for re-imbursement, and hopes that it	***************************************
			is necessary for the claim to go to CANBERRA for approval so that he may	*************************
			buy a joyful fight with the awful civilians who run the Army's financial	******************************
	****		affairs.	***************************************
			The camp, and the officers, are rapidly being sorted out by the RSM. The	
			Commanding Officer received a veiled rocket for getting a cup of coffee	
	****		from the urn outside the kitchen - "May I get your batman, Sir?" Later,	
***************************************			when seeking sympathy, the Commanding Officer was assured that he was	
			lucky; an average of some four rockets a day were received by most other	***************************************
***************************************			officers.	***************************************
			This evening, at about 8 pm a hapless US Second Lieutenant, only eight	***************************************
			days out of his YOs Course in the United States, wandered into camp after	***************************************
			walking from the Airport. He was not very sure where he was going, or	••••
		***************************************	what he was doing, so we gave him some beer and put him to bed. Our	*******************************
			relations with the Airport are very good; this is the second time in three	
			days that they have directed US Artillery Officers to us. We feel that	***************************************
			this must confuse other Corps as representing another piece of black magic.	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt Rev

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO

MAYTORE

MONTH AND Y	EAR MAY	1966	REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER	DIG, MVO
Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	24 May		On the previous occasion, the junior staff of HQ 1 ATF were somewhat	
			astonished to learn that the Artillery Commander II Field Force, Colonel	
			SAYES had met the Commanding Officer before they themselves.	
VUNG TAU	25 May	***********	A very pleasant day, the weather cloudy with fine patches, but not as hot	
		***************	as usual and only light rain in the mid afternoon.	
			Major GAIR had discussions with one of our US Army friends at the Airport	
			regarding the establishment of the FSCC. Our relations with the Americans	
			are harmonious to a high drgree and they have been most helpful.	
			The final draft of the main body arrived; 18 for HQ Bty and 9 for the LAD.	J6
******************************		.,,,,,	The Regiment is now complete with the exception of three first line re-	
***************************************			inforcements who are due on the 13th June and go to the Re-Inforcement	
			Unit, and two men who have been left behind, subject to medical clearance.	
			We heard today of the first death by enemy action of a member of 5 RAR.	***************************************
***************************************			An unfortunate young man received gunshot wounds in the stomach, and,	
			although evacuated by helicopter in a "Dust-Off", died in hospital. It	
			is anticipated that the newspapers in AUSTRALIA will be seething, for he	***************************************
			was a National Serviceman. Fortunately we are out of touch here; the	
			Commanding Officer hopes that the disturbing influence of ill-considered	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, AVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			and emotional comment does not reach our soldiers until we are settled and ready for it.	
VUNG TAU	26 May	(	The Commanding Officer, Major GAIR, Captain DARLINGTON, and Captain TOWNLEY	
			departed by helicopter for a liaison and reconnaissance visit to HQ 173	
			(US) Airborne Bde, which is engaged in clearing operations for the	***************************************
			establishment of the Task Force base camp. Three OP Officers and three	***************************************
••••••			signallers of 103 Bty went forward separately for attachment to 105 Bty	******************************
NUI DAT,			parties now operating with 5 RAR in the area NORTH and EAST from NUI DAT.	
GR 4367 sheet N	0		The Brigade HQ was situated in a rubber plantation, (GR 4369). The rubber	***************************************
6442/4,1:50,000			had not been touched for a year, but it was comparatively cool under the	***************************************
			canopy. Brigadier General SMITH, the Commanding General, was affable and	
			helpful. The party later visited 105 Bty and 161 Bty, which were	***************************************
			operating under command of 319 (US) Artillery Bn, commanded by Lt Col	***************************************
			NORDEN. The gun area was shocking. Situated on an open slope, immediately	***************************************
***************************************			SOUTH of the rubber plantation were 105 and 161 Batteries, two Batteries of	
			3/319 (US) Artillery Bn and a 4.2in Mortar Battery, all in an area about	
			260 yards by about 100. The overcrowding was appalling, and the area	•••••
			insecure in the extreme. After a very interesting visit the party returned	************************

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt BAA

Lt Col R M C CUBLO, MVO

## REFERENCE MAP

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			in the late afternoon, leaving the OP parties to return on the next day.	
			The Commanding Officer then visited the Commander to express his misgivings	
	****		about the gun area. The Commanding Officer was extremely happy to hear of	
			the award by Her Majesty The Queen of the DSO to Lt Col L BRUMFIELD,	
			formerly Commanding Officer 1 RAR, and the MC to Captain HILL.	
VUNG TAU	27 May		This morning the Commanding Officer visited the Commander to discuss	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			future gun positions and some other matters. He re-iterated his concern	
		,	at the inadequacies of the gun position at present occupied by the 173rd	
			Bde Artillery, and submitted for consideration the possibility of	
			improving the situation notwithstanding the fact that the ANZAC Batteries	
			were under command of a foreign force. The Commander considered the	
			matter too delicate and was of the opinion that the threat was more	
			apparent than real; although exposed to the SOUTH and EAST, the position	
*******************************			was well protected in the most dangerous - NORTH, NORTH EAST, and WEST.	***************************************
			The Commander assured the Commanding Officer that, on our deployment, our	******************************
			guns would not be obliged to use this position. He said that, although	
			the inadequate infantry component of the Task Force prevented adequate	
			protection of the gun area and similar groups, and, perforce, the Regiment	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

## COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Pogt RA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO COMMANDING OFFICER

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time		nnex letter and closure number
UNG TAU	27 May		must assume responsibility for its own protection, the final area would	
			derive a certain protection from the siting of the other elements. He	
			also assured us of night protection from an APC troop. The Commanding	
			Officer had noted the particular area concerned from the air during his	
			reconnaissance on the previous day and had requested the Second in Command,	
		mm.commi	Maj McDERMOTT to assess it today. Major McDERMOTT, accompanied by the	
			Regimental Survey Officer, Lt B J CAMPBELL, carried out a detailed	
			reconnaissance and was able to give the Commanding Officer valuable	
			information this evening, prior to the Commander's reconnaissance	
			tomorrow. A little intelligent anticipation is a useful precaution,	*****************
			particularly for gunners living in an infantry ridden army. As a result,	
			on tomorrows reconnaissance the Commanding Officer will press to move our	
			projected gun area to the EAST and week the cover afforded by a near-by	
			rubber plantation. He will also emphasize the need to make adequate space	
			provision for the US 155mm SP (M109) Bty, which is to join us at the end	**************
			of June. In passing, the Commanding Officer notes that, by December 1966	•••••
			the Task Force Artillery will consist of the following units:-	•••••
			1 B P Cov—275/65—55m	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA Et Col R M C CUBIS, AVO COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure numbe
VUNG TAU	27 May		1 Fd Regt RAA comprising 103 Fd Bty RAA	
			105 Fd Bty RAA	***************************************
		assistantian en	161 Fd Bty RNZA	
			A composite US Artillery Bn with 155mm SP (M109) Bty	
	****		175mm SP Bty	*****************************
			8in 'P@rsuader' Bty	
			1 ATF Locating Troop (detached from 131 Div Loc Bty)	
			and one 81mm mortar (which the Commanding Officer is now seeking	
			in order to provide illumination for the gun position)	
			In addition the FSCC is a Gunner responsibility and there are rumours of	
			a topographical survey unit (whatever that is) joining us, apparently on	
			the grounds that on some solemn list of tasks and roles, appear the words	***************************************
			"Assistance in Artillery Survey". They will be useful to man weapon pits.	
			On his return Major McDERMOTT reported that after flying to the Brigade	
			Landing Zone he moved to the projected area with a protection party from	
			105 Bty. In the area there is sparse cover, and no timber. The area is	*******************
			suitable and could be protected. It is however, rather tight, and this	
			supports the Commanding Officer's desire to spread across the road into	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt PAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

DEFENDENCE MAD

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	27 May		the rubber plantation.	***************************************
		2030	The GSO2, Major HANNIGAN called and he appreciated the Commanding Officer's	
			suggestion that the Gunners be given three map squares to play with. We	***************************************
	****		will foster the projected US Artillery Battalion and share the area with	
		**************	them.	
			The Commanding Officer accompanies the Commander on his reconnaissance	
			tomorrow afternoon. The Commanding Officer intends to visit BIEN HOA the	***************************************
		8	following day in order to arrange further deployment details with II Field	
			Force Artillery whence will come the US Composite Artillery Battalion.	***************************************
VUNG TAU	28 May		The Second in Command gave planning figures to the DAA & QMG for the	
			supply of ammunition. Based on the experience of 105 Bty over the past	
			eight months, the assessment of the average daily expenditure was somewhat	
			less than ten rounds per gun; the contact rate, based on the experience	
			of 105 Bty in Operation SILVER CITY was forty rounds per gun per day. We	***************************************
			suggested a proportional break up of ammunition by types viz 80% HE, 10%	
			Controlled Variable Time, 5% White Phosphorus, and the balance to be	***************************************
			coloured smoke.	
,			The last OP party of 103 Bty, Captain P ASPINALL, and Bombardiers PLANT	******

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUHIS, VO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	28 May		and SIMMONDS, who were unable to fly out with the others yesterday evening,	***************************************
			returned via the 173 Airborne Bde road convoy this morning in 5 RAR	
			transport. Lt GRIGGS, GPO 103 Bty returned this evening after spending	
·····	***		two days and a night with 105 Bty.	
	x+-		The Commanding Officer joined the Commander's reconnaissance party at HQ	
			1 ATF at 1400 hours. The game of fighting for decent areas is rather like	
		<u>.</u>	that of snakes and ladders. Last evening, we thought the battle won. With	
			three grid squares to choose from it was certain that we could choose	
			reasonable areas for the six batteries for whom we must find a home. Alas,	
			in making provisional dispositions by map, the artillery was given an	
		,	irregular area of which, perhaps, 30% was useable, the remainder being	
			unacceptable because of paddy fields and isolation. The benefits of Major	
			McDEHMOTT's reconnaissance of yesterday now become apparent, for the	***************************************
			Commanding Officer was able to state unequivocably the points for and	·
			against certain areas. No one else had carried out detailed reconnaissance.	
			As a result the Commander decided on certain readjustments which, the	
			Commanding Officer trusts, will bring some batteries out of the swamps.	•••••
			It really is a most difficult problem; the land, the swamps, technical	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	28 May		considerations, the monsoon and the shortage of infantry combine to	
		*************	restrict all of us and cause us to close into a tight group. The	
***************************************			Commanding Officer would be more at ease if only the Australian Army could	***************************************
			learn to appreciate that the function of Artillery is to provide fire	
			support to the infantry and armour, not to man defensive positions. We	***************************************
			sometimes feel that our friends from other Corps consider a Field Regiment	
***************************************			as being basically an Infantry Battalion equipped with 105mm guns. We have	***************************************
***************************************	****		already been obliged to accept a situation in which we protect ourselves	***************************************
***************************************			because there is no one else to do it. This, of course, we can do, and do	
			well, but others must appreciate that the time and effort that we spend	
			defending ourselves is done at the expense of our primary purpose - fire	
			support of the infantry. The Commanding Officer feels that inadequate	***************************************
			provision has been made for the reception of the US Composite Artillery	***************************************
•••••			Bn. This will be pursued.	······································
•••••			The reconnaissance proceeded without incident. The party called at HQ	
			173 Airborne Bde. Their area was dismal. The Americans have apparently	
			not learnt the importance of digging ditches round tents, and the floor of	
			the Operations Tent was a sea of mud.	

MONTH AND YEAR .....

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

Lt Col R M C CUBL , MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	28 May	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	The pilot of the helicopter nearly ditched as he took off for the 5 RAR	***************************************
			platoon position on NUI DAT. We circled the hill several times before	
			contacting the platoon by wireless, and then landed in a paddy field. The	
***************************************	***	***************************************	Sappers found a small disused quarry and a well; both of these could	
	***		prove useful. A section of the platoon secured the area of the landing	
		5,1	and protected us on the reconnaissance. Although we had a good view from	
			the hill, the examination of the area could hardly be described as	
			detailed; more valuable information was gained from the helicopter. The	
			area does not look pre-possessing. Apart from the hill itself, the ground	
	***		is flat to the WEST, with many paddy fields, and is only slightly more	
			undulating to the EAST, with rubber plantations. The soil is red clay,	•••••
			heavy and wet, which sticks to boot and shovel and smells rather	
			unpleasant when turned.	
JUNG TAU	29 May		A cold morning, following drizzling rain overnight; at lunch time it	***************************************
			warmed to our normal steamy heat.	
		**********	The Commanding Officer attented the Commander at 1400 hours and submitted	
			a paper regarding the function of the Fire Support Control Centre. The	
			final gun area was decided. Generally we have not done as well as the	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO COMMANDING OFFICER

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
UNG TAU	29 May		Commanding Officer would have desired, but the shortage of infantry leave	
			the Task Force Commander no choice; we must make the best of it. Repres-	
			entatives from II Field Force Artillery will call tomorrow and the Second	
			in Charge will carry out another detailed reconnaissance in the afternoon.	
			We shall be squeezed up but ought to be able to function.	
			A personal letter received by the Commanding Officer this evening from a	
			'Q' Movements Officer at Eastern Command indicated that three of our	
***************************************			soldiers departed for VIETNAM, tight. The Commanding Officer is preparing	
			a suitable reply. Even more hilarious is a solemn castigation from some	***************************************
***********			awful public servant regarding certain inadequacies of the Regiment's 'A'	
******************************			accounting in Eastern Command. The form enclosed provided space for the	
		,	Regiment's explanation and for the expression of the babu's opinion as to	*******************************
			the acceptability of the explanation; needless to say the Commanding	
***************************************			Officer is preparing a suitable answer to this too.	
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			Of great concern to the Regiment at the moment is our security during the	
(***)			first few days of our deployment. We are instructed not to fire into the	
***************************************			village to our SOUTH and yet this is the very area in which we can	
			anticipate the VC positioning mortars for a 'hate' of the TF position.	

MONTH AND YEAR ....

MAY 1966

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO
COMMANDING OFFICER

REFERENCE MAP

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	29 May		We can shoot, it is true, but the gross danger of causing civilian	
			casualties is such that other arrangements must be made.	
			This evening an announcement was made on Radio AUSTRALIA to the effect	
			that the mail from personnel serving in VIETNAM was now being received	
			regularly in AUSTRALIA. Up to the present time letters have been taking	
			up to a month to reach their destination, although those from AUSTRALIA	
			have been arriving steadily about five days after posting. Much needless	
			worry was caused both to families who received no news and to members who	
			felt that all the letters that they had written had been cast into a	
			bottomless pit. The importance of ensuring an absolutely reliable flow of	
			mail, in both directions, has always been appreciated by the Army but this	
			has not prevented the same old errors reoccurring. When 1 RAR moved to	•••••
			this theatre they had the same problem. The situation was righted, but it	•••••
			seems that the arrival of the Task Force has brought about a relapse less	•••••
			than twelve months after the remedy.	
TUNG TAU	30 May	0900	The Commanding Officer and Second in Command met at HQ 1 ATF for discussion with Colonel SAYES (Commander II Field Force Artillery) and two of his	
			staff officers regarding the disposal of the US Batteries intended to join	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

## COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted) Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 1 I

1 Fd Regt RAA

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, \_VO

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
VUNG TAU	30 May		us in the next six months. The disposals proposed by the Commanding	
		,	Officer were generally acceptable other than the fact of the tight	
			perimeter had impelled the positioning of the 8in and 175mm Batteries too	***************************************
			closs to our own troops. At a discussion between the Commander, Colonel	***************************************
			SAYES and the Commanding Officer, Colonel SAYES volunteered to site the	***************************************
		*	two heavy batteries beyond our perimeter to the NORTH WEST in an area now	
***************************************			occupied by HQ 173 (US) Airborne Bde (Grid Square 4369). This pleasant	
***************************************			surprise was received with gratification for it solved a very difficult	***************************************
		.),	problem - (space and concussion). Colonel SAYES was quite happy that the	***************************************
			batteries could protect themselves while the Commander offered to wire	
•••••			and mine the perimeter.	
***************************************			The Commanding Officer, after considerable thought, cancelled the	
			projected detailed reconnaissance of the new gun area intended for this	***************************************
***************************************			afternoon. He considers the use of drawing attention to a future area	
			of occupation too great and liable to attract VC intervention in the form	
			of booby traps, mines etc. He discussed the matter with HQ 1 ATF	••••••
***************************************			suggesting that a co-ordinated Task Force mass reconnaissance on one	
			agreed date closer to occupation, might well be a more provident course,	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fd Regt RAA Lt Col R M C CUBIS, 70 COMMANDING OFFICER

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
TUNG TAU	30 May		Fortunately, as a result of reconnaissance by the Commanding Officer and	
			the Second in Command, we can wait until the day before the occupation	
	****		when some security could be provided for GPO reconnaissance.	
			The Commanding Officer also pointed out to the Commander the higher	
			probability of the VC quietly moving mortars into backyards of houses in	
			the village some 1,500 metres to the SOUTH, loosing off a few rounds,	
	77.77		secure in the knowledge that we would not shoot back at innocent	
			civilians. The Commander promised to give consideration to the use of	
			frequent infantry patrols, possibly on a stand-by basis, to clear the	***************************************
			village. In the meanwhile he trusted that RVN forces in the village,	
			when posted, would keep the VC out. The Commanding Officer trusted the	•••••
			Commander appreciated that the Regiment has no inclination to sit quietly	•••••
			and be shot at while we have considerable fire power in our control.	
UNG TAU	31 May		A warm day with no rain. The Commanding Officer has, with regret, not	•••••
			dispatched either the first or second drafts of his reply to the solemn	
			and preposterous report on the 'A' audit of the Regiment; the receipt of	
			which has been previously noted. It derived from an inspection of	
			Regimental 'A' matters carried out in late April, when we were in the midst	

MONTH AND YEAR....

MAY 1966

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 1 Fo

1 Fd Regt RA4

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, MVO COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time		nnex letter and closure numbe
UNG TAU	31 May	4444/444444444	of loading and preparing for VIETNAM. The report, irrelevant, futile,	
		*********	and rather discourteously expressed, demanded an explanation as to why	******************
			civilian employees (typists etc) were transported to and from work in	*************
.,			unit vehicles - this is an area notorious for its lack of public transport	***************************************
		***************************************	while at the same time requiring a cheque payable to the Receiver of Public	•••••
	~	***************************************	Monies representing the money paid by these staff members for this service.	
			To send such a matter to a Regiment on active service is incredible.	
			A conference was held this morning to decide the final draft of Provisional	
			Standard Operating Procedures.	
			The Commanding Officer discussed re-arrangements of the gun area following	
			the necessity to change the location of the APC Squadron. As a result	
			we shift slightly to the EAST. In the long term this will be an advantage	
			to us, but the local defence problem is considerable. We shall now be	
			occupying a perimeter area of the size normally held by an infantry	
			battalion with about half a battalion's strength and one tenth of a	
			battalion's small arms. On the other hand, being Gunners, we have	
			something worth defending - our guns; while an infantry battalion only has	
			ground to defend. Fortunately we hear the splinter rounds (canister) is	

# COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION.....

1 Fd Regt R/A

Lt Col R M C CUBIS, AVO

MONTH AND YEAR MAY 1966 REFERENCE MAP

Place and grid Data Time			REFERENCE MAP COMMANDING OFFICER	
Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter an enclosure number
VUNG TAU	31 May		shortly to be available, and we shall seek some. The first few weeks in	***************************************
		· (****)	the new area are likely to be quite dicey, and possibly the worst that the	
			Regiment will face during its time here.	***************************************
			Everyone is sick of the slum we are living in and is anxious to move to our	
			new location. There has been a little too much petty crime - four or	
			five soldiers being late back from leave and one case of a Lance	
			Bombardier being rude to a Sergeant. The Commanding Officer does not	***************************************
			like this and the sooner we get to the war the better.	
				***************************************
				***************************************
***************************************				•••••
				***************************************
	. Silvinini izilinini i			

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

ANNEX J

# NOMINAL ROLL 22 APR 66

29065	Capt	I G DARLINGTON
A510924	Lt	K B MELLOR
29089	Sgt	F R PENRSON
311144	Sgt	T MELVIN
54013	Sgt	B N PHILP
342849	Cpl	P J SHANAHAN
2781536	Gnr	M S CARTER
215225	Gnr	G R DAVIES
216097	Gnr	R G DALE
216117	Gnr	P J EMERSON
16130	Cfn A	B FRASER
216192	Gnr	R R FURTNER
216344	Cfn	A C HANLON
241 2253	Gnr	I A JONES
2782218	Gnr	L KING
2781379	Gnr	A R McKENZIE
2781510	Gnr	R J PITTS
216137	Gnr	W C SANDERS
215366	Gnr	A G SINGER
2781517	Gnr	M TOLLENS
2781526	Gnr	T A WESTBURY
2781429	Gnr	M J YOUNG

# 1 FD REGT RAA

# FLIGHT ROLL - 4 MAY 66

2629	Capt I	L	HAYES
54154	Capt E	C	ASPINALL
29940	Sgt I	R M	ROTHERO
24868	W02 F	L	BILSBOROUG
15293	Sgt E	D	GRAY
21.4723	Bdr J	A	GILDEA
13756	Bar	B	MeVINISH
36982	Bdr	E	TAYLOR
27231	Gnr J	D	ROBERTSON
2781413	Gnr N	I D	SMITH
29820	Gnr N	I W	NARR AMORE
311253	Cpl N	I C	BOLTON
35925	Bdr J	R	WHITEHEAD
54309	LBdr	RE	HENDERSON
53252	Bdr I	0	TAYLOR
21 3 4 0 7	Bdr 1	J	SIMMONS
42542	Cpl I	) A	NORTON
215218	Bdr 1	B W	PLANT
54365	LBdr 1	ER	BROCKWELL
2781618	LBdr J	r	GREAVES
43602	Gnr	A	MARTIN
55060	Gnr 1	N J	HOLMES

# 1 FD REGT RAA

# FLIGHT ROLL - 18 MAY 66

2495	Lt Col	R M C CU	BIS, MVO
311485	Maj	R N GA	IR
235167	Capt	G H BI	NDLEY
17083	Capt	IGA MA	CINNIS
335162	Lt	D J HI	EAZLEWOOD
250211	21 t	MIAI	LEN
22261	WOl	A J SN	EDDEN
28351	WO2	D C NO	LAN
4298	WO2	K J CC	ULSON
27760	SSgt	C B CU	RRAN
213913	Sgt	N H DI	BLEY
28711	Sgt	K G DA	VIES
37405	Sgt	D E SE	ARK
37486	Sgt	M P DI	CAR
53585	Sgt	GCN	TBO
15930	Bdr	L W SE	ROULES
15972	Bdr	D D RO	SE
61530	Gnr	TAHO	SKIN
61601	Gnr	R C CU	TLER
4410844	Gnr	M R RO	GERS
42636	Gnr	W A FO	RRESTER
216220	Gnr	H WC	UTERS
2781378	Gnr	R P Mc	FARLANE
2781371	Gnr	TJLA	WRENCE
1200462	Gnr	R F DI	WHURST
3786838	Gnr	P J BI	ACKMAN
3411466	Gnr	A H ST	EWART
216243	Gnr	P J BR	OWN
61606	Gnr	D R CO	CKER
5411483	Gnr	G A Mc	DERMOTT
38430	Gnr	L E GR	I ERSON

# 103 FD BTY RAA

# FLIGHT ROLL - 20 MAY 66

235277	Lt	J	H GRIGGS	A21 04484		D G RULE
22232	WO	2 B	TAYLOR	13543	Sgt	K H BORGGES
25835	Sgt	t DF	BEGG	35584	Sgt	W J GALLAGHER
15233	Sgt	R	MATHESON	5410842	Bdr	G S SMAILES
21 2563	Bdı	r S	GALEA	21 3291	Bdr	K TUCKER
21 2551	Bdı	BA	THOMSON	54292	Bdr	N L HOWARD
21 2509	Bdr	DF	ROTHERO	21 31 35	Bdr	C J FLATTERS
214755	Bdı	· K	CHESTER	43318	Bdr	M R SWALLING
14976	Bdr	BF	RANSON	16530	Gnr	K J WALTON
1731 387	Gnr	G	ALLAN	21 5870	Gnr	A A ACHMAT
21 6067	Gnr	BJ	BAILEY	18110	Gnr	J L BURNS
1410998	Gnr	N	BUZZA	2781 588	Gnr	R J CHALMERS
571 3627	Gnr	C J	CRAPP	21 6051	Gnr	GG CAVE
21 61 50	Gnr	C	CHAPMAN	37718	Gnr	A J DICKSON
216112	Gnr	RA	ELLIOTT	2782105	Gnr	N. J GLOVER
21 61 65	Gnr	ВВ	GOLDING	2782629	Gnr	M E HICKEY
21 5941	Gnr	R A	HAMILTON	2781 370	Gnr	N J KING
16763	Gnr	N	LESINA	2781 660		
6708335	Gnr	JM	Nenally		Gnr	
4401486	Gnr	G J	MADIGAN	43720	enr	
21 61 66	Gnr	R J	MARNEY	2=31	Gnr	J R MAGUIRE
43675	Gnr	CT	NAYDA	2781 387	Gnr	K W MILLER
1213715	Gnr	вк	O'LOUGHLIN	2782419	Gnr	P C NORRIS
1411056	Gnr	EL	PHILLIPS	2781405	Gnr	G R PRATT
2782822	Gnr	C J	REEVES	2782840	Gnr	A PASSMORE
571 3711	Gnr	MR	ROBERTS	38431	Gnr	P R RICHARDSON
21 6343	Gnr	JR	SIMPSON	216717	Gnr	S J RANDALL
38410	Gnr	M P	SLEVIN	55059	Gnr	M SCOTT-MALCOLM
2786887	Gnr	JR	SKINNER	2782382	Gnr	R K SCHIEB
1411006	Gnr	K J	WALSH	3786846	Gnr	R J SHIELDS
3786802	Gnr	DE	WATERFORD	21 6004	Gnr	A L WARREN
1 5878	Cpl	BE	MORTIMER	541 1 485	Gnr	K H WORMALD
200267	Pte	R D	STODDART	21 5890	Pte	J P ROCKSTROH

# 1 FD REGT RAA

# FLIGHT ROLL - 22 MAY 66

17009	Maj	A	McDERWOTT
215827	21 t	BJ	DEAN
5601	W02	AWP	SQUIBB
26227	SSgt	DR	WOLFE
214325	Sgt	D M	LAWLER
29618	Sgt	PJ	DURN FORD
6646	Bdr	PR	STEEL
3787356	Gnr	DL	EATON
54517	Bar	DM	LEWIS
53146	Bdr	R J	BUXTON
54411	Bar	DP	GRATWICK
37370	Sgt	M	SUMMERHILL
15014	Bdr	R J	WHITE
54076	Bar	WH	CROSS
3411015	Bdr	A J	LOCKE
43730	Gnr	JR	DUFF
38412	Gnr	AT	BLAZELY
3411538	Gnr	CJJ :	KIESLER
2411235	Gnr	EJ	LYON
38471	Gnr	BA	COATE
3787093	Gnr	P	BUZZA
54249	Gnr	BW	DILLON
215934	Gnr	RA	SPRINGFI ELD
216194	LBdr	JR	KILLIAN
4410812	Gnr	ED	MADIGAN
670257	Gnr	LJ	MeGHEE
42977	Cp1	RF	MUNDY
3411520	Pte	R	WHITEHEAD
1410994	Gnr	KR	PROUD
1200374	Gnr	J W	STEPHEN SON
1200469	Gnr	E	NORRIS
38022	Gnr	R	STEV IN SON
2782221	Gnr	J W	KILBOURNE
2781433 4717394	Gnr	BDI	BANN ERMAN McDON ALD
6708244	Gnr	P G	HAMMON D
216188	Gnr	JE	SMITH PROSSER
54832 2781436	Gnr	PJ	BESI ER
2781 355	Gnr	RE	GAGAN
2781315	Gnr	VE	CHAPMAN
571 36 35	Gnr	RK	EGGL ESTON
1200454	Gnr	G A	WHITE
61680	Lt	BJ	YOUKOFF

# 1 FD REGT RAA

# FLIGHT ROLL - 24 MAY 66

235174	Capt	G K Mc	CREADI E
29641	Sgt	D G BE	STWI CK
36248	Cp1	S G SE	INOR
18663	Cpl	G F TR	EVOR_HUN
342911	Cpl	M J KU	STERNIG
1731376	Cfn	RTP WA	RD
38305	Cfh	R W CO	URT
2412275	Cfn	D AN	DERSON
16711	Pte	B J PI	NCHIN
54192	LBdr	C H SH	IER
14336	Sgt	D PH	ILLIPS
54451	Gnr	LWA DE	JONG
2782184	Gnr	V J HA	RIMAN
3411534	Gnr	R A HO	RN
2781655	Gnr	JHG GR	UNINGER
54985	Gnr	AAPE	NN
215270	LBdr	B V ME	NSFORTH
2781616	Gnr	L R GR	ANT
4717729	Gnr	P W Me	CARTHY
378370	Gnr	APKE	LLETT
378021	Gnr	GRPE	ACOCK
4717551	Gnr	P G OW	EN
3787340	Gnr	S R WI	LLIAMS
55099	Pte	R GO	WLAND
37564	Pte	P W SC	HAFFER
1200058	Gnr	K P QU	INN ELL
61597	Lt	B J CA	MPBELL