

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Engineer units

Item number: 4/2/35

Item: 1 Field Squadron

Operations log

annexes

[1-30 May 1968]

COVERING LETTER

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)

John Henry Maj
OC 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE

Appointment

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL

~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where

not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

1 Field Squadron Gp RAE

Unit or Formation

From

1 May 68

To

30 May 68

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

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† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on

* Only to be included during operations.
† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

COMMANDERS DIARIES INSTRUCTIONS

AIM

1. The aim of a Commanders Diary is to provide data on which to base future improvements in Army training, equipment, organization and administration, and to furnish historians with a record of the activities of units and formations in operational and non-operational periods in peace and in war.

GENERAL

2. *Entries are to be made daily on AF C 2118 (Adapted)* each entry being initialled by the officer detailed to keep it.
3. Commanders Diaries will conform with the rules for drafting orders given in "Staff Duties (Australia)" Chapter 2, Section 12.

RESPONSIBILITY

During Non-operational Periods

4. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled by commanders of all formations.

During Operational Periods (1)

5. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled in duplicate by:
 - a. Commanders of all formations.
 - b. Each branch of the staff at formation headquarters commanded by a brigadier or above.
 - c. Heads of services not below the rank of lieutenant colonel.
 - d. Personal staffs and officers holding special appointments.
 - e. Unit commanders.
 - f. Commanders of a detachment of a unit when so ordered.

COMPILATION

6. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:
 - a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
 - b. Index as printed on cover.
 - c. Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
 - d. Annexes as shown in the Index.
7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be shown on the cover. If there has been a change of command since the last report, the date of assumption by the new commanding officer is to be included.
8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown on the cover. If there are no enclosures for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular headquarters, starting at B.

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

CONTENTS

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

tial importance.

fficers, men and equipment.

nt captured.

mployed in the time not accounted for. The type of

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

nnexes, 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, to 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.

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

DATE/TIME.....
 FROM.....031200Z.....TO.....141200Z.....

SHEET No. 2.....

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
6.	031200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 173	SITREP No 5. 022000H to 032000H. EN NTR. Own Tps as follows. 1 Tp, 2 CETs under OPCON ARU, 3 CETs under OPCON 2 RAR. 2 Tp HQ plus 2 CETs under opcon 1 RAR, 2 mini teams under opcon A Sqn. 3 Tp, NTR. 2 x D4 returned this to Plant Tp. LCT, from 021800H to 031800H. 800 m cleared, 800m windrowed. No 6 still US. All plought RTU. Admin NTR. Works proceeding as nor//		
7.	051200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 175	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps as follows 1 Tp 3 CETs OPCON 2 RAR. 2 Tp x 2 CETs opcon 1 RAR, 4 mt opcon A Sqn. 21 Sp Tp have 2 men at TFMA. Plant Tp have 2 opers at FSB WATTLE. LCT NTR. Adm NTR. Works, as normal//		
8.	061200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 176	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps as follows. 1 Tp 1 CET opcon A Sqn, 1 CET opcon 2 RAR. 2 Tp 2 CET opcon 1 RAR 2 mini teams opcon a Sqn. 21 Sp Tp 2 men TFMA. Plant Tp 2 opers FSB WATTLE. LCT NTR. Works as normal. Admin NTR//		
9.	071200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 177	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps as follows. 1 Tp 1 CET opcon A Sqn, 1 CET opcon 2 RAR. 2 Tp 2 CETs opcon 1 RAR 2 M/T opcon a Sqn. 21 Sp Tp 2 men TFMA. Plant Tp 2 operators FSB WATTLE. LCT NTR. Works as normal. Adm NTR//		
10.	081200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 178	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps no change. LCT NTR. Works as nor. Adm NTR//		
11.	091200Z	1 ATF	Sqn	OPS 179	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps, no change Works LC, Admin NTR//		
12.	100815Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 182	Weekly SITREP 031200H to 101200H refer daily SITREPS//		
13.	101200Z	sqn	1 ATF	OPS 183	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps, No change. Works normal. LCT NTR. Adm NTR//		
14.	111200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 184	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps, 3 CETs additional committed to OP HOWLONG. Works normal Adm and Works NTR//		
15.	121200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 0018	SITREP No 5. EN. NTR. Own Tps 1 Tp, 24 men AO/SURFERS. 2 Tp, 40 men AO/SURFERS. 3 Tp, 15 men AO/SURFERS, 27 men OP HOW LONG. Plant Tp, 9 men AO/SURFER. 21 Sp Tp 10 men AO/SURFERS. HQ Tp, 11 men AO/SURFERS. Sqn Wksps 6 men AO/SURFERS, 6 men OP HOW LONG. Adm NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		
16.	141200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 0021	SITREP no 5. EN NTR. Own Tps 1 Tp, 1 CET AO SURFERS. 2 Tp, 2 CETs AO SURFERS. 3 Tp, 1 CET AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 11 men AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 AO SURFERS. HQ Tp 2 AO SURFERS. Sqn Wksps 6 AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Works normal//		

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

MAY 68.
 DATE/TIME.....
 FROM 011200Z TO 030530Z

SHEET No. 1

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
1.	011200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 165	SITREP No 5. 302000H to 012000H. EN NTR. Own Tps as follows. 1 Tp, 2 CETs under OPCON ARU, 1 CET under OPCON 2 RAR, 1 mini team under OPCON A Sqn 3 Cav. 2 Tp, 3 CETs under OPCON 1 RAR, 1 mini team under OPCON A Sqn 3 Cav. 3 Tp, 1 CET under OPCON 3 RAR. Plant Tp, 3 x D4 each with 2 ops supporting 12 Fd Regt. LCT 301800H to 011800H, 800 M cleared, 1000 m windrowed. No 6 hydraulic trouble U/S, 1 plough U/S all day. Hope to complete SW cut this area PM 0Z May. Adm NTR. WORKS proceeding as normal//		
2.	011200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 166	For Force Engr. LCT SITREP. From 301800H to 011800H. 800m cleared, 1000m windrowed. No 6 hyd trouble US, 1 plough US all day. Hope to complete SW cut this area PM 0Z May//		
3.	021200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 167	SITREP No 5. 012000H to 022000H. EN NTR. Own Tps, 1 Tp, 2 CETs under OPCON ARU, 1 CET under OPCON 2 RAR, 1 mini team under OPCON A Sqn 3 Cav. 3Tp, 1 CET under OPCON 3 RAR. Plant Tp, 2 x D4 each with 2 ops supporting 12 Fd Regt, 1 x D4 with 161 Bty. LCT, 011800H to 021800H, 1000m cleared, 1300m windrowed, a lot of light scrub, No 6 US hyd trouble, 1 plough RTU. Adm NTR. Works NTR//		
4.	021200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 168	For Force Engr. LCT SITREP. 011800H to 021800H. 1000m cleared, 1300m windrowed, mostly light scrub. No 6 US hyd trouble, one plough RTU//		
5.	030530Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 172	Weekly SITREP 261200H to 031200H. EN. Nothing to report. Own Tps. 1 Tp, 2 CETs remained under OPCON ARU for LCT OPS, 1 CET remained under OPCON 2 RAR for TOAN THANG, 2 CETs additional came under OPCON 2 RAR on 2 May 68. 2 Tp, Tp HQ plus 4 CETs under OPCON 1 RAR for OPS in AO BLAXLAND. All teams returned to NUI DAT on 1 Apr 67 after destruction of camp at YS 330651. Tp HQ plus two CETs came under OPCON 1 RAR from 030630 and two mini teams under OPCON A Sqn from 030630 for OP TOAN THANG. 3 Tp, 1 CET under OPCON 3 RAR return to NUI DAT 031100. Plant Tp, 1 x D4 plus two operators remained at FSPB EVANS and HUNT resp. 1 x D4 and 2 ops returned from FSPB CLOWES 1 May 68. 21 Sp Tp. Stores cell continued to operate at TFMA(fwd). Admin NTR//		

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

DATE/TIME.....
 FROM.....151200Z.....TO.....181200Z.....

SHEET No...³....

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
17.	151200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 0022	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp 22 men at AO SURFERS 2 at LCT. 2 Tp at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 men at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 11 men at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 men at AO SURFERS 8 men at LCT. Sqn HQ 16 men at AO SURFERS 2 men at LCT. RAEME Wksps 6 men at AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Works NTR.//		
18.	151200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 0023	FOR FORCE ENGR. LCT SITREP. 141830 to 151830. 118 Acks cleared. No 4 out of action all day and is to be returned to 1 Fd Sqn tomorrow. No 7 fractured a blade strut at 1630 and will be out of action until repaired at 1 Fd Sqn location//		
19.	161200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 000204	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps, 129 all ranks at FSPB CAROL, 10 on LCT. Adm NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		
20.	161200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 000205	FOR FORCE ENGR. LCT SITREP from 151830H to 161830H. 110 acres cleared. no major breakdown//		
21.	171200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 000207	FOR FORCE ENGR. LCT SITREP form 161830 to 171830. Cleared 150000 sq metres rubber, no mechanical breakdowns//		
22.	171200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 000206	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp, 25 men at AO SURFERS, 2 at LCT. 2 Tp, 45 men at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp, 17 men at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 11 men at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 men at AO SURFERS. Sqn Wksps 7 men at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 16 men at AO SURFERS, 2 at LCT. 17 Const Sqn, 37 at LCT. LCT SITREP. From 161830H to 171830H. Cleared 150000 sq metres rubber no mechanical breakdowns. Admin NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		
23.	181200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 000208	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp, 25 at AO SURFERS, 2 at LCT. 2 Tp, 45 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 17 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. 1 Fd Sqn Wksps 7 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 at AO SURFERS 8 with LCT. Sqn HQ 17 at AO SURFERS 2 with LCT. 17 Const Sqn Det, 37 with LCT. LCT SITREP. From 171830 to 181830H. Cleared and windrowed 17 acres. No major breakdowns. Anticipate continuing tomorrow. Adm NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

DATE/TIME.....
 FROM.....191200Z.....TO.....231200Z.....

SHEET No. 4.....

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
24.	191200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 000209	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp 26 at AO SURFERS 2 at LCT. 2 Tp 46 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 17 at AO SURFERS. 1 Fd Wksps 6 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp, 10 at AO SURFERS 8 at LCT. Sqn HQ 17 at AO SURFERS 2 with LCT. 17 Cosnt Sqn DET 36 at LCT. LCT SITREP. 181830 to 191830. 900 m dozed, 600 m windrowed. No 4 dozer at ranch, 1 dozer with survey party, 1 dozer lost 4 hrs with cooling trouble. Electricity restored at BIHH BA. Works proceeding as normal//		
25.	191045Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 000210	FOR FORCE ENGR. LCT SITREP From 181830H to 191830H. 900 m dozed, 600 m windrowed. No 4 dozer at ranch, 1 dozer with survey party, 1 dozer lost 4 hrs with cooling trouble. Elect restored at BIHH BA//		
26.	201200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 213	FOR FORCE ENGR. LCT SITREP form 191200A to 201200Z. 1000 m cleared, 1300 m windrowed. No major breakdowns//		
27.	201200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 212	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps 1 Tp 26 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 46 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 17 at AO SURFERS. 1 Fd Wksps 6 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 at AO SURFERS and 8 at LCT. Sqn HQ 17 at AO SURFERS and 2 at LCT. LCT SITREP 191200Z to 201200Z. Clear- ed 1000 m windrowed 1300 metres, No major breakdowns//		
28.	201200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 214	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps, Sqn HQ 17. 1 Tp 26. 2 Tp 45. 3 Tp 19. 21 Sp Tp 10. Sqn Wksps 6. Plant Tp 10. TOAN THANG cln Plant Tp 8 LCT. LCT cleared 500 m windrowed 1000 m incl FSPB situated on trail. Reached limit in blue lime. 6 dozers in action. No mechanical breakdown. Adm NTR//		
29.	221200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 215	FOR FORCE ENGR. LCT SITREP form 211200Z to 221200Z. cleared 500 m wndrowed 1000 m incl FSPB sit on trail. Reached limit in BLUE LIME. 6 dozers in action. No mech breakdown//		
30.	231200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 216	SITREP NO 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp 26 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 45 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 at AO SURFERS. 1 Fd Wksps 6 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 17 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. LCT Returned now istuated in 1 ATF area. Adm NTR. Works proceeding //		

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

DATE/TIME.....
 FROM 221200Z TO 311200Z

SHEET No. 5.....

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
31.	221200Z	Sqn	AFV	OPS 217	FOR FORCE ENGR. LCT Now situated in 1 ATF area//		
32.	241200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 218	SITREP No 5. EN EN NTR. Own Tps 1 Tp 26 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 45 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 17 at AO SURFERS. Sqn Wksps 6 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. LCT returned to 1 ATF area. Adm NTR. Wks NTR.//		
33.	251300Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 219	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp 26 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 45 at AO/S. 3 Tp 19 at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 17 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. ADM NTR. Wks proceeding as normal//		
34.	261200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 220	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps 1 Tp 26 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 45 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 18 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		
35.	271200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 221	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp 26 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 45 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 18 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Sqn Wksps 6 at AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		
36.	281200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 222	SITREP No 5 EN NTR. Own Tps 1 Tp 25 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 45 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 18 at AO SURFERS. Sqn Wksps. 6 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		
37.	291200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 223	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp 25 at AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 48 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 at AO SURFERS. Sqn HQ 18 at AO SURFERS. Sqn Wksps 6 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 10 at AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Works proceeding as normal//		
38.	301200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 224	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. HQ 18 at AO SURFERS. 1 Tp 21 - AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 41 - AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 AO SURFERS. Sqn Wksps - 6 at AO SURFERS. 21 Sp Tp - 8 at AO SURFERS. Plant Tp - 10 - AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Wks as normal//		
39.	311200Z	Sqn	1 ATF	OPS 226	SITREP No 5. EN NTR. Own Tps. 1 Tp 22 - AO SURFERS. 2 Tp 36 at AO SURFERS. 3 Tp 19 - AO SURFERS. HQ 16 AO SURFERS. Wksps 5 AO SURFERS. 21 S/T 8 AO SURFERS. Plant Tp 9 AO SURFERS. Adm NTR. Wks proceeding as normal//		

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

DATE/TIME..... *MAY 68*
 FROM..... 030630 TO..... 111030

SHEET No...1.....

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
030630 1.	030630				2 CETs and 2 mini teams from 2 Tp moved out on OP TOAN THANG//		
2.	031600				Convoy moved out to commense withdrawl of LCT//		
3.	031830				First elms of LCT arrived NUI DAT//		
4.	040615				1 CET and 1 mini team departed for OP BENEDICTINE//		
5.	040730				Convoy departed to continue recovery of LCT//		
6.	050800				Mini teams moved out to escort Tp A Sqn to BEARCAT//		
7.	051100				Redeployment of CETs with 2 RAR & 1 RAR into AO COLUMBUS//		
8.	051130				Additional mini team required to escort A Sqn HQ to BEARCAT//		
9.	060100				Movement on perimeter engaged by M16//		
10.	060615				First light recce of route 15 decided road to be passable//		
11.	060700				CET moved out to escort convoy to BEARCAT//		
12.	061000	1 ATF	1 Fd		Request for mini team to Blow approx 60 CBUs located at YS397685 team departed at 1030//		
13.	061115	1 ATF	1 Fd		Warning order on OP MORUYA, 1 CET and 2 mini teams to be at 30 min notice to move against a xxx suspected VC bay located at DAT DO//		
14.	061255	1 ATF	1 Fd		"Ready Horse" 2 mini teams and 1 CET marry up at C Sqn//		
15.	061530	1 ATF	1 Fd		Ready reaction team stood down//		
16.	071000	1 ATF	1 Fd		Request for 2 X WP parties one each for HARRISON & ANDERSON		21 Sp Tp warned at 1300
17.	081445	1 ATF	1 Fd		Request for 1 offr for air recce of route 15 at 0630 10 may and 1 mini team for convoy 10 May//		
18.	091230				1 Fittersent to FSPB HARRISON to repair water pump//		
19.	092100				Mini team briefed for Op with C Sqn in Dink Co Area//		
20.	100800	1 ATF	1 Fd		Crossing at 463657 has a orw of stones across it and is suspected to have been mined//		Checked and found to be clear.
21.	100830	21 S/Tp	1 Fd		Request clearance for road convoy to move to Barea land//		Clearance OK road GREEN.
22.	100840	1 ATF	1 Fd		D4 dozer required to be on 30 mins notice to move as from 1000hrs//		
23.	110800	1 Fd			3 Tp CETs moved out to the Fence//		
24.	110810	1 Fd	EBONY CP		Route class no change//		
25.	111030				Sky Crane lifted two anti-mine defices out to C/S 50C//		

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

DATE/TIME... MAY 68
 FROM... 111100 TO... 160930

SHEET No...?....

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
26.	111100	1 Fd			Remainder of 3 Tp CETs under Sgt Jones moved out to BEARCAT//		
27.	111515	1 Fd			OC. A OPS OFFR. WKSPS OFFR flew to minefield with minefield records//		
28.	111930	1 Fd	1 SAS		Road clearance for 1 veh approved//		Cleared with EBONY
29.	120630	1 Fd	Route 15		Capt D. WADE did air recce of Route 15 and reported two VC road blocks. A. YS129955 being cleared by a US convoy. B. YS246757 still intact//		CP.
30.	120800	1 Fd	OP		Sqn move out in convoy en route LONG AN via Route 15//		Final move out
31.	121745	1 Fd	Minefield		Capt WADE, Lt ARCHER, Lt BIRGE, to minefield. Carried 2 x HS plates for anti-mine device//		with Trucks 0842.
32.	122230	1 Fd	ARFA		Carried out sentry check and lights out inspection. Found following: 1. 2300hrs at 17 Const Sqn Det lines, a soldier very agitated who had found a letter (unread) torn into pieces on his table. 2. Soldiers from other units in our lines and walking along roads at 2315 hrs. 3. 2 RAR lights still burning at 1120 hrs.		Sentries OK some sentry posns with out necessary facilities ie. line comms balk to CP.
33.	130645	1 Fd	BEARCAT		Father G. WIDDISON departed KANGAROO HELIPAD for BEARCAT//		1. Invest to go on
34.	131015	M/Field	1 Fd		4 passengers from minefield. Capt WADE, Lt ARCHER, Lt BIRGE.		13 May 68.
35.	131020	1 Fd	HOA LONG		Mini team to blow 3 x B40 Rows - All Blown//		2. Units to be
36.	131500	1 Fd	M/Field		3 vehicles incl 1 tipper from 3 RAR for extracting Op HOW LONG//		advised.
37.	131525	1 Fd	DUTHAN		Combat team (mini team plus escort from 1 Tp) to DUC THAN to blow 2 x 500 lb UXB//		3. EBONY CP advised.
38.	131745	M/Field	1 Fd		AU members of OP HOW LONG TRM RTU//		Capt MORGAN reported.
39.	140730	KANGAROO PAD	FSPB CORAL		Lt BURGE flown out by CHINOOKAC//		
40.	142000	1 Fd	1 ATF		SITREP No 5//		
41.	142000	1 Fd	AFV		LCT SITREP//		
42.	150715	1 Fd	CAV Sqn		1 mini team from 3 Tp//		
43.	15135	1 Fd	LCT		1 convoy with MAINTDEM for LCT//		Road AMBER.
44.	160630	1 Fd	FSPB CORAL		Capt MORGAN & PRIDMORE flown out//		
45.	160930	1 Fd	LCT		MAINTDEM items out by convoy//		

1 FD SQN RAE OPS LOG

DATE/TIME.....*MAY 68*.....
 FROM.....161000.....TO.....*311600*.....

SHEET No.....³.....

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	FROM	TO	ORIG No.	MESSAGE OR DETAIL	ACTION	COMPLETED
46.	161000	17 Const	LCT		Recovery team for CAT D8//		100% recovery.
47.	171100	1 Fd	A Sqn 3 Cav Rgt		1 mini team for road convoy to AO SURFERS:Spr JELLEY. JOSEPH. AND STOW//		
48.	171100	1 Fd	FSPB COOGEE		3 men from 3 Tp out. O'MALLEY. BONZAS. CAINS.//		
49.	171130	LCT	1 Fd		Home made mine found at GR419228//		Mine dug up.
50.	171430	21 S/Tp	LCT		Electrician urgently required by LCT//		Sent ASP.
51.	180200	1 Fd	FSPB CORAL		Sgt KELLY & MAINTDEM base away to AO SURFERS//		
52.	191330	1 Fd	FSPB CORAL		Capt KIDSTON & Lt HULSE flown out//		
53.	191900	FSPB CORAL	1 Fd		Maj KEMP flew in//		
54.	191600	1 Fd	TFMA		MAINTDEM for HOLDFAST at CORAL & COOGEE (CIGS ETC)//		
55.	200900	LCT	1 Fd		Request for info of OP TOAN TANG//		Summary prepared.
56.	200930	3 RAR R	1 Fd		Request for person to inspect suspected VC tunnel//		Referred to TF.
57.	201200	EBONY CP	1 Fd		Team for tunnel inspection at HOA LONG reqd at 1300 hrs at Div INT//		Referred to 1 Tp Fixed
58.	201600	1 Tp M/T	1 Fd		100 lb TNT reqd//		Refd to TF DO.
59.	291100	TF	1 Fd		Mini team to blow 600mm mor bomb at HOA LONG check point//		Fixed.
60.	311600	TF	1 Fd		3 x mini teams for changeover 2 RAR/4 RAR on 1 Jun//		1 Tp.
61.	X						

1 Fd Sqn RAE

NUI DAT

May 68

1. FD SQN RAE MONTHLY TECHNICAL REPORT

AS AT 30 MAY 68

[Attachments as for
APRIL !!

1. Attached is the 1 Fd Sqn RAE Monthly Technical Report
for period 1 - 30 May 68.

(J.H. KEMP)

Major

Officer Commanding

INDEX

1 FD SQN MONTHLY TECHNICAL REPORT

- Part 1 Personnel
- Part 2 Plant Availability
- Part 3 Miscellaneous
- Part 4 Operations

Aug	12	11							
Sept	15	25							
Oct	21	134	27	2	32				
TOTAL	48	170	234	2	132				
Nov	3	8							
Dec	2								
Jan	4	4	2		8				
Feb	12	7	5						
Mar	24	62	34	1	8				
TOTAL	58	118	100	3	48				

MONTHLY TECHNICAL REPORT TO E IN C

AS AT 30 APR 68

PERSONNEL

1 FD SQN RAE

RANK	ESTB	POSTED	DEFICIENCIES					REMARKS
			VACANT	HOSP	LEAVE	COURSE	OPS	
Offrs	10	10					1	
WO's	1	1						
SSgts Sgts	11	12						
Cpls	16	22		1			5	
R & F	221	194	27	1	12		43	
TOTAL	259	239	239	1	13		49	

21 ENGR SP TP

Offrs	2	2						
WO's	2							
Sgts	6	5	1		1			
Cpls	11	7	4					
R & F	75	62	13	1	1		2	Detached (3)
TOTAL	94	76	18	1	2		2	3

1 FD SQN WKSPS

Offrs	1	1					
WO's	2	2					
Sgts	4	4					Detached (1)
Cpls	14	8	6		1		
R & F	27	25	2		1		Detached (3)
TOTAL	48	40	8		2		4

WATER SUPPLY FIGURES FOR APRIL 68

Annex 'A'

Date	1 Fd Sqn Well	Cav Sqn	7 RAR
1	6,700	6,000	35,000
2	6,000	3,300	40,000
3	7,000	7,6000	32,000
4	6,900	5,200	40,000
5	6,400	5,800	30,000
6	6,600	6,800	32,000
7	6,500	6,800	30,000
8	6,000	7,300	32,000
9	6,500	5,400	32,000
10	6,000	5,300	36,000
11	6,200	6,200	32,000
12	5,600	6,900	32,000
13	5,400	4,800	32,000
14	5,600	4,000	34,000
15	5,800	5,200	24,000
16	5,400	2,000	30,000
17	5,200	5,000	17,000
18	5,400	9,000	18,000
19	5,000	14,000	18,000
20	5,200	19,000	10,000
21	5,300	18,000	18,000
22	5,200	18,000	18,000
23	5,300	18,000	18,000
24	5,400	17,000	20,000
25	5,000	18,000	20,000
26	5,200	18,500	20,000
27	5,200	18,000	19,000
28	5,000	17,000	20,000
29	5,400	18,000	20,000
30	5,000	18,000	20,000
TOTAL	171,400	297,000	779,000

TOTAL WATER FOR APRIL = 1,257,400

Average per day for 1 Fd Sqn = 5,700 gals
 Average per day for 3 Cav Sqn = 9,900 gals
 Average per day for 7 RAR = 25,700 gals

ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE

Total man hours 41 Calls 130½ hours

REFRIGERATION REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

Total man hours worked for May 68 = 421½

TIMBER MILLING FOR MONTH APRIL

Timber Mill closed down

MONTHLY RAINFALL - NUI DAT

MONTH: APRIL

YEAR: 1968

DAY	RAINFALL	
	ins	pts
1	NIL	NIL
2	"	"
3	"	"
4	"	"
5	"	"
6	"	"
7	"	"
8	"	"
9	"	"
10	"	"
11	"	"
12	"	"
13	"	"
14	"	"
15	"	"
16	0	5

DAY	RAINFALL	
	ins	pts
17	NIL	NIL
18	"	"
19	"	"
20	"	"
21	"	"
22	"	"
23	"	"
24	"	"
25	"	"
26	"	"
27	"	"
28	"	"
29	"	38
30	"	NIL
31	"	"

TOTAL RAINFALL: NIL ins 42 pts

DAILY AVERAGE: ins 1.4 pts

STATE OF C VEHICLES AND PLANT

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	
6257	Truck Dump GS 5 Ton.	14	14		171842	1/B/-	2972						30
					171846	"	3453						"
					171875	"	3955						"
					171865	1/A/-	3299						"
					171831	"	3313						"
					171850	"	3378						"
					171853	1/B/-	1981						"
					171838	"	2879						"
					171833	"	3832						"
					171827	"	4239						"
					171828	"	OPS						"
					171829	"	U/S						"
					171843	"	658						"
					171866	"	699						"
6257	Truck Dump GS 5 Ton.	21Sp Tp 2	2		171870	1/A/-	3724						30
					171818	2/B/-	3825						30
6221	Truck Cargo GS 5 Ton	21Sp Tp	1		171586	1/B/-	1806						30
6221	Truck Cargo GS 5 Ton	1	1		171663	1/B/-	1919						30
6820	Truck Tractor 8 Ton	1	1		162178		15676						30

STATE OF C VEHICLES AND PLANT

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)		
60433	Roller Motorised 3 Wheel Type 21,000 lbs. Mc Donald.	Task Force Pool	1		74754		334	334		20	-	10	-	-
6028	L/Rover $\frac{3}{4}$ ton G/S.	8	8		112904	2/B/-	15185			30	-	-	-	-
					113934	1/B/	8707			30	-	-	-	-
					113971	"	11658			30	-	-	-	-
					114023	"				30	-	-	-	-
					114012	"	6644			30	-	-	-	-
					113167	"				30	-	-	-	-
					113931	"	8193			30	-	-	-	-
					112056	"	34343			30	-	-	-	-
6028	L/Rover $\frac{3}{4}$ ton G/S.	21S/T 6	6		113929	1/B/-	9035			30	-	-	-	-
					112914	"	19119			"	-	-	-	-
					112878	"	15488			"	-	-	-	-
					112968	"	15729			"	-	-	-	-
					114019	"	4896			"	-	-	-	-
					112808	"	20862			"	-	-	-	-
6048A	L/Rover $\frac{3}{4}$ ton Machine Shop.	21S/T 1	1		113871	1/B/-	17573			30	-	-	-	-
6059B	Truck 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton GS	5	5		171014	2/B/-	6022			30	-	-	-	-
					171424	"	12467			"	-	-	-	-
					171450	"	U/S			"	-	-	-	-
					170726	"	10766			"	-	-	-	-
					170183	"	U/S			"	-	-	-	-

STATE OF C VEHICLES AND PLANT

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)
5730	Scraper Semi Tractor 100 cu yds with Hand- cock, Loader Euclid 57.	21 Sp Tp	2		98108 98109		670F 352R 848F 429R	670F 352R 848F 429R	Minor Repairs.	9 - 19 9 - 07	- 2 8 6	
5567	Tractor Wheeled Indust. Size "7" Michigan.	21 Sp Tp	1		97052		1143	1143	Check Tie Rods ends, belt, Limit valve leakijg, Fan, replace wiper motor	13 - 6	- 11	
3030	Truck Fork Lift Pettibone Mull- igan 6,000 lbs.	21 Sp Tp	1		82084		991	991	Compressor, Water pump fit.	24 - 2	- 4	
55650	Tractor Wheeled Indust. Size "5" Massey Ferg.	21 Sp Tp	1		98209		352	352		24 - 6	- -	
10441/ 0	Roller Motoris- ed, PNeu tyres Multi Wheeled 25,000 lbs.	21 Sp Tp	1		74778		198	198	Waiting Parts.	- - -	20 10	
5534	Tractor Full Tracked Size "4" TD.15.B.	Task Force Pool	1		98292		614	614		25 - 5	- -	
5530	Scraper Semi Tractor 10 cu yds with Hanc- cock Loader Euclid 57.	Task Force Pool	2		98111 98113		594F 321R 537F 296R	594F 321R 537F 296R		11 - 19 5 - 14	- - - 11	
5519	Ruston Bucyrus 22R.B. F/Shovel D/Line, B/Hoe, C/Shell, P/Dri- ver Crane.	Task Force Pool	1		96750		1525	1525		7 - 23	- -	
5332	Distr Bitument Truck mounted Thornycraft.	Task Force Pool	1		165172		3755	3755	Waiting parts.	- - -	20 10	

STATE OF C VEHICLES AND PLANT

From.....

For Period Ending.....

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)		
6565C	Tractor Wheel- ed Indust. Size "5" Massey Ferguson.	1 Fd Sqn	4		98199		480	480	Minor repairs.	20	-	6	-	4
					98200		400	400	Hyd lines & Lift rams.	2	-	27	-	1
					98210		799	799	O/haul hyd & replace hoses.	1	-	6	-	23
					98219		158	158	Ren front end noisy bearing.	17	-	6	1	6
10451/ 10	Roller Motor- ised, Pnue tyres, Multi wheeled 25,000 lbs.	1 Fd Sqn	1		74780		318	318		7	-	23	-	-
10452/ 10	Roller Motor- ised, Towed Vibrating 3,000 lbs.	1 Fd Sqn	1		80752		100	100		-	-	13	-	17
	DISTR Bitumen Mat Tank Type Truck Mounted 1,000 gals.	1 Fd Sqn	1		164-643		25	25		7	-	23	-	-
6247B	Truck Chasis 5 Ton G/S W/ Winch Inter.	1 Fd Sqn	1		171-700		878	878	Servicing new vehicle.	8	-	17	-	5
514	Tractor Full Tracked Size "4" T.D. 15.B.	21 Sp Tp	3		97123		3374		R.T.W. 10-4-68.	6	-	-	-	4
					97108		2287	2287	Frame straight'd Grill Minor Rep	18	-	5	-	7
					98293		1136	1136	Adj Clutches & Steering, new cutting edges.	24	-	6	-	-
501	Grader Road Motorised Cat 12E.	21 Sp Tp	4		96137		3260	3260		15	-	4	-	11
					96145		2172							
					97117		199	199	R.T.U. Rep side shift Gear Box & Gen	6	-	5	2	17
					98168		826	826	FIA. Tighten up.	28	-	2	-	-

STATE OF C VEHICLES AND PLANT

APPENDIX 1A to ANNEX B
Periodical Technical Report
From.....
For period ending.....

SUS NO E O	DESIGNATION AND MAKE	ESTB	ON CHARGE	IN LIEU ITEMS HELD	ARLY No	COND	TOTAL SINCE NEW	HRS SINCE BASE O/HAUL	DATE GENERAL STATEMENT U/S OF REPAIR REQD.	SHIFTS AVAIL FOR WORK			SHIFTS IN WKSP		PLANNED EMPLOYMENT SHIFTS PER WEEK
										(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	Employed	Idle due to weather	Idle no work	Awaiting Repair	Under Repair	(M)
6532	Tractor Full Tracked Seize "2" Cat 4 B.B.-R.	1 Fd Sqn	4		98119		2103		R.T.U. 10-4-68	3	-	-	3	4	
					98120		OP		19	-	4	-	7		
					98121		OP		15	-	9	-	3	3	
					98122		OP		12	-	5	-	-	13	
531A	Tractor Full Tracked Size "0" Case 3 B.B.-R. 2 Bucket - B/Hoe.	1 Fd Sqn	4		98301		597	597		19	-	9	-	2	
					98302		530	530	-	-	-	30	-		
					98306		826	826	23	-	5	-	2		
					98308		674	674	10	-	5	-	15		
6563	Tractor Whee- led Indust Size "8" 966B Cat.	1 Fd Sqn	4(a) (b) (c) (d)		98183		317	317 (a)	Steering Valve Check,	28	-	2	-	-	
					97184		1028	1028	Oil leaks. (b) Remove	13	-	7	-	10	
					97185		1177	1177	check brakes, check adj	23	-	7	-	-	
					98142		1970	1970	shaft. (c) Steering ram seals, check brakes, (d) Lit rams, steering rams, tilt rams.	21	-	9	-	-	

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS PROGRESS
FOR APRIL 68

ROADS

1.	a.	Construction of formation	0.90 miles
	b.	Gravelled Construction	1.90 miles
	c.	Sealing	NIL

HARDSTANDING

2.	a.	Gravelled Construction	NIL
	b.	Sealing	NIL

HELI LZ

3.	a.	Construction of Formation	NIL
	b.	Gravelled Construction	NIL
	c.	Sealing	NIL

TANK TRACKS

4.		No change	
----	--	-----------	--

CULVERTS

5.	a.	260 ft of 48" and over	
	b.	450 ft of under 48"	

ROAD MAINTENANCE

6.	a.	Construction of formation	NIL
	b.	Gravelled Construction	NIL
	c.	Sealing	NIL
	d.	Refrigeration see Annex 'A'	

MISCELLANEOUS

7.	a.	Latrines/Sumps	100 cub yds soil
	b.	Cable Trenches	2350 cub yds coll

MISCELLANEOUS

7. c. Cut/Fill ammo bay and ammo bay road 3800 cub yds rock
- d. Haulage : 1090 cub yds blast rock
5070 cub yds latiri te
8600 cub yds overburden
84 cub yds primary crushed rock
- e. Route 52 - Suoi Da Bang crossing installed with 4x72" culverts.

WATER SUPPLY

8. See Annex 'A'

OPERATIONS

General:

1. The operational commitment of 1 Fd Sqn reached its highest ever level during the first half of April, and continued at a reasonably high level throughout the remainder of the month.
2. Operation PINNAROO continued until 15 Apr, our involvement being 1 Tp plus 2 RAR Assault Pioneers supporting 2 RAR, whilst 2 Tp and 3 Tp plus 3 RAR Assault Pioneers supported 3 RAR. Both Assault Pioneers were OPCON 1 Fd Sqn for the operation.
3. Operation COOKTOWN ORCHID was conducted during the month our involvement in it being in two specific phases:
 - a. An attempt to destroy the Barrier minefield,
 - b. Land clearing in the LONG HAI Hills, both from the fact that the 17 Const Sqn LCT is OPCON to 1 Fd Sqn, plus the fact that heavy engineer combat support was required by the infantry elements protecting the team.
4. Operation TOAN THANG commenced on 20 April and at this stage has not required heavy engineer support.

OPERATION PINNAROO:

5. This Operation was conducted in the area of the LONG HAI Hills. Intelligence and previous experience had shown that the area was in fact a vast nuisance minefield. No allied operations had penetrated the area for at least 10 years and the VC had developed the area as a vast base and camp area, with their political cadres, hospitals, arms storage and munition factories generally established in the high area to the South, whilst camps for local guerrillas, the LONG HAI District Concentrated Unit, 2 x Coys of D445 and various transient groups had been established in the jungle covered area to the East of the Hills. The value of the area to the VC related to the following:
 - a. Length of Time for development without interference.
 - b. Existence of covered approaches down to several populated concentrations.
 - c. Central nature of the feature within the LONG DAT District.
6. Our involvement was in three major aspects :
 - a. The clearance of mines.
 - b. Searching and demolition of caves, tunnels, and
camps.
 - c.

c. Land clearing.

7. Generally support to the infantry was provided at the level of a combat team per platoon and hence the requirement for the Assault Pioneers from the battalions involved, the Assault Pioneers having spent 10 days prior to the operation being trained by, and living with this unit.

8. Some 35 tons of explosives were used in the demolition phases of the operation, mainly in the form of 40 lb Beehive Charges or C4 explosive (equivalent PE). The demolition in the high areas were all of cave or tunnel complexes which consisted of massive granite boulders and rock shelves under which the VC had developed literally bomb proof bases.

9. The land clearing operation was planned as the last phase of Operation PINNAROO, and in fact was conducted later as phase 1 of Operation COOKTOWN ORCHID.

OPERATION COOKTOWN ORCHID.

10. The aspects of this operation which were of specific engineer interests were as follows:

- a. Attempt to neutralize/destroy barrier minefield.
- b. Land clearing operations.

Throughout the remainder of this operation, intimate combat support was provided in the normal manner.

ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE/DESTROY BARRIER MINEFIELD.

11. The concept of the attempt was based on three premises:

- a. That the Centurion tank could move in an anti personnel minefield without significant damage.
- b. That a demolition mat constructed of RSJ's and heavy chain could, if towed four times over every square yard of the minefield detonate 95% of the mines.
- c. That if 95% of the mines in the minefield were detonated, the minefield would no longer be an asset to the VC. The minefield is an asset to the VC because the ARVN unit whose responsibility it is to dominate the obstacle, do not do so, and hence the VC at night have opportunity to take the mines and use them against us.

12. The attempt was made on 11 Apr 68. Two Centurion tanks were used each towing a demolition mat (constructed by 1 Fd Sqn Wksp) approx 14 ft wide and 25 ft long. Three sweeps through the field, each approx 600 yds total length were undertaken. A total of 79 mines (M16 with anti lift) were detonated approx 30 by the tank tracks, the remainder by the demolition mat. The demolition mat was not damaged to any major degree, however the damage to tank tracks, road wheels, shock absorber arms, and shock absorber stations was unacceptable. The attempt was aborted at this stage.

13. Since this time another device has been conceived and is currently in the process of construction. Major aim of the new device is to protect the tracks of the tank. This device may or may not be successful, but it is believed that if it is not successful, the limit of improvisation within theatre resources will have been reached.

LAND CLEARING OPERATIONS.

14. Land clearing operations started in the LONG HAI Hills area on 2 Apr 68. The aim of the operation was to cut a series of 200 meter wide trails through the vegetation in the low areas of the LONG HAI Hills and thus achieve the following:

- a. Segmentation of the jungle mass and cutting it into to areas which are controllable.
- b. Provision of boundaries and blocking positions so that future operations can be conducted more efficiently.
- c. Provision of access and reaction routes for Cav and Armoured units.
- d. Provision of a continuous LZ for Dustoff, resupply insertion or extraction of any sized force.
- e. Provision of a break such that if movement between segments does occur it can be detected.
- f. The long term aim of opening up the area for SVN agriculture and use.

15. The team which actually carried out the task were the 17 Const Sqn LCT plus 5 x US Rome Plows attached specifically for the operation. An infantry Company plus a troop of APC's were provided for the protection of the team. Engineer combat support to the extent of a combat team per platoon was provided to the infantry company so that they could move safely on mine-cleared tracks, and also for demolition of camps and bunkers found.

SUMMARY OF ENGR SUPPORT:

16. OPERATION PINAROO

3 RAR - 2 X Fd Tps plus 1 X Aslt Pnr Pl 1 - 15 Apr 68.
2 RAR - 1 X Fd Tp plus 1 X Aslt Pnr Pl 1 - 8 Apr 68.

17. OPERATION COOKTOWN ORCHID

2 RAR - Land Clearing Team - 2 Apr - 30 Apr.
3 X Combat Teams.
2 X Mini Teams.
- Minefield Clearance - 10 Apr - 13 Apr.
2 X Combat Teams.
1 X Tp HQ.
- Remaining Phases - 4 Apr - 23 Apr.
2 X Combat Teams.

18. 1 RAR Ops in AO BLAXLAND

Tp HQ plus 4 X Combat Teams - 24 Apr - 1 May.

19. OP TOAN THANG

3 RAR - 1 Combat Team - 21 Apr - 30 Apr.
2 RAR - 3 Combat Teams - 25 Apr - 30 Apr.
12 Fd Regt - 3 X D4 Dozers - 21 Apr 30 Apr.

Electrical and Engr Stores support was provided by 21 Sp Tp at Bearcat from 23 Apr - 30 May.

ENGINEER INTELLIGENCE:

20. On operation PINNAROO numerous mines were found in the LONG HAI hills area. These were mainly M16 mines with a few M26 or Chicom grenades rigged as booby traps. Lot numbers of mines found were checked against records available of mines laid in the Barrier minefield. Unfortunately records were incomplete however some lot numbers of mines found did correspond with those laid in the Barrier Field. As mines were found over a wide area on this operation the entire LONG HAI area from DINH-00 South should be treated as a minefield, and future operations in that area should be planned on that basis.

ON OPERATION COOKTOWN ORCHID:

21. An M16 mine was laid overnight by VC in the track made by a Centurion tank. The Combat Team was re clearing the area when a soldier stepped out of the cleared area. 1 Fd Sqn suffered 1 KIA and 1 WIA as a result of an M16 mine blast.

The following points cannot be emphasised too strongly in training:

- a. Never under any circumstances move outside a cleared area when operating in mined areas.
- b. Each path must be re cleared each day as the VC can and do lay mines at night on paths that have been cleared.

TRAINING:

22. Training in April was limited to training of replacements to 1 Fd Sqn, and also briefing of 1 RAR Offrs and senior NCO's and soldiers on the Engineer aspects of operations in SVN. This training and the maintenance of the 1 Fd Sqn mine room imposes a load on the Sqn and there is a definite need for a training Sgt to be held on strength of the Sqn. The request for this increment to establishment has already been made through Staff channels.

AFTER ACTION REPORTS:

23. The after action report for operation PINNAROO is attached as Annex "A".

AFTER ACTION REPORT - OP PINNAROO

1. Operation PINNAROO - Rescue in force LONG HAI area.
2. From 27 Feb 68 to 15 Apr 68.
3. LONG HAI hills area centre of mass YB 4750.

TASK ORGANIZATION

4. 2 Tp and 3 Tp were both deployed forward on the basis of Tp HQ plus CHTs as required, 1 Tp deployed in support of 2 RAR. 2 RAR and 3 RAR Aslt Pzrs were placed under comd 1 Fd Sqn.

INTELLIGENCE

5. Prior to the commencement of operation PINNAROO a VC returnee KLET was interrogated by 1 ATF and 1 Fd Sqn interrogators. The detail of the interrogation is contained in the 1 Fd Sqn Quarterly report for March 68. This advanced information proved to be of value during the operation.

ENGINEER TASKS

6. The Engineers employed were used in the roles of mine/booby trap clearing and caves/tunnel destruction. Movement through areas known or suspected to be mined was along paths cleared by Engrs. The point of advance consisted of a number 1 (detector man) and a number 2 (padder), who were covered from behind by an infantry gunner armed with M60. This method was slow and placed a high degree of strain on the engineers thus employed. Where practical teams were rotated and a team brought back to NUI DAT for approximately 36 hours rest.

7. The demolitions of the major caves in the area were carried out towards the end of the operation. The caves were natural caves within some caves some improvements were added. Some of the larger caves were secured against artillery and B52 strikes. Major caves were found in the following places:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE FOUND</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
YS 480512	28 Mar 68	One room 20'x15'x5' joined to an other 8'x8'x7' eight beds and underground water.	Destroyed
YS 477512	21 Mar 68	Three main caves.	Destroyed
YB 482510	24 Mar 68	15 to 20 rooms about 12'x12'x15' with room for 100 men.	90% Destroyed.
YS 482509	28 Mar 68	Multi level cave complex with connecting ladders, fresh water.	

YS481511	Mar 68	About 20 caves found in this area They were natural caves as result of crevases in rock.	destroyed
YS478511	24 Mar 68	Deep cave complex with water.	destroyed
YS482511	27 Mar 68	Large cave complex	destroyed 80% could be re-usable to small extent as living area.
YS476509	4 Apr 68	One large room 20x15x5 with 10 - 12 small rooms 5x8x4.	destroyed
YS476510	5 Apr 68	Large cave complex.	destroyed
YS482509	1 Apr 68	Series of connected caves.	destroyed
YS482509	2 Apr 68	Series of natural caves with numerous 2 - 3 man living areas around caves.	90% destroyed
YS487504	12 Apr 68	Extremely large complex extending 228 meters in re entrant.	destroyed

8. As an indication of the amount of demolitions carried out the following are the figures of explosives flown into the Long Hai hills during operation PINNAROO.

TNT	2500 lbs.
C4	25,940 lbs
Beehive(40lb)	38,430 lbs
Beehive(15lb)	270 lbs

LESSONS LEARNED:

9. a. The value of Engr Intelligence. Before an operation is mounted, as much information as possible from all available sources should be obtained and passed out to the Combat Team. The information gained from the returnee proved to be of benefit.

b. Rotation of Teams. Where GET's are being employed continuously in a mine detection role, every effort must be made to rotate teams, and allow teams a period to relax at base.

c. Replacement of Mine Detectors. During the operation, whenever a detector man had reason to doubt his detector, a new one was immediately sent out and the old one returned to base. This automatically requires a considerable back up reserve of detectors, however, the rule of immediate replacement must be observed. For operations of this type a 100% reserve of detectors committed at the commencement of the op should be kept.

d. Minefield Marking Tape. This is an essential item of equipment for this type of operation and adequate stocks must be held.

10.

CONCLUSION:

Operation PINWAROO was an operation which relied for its success to a great extent on the ability of the Engineers on the field. The operation has certainly disrupted the enemy in his use of the Long Hai area as a secure base, although the full effect cannot be assumed at this time.

11.

Although many mines were lifted during the Operation this area must still be treated as a nuisance minefield and movement should only be on cleared tracks.