

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries

Royal Australian Armoured Corps

Item number: 2/3/6

**Item: C Squadron 1 Armoured
Regiment**

Narrative, Annexes

1-31 March 1968

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 107-1-1

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

1. I enclose Commanders Diary (AF C 2118) (Adapted) as indicated at Part 2.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) John J. Dutton

Appointment No. C. SQN 1 ARMoured REGIMENT
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation C Sqn 1st Armoured Regiment

From 1 Mar 68 To 31 Mar 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

.....	to
.....	to
.....	to
.....	to	5
.....	to
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.....	to
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† ~~NIL~~
† RETAINED
† Despatched to AHQ
on 4 Mar 69

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

PART 3

**COMMANDERS DIARIES
INSTRUCTIONS**

AIM

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

GENERAL

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

RESPONSIBILITY

During Non-operational Periods

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

During Operational Periods (1)

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

COMPILATION

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

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

TENTS

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment
d orders given.
he day's fighting, including company movements.
amander with regard to equipment, facts, organization
potential importance.
o officers, men and equipment.
pment captured.
employed in the time not accounted for. The type of
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.

COMPLETION

Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:

- a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
- b. Index as printed on cover.
- c. Narratives (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
- d. Appendix as shown in the index.

7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment) must be given, the name of the commanding officer and all other members of the unit, the date of formation, the date of disbandment, the date of the last report, the date of receipt of the original diary, and the date of receipt of the duplicate diary.

8. The original and duplicate copies are to be submitted to the appropriate authority for approval. If the original and duplicate copies are submitted to the appropriate authority for approval, the original and duplicate copies are to be submitted to the appropriate authority for approval.

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMBAT LEADERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION C Sqn 1st Div 1st Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER MG P. R. BROMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	1 Mar 68		Construction of Bw sections began and Ech began the ammunition point. It was decided that the ammo pt would be of sandbag construction with iron covering around it built to a height of six feet.	
NUI DAT	2 Mar 68		The Squadron training programme began with the morning devoted to instruction on the following aspects of gunnery: Zeroing, MG shooting, FCE checks. A young shoot was conducted during the afternoon and all the which were completely used took part in a night shoot with IR.	
NUI DAT	3 Mar 68		Instruction was given on Ranging Gun, young, long range HE and semi indirect. Seven tanks completed long HE and RMC young and a further night shoot was conducted.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COM. A. JERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION C Sqdn 1st Amd Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major P. R. BROWN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	4 Mar	0815	OC called to TF commander and given warning order for our first operation. OPERATION PIRAROO. This naturally caused great excitement within the Squadron and the tempo increased. So Browning training was very poor and all commanders and gunners were put through a course on handling, stoppages, cleaning, stripping and assembling. The reason for this being that the .50 machine gun is a new weapon for C Sqdn and no gunners have completed a formal course.	
NUI DAT	5 Mar		A Bull ring system of instruction was conducted. Remaining tanks continued young and a night shoot. Drivers were given instruction on some aspects	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68.

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION C Sqn 1st Amdet
COMMANDING OFFICER Major P.R. BADMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NW1 DAT			of Ops. Radio operators were given a series of lectures by the OC and 2IC on KAC codes, Crypto, points of origin, procedure, the Squadron net and fault finding on a tank harness.	
NW1 DAT	6 Mar		Tank Coyus were being prepared to move to FSPB HERRING on 8 Mar. They were to conduct land clearing operations in the Light Green to prevent enemy exfiltration from the Lower MAT's to the Long Green. Further training was carried out in some cases as inexperienced commanders continually made mistakes with the FCE checks and pre-firing sequence. The Squadron contains many people with gunnery instructor backgrounds but the problems we faced were many. It appears	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION CSqn ~~1st~~
COMMANDING OFFICER Major R. BAOMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			at this stage that experience will be the best teacher.	
NUI DAT	7 Mar 68.		LT Owens will move with the doger group to OP PINNACLOO and act as a liaison officer and maintain a radio link with the Squadron. It was agreed with ASqn 3Cas that the food would be supplied by air from PARATUS PAD, the name given to CSqns helicopter pad.	
NUI DAT FSPB HERRING	8 Mar 68		The doger group moved with 2TP ASqn to FSPB Herring. En route the first 2000 round was fired in anger by 92A. It was fired into a tongue of jungle and to which was suspected of being an ambush position.	N7
FSPB HERRING	9 Mar 68.		2TP ASqn and the dogers started their land clearing with only minor contacts.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Mar 68*

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION *C Sqw 4nd Lt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *Maj P.R. BADMAN*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>FSPB HERRING</i>	<i>10 Mar 68</i>		<p>Both dozer tanks were breaking down regularly and front idlers were broken. This is unusual and could probably have been caused by the sandy soil in the padi. Straining on one steering lever to drive out of the sand could be the reason.</p>	
<i>RVI DAT</i>	<i>10 Mar 68</i>		<p>Maj Badman issued orders for the introductory exercise outside the wire. Everyone was apprehensive because the route extended across a very wet looking padi field. We are about to see whether the tanks can make headway in dry padi.</p>	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMA DERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Mar
~~Feb~~ 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

C Sqn 1st Amd Bt

COMMANDING OFFICER

Major P. R. BALMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	11 Mar 68	0800-	The Sqw F Echelon moved out on a shake-down exercise designed to introduce everyone to the ground, vegetation, weather and general troop movement. The route was as follows. South from TF area into the padi and thence east across the padi to Route 52. North along route 52 then West and back into the area. On the first night loc YS486635 there was a 50% stand to. The	
	12 Mar 68	1000	Second day 30E moved off the road to allow an ox cart to go through and was bogged quite severely in wet padi. Recovery operations went into action and by 1900 that night the tank was recovered but immobilized because of the mud. The tank an ARV and officers vehicle remained outside the	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

March 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

C SqW 1st A Coy

COMMANDING OFFICER

Maj P. BRADMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p>SqW position by about 50 metres. Once again there was a 50% stand to. The reason for this was the length of time the Squadron had been in the same position. All vehicles were prepared for white light and at one stage a group of the area was carried out after the standing patrol had reported the sounds of a weapon being cocked.</p> <p>The vehicle was mobilized early in the morning and returned to NSI DAT. In all a most informative three day joint for all concerned.</p>	
NSI DAT	13 March			
	14 March		<p>A series of Inf/TK/APC cooperation lectures was was given to 1 Coy 3RAR by OC, TIC, Tech O and OC ASqW 3Coy followed by practical Inf/TK target indication with 2 Tp C SqW. In the</p>	
	15 March			

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION C Sqn 2nd Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER Major R. BROMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
NUI DAT	16 Mar 68		<p>early afternoon the 2TP group moved out for an overnight exercise in the area NW of the IATF base. During the night 2TP engaged lights in the NW MTH hills. The lights were soon extinguished.</p> <p>The group returned to the IATF base after some very helpful training with Inf and APCs. The main aims were to practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Inf leading b APCs leading c Tks leading d various means of supporting Inf by fire in close country. 	
NUI DAT	0730		<p>The remainder of the sqn moved out to join the Coy at FSPB HERRING YS 492552 for the start of op PINARROO. The group consisted of C Sqn (-), 1TP A Sqn 3 Caws and B Coy 3 RTRs.</p>	

1 B P Coy - 275/65 - 55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMA.DERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

C Sqn 1st Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER

Major R. BAYMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
HERRING	18 Mar 68		On arrival the Sqn group occupied the NORTH and NORTH EASTERN part of the perimeter. C Sqn less 2 Tps moved to YS 4952 to give fire sp to 3RAR move into the Long Hai mountains. 3 VC were engaged without decision. 2 Tps moved with D Coy 3RAR to YS 479524 to establish an FUP and SL for next days move by A Coy 3RAR. The troop fired HQ of Communist + MG all night.	014
YS 479524	19 Mar	0700	2 Tps fired into hills in area of A Coy advance. Two secondary explosions seen, possibly mines. Sqn (-) remained same loc and again engaged VC with unknown results. One troop replaced 2 Tps.	
HERRING	20 Mar		2 Tps went to the aid of 6 Pl 3RAR after a contact at CR YS 483546. Some difficulty	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COM. LEADERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Mar 68*

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION *C Sqn 11 Regt*

COMMANDING OFFICER *May. R. BRADMAN*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p>experienced in finding the correct area and the sounds of firing were the only guide. Eventually the platoon threw smoke and the tanks were only 20 yards from them but could still not be seen. 32c picked up the body of the forward scout and the troop married up with the platoon. The tanks lead the platoon out of the jungle engaging one area on point. There was no result. The force moved direct to FSPB HERRING.</p>	
<i>YS484546</i>	<i>21 Mar 68</i>		<p>2 Doyr tanks, 2 SMO tanks and 2 Tp went with B Coy 3RAR and found the items listed in 017</p>	<i>017</i>
<i>HERRING</i>	<i>22-24</i>		<p>C Sqn carried out a series of inf/tk cooperation with Companies of 3RAR.</p>	
<i>LANG HAI</i>	<i>25 Mar 68</i>		<p>2 Tp moved from HERRING to support 2RAR with Op ASHGROVE TRAM, a cordow and</p>	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION CSGW 1st Regt
COMMANDING OFFICER Maj. R. BAUMANN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			Search of LONG HAI. Ev route 32B had a broken idler wheel. A request was put through the Admin net for a new idler at LONG HAI. On arrival LONG HAI the idler was removed and the new one was replaced. By nightfall all calligons were three ways fit and in position on the cordon.	021
LONG HAI	26 Mar 68		The cordon and search proceeded next day and DTP were given a fuel resupply by Chinook. It went well but the troop had nothing eventful as they remained in the cordon. At 1500 they left LONG HAI and were back at HERRING by 1610 hrs. During the moves to and from Long Hai it became obvious that the tanks could move on roads with culverts without problem.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION CSqn 1st Regt
COMMANDING OFFICER Major P.R. BADMAN

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
YS 491510	26 Mar 68		<p>1Tp was in a fire support position at 493508 while the cos were sweeping EAST to WEST. At 491510 the cos contacted an unknown number of VC and were engaged with SA and RPG fire. At least one grenade was thrown by the VC.</p> <p>The Cos 4Tp (1Tp ASqn 3Cos) threw smoke and the tanks engaged the area to the west of the smoke. The Cos 4Tp withdrew to the padi and joined the tanks at 495515. Mors, fd arty and med arty was called in on the area. During the shelling the tps started leading the APCs back to the area. The failing light and some APC mechanical trouble held up the sweep. The force returned to HERRING.</p>	
YS 491510.	27 Mar 68		<p>The same force moved back to the area</p>	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR *Mar 68*

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION *C Sqw 1st AFD*

COMMANDING OFFICER *May P. R. Brooman*

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
<i>YS478480</i>	<i>28 Mar 68</i>		<i>of yesterdays contact but found nothing. 2 Tps with attached RAEME, 2 Secs of 1 Tpl 3 Cas, and 2 PPs D Coy 3RAR moved position Route 44 between 475483 and 498509. The tanks took the RIGHT and tracks on the left. A few targets were engaged on the way to the beach. The group harboured on the beach on the for lunch and on the move track engaged an area which was to be ambushed by a Pl of D Coy. The platoon later informed OC 2 Tpl that they found fresh blood trails in that area. After the insertion the force returned to HERRING.</i>	
<i>HERRING.</i>	<i>29 Mar 68</i>		<i>All troops carried out servicing in the Fire Support Base.</i>	
<i>Area Phuoc Hai</i>	<i>30 Mar 68</i>		<i>2 Tpl set off for 490498 for an ambush that night. On the way radio instructions</i>	

1 B P Coy-275/65-55m

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

CSgt 1st Amb Regt

COMMANDING OFFICER

Major O.R. BARON

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p>ordered them to stay put with all haste. OC 2TP developed engine problems. He changed to 32C and continued. Stay had received info from a VC wounded that several VC wounded were in the cellar of a house at 478488. The force moved direct to the beach and the tanks covered the houses while the infantry searched them. Nothing was found and the group returned to D Coy position. The troop with some inf and a mine team then moved back to ambush the beach in order to stop the sampans moving stores or people during the night. No result occurred that night.</p> <p>Early in the morning a VC gave himself up to 2TP in the ambush site.</p>	
PHUOC HAI	31 Mar 68			

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMRADES DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

Mar 68

REFERENCE MAP

UNIT/FORMATION

C Coy 1st Bn 4th Div

COMMANDING OFFICER

Major R. [Signature]

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			<p>He was searched and questioned by the D Coy interpreter. He said many people could be prepared to come out of the hills if the voice aircraft was put in quickly. The area was unwatched by people and eventually the prisoner walked with D Coy into the hills. The ambush site became a Tac HQ of 3RAR. At approx 1730 hrs. 2TP were followed by 1TP and they returned to Herring.</p> <p><u>Comments by OC.</u></p>	

CONFIDENTIAL

000009

Copy No of 105

HQ 1 ATF

NUI DAT

152200H Mar 68

OPS471

D3

FragO 1 to OPO 10/68 (OP PINNAROO)

Reference: A. HQ 1 ATF OPS392 dated 042200H Mar 68.

Time zone used throughout this order: HOTEL

1. Situation

a. Enemy Forces. Intelligence update including enlargements have been issued separately.

b. Friendly Forces. No change.

2. Mission. To redeploy elements of 1 ATF for the continuation of Op PINNAROO.

3. Execution

a. Phase 4 is to commence on 17 Mar.

b. Orders for phases 5 and 6 will be issued later.

c. 2 RAR

(1) Grouping. No change.

(2) Tasks

(a) Recce in force from present locs to new inter bn bdry.

(b) Gain a foothold with one coy on the central high ground centre of mass YS462530.

d. 3 RAR

(1) Grouping. No change.

(2) Tasks

(a) Recce in force low ground EAST of NUI DIEN BA YS4653 within bdrys.

(b) Maintain blocking posns as in Phases 2 and 3 where possible.

(c) Deploy D Coy to AO on 17 Mar. Coy to move with C Sqn Gp.

(d) Prepare for phase 5 - the occupation of the HON VUNG centre of mass YS480510.

e. C Sqn 1 Armd Regt.

(1) Grouping

Released from op con
A Sqn 3 Cav Regt from
time of arrival C Sqn
FSPB HERRING
On standby at 1 Fd Sqn

C Sqn team (two dozers,
1 ARV, 1 Br layer, 1 fitters
veh, 1 APC)

two mini teams 1 Fd Sqn

NOTE: C Sqn ($\frac{1}{2}$ Sqn Gp) is under the op con of HQ 1 ATF and will be in loc at FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(2) Tasks

(a) Deploy cross country to FSPB HERRING on 17 Mar.

/ 2.

- (b) Be prepared to sp 2 RAR and 3 RAR ops as required.
- (c) Be prepared to engage tgts on NUI DIEN BA and HON VUNG.

f. A Sqn 3 Cav Regt

- (a) Continue to deploy one sect and one M108 op con coy 7 RAR for def WEST of BARIA YS3760.
- (b) Deploy one tp op con 3 RAR.
- (c) Complete tasks as shown in Annex A.
- (d) Deploy one tp (-) for protection Aust LC team operating vic engr by pass road NUI DAT from 18 Mar.

g. Artillery

- (1) Allotment no change.
- (2) Commencing 170800H deploy 161 Fd Bty to FSPB HERRING by CH47.
- (3) A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) is deploying by road to HORSESHOE HILL (see Annex A).
- (4) Naval Gun Fire Sp will be available during Phase 4.

h. 1 Fd Sqn

- (1) Move D4 dozer from HORSESHOE HILL to FSPB HERRING - Annex A.
- (2) Coordinate Aust Land Clearing Team ops in vic engr by pass rd from 18 Mar.
- (3) Continue to provide and rotate combat engr and mini teams for 2 RAR, 3 RAR, C Sqn and A Sqn.
- (4) Commencing AM 17 Mar prepare crossing over SUOI DA BANG at YS463655 for move of 2/35 Arty PM 17 Mar.

i. HQ Coy HQ 1 ATF

- (1) Provide sect AM 17 Mar for protection engrs at SUOI DA BANG.
- (2) Provide Def Pl (-) on 17 Mar for ops with A Sqn 3 Cav Regt listed in Annex A.

j. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) Boundary. Wef 170700H inter bn bdry is YS465577 along creek to jungle edge at YS476569 thence along edge of jungle to YS484548 thence along creek to YS466530. Mousetrap if required after liaison.
- (2) Liaison
 - (a) No change
 - (b) 7 RAR is to continue to provide LO for duties at Sector HQ each night.
- (3) FSPB HERRING. OC B Coy is nominated FSPB Comd wef 170800H.
- (4) Air
 - Army Avn. Provide CH47 sp for mov one fd bty 17 Mar.
- (5) Road Convoys. Additional convoys will be required to deliver gun ammo to HORSESHOE HILL. Requests for escorts, BARIA to HORSESHOE HILL to GS02 (Ops) 24 hrs in adv.

CONFIDENTIAL

3.

Instructions: Ack by telephone to EBONY 50.

(R.L. HUGHES)
Brig
Comd

Authentication:



(D.V. SMITH)
Maj
GSO2 (Ops)

Annex: A. Sequence of Events.

Distribution:

List Z

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX A TO
1 ATF FRAGO 1
DATED 152200H MAR 68
OP PINNAROO

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
17 MAR 68

Serial	Timings	Event	Grouping	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1	170730H	Def Pl (-) moves by RAAF Iroquois to FSPB HERRING YS4955 and marries up with tp A Sqn now op con 3 RAR.	RAAF Iroquois	1 Fd Sqn to deploy drivers for truck and tilt bed tlr to HORSESHOE on same aircraft.
2	170730H	1 Fd Sqn commences repair crossing SUOI DA BANG YS463655 protected by sect HQ Coy HQ 1 ATF.		
3	170800H	a. 161 Fd Bty deploys by air from HORSESHOE HILL to FSPB HERRING. b. C Sqn 1 Armd Regt, one tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt and D Coy 3 RAR move from NUI DAT overland to FSPB HERRING.	CH47s All elements under comd OC C Sqn for mov.	
4	170900H	2 RAR rd convoy departs NUI DAT for HORSESHOE HILL. 1 ARU vehs (2 x 2½ ton, 1 x ¼ ton) for resup MAT at HOI MY move with convoy. C Sqn 1 Armd Regt wh ech vehs also move with convoy.		
5	By 171000H	a. A Sqn 3 Cav Regt is to have deployed protection element (suggest tp (-) with Def Pl (-)) to HORSESHOE HILL from FSPB HERRING. b. Task - escort C Sqn ech vehs and D4 dozer to FSPB HERRING, and 1 ARU vehs to HOI MY. c. On completion this task Tp plus Pl (-) returns to HORSESHOE HILL escorting 1 ARU 2½ ton vehs and 1 Fd Sqn truck and tilt bed tlr to HORSESHOE HILL. d. Tp and Pl (-) then return to NUI DAT base for next task - escort of A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) to HORSESHOE HILL via Route 52.		Task can only commence when 2 RAR convoy arrives HORSESHOE HILL.

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
6	To be advised	2 RAR convoy departs HORSESHOE HILL when Serial 5 is complete.		
7	171400H	A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) moves by road, Route 52 to HORSESHOE HILL escorted by one tp A Sqn and Def Pl.	M88 should accompany bty.	Route 52 vic YS489650 to YS488640 is narrow and has suffered damage due to tk ops. Exercise care. Creek at YS488633 is passable to all types of vehs by ford to EAST.
8		One tp A Sqn and Def Pl return to NUI DAT on completion Serial 7.		

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HQ 1 ATF

NUI DAT

042200H Mar 68

OP392

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OpO 10/68 (Op PINNAROO)

References: A. L8015 Sheets 6429, I and IV, Edition 2 AMS 1 : 25,000.
B. 1 ATF SD391 of 040935Z Mar 68.

Time zone used throughout this order: HOTEL.

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces.

- (1) Annex A.
- (2) Annex P Enemy Installations as at 2400 hrs 1 Mar 68.

b. Friendly Forces.

- (1) GVN/ARVN outposts are located as follows:

RF	YS424573	RF	YS501563
RF	YS431548	RF	YS503560
RF	YS433522	RF	YS503558
MSF	YS4351	RF	YS507560
PF	YS447495	ARVN	YS514540
PF	YS452491	ARVN/PF	YS515535
ARVN	YS497570	ARVN	YS512526
ARVN	YS498567		

- (2) Recce Coy 18 ARVN Div and the Sector I and R Pl are to operate within the Province in conjunction with Op PINNAROO.

c. Atts and Dets.

In sp from 050700H 2 CH47s
until released

In sp from 060300H AHC

Reinforcing 4 Fd Regt A Bty 1/83 Arty (US)
(remaining) A Bty 2/35 Arty (US)

A land clearing team from II FFORCE V has been requested.

2. Mission. 1 ATF is to capture the LONG HAI Mountain complex centre of mass YS4653.

3. Execution.

a. General Outline.

- (1) The operation involves the capture of an area which is occupied by a strong VC force and which is known to be mined. The capture of the area will permit destruction of the enemy base installations and deny him future use of the area.
- (2) The operation will take three to four weeks and is to be executed in six phases.

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- (a) Phase 1. 2 RAR domination of LONG DIEN area YS4359 and the northern flank of AO MOSELLE - Annex Q.
- (b) Phase 2. The establishment of a blocking position on the east by 3 RAR and the extension of the 2 RAR position down the western boundary.
- (c) Phase 3. The reduction of all known VC positions by air, artillery and CS attack.
- (d) Phase 4. The clearing by ground troops of the low ground to the east of the hills, the destruction of all mines and enemy camps not destroyed by air and artillery.
- (e) Phase 5. The clearing of the central and southern high ground by ground troops and the final destruction of all enemy positions. (If required).
- (f) Phase 6. The clearing by land clearing teams of jungle on east low ground.

(3) Timings.

Phase 1	Current.
Phase 2	Commences 6 Mar.
Phase 3	Current - intensified from 6 Mar incl.
Phase 4	NOT before 15 Mar.
Phase 5	NOT before 20 Mar.
Phase 6	NOT before 1 Apr (approx).

b. Groupings. Annex B.

c. Orders for Phases 4 - 6 issued separately later.

d. 2 RAR.

(1) Phase 1. Continue current operations.

(2) Phase 2.

(a) Move onto and dominate the NUI HON THUNG YS4454 and NUI DA DUNG YS4455.

(b) Establish ambush positions along western boundary of AO MOSELLE to YS450510.

(c) Prepare to extend blocking line from NUI DA DUNG to the paddy to NE vic Route 326.

(d) Bn AO is to be probed with patrols carefully and slowly, avoiding tracks and suspect minefield areas.

(3) Phase 3. Maintain Phase 2 locations.

(4) Deploy Aslt Pnr Pl under comd 1 Fd Sqn for detailed mine-warfare trg and subsequent deployment with combat engr teams 1 Fd Sqn.

e. 3 RAR.

(1) Phase 1. No tasks.

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(2) Phase 2.

(a) Establish a line of pl or half pl ambushes from YS475573 to the coast but within 105 mm gun range from HORSESHOE feature YS4961. Preferably only three Coys are to be deployed in this role.

(b) In conjunction with elements C Sqn/A Sqn establish clear lanes through scrub in YS4954, 4953; and through YS5052 if considered necessary.

(c) Bn A0 is to be probed with patrols carefully and slowly, avoiding tracks and suspect minefield areas.

(3) Phase 3. Maintain blocking positions established in Phase 2.

(4) Deploy Aslt Pnr Pl under comd 1 Fd Sqn for detailed mine-warfare trg and subsequent deployment with combat engr teams 1 Fd Sqn.

f. 7 RAR. Continue with following tasks from NUI DAT:

(1) Coy in def loc West of BARIA YS3760.

(2) Coy for protection Aust land clearing team at AP SOUI NGHE YS4371.

(3) Coy for 1 ATF Ready Reaction Force.

g. C Sqn 1 Armd Regt.

(1) Phase 1. No tasks. Continue in theatre op workup at NUI DAT.

(2) Phase 2.

(a) Op con to 2 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt team of:

two tk dozers
one br layer
one ARV
one fitters veh (APC)
one APC (LO)

for ops with 3 RAR.

(b) Continue op workup at NUI DAT including short duration ops west and east of base loc.

(3) Phase 3. As for Phase 2.

h. A Sqn 3 Cav Regt.

(1) Phase 1.

(a) Continue to deploy one tp for protection land clearing team.

(b) One sect and one M108 are to be deployed op con B Coy 7 RAR for def west BARIA.

(2) Phase 2.

(a) Continue phase 1 tasks.

(b) Deploy one tp (2 Tp) op con to 3 RAR.

(c) Protect 2 RAR road convoy to and from HORSESHOE HILL and cover deployment of MAT from 1 ARU to HOI MY YS5056 on 6 Mar
Convoy departs 2 RAR 0800 hrs.

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(d) Provide two mor APCs for mov of mor sect Mor Pl 3 RAR to AO.

(3) Phase 3.

(a) As for phase 2 less para (c).

(b) Maintain one tp (-) for 1 ATF Ready Reaction Force.

i. Artillery.

(1) Allotment NO change.

(2) Commencing 050800H 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty are to deploy to HORSESHOE HILL.

(3) Naval Gun Fire Sp has been requested again for Phases 2 - 3.

j. 1 Fd Sqn.

(1) Continue deployment of three combat engr teams to 2 RAR.

(2) Provide four combat engr teams for 3 RAR.

(3) Deploy mini teams as follows:

One tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt - land clearing.

One tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt - 3 RAR ops.

C Sqn 1 Armd Regt team operating with 2 Tp A Sqn.

One sect A Sqn operating with B Coy 7 RAR.

(4) Coordinate land clearing teams for tasks in phase 6.

(5) Undertake detailed training in minewarfare for the pnr pls of 2 RAR and 3 RAR for subsequent deployment during the operation. This will enable mine clearing teams to be rotated.

(6) Provide one dozer size D4 for operations with bty 4 Fd Regt at HORSESHOE HILL for def works. Dozer to move on tilt bed tlr with convoy from 2 RAR 060800H.

k. A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp. Be prepared to conduct svy work from mountain peaks during latter phases of op.

l. 161 (Indep) Recce Flt.

(1) Continue to provide one H13 in DS of 2 RAR.

(2) Commencing 060630H provide one H13 in DS of 3 RAR.

(3) 2 RAR and 3 RAR are to task DS ac each day for at least two one hr VR's (morning and afternoon) in each unit AO.

(4) Continue TAOR/PHUOC TUY Province area VR.

(5) Provide an ac for special VR or other tasks in the op area.

(6) Provide a voice ac as directed.

m. Psy Ops.

(1) Prepare specific broadcast material for use against en in AO MOSELLE.

(2) Be prepared to exploit any information gained from PW and HOI CHANHs from the AO.

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(3) Prepare leaflets for use in the AO. Stress the heavy fire-power available and which will be used in the area.

n. 1 ARU. Mobile Advisory Team is to be deployed to HOI MY/LO GOM area AM 6 Mar 68.

o. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) AO and boundaries. Annex Q.

(2) Base Def. One mor sect each 2 RAR and 3 RAR to remain in base loc.

(3) HORSESHOE HILL.

(a) Whilst HQ 2 RAR is in loc CO 2 RAR is responsible for coordination of defs.

(b) On departure HQ 2 RAR, CO 3 RAR is responsible.

(c) On departure HQ 3 RAR OC C Coy 2 RAR resumes responsibility.

(4) Liaison.

(a) 2 RAR is to provide:

i. LO at Sector HQ BARIA (continuing).

ii. LO team (Officer, radio operator/s and radio) for deployment with MSF at LONG HAI.

iii. LO team at sub sector LONG DIEN.

(b) 3 RAR is to provide:

i. LO team (Officer/WO, radio operator/s and radio) for deployment with sub sector DAT DO YS4959.

ii. LO team on standby for deployment to LONG PHUOC HAI YS5153 if required.

(5) Air.

(a) No 9 Sqn RAAF.

i. Be prepared to provide a DUSTOFF back up between 0730 hrs and 1900 hrs daily.

ii. Provide a DUSTOFF ac at VUNG TAU on fifteen minutes notice to move from 1900 hrs to 0730 hrs daily.

iii. Provide tac and log sp as required.

iv. Provide Iroquois ac to reinforce AHC PM 6 Mar for fly in 3 RAR.

(b) Army Aviation.

i. Provide LFT daily on standby at NUI DAT.

ii. Provide DUSTOFF with winch daily from 0800 hrs to 1830 hrs.

iii. Provide CH47 sp for CS drop on 6 Mar.

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iv. Provide one AHC in sp from 061300H.

(c) USAF.

i. Maintain VR and close air support in op area.

ii. Investigate conflagration methods e.g. napalm strikes following dieso drops from CH47s.

iii. Bid for 20mm strikes into AO MOSELLE by any ac returning with unexpended 20mm ammo.

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7.

Administration and Logistics.

- a. General. A fwd TFMA will NOT be estb.
- b. Materiel and Services.
 - (1) Gun ammo. Direct to gun locs from 1 ALSG. Bids to Q Br.
 - (2) SA, Mor and Tk ammo. Through unit echs loc NUI DAT. Separate arrangements for tk ammo after 15 Mar 68.
 - (3) POL. For other than armour, through unit ech. Tk and APC fuel direct from 1 ALSG, bids through Q Br. All oils and lubricants through unit ech.
 - (4) Rat. Fd Btys loc at HORSESHOE rat by 4 Fd Regt. Del by rd. 4 Fd Regt liaise with 2 RAR for rd convoy details and timings. 2 RAR responsible for org rd convoys.
 - (5) Water. Unit responsibility.
 - (6) Echs. Remain under unit con.
 - (7) Repair, Rec and Backloading. Unit resources to closest national route then TF arrangements to NUI DAT if outside unit rec facilities.
 - (8) Med.
 - (a) Unit RAPs deployed.
 - (b) Casevac - Normal DUSTOFF procedure.

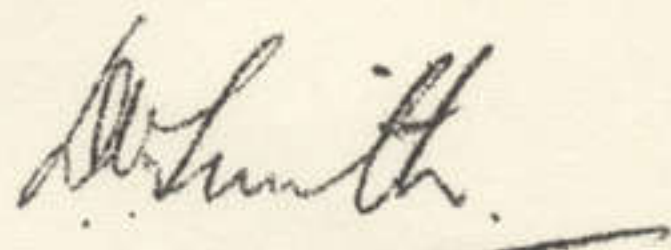
5. Command and Signal.

- a. HQ 1 ATF remains NUI DAT.
- b. LO call signs issued separately.
- c. Code Word for the Operation: PINNAROO.

Ack Instructions: Ack by telephone to EBONY 50.

(R.L. HUGHES)
Brig
Comd

Authentication:


(D.V. SMITH)
Maj
GSO 2 (Ops)

- Annexes: A. Enemy Forces.
B. Grouping.
P. Enemy Installations as at 2400 hrs 1 Mar 68
Q. AOs and Boundaries.

Distribution:

List Z

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ANNEX A TO
1 ATF OPO 10/68
DATED 042200H MAR 68

ENEMY FORCES

1. The LONG HAI Peninsula has long been the home base for the district unit, the district infrastructure and the local guerillas within the VC LONG DAT and VUNG TAU infrastructure. In addition to the district company (C25) the provincial forces have usually maintained a company of the provincial battalion (D445) in the area to support district and local forces in guerilla and general harassment tasks against the major population centres of the province. The whole area is known by the VC as the MINH DAM Secret Zone.
2. The VC TET offensive saw C25 together primarily against LONG DIEN while D445 operated as a battalion against BARIA. Following the disintegration of D445 in BARIA it appears that some of its sub-units have moved to the LONG HAI area where they have become available to support the local forces. Although no members of D445 have been identified in contact in the LONG HAI area agent reports place the strength of these elements as high as two companies. This report is obviously exaggerated and while elements of more than one company of D445 may have withdrawn to this area it is unlikely their accumulative strength exceeds 100.
3. C25 has been relatively unscathed during the offensive period and their strength probably remains around 70 and they retain a capacity for small scale reinforcement from local guerillas.
4. As well as the combatant forces above, the district infrastructure and those members of the village infrastructures living outside the towns (numbering up to 200) are also available for the defence of their base camps when attached.
5. When the VC realise they are being heavily pressed in their bases they will attempt to break out of the base area. Their most likely route of withdrawal will be to the EAST into the LONG GREEN centre of mass YS5559 and with a possible secondary withdrawal route into the mangrove and waterways to the WEST. Where possible the VC will also cache their weapons and mix with the people if they are allowed to break out to the EAST to the villages of Route 44.
6. In addition to the accompanying map Annex P showing known VC installations, attention is drawn to recent interrogation reports (particularly 1 Div Int BN 228) which indicates additional VC areas. From these it seems that the base of the LONG DAT District infrastructure, the VUNG TAU infrastructure and some local guerillas are centred around the HON VUNG and NUI CHAU VIEN mountains (grid squares YS4750, YS4751, YS4850 and YS4851 and that this area appears to hold the largest concentration of VC strength.
7. Throughout the whole MINH DAM base area the VC have adopted an extremely active mining policy. Latest interrogation reports indicate some mined areas in the SOUTH and also that all tracks and trails throughout the area may be mined and booby-trapped. Additional minefield data: Possible mined areas exist in:

YS442575
440561
435549
440551

YS431548
433522
474553
478538

YS470533
479527
475518
461503
487503

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ANNEX B TO
1 ATF OPO 10/68
DATED 042200H FEB 68
OP PINNAROO

GROUPING - OP PINNAROO

Status of Comd	2 RAR	3 RAR	A Sqn 3 Cav Regt	4 Fd Regt	1 Fd Sqn
Under comd	Three combat engr teams 1 Fd Sqn (remaining).	Four combat engr teams 1 Fd Sqn from 060700H.	Mini teams 1 Fd Sqn as required.		Aslt Pnr Pls 2 RAR, 3 RAR from 050700H (less routine A and Ord)
Op con		One tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt. Two mor APCs A Sqn 3 Cav Regt.	C Sqn 1 Armd Regt team (2 tk dozers, 1 br layer, 1 ARV, 1 fitters veh, 1 APC (LO), one mini team 1 Fd Sqn)		
In DS	108 Fd Bty (remaining) One H13 (remaining).	161 Fd Bty (remaining) One H13 from 060630H.			
In sp		One AHC from 061300H until released.		Two CH47s from 050800H until released.	
Reinforcing (remaining)				A Bty 1/83 Arty (US). A Bty 2/35 Arty (US).	

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AO NOSELLE

ANNEX C TO
1 ATF OPO 10/68
DATED 042200H MAR 68
OP PINBAROG

REFERENCE: A. VIETNAM L7014 SERIES, SHEETS 6429 I AND IV, 1: 50,000



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*Amended WR*Copy No⁴⁰ of 90 Copies3 RAR
NUI DAT

D2

042359H Mar 68

OPS 5/68

OpO 4/68 (Op PINNAROO)

Refs: A. HQ 1 ATF OPO 10/68 (Op PINNAROO) dated 042200H Mar 68.
B. L8015 Sheets 6429, I and IV Edition 2 AMS 1:25,000.

Time zone used throughout the order: HOTEL

1. Situation.a. En Forces. Annex A.b. Friendly Forces.

(1) GVN/ARVN outposts are loc as fol:

RF YS 424573	RF YS 501563
RF YS 431578	RF YS 503560
RF YS 433522	RF YS 503558
MSF YS 4351	RF YS 507560
PF YS 447495	ARVN YS 514540
PF YS 452491	ARVN/PF YS 515535
ARVN YS 497570	ARVN YS 512526
ARVN YS 498567	

(2) Recce Coy 18 ARVN Div and the Sector I and R Pl, are to op within the Province in conjunction with Op PINNAROO.

(3) 2 RAR

(a) Mov onto and dominate the NUI HON THUNG YS 4454 and NUI DA DUNG YS 4455.

(b) Estb ambush posns along the WESTERN bdry of AO MOSELLE to YS 450510.

(c) Prepare to extend blocking line from NUI DA DUNG to the paddy to NE vic Route 326.

(4) 7 RAR(a) Conducting ops WEST of Route 2.
(b) Provide 1 ATF Ready Reaction Coy.c. Atts and Dets

(1) Under comd from 060700H	- Four combat engr teams.
(2) Op con from 061045H	- One tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt plus two mor APCs.
(3) Remaining in DS	- 161 Fd Bty, 4 Fd Regt
(4) In DS from 060630H	- One H13 161 (Indep) Recce Flt
(5) In sp from 061300H until released.	- One AHC

2. Mission. 3 RAR is to block en mov EAST of LONG HAI Mountain commencing 6 Mar 68.3. Executiona. Gen Outline

(1) 1 ATF is to capture the LONG HAI complex centre of mass YS 4563.

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(2) The op is to be conducted in six phases and will take 3 - 4 weeks.

- (a) Phase 1. 2 RAR domination of LONG DIEN, currently in progress.
- (b) Phase 2. The estb of blocking posn by 3 RAR to the EAST and extension of 2 RAR posn down the WESTERN bdy.
- (c) Phase 3. The reduction of all known VC posn by air, arty, CS attacks.
- (d) Phase 4. The clearing by ground tps of the low ground to the EAST of the hills; the destruction of all mines and en camps not destroyed by air and arty.
- (e) Phase 5. The clearing of the central and SOUTHERN high ground by ground tps and the final destruction of all en posns. (If required).
- (f) Phase 6. The clearing by land clearing teams of jungle on EAST low ground.

(3) Timings

- (a) Phase 1. Current
- (b) Phase 2. 6 Mar
- (c) Phase 3. Current - intensified from 6 Mar incl.
- (d) Phase 4. Not before 15 Mar.
- (e) Phase 5. Not before 20 Mar.
- (f) Phase 6. Not before 1 Apr (approx)

(4) Orders for Phases 4 to 6 issued later.

b. A Coy

(1) Grouping. Under comd from 060700H - One combat engr Team
1 Fd Sqn
- FO party
- MFC
- Interpreter

(2) Tasks:

- (a) Hel aslt into AO FALCON vic YS 500532.
- (b) Prevent en mov through AO FALCON by estb line of pl or half pl ambushes from YS 500540.
- (c) Be prepared in conjunction with elms C Sqn/A Sqn to clear lane through scrub YS 5052.
- (d) AO FALCON is to be probed with ptls carefully and slowly, avoiding tracks and suspect minefield areas.

c. B Coy

(1) Grouping: Under comd from 060700H - one combat engr Team 1 Fd Sqn
- FO Party
- MFC
- Interpreter
Under comd from 061000H - 1 Sect mors.

(2) Tasks:

- (a) Mov by APC to AO HAWK (under op con APC comd for mov).

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- (b) Estb a base area in AO HAWK to sp armd elms.
- (c) Prevent en mov through AO HAWK by estb line of pl or half pl . ambushes. from YS 492558.
- (d) In conjunction with C Sqn/A Sqn clear lanes through scrub in YS 4954 and 4953.
- (e) AO HAWK is to be probed with ptls carefully and slowly, avoiding tracks and suspect minefield areas.
- d. C Coy:
- (1) Grouping: Under comd from 060700H - one engr combat team
1 Fd Sqn.
- FO party
- MFC
- Interpreter
- (2) Tasks
- (a) Hel aslt in AO EAGLE vic YS 486574.
- (b) Prevent en mov through AO EAGLE by estb line of pl or half pl - ambushes from YS 475573.
- (c) AO EAGLE is to be probed with ptls carefully and slowly, avoiding tracks and suspect minefield areas.
- e. D Coy:
- (1) Grouping: Under comd from 060700H - one engr combat team
1 Fd Sqn.
- FO Party
- MFC
- (2) Tasks: Remain 3 RAR Base as stand by coy on 30 mins notice to move.
- f. Mor Pl:
- (1) Grouping: Under con B Coy until released - 1 sect.
- (2) Tasks: Close sp for 3 RAR Gp.
- g. Aslt Pnr Pl:
- (1) Grouping: Under comd 1 Fd Sqn RAE from 050800H until released.
- (2) Tasks:
- (a) Detailed minewarfare trg under direction 1 Fd Sqn.
- (b) Subsequent deployment with engr combat teams 1 Fd Sqn.
- h. Anti Tk Pl:
- (1) Grouping: Normal.
- (2) Tasks:
- (a) Assist in defence 3 RAR Base NUI DAT.
- (b) Combat Tracker team on stand by as per SOP.
- i. Bn Base Area:
- (1) Grouping:
- (a) 30 personnel per Rifle coy (less D Coy).

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4.

(b) HQ 3 RAR (-) Tac HQ.

(2) Tasks:

- (a) Normal and op resupply.
- (b) Def 3 RAR Base Area.
- (c) To op 3 RAR CP REAR from 051630H to (to be advised).

j. A Sqn 3 Cav Regt:

- (1) Grouping: Under op con from 061045H -
- 1 Tp
 - 2 Mor APCs
 - 2 tk dozers
 - 1 Br Layer
 - 1 ARV
 - 1 Fitters veh
 - 1 APC
 - 1 Mini team

(2) Tasks:

- (a) Deploy B Coy from 3 RAR Base to AO HAWK.
- (b) Assist in scrub clearing tasks vic YS 4954, YS 4953 and if required YS 5052.

k. Arty.

- (1) 105mm: 161 Bty RNZA remains in DS. Deploys to HORSESHOE HILL 050800H.
- (2) 175mm: A Bty 1/83 Arty US reinforcing.
A Bty 2/35 Arty US reinforcing.

l. Engrs:

- (1) Grouping: Under comd from 060700H - 4 combat engr teams.
- (2) Tasks:
- (a) All phases assist in destruction, deml of bunkers, tunnels and clearances of mines, booby traps and UXBs.

m. Avn:

- (1) 161 (Indep) Recce Flt:
- (a) In DS from 060630H - one H13.
 - (b) Remain on call APPLE ORCHARD LZ from 06700H.
 - (c) Position LO team to DAT DO Sub Sector by 060900H.
 - (d) Morning and afternoon VR of unit AO.
- (2) US Army Avn
- (a) In sp from 061300H - one AHC.
 - (b) Fly in A and C Coys to insecure LZs vic YS 500532 and YS 486574 respectively.
- (3) 9 Sqn RAAF: Fly in HQ 3 RAR Tac from APPLE ORCHARD PZ to HORSESHOE HILL.

n. Coord Instrs:

- (1) Area of Ops and Bdrys Annex B
- (2) Air Mov Details Annex C
- (3) Outline Timings Annex D
- (4) Fire Plan: Issued seperately.

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(5) Liaison

(a) A liaison team is to be deployed to DAT DO Sub Sector:
LQ - Sgt D. Heslewood and radio op.

(b) LO team to be in posn by 060900H.

(c) Briefing seperately by Ops Offr 051330H.

(6) Joining Up Places

(a) B Coy/APC tp join up EASTERN end NORTH TERRACE.

(b) B Coy gp join up C Sqn elms at entrance to C Sqn base.

4. Administration and Logistics:

a. Resup Gen. Resupply to be effected initially by rd and air as fols:

(1) B Coy. Rd convoy in conjunction with A Sqn 3 Cav Regt.

(2) A Coy C Coy. Air resupply.

b. AQ Cell. Loc with Tac HQ 3 RAR.

c. Rats. 3 days to be carried on the man. Rat resupply 9 Mar 68.

d. Water. Coys to carry 4 filled canteens per man. Daily resupply as required.

e. Ammo. As per SOP. Mor sect is to carry max amount of ammo in APCs 6 Mar 68.

f. Respirators. CQMSs are to withdraw respirators on personal issue; these are to be held, pack 4 to a sandbag, aval for immediate despatch.

g. Ech Packs. 2 changes of clothing per man to be held by CQMSs in two seperate packs.

h. Med.

(1) RMO. loc with Tac HQ 3 RAR. To be aval for immediate mov to coys by POSSUM.

(2) CASEVAC. By air/rd as required.

(3) Local water is suspect due to proximity of villages in the area.

i. Nominal Rolls. Coys are to incl particulars of att engr cbt teams in nominal rolls submitted to Admin CP.

5. Command and Signal:

a. Locs:

(1) CO airborne C & C hel for insertion of A and C Coy thereafter loc HQ 3 RAR Tac.

(2) HQ 3 RAR Tac opens HORSESHOE HILL 061200H.

b. Radio:

(1) Bn Comd Net: Callsigns and freqs as per SOP and current SOIs.

c. Estb Comms:

Bn Comd Net 061030H
Admin/Air Net 061030H
Base Defence Net 051615H

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6.

d. Time Check: 061045H (Arty Time)

e. Codes:

Q Hr, Pt of Origin, numeral, authentication, ops codes as per SOI.

f. Nicknames:

- (1) As per 3 RAR SOI.
- (2) As per Coy AO's - see Annex B.

Ack Instrs: Ack by phone to HQ 3 RAR

(J.J. SHELTON)
Lt Col
CO

D. N. Candow

Authentication:

(D.N. CANDOW)
Maj
Ops Offr

Annexes A. En Forces
 B. Area of Ops and Bdrys
 C. Air Mov Details
 D. Outline Timings

<u>Distribution:</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
A Coy	1
B Coy	2
C Coy	3
D Coy	4
Sp Coy	5 - 6
Sig Pl	7
Mor Pl	8
Aslt Pnr Pl	9
Anti Tk Pl	10
Admin Coy	11
CO	12
2IC	13
Ops Offr	14 - 15
Adjt	16
IO	17
QM	18
AQM	19
RMO	20
2IC Admin Coy	21
RSM	22
BC	23 - 28
CP	29
A Sqn 3 Cav Regt RAAC	30 - 35
C Sqn 1 Armd Regt RAAC	36 - 41
4 Fd Regt RAA	42 - 47
1 Fd Sqn RAE	48 - 49
104 Sig Sqn	50
161 (Indep) Recce Flt	51
1 ATF	52 - 75
1/83rd US Arty	76
2/35th US Arty	77
2 RAR	78
7 RAR	79
9 RAR	80
US Army AVN LO	81
Comds Diary	82 - 84
File	85 - 90

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ANNEX A TO
3 RAR OPO 4/68
DATED 4 MAR 68

ENEMY FORCES

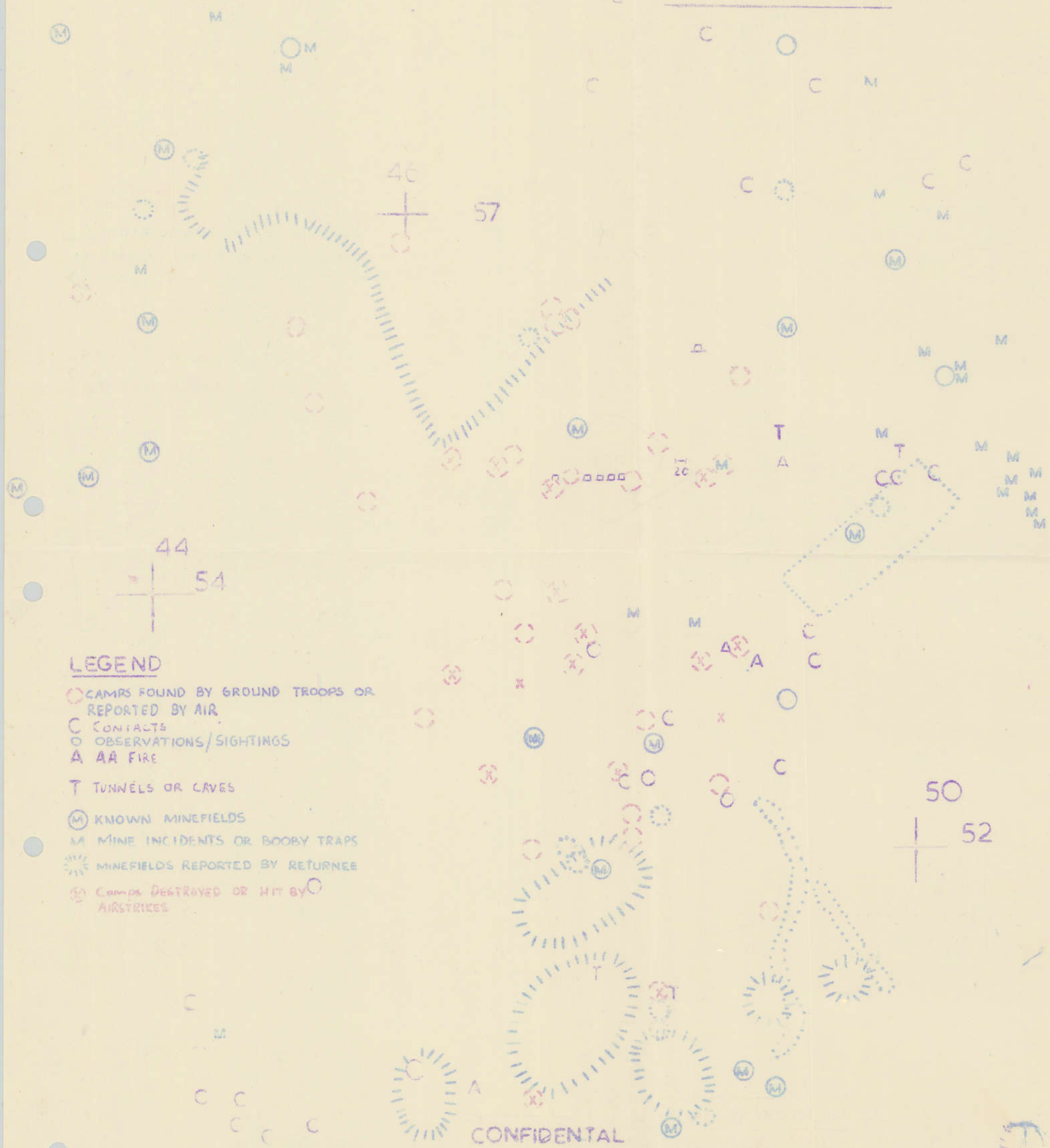
1. The LONG HAI Peninsula has long been the home base for the district unit, the district infrastructure and the local guerillas within the VC LONG DAT and VUNG TAU infrastructure. In addition to the district company (C25) the provincial forces have usually maintained a company of the provincial battalion (D445) in the area to support district and local forces in guerilla and general harassment tasks against the major population centres of the province. The whole area is known by the VC as the MINH DAM Secret Zone.
2. The VC TET offensive saw C25 together primarily against LONG DIEN while D445 operated as a battalion against BARIA. Following the disintegration of D445 in BARIA it appears that some of its sub-units have moved to the LONG HAI area where they have become available to support the local forces. Although no members of D445 have been identified in contact in the LONG HAI area agent reports place the strength of these elements as high as two companies. This report is obviously exaggerated and while elements of more than one company of D445 may have withdrawn to this area it is unlikely their accumulative strength exceeds 100.
3. C25 has been relatively unscathed during the offensive period and their strength probably remains around 70 and they retain a capacity for small scale reinforcement from local guerillas.
4. As well as the combatant forces above, the district infrastructure and those members of the village infrastructure living outside the towns (numbering up to 200) are also available for the defence of their base camps when attached.
5. When the VC realise they are being heavily pressed in their bases they will attempt to break out of the base area. Their most likely route of withdrawal will be to the EAST into the LONG GREEN centre of mass YS5559 and with a possible secondary withdrawal route into the mangrove and waterways to the WEST. Where possible the VC will also cache their weapons and mix with the people if they are allowed to break out to the EAST to the villages of Route 44.
6. In addition to the accompanying map Annex P showing known VC installations, attention is drawn to recent interrogation reports (particularly 1 Div Int OBN 228) which indicates additional VC areas. From these it seems that the base of the LONG DAT District infrastructure, the VUNG TAU infrastructure and some local guerillas are centred around the HON VUNG and NUI CHAU VIEN mountains (grid squares YS4750, YS4751, YS4850 and YS4851) and that this area appears to hold the largest concentration of VC strength.
7. Throughout the whole MINH DAM base area the VC have adopted an extremely active mining policy. Latest interrogation reports indicate some mined areas in the SOUTH and also that all tracks and trails throughout the area may be mined and booby-trapped. Additional minefield data: Possible mined area exist in:

YS442575	YS431548	YS470533
440561	433522	479527
435549	474553	475518
440551	478538	461503
		487503

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ENEMY
INSTALLATIONS

APPENDIX I TO
 ANNEX A TO
 3RAR OPO 4/68
 DATED 4 MARCH 68



LEGEND

- CAMPS FOUND BY GROUND TROOPS OR REPORTED BY AIR
- CONTACTS
- OBSERVATIONS/SIGHTINGS
- AA FIRE
- TUNNELS OR CAVES
- KNOWN MINEFIELDS
- MINE INCIDENTS OR BOOBY TRAPS
- MINEFIELDS REPORTED BY RETURNEE
- Camps DESTROYED OR HIT BY AIRSTRIKES

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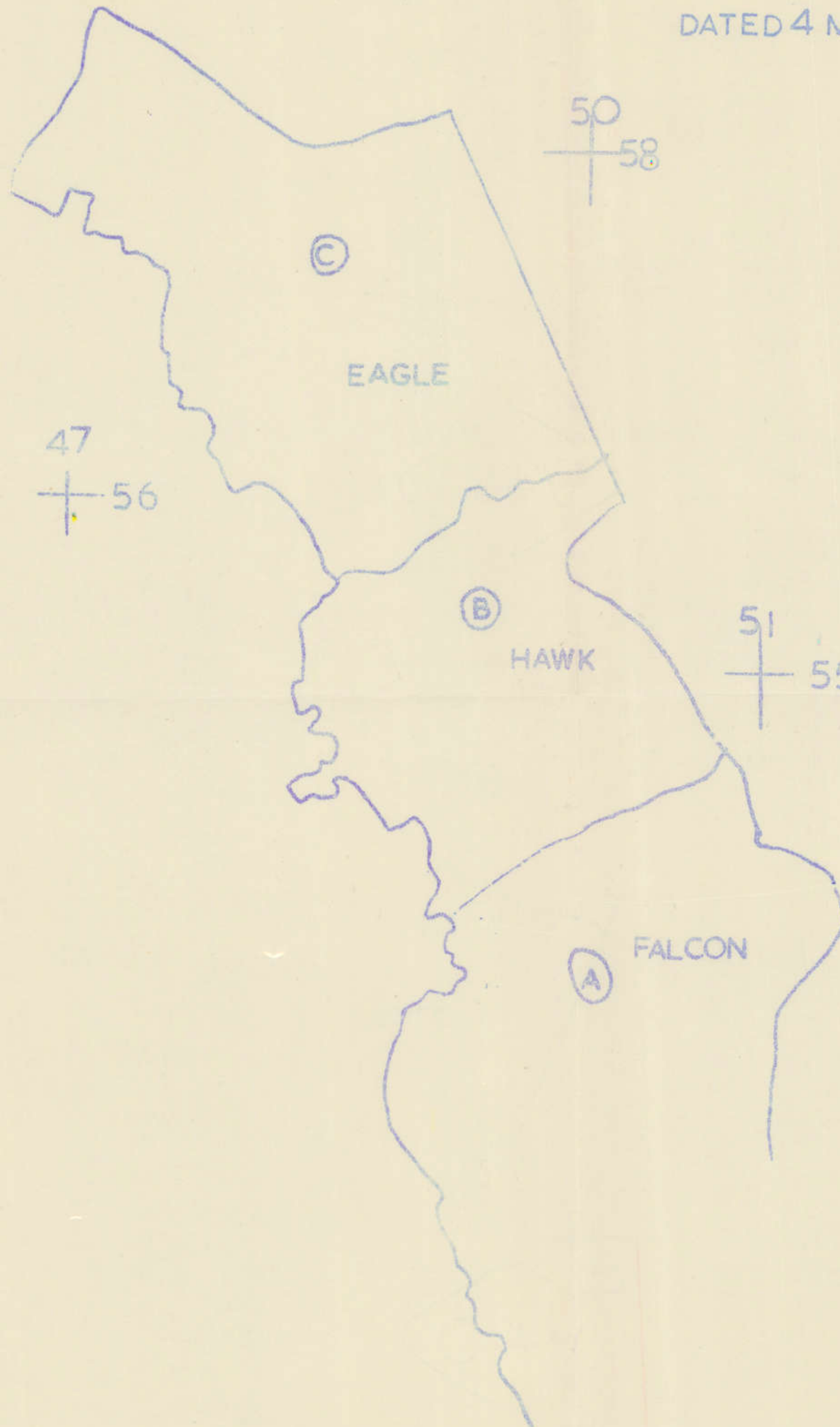
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COY AO'S

ANNEX B TO
3RAR OPO 4/68

DATED 4 MARCH 68



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3 RAR
NUI DAT

061345H Mar 68

OPS 6/68

AMENDMENTS - OP PINNAROO

Reference: A. 3 RAR OpO 4/68 (Op PINNAROO) dated 042359H Mar 68.
B. 3 RAR G490 of 060330Z Mar 68.

1. Due to postponement of Op PINNAROO until 8 Mar 68, Annex C and D of reference A are now cancelled and new Annexes C and D are attached.

Ack Instrs: Ack by phone to HQ 3 RAR.

(J.J. SHELTON)
Lt Col
CO

D. N. Candow
(D.N. CANDOW)
Maj
Ops Offr

Authentication:

Annexes C. Air Mov Details
D. Outline Timings

Distribution:

	<u>Copy No</u>
A Coy	1
B Coy	2
C Coy	3
D Coy	4
Sp Coy	5 - 6
Sig Pl	7
Mor Pl	8
Aslt Pnr Pl	9
Anti Tk Pl	10
Admin Coy	11
CO	12
2IC	13
Ops Offr	14 - 15
Adjt	16
IO	17
QM	18
AQM	19
RMO	20
2IC Admin Coy	21
RSM	22
BC	23 - 28
CP	29
A Sqn 3 Cav Regt RAAC	30 - 35
C Sqn 1 Armd Regt RAAC	36 - 41
4 Fd Regt RAA	42 - 47
1 Fd Sqn RAE	48 - 49
104 Sig Sqn	50
161 (Indep) Recce Flt	51
1 ATF	52 - 75
1/83rd US Arty	76
2/35th US Arty	77
2 RAR	78
7 RAR	79
US Army AVN LO	80
1 ATF (GSO2 Air)	81
Comds Diary	82 - 84
File	85 - 90

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ANNEX C TO
3 RAR OPS 6/68
DATED 6 MAR 68

AIR MOVEMENT DETAILS - 8 MAR 68

LIIFT	ELEMENT	PZ	TIME OF TAKE OFF	LZ	TIME OF LANDING	COY	STR	PAX	UH-IB	UH-ID	REMARKS
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)
1	1	KANGAROO	080900H	Vicinity YS 498528	080907H	A	100	50		10	<p><u>AHC</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Con by 2IC Admin Coy as 95 E on 64.55. Lift will be 1 AHC working in one wave of 10. Time between lifts - A Coy - 7 minutes C Coy - 5 minutes Fly in direction WEST to EAST. Transport will pick coys up at Coy HQ as follows- A Coy - 080815 hrs C Coy - 080845 hrs <u>LZ</u> no preparation. Land in two V's of 5, simultaneously. <p><u>Albatross (RAAF)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Con by Cpl Webster as 98D on 33.60. Lift will be in stream. Albatross lift of 6 pax sorties, 1 pax and stores, 4 stores sorties. 2 X Albatross employed. Fly in direction WEST to EAST. HQ 3 RAR to report to APPLE ORCHARD on Sp Coy HQ side at 080845H.
2	1	"	080915H	"	080922H	A		50		10	
3	1	"	080930H	Vicinity YS 488577	080935H	C	100	50		10	
4	1	"	080941H	"	080946H	C		50		10	
5	1	APPLE ORCHARD	080900H	HORSESHOE YS 4962 (ZULU)	080903H to 080920H	HQ 3 RAR TAC	32	32	7	Sorties	
	2	"	080920H	"	080923H to 080935H	HQ Stores	4000 lb max		4	Sorties	

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ANNEX D TO 3 RAR
OPS 6/68
DATED 6 MAR 68

OUTLINE TIMINGS

SERIAL	DATE/TIME	EVENT
1.	050800H	Aslt Pnr pl (-) mov to 1 Fd Sqn
2.	051130H	Recce of HORSESHOE HILL
3.	051330H	LO briefing by Ops Offr
4.	070830H	3 RAR O Gp at HQ 3 RAR
5.	080715H	APC tp RV B Coy
6.	080730H	B Coy gp deploy to AO HAWK by APC
7.	080730H	H13 positions at APPLE ORCHARD LZ
8.	080740H	LO team reports APPLE ORCHARD LZ
9.	080800H	LO team in posn DAT DO Sub Sector
10.	080815H	A Coy mov. by TCV to KANGAROO LZ
11.	080845H	C Coy mov by TCV to KANGAROO PAD
12.	080845H	HQ 3 RAR Tac report APPLE ORCHARD LZ
13.	080900H	A Coy fly out to AO FALCON
14.	080900H	HQ 3 RAR Tac fly out to HORSESHOE HILL
15.	080915H	HQ 3 RAR Tac opens HORSESHOE HILL
16.	080930H	C Coy fly out to AO EAGLE
17.	080930H	B Coy gp in posn AO HAWK

Note: Detailed air mov timings are shown at Annex C.

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D4

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HQ 1 ATF
NUI DAT

25 Mar 68

Op Instr 13/68 (Op COOKTOWN ORCHID)

To: Lt Col N.R. CHARLESWORTH, CO 2 RAR

Reference: Map VIETNAM, L8015 Sheets 6429, I and IV, 6430 - II - SW, 6430 - II - SE,
Edition 2 AMS 1:25,000.

Time Zone used throughout this order: HOTEL.

1. Situation.

a. Enemy Forces. See Annex A.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) 3 RAR will continue Operation PINNAROO within AO CLARET, see Annex P.

(2) 7 RAR will continue to provide the 1 ATF Ready Reaction Force and TAOR patrols.

(3) ARVN posts are located as follows:

(a) YS496570.

(b) YS498566.

(c) YS514540.

(d) YS515534.

(e) YS523537.

(4) RF posts are located as follows:

(a) YS503560.

(b) YS503557.

(c) YS507559.

(d) YS551550.

(e) YS516534.

(f) YS501564.

c. Attachments and Detachments.

(1) Remaining in DS

108 Bty 4 Fd Regt.

(2) Op con from 010800H Apr 68

Aust Land Clearing Team reinforced by Rome Flows from 34 (US) Engr Gp.

Such elements of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt and A Sqn 3 Cav Regt as are allotted in response to specific requests by you.

(3) You should be aware that OC 1 Fd Sqn has prepared engineer plans and engineer equipment to meet land clearing and mine clearing tasks. Such elements of engineers will be provided as recommended by OC 1 Fd Sqn, and requested by you.

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/2.

2. Mission. To complete the tasks given to you in AOs BURGUNDY and CLARET.

3. Execution.

a. General Outline. You are to develop your own concept of operations to complete your tasks.

b. Tasks.

(1) Carry out land clearing operations in the area centre of mass YS460550 - see Annex R. Initial priority is to be given to clearing trails within the area.

(2) Clear the mines between the multiple concertina fences from HORSESHOE HILL YS496617 to the coastline at YS525538 - see Annex R.

(3) Destruction of VC installations located by 1 ATF during Operation PINNAROO in AO BURGUNDY and subsequently in AO CLARET after the extraction of 3 RAR.

(4) Recce in force in the LIGHT GREEN, centre of mass YS540570.

(5) Recce in force in the LONG GREEN, centre of mass YS560600.

(6) Carry out cordon and search operations within your AO as directed by HQ 1 ATF.

c. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) AOs BURGUNDY and CLARET - Annex P.

(2) Air Movement. Requests for RAAF support to be submitted through GS02 (Air).

(3) Duration of Operation COOKTOWN ORCHID - 1 Apr 68 to 30 Apr 68.

(4) HORSESHOE AO reverts to 2 RAR control as from 010800H Apr 68. Conditions contained in HQ 1 ATF Op Instr 11/68 do not apply during Op COOKTOWN ORCHID.

(5) AO FENCE is denied to Sector from 010800H Apr 68, until further notice.

4. Administration and Logistics.

a. 2 RAR is responsible for administration.

b. Bids for additional support to DAQMG.

5. Command and Signal. HQ 1 ATF remains present location.

Ack Instructions: Ack by telephone to EBONY 50.

Done 270807H ARK/MS
Jan 4 1968
Mij
d (R.L. HUGHES)
Brig
Comd

- Annexes: A. Enemy Forces.
P. Enemy Installations.
Q. Enemy Installations.
R. Land Clearing Activities.
S. AOs BURGANDY and CLARET.

Distribution:

List Z less Serials 7, 10, 13, 25, 32.

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ANNEX A
1 ATF OP INSTR 13/68
(OP COOKTOWN ORCHID)
DATED 25 MAR 68

ENEMY SITUATION

1. This operation is aimed at the complete destruction of the VC in the LONG DAT district. As well as completing the denial of the MINH DAM bases it extends operations into the area of the LONG and LIGHT GREEN. This area between Route 44 and the SONG RAI is still part of the VC LONG DAT district and once held alternate bases for the LONG DAT district by any elements of D445 who were operating in the district and some local guerillas. The concentrations of these bases have been destroyed by 1 ATF operations and B52 strike. However it is possible that squad sized groups of VC could have exfiltrated AO MOSELLE and be laying up in the LONG GREEN awaiting the end of OP PINNAROO so they can return to rehabilitate their main base.
2. Within AO MOSELLE the complicity of the cave systems has enabled small parties of VC to hide quite close to our own troops and not be detected until their particular cave is reached. The destruction of these VC is essential if any lasting denial of this base area is to be achieved. While it is not likely large parties of VC have avoided detection during the initial sweep, elements up to squad size could be concentrated. Such parties could offer stiff resistance, particularly as they will be defending their "homes".
3. The most likely withdrawal routes from the LONG HAI Peninsula are to the EAST and NORTH EAST. Individuals and small parties of VC have probably used this route to exfiltrate AO MOSELLE. The initial estimate of forces in AO MOSELLE included at least a company of D445 as well as the local district company (C25) and local guerillas. No heavy contact has been made with these people and it is most likely that they have moved to their attack bases in the LONG GREEN. They are probably fragmented but in the process of regrouping and could well concentrate to fight their way out of the LONG GREEN.
4. When pressed in the LONG GREEN the VC reaction is likely to be two-fold. The elements of D445 and any other provincial forces will break out of the area and move NORTH into their home bases near THUA TICH and the TAM BO leaving the district altogether. However the district forces and infrastructure elements, being much more bound to the area can either hide out in the neighbouring districts (i.e. across the SONG RAI to the EAST or NORTH in the Southern edge of Base Area 361) or mingle with the local population of PHUOC HAI, LO GOM, HOI MY, PHUOC LOI and DAT DO.
5. Annex Q attempts to show the situation in AO MOSELLE and the LONG GREEN. In the Op PINNAROO area all the base areas that have been found by ground troops or sighted from the air have been shown. Some of these areas have undoubtedly been destroyed subsequent to their initial discovery but at the time of writing such distribution had not been reported. In the area between Route 44 and the SONG RAI all enemy installations found since 1 Dec 67 have been shown. Prior to 1 Dec 67 B52 strikes in the LONG GREEN effectively neutralised the known concentrations of VC bases.
6. While known mine and booby trap areas EAST of Route 44 have been indicated it must be remembered that HOI CHANH KIET (whose information has been generally reliable) stated that the mines from "the fence" have been lifted and planted in a line to the EAST of the fence.

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Copy No. 72 of 73

2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn
NUI DAT
291200H Mar 68

Ops 40/68

Op Instr 7/68 (Op COOKTOWN ORCHID)

Refs: A. 1 ATF Op Instr 13/68 (Op COOKTOWN ORCHID) dated 25 Mar 68.
B. Map VIETNAM, L8015 Sheets 6429, I and IV 6430-II-SW, 6430-II-SE,
Edition 2 AMS 1:25,000.

Time Zone used throughout this order: Hotel.

1.

Situation

a. En Forces. See Annex A and Annex Q.

b. Friendly Forces

(1) 3 RAR will continue Op PINNAROO within AO CLARET. See Annex P.

(2) 7 RAR will continue to provide 1 ATF Ready Reaction Force and TAOR ptls.

(3) ARVN posts are loc as fols:

(a) YS 496570.

(b) YS 498566.

(c) YS 514540.

(d) YS 515534.

(e) YS 523537.

(4) RF posts are loc as fols:

(a) YS 503560.

(b) YS 503557.

(c) YS 507559.

(d) YS 551550.

(e) YS 516534.

(f) YS 501564.

c. Atts and Dets

(1) Under comd from 010800H Apr 68 - A Coy 2 RAR.

(2) Remaining in DS - 108 Bty 4 Fd Regt.

(3) In DS from 010700H Apr 68 until completion of op - one H13 161 Recce Flt.

(4) In DS from 060700H Apr 68 until rel - one H13 161 Recce Flt.

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2.

- (5) Under op con from 010800H Apr 68 until completion of op
- one tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt
 - two mor APCs
 - three combat engr teams
 - three engr mini teams
 - Aust Land Clearing Team with elms US Land Clearing Team under op con.
- (6) Under op con from 960700H Apr until rel
- C Sqn 1 Armd Regt
 - one tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt
 - two combat engr teams.

3.

Mission. As a follow-up to Op PINNAROO 2 RAR is to:

- a. Carry out land clearing ops in area centre of mass YS 460550 in accordance with priorities already given to 1 Fd Sqn by Comd 1 ATF.
- b. Clear the mines between the multiple concertina fences from HORSESHOE HILL YS 496617 to the coastline at YS 525538.
- c. Destroy VC instls loc by 1 ATF during Op PINNAROO in AO BURGUNDY and possibly in AO CLARET after extraction 3 RAR.
- d. Recce in force in LIGHT GREEN, centre of mass YS 540570.
- e. Recce in force in LONG GREEN, centre of mass YS 560600.
- f. Conduct intensive ptls in 2 RAR Ptl AO to Line Alpha and subsequently to Line Bravo.
- g. Conduct cordon and search ops within AO as directed by HQ 1 ATF.

4.

Execution

a. Concept of Ops. The op is to be conducted as a series of concurrent coy gp ops during the period 1 Apr - 30 Apr 68 as fols:

- (1) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID I. Land clearing ops in area centre of mass YS 460550 from 1 Apr - 30 Apr 68. See Annex P.
- (2) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID II. Intensive patrolling in AO BURGUNDY North of Route 23 from 1 Apr - 7 Apr. See Annex P.
- (3) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID III. Intensive patrolling in 2 RAR Ptl AO and subsequently to Line Bravo during period 3 Apr - 30 Apr.
- (4) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID IV. Recce in force in LIGHT GREEN, centre of mass YS 540570. See Annex P.
- (5) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID V. Clearing of mines between the multiple concertina fences from HORSESHOE HILL YS 496617 and the coastline YS 525538 during period 10 Apr - 20 Apr. See Annex P.
- (6) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID VI. Recce in force in LONG GREEN, centre of mass YS 560600. Commencement time will depend on results of Op COOKTOWN ORCHID IV. See Annex P.
- (7) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID VII. Destruction of VC instls loc by 1 ATF during Op PINNAROO in AO BURGUNDY and possibly AO CLARET. This op may be conducted concurrently with, or as part of, Op COOKTOWN ORCHID I, II, IV and VI. See Annex Q.

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3.

(8) Op COOKTOWN ORCHID VIII (if necessary). Cordon and search ops in AO if and when directed by HQ 1 ATF.

b. Op COOKTOWN ORCHID I

(1) Troops allotted. C Coy 2 RAR with:

- (a) Under comd from 010800H Apr - one mor sect
- three combat engr teams.
- (b) In DS from 010800H Apr - one H13 161 Recce Flt.
- (c) Under op con from 010800H Apr - one tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt
- two mor APCs
- three engr mini teams
- Aust land clearing team with elms US land clearing team under op con.

(2) Comd of Coy Gp. OC C Coy 2 RAR.

(3) Task. Conduct land clearing ops in area centre of mass YS 460550 (Area 1) in accordance with priorities already given to 1 Fd Sqn by Comd 1 ATF.

(4) Development of Ops. Op to be developed along fol lines:

- (a) Phase 1 (1 Apr). Coy gp to move by rd to FSPB HERRING YS 4955 via Route 52.
- (b) Phase 2 (1 Apr - approx 5 Apr). Occupation and protection of FSPB HERRING as required.
- (c) Phase 3 (Commencing 2 Apr). Conduct Priority One land clearing ops.
- (d) Phase 4 (Depending on completion Phase 3). Conduct Priority Two land clearing ops.
- (e) Phase 5 (Depending on completion Phase 4). Conduct Priority Three land clearing ops.
- (f) Be prep to provide force to escort elms US land clearing team from BEAR CAT to NUI DAT on or about 30-31 Mar if required.

c. Op COOKTOWN ORCHID II

(1) Troops allotted. A Coy 2 RAR with under comd - one mor sect.

(2) Comd. OC A Coy 2 RAR.

(3) Task. Conduct intensive ptl ops in AO BURGUNDY North of Route 23 (Area 2) from 1 Apr - 7 Apr 68.

d. Op COOKTOWN ORCHID III

(1) Troops allotted. V Coy 2 RAR.

(2) Comd. OC V Coy 2 RAR.

(3) Task. Conduct intensive ptl ops in your allotted AO from 3 Apr - 30 Apr out to Line Alpha and be prep to extend ops to Line Bravo on order.

/e.

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4.

e. Op COOKTOWN ORCHID IV

- (1) Troops allotted. C Sqn 1 Armd Regt with:
 - (a) In DS from 060700H until rel - one H13 161 Recce Flt.
 - (b) Under op con from 060700H until rel - one tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt
- W Coy 2 RAR
- two combat engr teams.
- (2) Comd of Sqn Gp. OC C Sqn 1 Armd Regt.
- (3) Task. Recce in force in LIGHT GREEN, centre of mass YS 540570 (Area 3) during period 6-9 Apr.
- (4) Development of Ops
 - (a) Preliminary Activities.
 - i. W Coy to move to FSPB HERRING AM 4 Apr by APC or AHC.
 - ii. Inf/tk coop trg in area FSPB HERRING 4-5 Apr.
 - (b) Phases. As developed by you.
 - (c) As part of op conduct recce for tk crossing across SONG BA DAP.
 - (d) Be prep to exploit crossing places for extension of ops into LONG GREEN as part of Op COOKTOWN ORCHID VI.

f. Op COOKTOWN ORCHID V

- (1) Troops allotted

One tp C Sqn 1 Armd Regt
One combat engr team
W Coy 2 RAR
- (2) Comd. OC W Coy 2 RAR.
- (3) Task. Clear the mines between the multiple concertina fences from HORSESHOE HILL YS 496617 to the coastline YS 525538.
- (4) Development of Ops. Tp allotment and conduct may depend on development of Ops COOKTOWN ORCHID IV and VI.

g. Op COOKTOWN ORCHID VI

- (1) Troops allotted. May be either:
 - (a) W Coy
C Sqn 1 Armd Regt; or
 - (b) C/B Coy
C Sqn 1 Armd Regt

depending on development Op COOKTOWN ORCHID IV and V.

- (2) Comd, tasks and development of op to be issued later.

h. Op COOKTOWN ORCHID VII, VIII. If these ops are necessary separate orders will be issued at a later date.

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5.

- i. B Coy
 - (1) Grouping. MFC FOO no change.
 - (2) Tasks
 - (a) Initially remain in base as reaction coy.
 - (b) Possible task alternatives:
 - i. Relieve C Coy on Op COOKTOWN ORCHID I approx 14 Apr.
 - ii. Provide tps for HORSESHOE to allow A Coy to conduct Ops COOKTOWN ORCHID II, VI.
- j. Mor Pl
 - (1) Grouping
 - (a) Under comd C Coy - one sect mor.
 - (b) Remainder no change.
 - (2) Tasks
 - (a) Sp A Coy ptls from HORSESHOE.
 - (b) Sp C Coy gp on Op COOKTOWN ORCHID I.
 - (c) Remainder no change.
- k. Aslt Pnr Pl
 - (1) Grouping
 - (a) Under op con 1 Fd Sqn - two sects aslt pnrs.
 - (b) Remainder no change.
 - (2) Tasks
 - (a) Sects with 1 Fd Sqn are to be employed as combat teams throughout op.
 - (b) Remainder remain in base.
- l. Atk Pl
 - (1) Grouping. Remain in base.
 - (2) Tasks
 - (a) Tracker team to be on 30 mins notice to move.
 - (b) Two 90mm RCL teams to be on 30 mins notice to move.
- m. Bn Base Area
 - (1) Tasks
 - (a) Normal op resup.
 - (b) Def 2 RAR base.

/n.

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6.

n. Arty

- (1) 108 Bty. Remains in DS at HORSESHOE.
- (2) A Bty 2/35 Arty. Remain at HORSESHOE in gen sp.

o. 9 Sqn RAAF

- (1) Normal resup tasks.
- (2) Possible use for tp mov in Op COOKTOWN ORCHID III.

p. Coord Instrs

(1) Sequence of Events

- (a) 30-31 Mar - possible task for C Coy and APC to escort convoy.
- (b) 1 Apr - Op COOKTOWN ORCHID I and II commence.
- (c) 011200H Apr - C Coy gp to take over responsibility for protection of FSPB HERRING.
- (d) 2 Apr - Op COOKTOWN ORCHID I Phase 3 commences.
- (e) 3 Apr - Op COOKTOWN ORCHID III commences.
- (f) AM 4 Apr - W Coy moves to FSPB HERRING to commence Inf/tk trg.
- (g) 6 Apr - Op COOKTOWN ORCHID IV commences.
- (h) 7 Apr - Op COOKTOWN ORCHID II concludes.
- (i) 9 Apr - Op COOKTOWN ORCHID IV concludes.
- (j) 10 Apr - Op COOKTOWN ORCHID V commences.
- (k) Remainder in sequence will depend on way ops develop.

(2) AOs and Bdrys. See Annex F. At some future date Area 1A may revert to AO BURGUNDY.

(3) Coord and Planning

- (a) Offrs nominated as comd for particular coy/sqn gp ops are responsible for the detailed liaison, coord, planning and issue of orders for that particular op.
- (b) Comds are to present their plans to CO 2 RAR not later than 48 hrs prior to the commencement of their op.
- (c) Op orders for each op will be required. Drafts to be submitted to Ops Offr 2 RAR for production by 2 RAR clerical staff and Int Sect.
- (d) Once tps have been allotted for a particular op the nominated comd may liaise direct with supporting units.
- (e) Any addl tp allotments required are to be requested through Ops Offr 2 RAR and not direct to units or HQ 1 ATF.

/4.

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4. Administration and Logistics. Op comds are responsible for preparing their own admin plans working on the following basis:

- a. 2 RAR will be responsible for admin resup of all inf elms and rats and water for all engr elms except mini teams working with armd elms.
- b. Engr tech maint and all armd maint is to be arranged through DAQMG HQ 1 ATF with a copy for info to 2 IC 2 RAR.

5. Command and Signals

a. Bn HQ

- (1) Loc NUI DAT.
- (2) If nec Tac HQ may be deployed.
- (3) Tac HQ to be on 30 mins notice to move from 010800H Apr. Composition as fols:

CO
BC and party
Ops Offr
IO
Radio Sgt
Regt Sigs (3)
TF Sigs (2)
Int Dutymen
Batmen (2)

b. Radio

(1) Bn Comd Net

(a) Callsigns and freqs. As per SOPs and SOIs for APR with the fol exceptions:

- i. Only the supported unit will be on the bn comd net. Supporting units to op on internal nets.
- ii. A Coy HQ deployed - c/s 1.
HORSESHOE c/s 1A

(b) In the event of bad comms a rebro sta or relay sta may be estb at HORSESHOE.

(2) Bn Air/Admin Net. Callsigns and freqs as per SOPs and SOIs for Apr with the exception of:

- (a) A Coy HQ deployed - c/s 1.
HORSESHOE c/s 1A.

c. Estb Comms. Comms to be estb one hr before commencement of each op.

d. Time Check. 0800 hrs daily.

e. Q hr, Pt of Origin Code. As per SOIs for Apr.

/Ack

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8.

Aok

(H.R. CHARLESWORTH)
Lt Col
CO 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn

Authentication

K. R. Schlyder
(K.R. SCHLYDER)
Capt
Ops Offr

Annexes: A. En Sit.
B. AOs and Bdrys.
Q. En instls AOs BURGUNDY and CLARET.

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ANNEX A
TO 2 RAR OP INSTR 7/68
(OP COOKTOWN ORCHLD)
DATED 29 MAR 68

ENEMY SITUATION

1. This op is aimed at the complete destruction of the VC in the LONG DAT district. As well as completing the denial of the MINH DAM bases it extends ops into the area of the LONG and LIGHT GREEN. This area between Route 44 and the SONG RAI is still part of the VC LONG DAT district and once held altn bases for the LONG DAT district by any elms of D445 who were operating in the district and some local guerillas. The concs of these bases have been destroyed by 1 ATF ops and B52 strike. However it is possible that squad sized gps of VC could have exfiltrated AO MOSELLE and be laying up in the LONG GREEN awaiting the end of Op PINNAROO so they can return to rehabilitate their main base.
2. Within AO MOSELLE the complicity of the cave systems has enabled small parties of VC to hide quite close to our own tps and not be detected until their particular cave is reached. The destruction of these VC is essential if any lasting denial of this base area is to be achieved. While it is not likely large parties of VC have avoided detection during the initial sweep, elms up to squad size could be conc. Such parties could offer stiff resistance, particularly as they will be defending their "homes".
3. The most likely withdrawal routes from the LONG HAI Peninsula are to the East and North East. Individuals and small parties of VC have probably used this route to exfiltrate AO MOSELLE. The initial est of forces in AO MOSELLE incl at least a coy of D445 as well as the local district coy (C25) and local guerillas. No hy contact has been made with these people and it is most likely that they have moved to their attack bases in the LONG GREEN. They are probably fragmented but in the process of regrouping and could well conc to fight their way out of the LONG GREEN.
4. When pressed in the LONG GREEN the VC reaction is likely to be twofold. The elms of D445 and any other provincial forces will break out of the area and ove North into their home bases near THUA TICH and the TAM BO leaving the district altogether. However the district forces and infrastructure elms, being much more bound to the area can either hide out in the neighbouring districts (i.e. across the SONG RAI to the East or North in the southern edge of Base Area 361), or mingle with the local population of PHUOC HAI, LO GOM, HOI MY, PHUOC LOI and DAT DO.
5. Annex Q attempts to show the sit in AO MOSELLE and the LONG GREEN. In the Op PINNAROO area all the base areas that have been found by ground tps or sighted from the air have been shown. Some of these areas have undoubtedly been destroyed subsequent to their initial discovery but at the time of writing such destruction had not been reported. In the area between Route 44 and the SONG RAI all en instls found since 1 Dec 67 have been shown. Prior to 1 Dec 67 B52 strikes in the LONG GREEN effectively neutralised the known concs of VC bases.
6. While known mine and booby trap areas East of Route 44 have been indicated it must be remembered that HOJ CHANH KIET (whose info has been generally reliable) stated that the mines from "the fence" have been lifted and planted in a line to the East of the fence.

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HQ 1 ATF - NUI DAT

TROOPS INFORMATION SHEET

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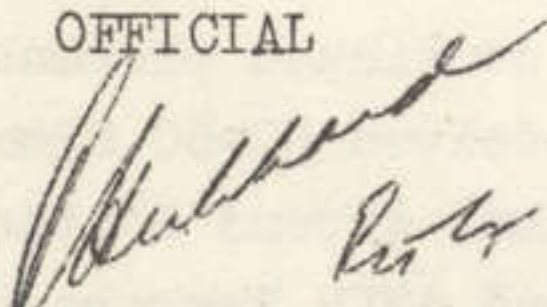
Period:- 25th February - 2nd March 1968

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(R.L.Hughes)
Brigadier
Commander 1 ATF

OFFICIAL



(G.C. CAMERON)

Maj

GSO2 (Int)

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Section 1 III Corps.

(A) Enemy Activity.

1. Enemy-initiated activity declined during the week, with only one night of intense activity on 27-28 Feb. The enemy continued to demonstrate his intentions to hold positions and to conduct both attacks by fire and ground attacks on Allied installations and activities. During the period, there were 206 enemy-incidents reported compared to 408 last week. There were 57 mortar and rocket attacks as compared to 99 such attacks last week. Activity was heaviest in MR10 and Sub-regions E-1 and E-3. Heavy friendly contacts with enemy forces continued in Sub-region E-1.
2. In War Zone 'C', there were no enemy-initiated incidents reported during the week. This lack of contact is significant, and may be a reflection of elements of COSVN base security forces deploying into TAY NINH Province and the south-central area of the CTZ. Purposes of these deployments possibly are to provide security for COSVN advance elements, and to reinforce VC units in attacks on more lucrative targets.
3. Activity in TAY NINH Province was light but was highlighted by the reported presence of armour along the Cambodian border - the first reported in III CTZ. The tanks were reported to be of the Russian T-34 class. Three tanks were sighted at XT 004447 on 26 Feb. One was engaged and reported hit by an M72 LAW, with secondary explosions erupting from the tank commander's hatch. The two remaining tanks retreated in a westerly direction. Elements of 66th Base Security Regt were identified in contact in this area. Aerial and ground reconnaissance into the area on 27 Feb failed to uncover any evidence of the presence of enemy armour or ground forces. Also in TAY NINH Province, a PF OP at XT 440228 was overrun and the bridge destroyed on 27 Feb.
4. In MR 10, the general reduction in enemy-initiated activity was off-set by the contact in the vicinity of SONG BE and other contacts throughout the area with small VC elements. Enemy activity consisted primarily of harassing fires at SONG BE, LOC NINH, BUNARD, DUC PHONG and BU DOP. These actions combined with friendly-initiated contacts indicate the continued presence and movement of VC through the area. On 28 Feb, LOC NINH received 50-60 82mm mortar rounds and 20-25 120mm mortar rounds. The most significant ground contact occurred on 28 Feb, when elements of 101st US Abn Div and ARVN Rangers contacted an unknown number of VC vic YU 134060. Preliminary reports indicate that LF VC companies and platoons possibly have been combined to form a new LF battalion.
5. In VC Sub-region E-1, the level of both enemy-initiated activity and that resulting from friendly action, remained high. Repeated mortar and rocket attacks were conducted against TAN SON NHUT, CU CHI and LAI KHE. The most significant ground contacts occurred on 27 Feb vic XT 694047 and XT 699148, when elements of 2/32 Armour contacted unknown numbers of VC, and on 28 Feb, vic XT 717157, when B/2-32 Armour contacted another unknown size VC force. PWs captured in the 28 Feb action identified elements of 88th NVA Regt. In conjunction with the co-ordinated attacks occurring at dispersed locations in III CTZ on 28 Feb, an estimated VC Bn attacked and overran an RF OP vic XT 544144.
6. In VC Sub-region E-2, enemy-initiated activity was light. Mortar attacks were conducted against DUC HOA, BAO TRAI and the TRA CU Sub-sector. On 1 Mar the enemy mortared DUC HOA with 100-120 82mm mortar rounds. Friendly-initiated contacts, including ambushes of VC sampans EAST of the Parrot's Beak area, indicated continued WEST-EAST use of the province by the VC for resupply activities. On 28 Feb ARVN elements had a heavy contact with an enemy element from XT 598037 - XT 610010. There were 93 VC KIA and 6 PW. The 6th LF Bn and C-2 DUC HOA were identified in contact.

. In VC Sub-region E-4, VC-initiated activity was light. In co-ordination with other attacks throughout III CTZ, two attacks occurred on 28 Feb, one was a mortar attack on 9th US Div base camp at BEARCAT, and the other a ground attack by an estimated VC company against a PF OP vic YT 1021. The attack on BEARCAT was the first against this installation since the beginning of the TET offensive. In the RSSZ, the VC were quite active in comparison with previous weeks. However, all the activity occurred on 25 Feb, when the VC developed an attack against a VN OP and a US advisor compound at CAN GIO, vic YS 1651; an attack by an estimated VC company at LY NHON, vic XS 963581; and an ambush of a commando ambush site at YS 018767.

8. During the reporting period, enemy-initiated incidents in VC U-1 Province were confined to attacks by fire; rockets at BIEN HOA Air Base and mortars at LONG BINH and FSPB ANDERSEN. All of these attacks occurred early on the morning of 28 Feb. In addition, a bridge, vic XT 9812, was destroyed by an unknown VC force. On 28 Feb, an ARVN/US force contacted an estimated 200 VC in a village vic XT 964170. Two PW captured during the action indicated they were from 274th VC Regt, but had originally been with 46th Recce Bn, subordinate to COSVN in War Zone 'C'. One PW stated his unit (strength approximately 160 personnel) was in the area to conduct an attack against a helicopter area NORTH of BIEN HOA. Australian forces captured two 120mm mortar rounds on 28 Feb, vic YT 212120. This was the first reported find of such rounds in this area.

9. In VC Sub-region E-5, enemy-initiated activity was also characterized by attacks by fire. On 24 Feb, PHUOC VINH received a mortar and 122mm rocket attack, and a mortar attack again on 26 Feb. TAN UYEN received a mortar and SA fire attack on 28 Feb. This contact continued until 1100H on 29 Feb and resulted in 30 VC KIA and 6 PW. PWs stated they were from 5th VC Div. No further subordination was determined. The enemy continued to avoid heavy contact, attempting to inflict casualties on Allied forces with minimum exposure of his own troops.

10. In VC BA BIEN Province, most of the reported incidents occurred on 27 Feb. These included a mortar and SA attack against two PF platoons from BIEN LOC OP, vic YT 392169; and an attack by two VC platoons on LONG LE District Compound, vic YS 4263. There was also a mortar attack against XUAN LOC, vic YT 475086, on 27 Feb. Additionally, a radio relay site at YT 605102, received a mortar attack on 28 Feb. The most significant attack occurred on 27 Feb at LONG DIEN, vic YS 4359, when an unknown sized VC force occupied the town until driven out by an Australian RRF.

11. Activity in SAIGON continues to be centered around the search and clear operations in the PHU TO race track and the CHOLON areas. Security is being provided by ARVN Airborne and Ranger units for the movement of supplies and food into the city. The VC have continued their attempts at interdiction of the SAIGON economy by blowing two bridges EAST of the city (GIONG ONG TO Bridge, XS 923929, and CAU KINH Bridge, XS 882957), and firing on two US merchant ships in the SAIGON ship channels in southern GIA DINH Province. No additional units have been identified in the city, but agent reports continue to indicate additional infiltration of both men and equipment. Rocket harassment of TAN SON NHUT Air Base continued with attacks occurring on 27 and 28 Feb and 1 Mar.

12. Summary. While the VC continued to demonstrate an intention to maintain an offensive aggressive posture, the weakness of the co-ordinated attacks on the night of 27-28 Feb indicates that this capability has been significantly reduced. The enemy has shown no indications of withdrawal. However, captured documents confirm that ammunition and personnel shortages are adversely affecting the enemy's units. Constant references are made to programmes to conscript additional personnel and upgrade guerillas and LF units into Main Force units.

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Other documents refer to attempts to expedite logistics activity, and exhort cadre to utilize captured weapons and ammunition to the maximum degree. One document, a message from COSVN to Sub-region E-2, directs the Sub-region to organize at least three additional battalions as a reserve force, and to equip them with captured equipment. Other reports of 1 Mar indicate enemy attempts to conduct resupply activities via sea infiltration. These attempts to use trawlers increase the possibility that the VC will initiate "across the beach" operations in an attempt to compensate for extended overland supply lines.

13. Historically, the enemy tends to conduct operations according to an established pattern, but is also a student of his own mistakes. Within the coming weeks, the seriousness of the recent VC defeat will become general knowledge. To offset this loss of prestige, the enemy will probably seek a "military victory" in order to gain a psychological advantage. Realizing that the South Vietnam government did not fall, that no major objectives were achieved, and that public support is lacking, and depending on the importance the enemy places on SAIGON, it is conceivable that the enemy may attempt to reinforce the area by introducing forces currently located further NORTH and launching another co-ordinated attack on SAIGON. The time frame for such an attack is estimated to be 30-60 days, from the date the decision is made.

14. In the SAIGON-TAN SON NHUT area, there have been no additional units identified during the past week. However, the appearance of 88th NVA Regt about 5km WEST of PHU CUONG leaves only 165th NVA Regt as not being identified in proximity to either the Capital Military District or the BIEN HOA-LONG BINH complex. The threat to SAIGON, and the surrounding areas now consists of the Local and Main Force Bns currently committed within the CMD, 88th, 101st and 141st NVA Regts and 9th VC Div.

15. In the area just NORTH of SAIGON, 271st VC Regt remains in an area NORTH and EAST of HOC MON, vic XT 7604. 272nd VC Regt also remains in the vicinity of HOC MON, extending NORTH-WEST to XT 698089. Both 271st and 272nd Regts retain their capability to launch an understrength, co-ordinated, regimental size attack. 273rd VC Regt probably continues in the DI AN-THU DUC area, avoiding Allied contact. The Regt is believed capable of reinforcing other units or mounting a reinforced battalion sized attack. Elements of 273rd have been identified as far SOUTH as XS 8798.

16. 141st NVA Regt is in the vicinity of PHU CUONG, and is believed to be combat effective. 101st NVA Regt continues to operate in a decentralized posture, probably in battalion sized elements, in the GO VAP district, with the missions of encirclement and harassment. 88th NVA Regt has apparently moved SOUTH. PW captured on 28 Feb stated that 88th had moved SOUTH about three weeks ago. Although there is no other intelligence available to support the PW's statement, it is logical that such a move would occur, especially since its original mission of preventing Allied forces from moving SOUTH along Route 13 to the SAIGON area had failed. However, personnel purporting to be from 88th NVA Regt have been identified at widely scattered locations throughout III CTZ since the beginning of the TET offensive, and the possibility exists that these personnel were replacements furnished to some other unit.

17. 165th NVA Regt is still unlocated, but probably remains deployed along the southern BINH LONG Border, where it continues as the only remaining uncommitted Main Force Regt. It is probably functioning as a task force reserve, and providing security to heavy mortar and rocket units known to be operating in the vicinity of LAI KHE.

18. In 5th VC Div area of operations (VC U-1 Province and northern Sub-region E-4), 274th VC Regt appears to be dispersed in the battalion sized elements but still retains its capability to reassemble and to conduct understrength regiment

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size attacks. One battalion has been identified WEST of the SONG DONG NAI, vic XS 9998, and PW tentatively identified 3rd Bn, 274th VC Regt vic XT 985184 on 29 Feb. Preliminary interrogation revealed PW's unit was to conduct ground attacks against "heliports" NORTH of BIEN HOA on 28 Feb, but that this attack was prevented by contacts with ARVN Forces. 275th VC Regt was identified on 1 Mar vic YF 0124. Documents captured in a contact at that location identified AKAs and Letter Box Numbers of 275th VC Regt.

19. The DONG NAI Regt, probably with PHU LOI I Bn is believed to be operating in the LAI THIEU District, possibly with elements operating to the SOUTH. A PW, captured on 25 Feb, indicated that the Regt had been reinforced with a battalion of 46th Regt, 330th NVA Div. The battalion arrived in III CTZ in Feb 68. The Regt is probably capable of attacking Allied installations and activities in the LAI THIEU area, and reinforcing Local Force elements.

20. Enemy Losses. During this reporting period there were 1,334 VC KIA (BC), 67 VC PW, 383 individual and 129 crew-served weapons captured. There were 23 HOI CHANH and 26.3 tons of rice were either captured or destroyed.

(B) Friendly Activity.

21. US/FW Forces were engaged in 8 large unit operations in III CTZ for the reporting period. In Operation LAM SON 68, in BINH DUONG and BIEN HOA Provinces, elements of US 1st Inf Div had 118 KIA; in Operation SARATOGA, in HAU NGHIA Province, elements of 25th US Inf Div had 397 VC KIA; in other operations contact was light to moderate only. ARVN Forces carried out 24 large unit operations in III CTZ for the week. In Operation AN DAN 66, in HAU NGHIA Province, elements of 25th ARVN Div, 10th ARVN Cav Gp and 34th and 51st ARVN Ranger Bns had 125 VC KIA; in Operation TRAN HUNG DAO II, in GIA DINH Province, ARVN Airborne, Marine and Ranger Bns had 128 VC KIA; in other operations contact was light to moderate only.

(C) Other Information.

22. A notebook captured in southern BINH DUONG Province by elements of 25th US Inf Div delineates the border policy of HQ, South Vietnamese National Liberation Army (SVNLA), promulgated because the US Press had recently investigated NVA/VC presence in CAMBODIA. The document belonged to a VC Political Officer, possibly assigned to 9th VC Div, and covers the period Jul 67 - Jan 68. The border policy was formulated by the Command Committee and South Vietnam Military Affairs Committee of HQ, SVNLA, and was binding on VC units stationed near the VIETNAM-CAMBODIA Border. NVA/VC units had to get permission from the Political Department, HQ SVNLA, to stay in CAMBODIA. When in CAMBODIA, each unit was required to stay in a prescribed area, camouflage its positions, and forbid its men to fish or discharge firearms. To enhance its security, each unit was to maintain co-ordination with VC border patrols. If Cambodian troops were encountered, correct relations with them were to be maintained; if CIDG elements were encountered, they were to be destroyed. Units in these bivouac areas were to leave immediately on order. Special reports on all problems encountered were to be submitted to an unspecified higher HQ. In addition, each NVA/VC unit was to submit a situation report every 10 days it was in the border area. This directive reflects the sensitivity of COSVN about VC use of Cambodian territory and indicates the VC intend to continue this tactic. Of corollary interest is the indication that some VC units spend over two weeks in the border area.

(MACV DISUM 63-68)

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Section 2 South Vietnam (excl III Corps) and North Vietnam.

(A) Enemy Activity

23. Country wide the number of enemy-initiated incidents increased for the week. The main period of such activity was on the night of 27-28 Feb. In I CTZ there were 18 attacks, in II CTZ there were 24 attacks and in IV CTZ there were 101 attacks.

(B) Friendly Activity.

24. Country wide the number of friendly large unit operations increased from 114 to 131 and the number of operations with contact remained steady at 74. The number of enemy KIA decreased from 6349 (adjusted) to 3849.

I Corps.

25. US/FW Forces were engaged in 11 large unit operations in I CTZ for the reporting period. In Operation SCOTLAND, in QUANG TRI Province, elements of 3rd US Marine Div had 190 enemy KIA (BC); in Operation JEB STUART, in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Provinces, elements of 1st US Cav Div (Air Mbl), 101st US Abn Div and 3rd US Marine Div had 294 VC KIA (BC); in Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA, in QUANG NAM and QUANG TIN Provinces, elements of the AMERICAL Div had 372 VC KIA (BC); and in all other operations in the CTZ contact was light to moderate only. ARVN Forces carried out 9 large unit operations in I CTZ for the week. In Operation LAM SON 187, in QUANG TRI Province, elements of 1st ARVN Inf Div had 208 enemy KIA (BC); and in all other operations contact was light only.

II Corps.

26. US/FW Forces were engaged in 7 large unit operations in II CTZ for the reporting period. In Operation MAC ARTHUR, in KONTUM, PLEIKU, DARLAC and QUANG DUC Provinces, elements of 4th US Inf Div and 173rd US Abn Bde had 205 VC KIA (BC); in Operation MEANG HO 10, in BINH DINH Province, elements of the Capital ROK Inf Div had 82 enemy KIA (BC); in all other operations contact was light to moderate only. ARVN Forces carried out 15 large unit operations in the CTZ for the week. In Operation HAI SON 6, in BINH THUAN Province, elements of 23rd ARVN Inf Div had 61 enemy KIA (BC). In all other operations contact was negligible.

IV Corps.

27. US/FW Forces were engaged in 2 large unit operations in IV CTZ for the reporting period. In Operation HOPTAC I, in DINH TUONG Province, elements of 9th US Inf Div had 140 VC KIA (BC); and in Operation CORONADO XI, in PHONG DINH Province, other elements of 9th US Inf Div had 135 VC KIA (BC). ARVN Forces carried out 54 large unit operations in IV CTZ for the week but contact was light to negligible in all cases.

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Section 3 Discussion Point.

122mm ROCKET SURVEY.

In the ten months since the enemy first employed rockets in III CTZ, much has been learned about the different weapons systems and about the VC/NVA employment of those weapons. One of the most vital pieces of information regarding these weapons remains unavailable, however, namely the detection of rocket launch sites prior to the time of the attack. Part I presents a brief review of information which was gathered and widely disseminated during the months after the first attack; Part II is a summary of new information.

Part I

122mm rocket launch sites have been positioned in the open and they are usually placed on flat terrain between 9,000 and 11,000 metres from the target. To the greatest extent possible, a natural barrier such as a hill or river was placed between the site and the target. L-shaped trenches were laid out on either side of a U-shaped trench with the launchers placed between the several trenches. The trenches served as receptacles for the second and third salvo rockets and also as cover for the crews during actual firing. The single U-shaped trench served as the central fire control point and also directly serviced the launcher on each side (Figure 1). Though the site itself had to be emplaced in open terrain, it was usually close by or immediately adjacent to a wooded area so that cover and concealment were available for infiltration and exfiltration. Though the sites are considered to have been preselected, little actual preparation of the site was undertaken prior to the firing. A single stake rising only a few inches above ground was emplaced at each launcher position probably the day prior to the attack. Other stakes were apparently prepared to be placed similar to a template layout at the time the weapons were set up. The single stake implanted in the ground, however, was the only indication prior to the attack of its possible intended use. All other work is believed to have been performed after dark the night of the attack.

Part II

During the current VC offensive, characterized by repeated widespread rocket attacks, there is evidence that tactics and techniques concerned with the employment of 122mm rockets have changed.

Item. A new configuration of the trenches for the rocket site has been found. (Figure 2).

Discussion. These new trenches are considerably simplified as compared with the system formerly used. The layout portrayed in Figure 2 was used in the attack on BIEN HOA Air Base on 28 Feb 68.

Observation. An obvious advantage of the simplified emplacement lies in the time saved in site preparation thus reducing exposure time of the personnel.

Item. Launch sites placed close to friendly positions.

Discussion. It has recently been noted that the enemy has emplaced his launch sites close to the perimeter of friendly night defensive positions.

Observation. This positioning restricts artillery units because of the lack of clearance and thus provides a measure of security to the rocket crews. The same positioning, however, also poses a threat to the rocket personnel in that friendly ground troops could attack the position or place air attacks on the position prior to exfiltration.

Item. 122mm Rockets fired from carrying tube. (Figures 3 & 4)

Discussion. There are indications, but no positive evidence, that 122mm

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rockets have been launched from the carrying tube rather from the standard launch tube. The warhead would protrude from the tube, of course, and the initial spin would be considerably reduced, however, CMEC has indicated that the method is feasible. The tube is probably leaned against the crossbar of a single H frame as shown in Figure 3 or against the crossbar of two H frames joined to form a quadripod as shown in Figure 4.

Observation. The principal advantage of this indicated launch technique would appear to lie in the fewer transport personnel required to carry the components. Alternatively, the usual number of personnel could carry a greater number of rockets. The main disadvantage of the technique would appear to be decreased accuracy due to less initial spin.

Item. Units having rocket capability.

Discussion. Throughout 1967 and until the present, only one unit, 84A NVA Artillery Regt was accorded the capability to employ the 122mm rocket. However, two documents captured on 25 Feb 68, mention elements of the 3rd and 9th Battalions of 208th NVA Artillery Regt as being equipped with artillery weapons - possibly rockets. While the documents do not expressly mention 122mm rockets, the translator notes that the weapons discussed are possibly rockets. The firing data enumerated in one of the documents indicates that the weapon referred to is probably the 122mm rocket. There have also been reports that the personnel of D800 Bn of the DONG NAI Regt have received special rocket training.

Observation. Though OB holdings do not reflect the presence in III CTZ of 208th NVA Artillery Regt, and though there have been no reports that the D800 Bn is equipped with rockets, the proliferation of rocket attacks during the current offensive lends credence to the view that units other than 84A NVA Artillery Regt have a rocket capability.

Item. Known and suspected rocket launch sites.

Discussion. A survey of located and suspected launch sites revealed two contrary patterns of emplacement of launch sites. In the attacks on the BIEN HOA area particularly, the known and suspected positions form a very compact group. Sites suspected of having been used in the attacks on TAN SON NHUT, however, are widely dispersed. Suspected sites in other areas do not conform to either of these two clearly defined patterns.

Observation. The differing patterns appear to be influenced by at least two factors, i.e. the presence or lack of barriers and also by the degree of control by the VC in the area involved. Based on the knowledge gained, it is apparent that all personnel must be alert for any indication of rocket sites or possible preparation of made sites. Presented in Figures 1 & 2 are two layouts that have been found. The enemy's further simplification and modification of his employment techniques, however, makes it likely that other variations may exist.

(II FFORCEV Perintrep 9-68)

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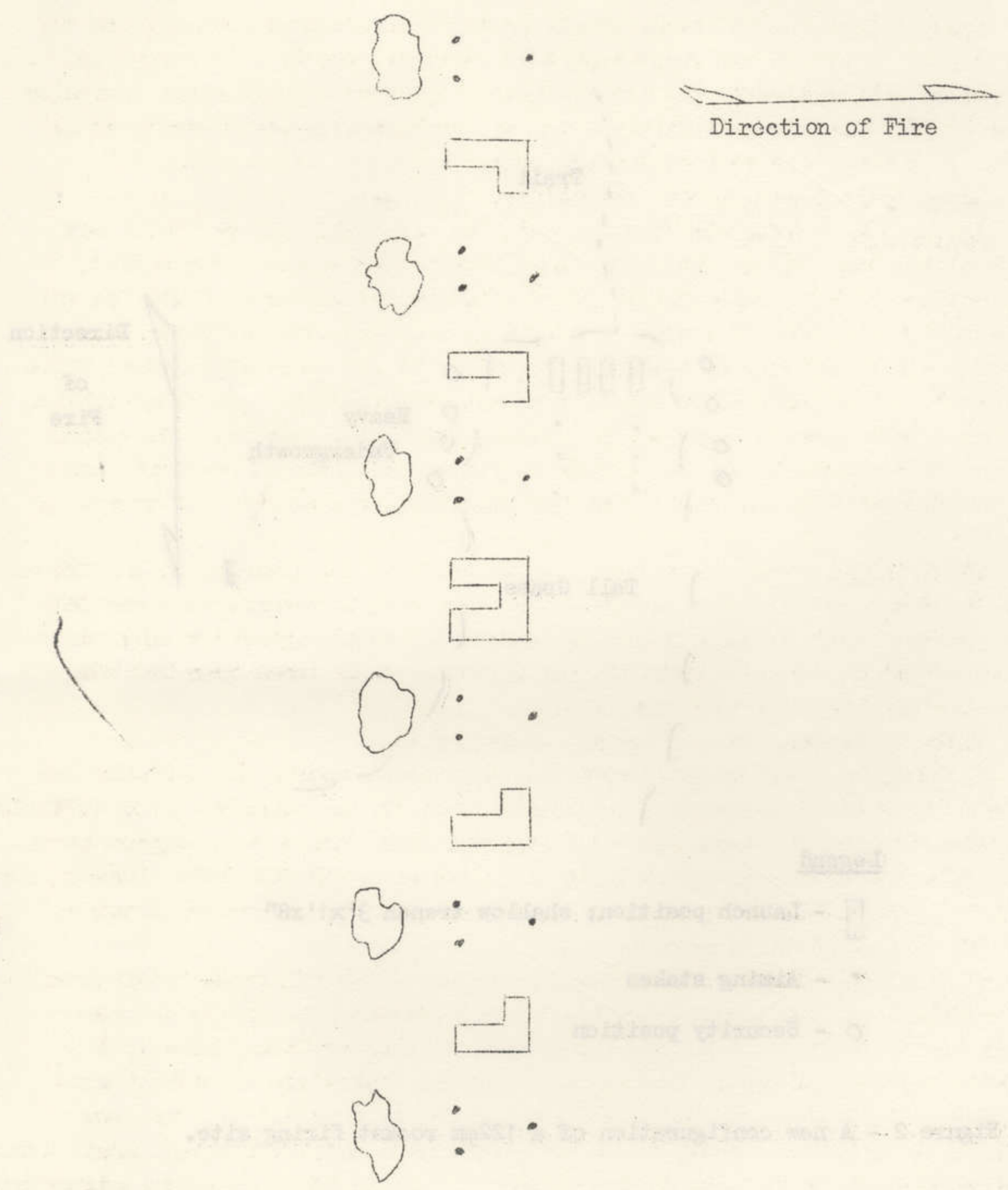
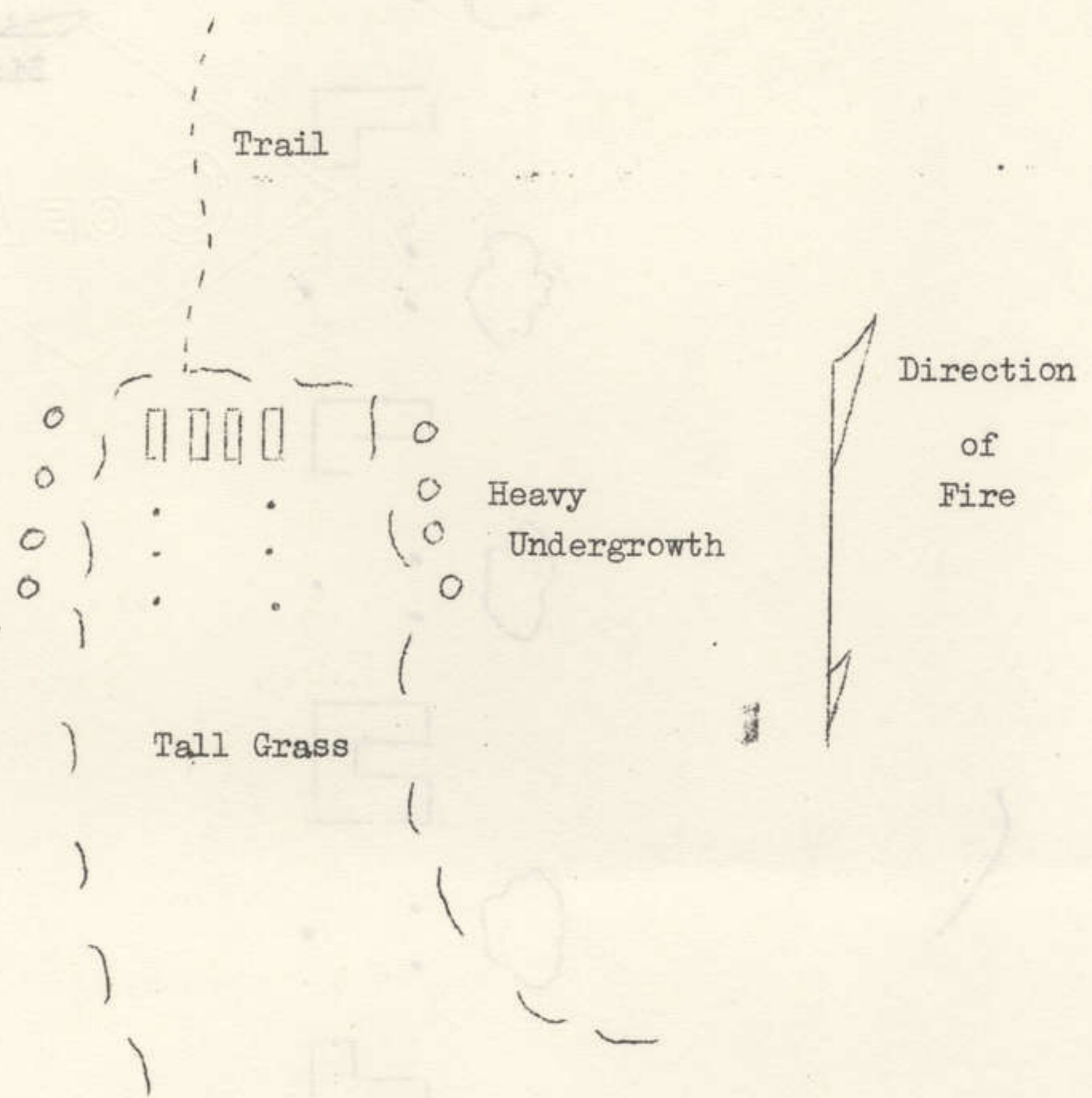


Figure 1 - Typical configuration of a battery size 122mm rocket firing site used on friendly units/installations in the past.



Legend

- - Launch position; shallow trench 3'x1'x8"
- - Aiming stakes
- - Security position

Figure 2 - A new configuration of a 122mm rocket firing site.

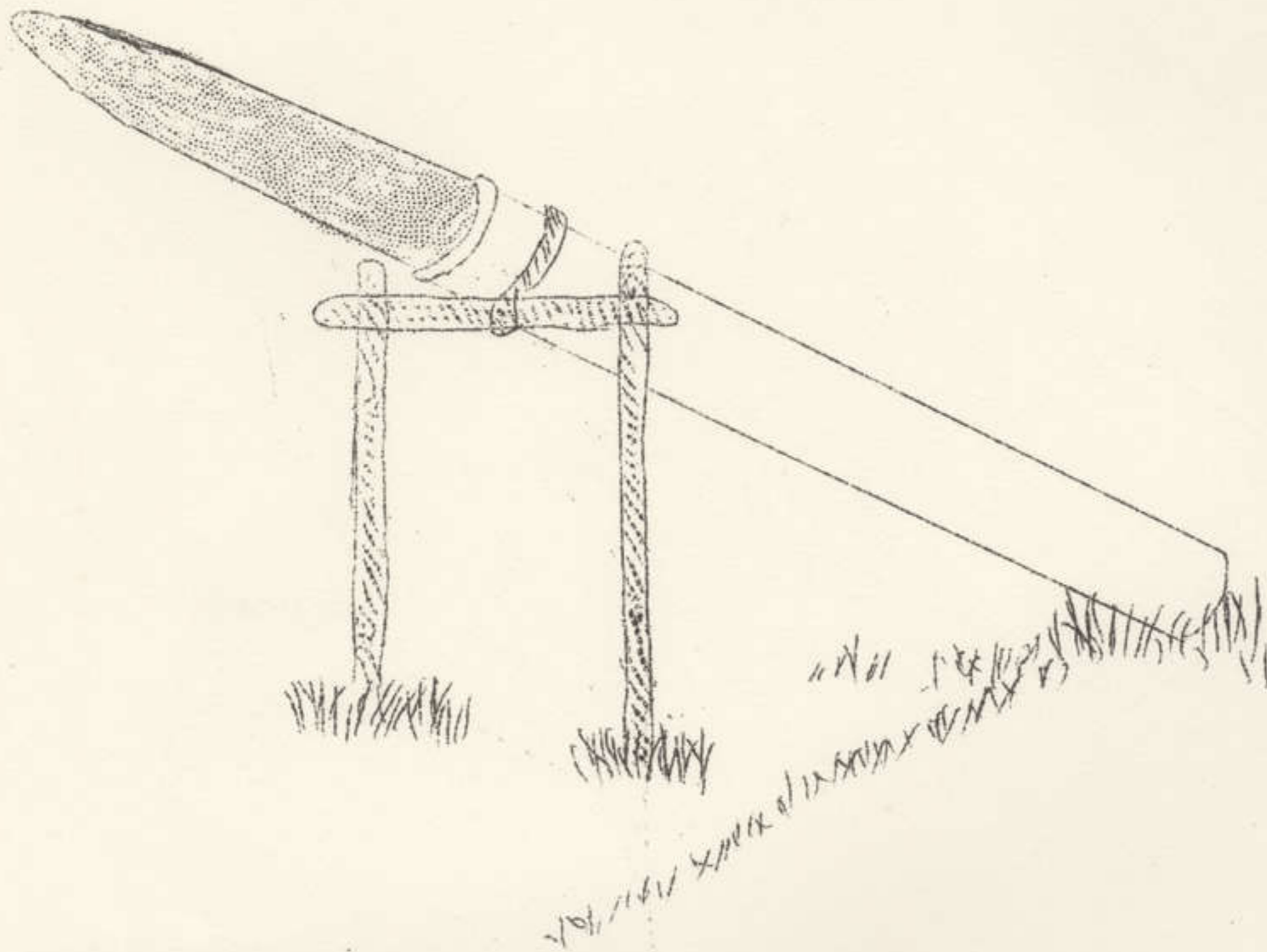


Figure 3 - see below.



Figure 4 - see below

Figures 3 & 4 show Carrying tubes opened at both ends, lashed to cross members and used as launch tubes.

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Serial 10/68
Number 39

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCESROUTINE ORDERS PART 1BYMAJOR P.R. BADMANOC C SQN 1 ARMD REGT RAACNUI DAT4 MAR 68

<u>RO Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
39	SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

39. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Because of the operational necessity to constantly keep rounds and weapons together, all ranks must be constantly safety conscious, particularly within the 1 ATF area.

2. The following rules are to apply to determine the appropriate stage of readiness:

<u>STAGE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1.	Within the 1 ATF area.
2.	On leaving the 1 ATF area.
3.	When action is imminent.

3. The transfer from stage 1 to either stage 2 or 3 is done on the direct order of the OC C Sqn or person in charge of the group leaving the 1 ATF area.

4. Not all weapons have the same mechanical functioning or characteristics, therefore special precautions must be applied to suit the particular weapon. The rules below will always be observed.

No. 80 WP GRENADES

5. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will No. 80 WP Grenades be stowed or carried inside any AFV. They are to be carried in the left hand centre hull tool bin (Centurion). They are to be loaded into the M13 SGDs only on the direct order of the OC C Sqn, or in his absence, the 2IC. When loading, grenades are not to be loaded in to the top two dischargers of the left hand bank.

6. On receipt of the order to load the No. 80 WP Grenades, they are to be loaded to stage 3, ie, pins removed and ready for instant use.

/F103 Fuzes

F103 FUZES

7. The fuzes can be kept fitted ready for use. When fitted, warning sign made from stiff paper is to be kept taped or tied across the firing buttons. The sign is to display the words "DANGER - DO NOT PRESS" and is to be removed only on the receipt of the order to load the No. 80 WP Grenades.

COLOUR SMOKE8. STAGE

1

READINESS

The striker is to be secured by tape or rubber bands.

2 and 3

Ready for use.

M26 GRENADES9. STAGE

1

READINESS

a. If possible, to be kept in the original container or armoured grenade bins in Centurion.

b. When out of the container, the striker handle is to be secured by tape or held to the body with strong rubber bands.

2 and 3

Ready for use.

.30 AND .50 MACHINE GUNS (INCL RANGING GUN)10. STAGE

1

READINESS

a. In the ready position, ie, working parts forward, cover closed, first round in the belt under the extractor. NO round will be in the chamber.

b. Selector lever to be in the 'OFF' or central position.

c. Ranging gun switch 'ON' but loader's safety switch to 'SAFE' or forward.

2

a. The MGs and RG loaded, ie, round in chamber, but with safety devices applied as per Stage 1. In the case of the .50 cal MG, a spare round will be placed under the trigger.

b. Should the Comds MG be a rear sear, then this weapon will have the bolt secured by the bolt latch.

3

All safety devices removed bringing the weapon to instant readiness.

/20 PR

3.

20 PR

11. STAGE

1

READINESS

20 pr weapons will not be loaded unless ordered. 4 rounds of cannister will be kept ready in the turret ready bins.

2.

a. To be loaded with cannister. The loader's safety switch will be at 'SAFE'.

b. The selector lever is to be OFF or in the central position.

3

All safety devices removed. To be at instant readiness.

7.62 SLR AND 9mm PISTOL

12. STAGE

1

READINESS

a. Loaded magazine is to be on the weapon.

b., Working parts forward with no round in the chamber.

c. Safety device applied.

2

Loaded but the safety device will be applied.

3

Safety device to 'FIRE', ready for instant use.

MACHINE CARBINE F1

13. STAGE

1

READINESS

a. Working parts forward.

b. Filled magazine carried on the person, NOT on the weapon.

2

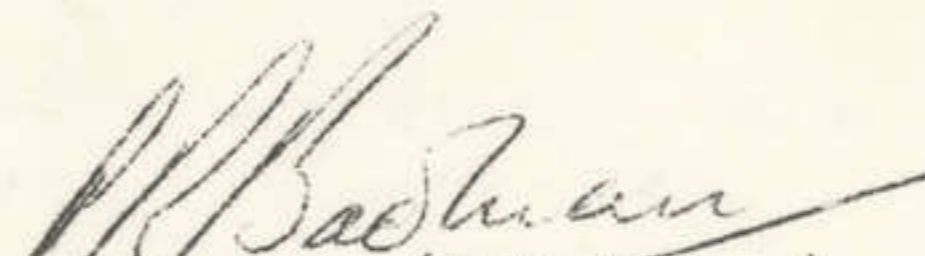
a. Working parts forward.

b. Filled magazine fitted but no round in chamber.

c. Safety applied.

3

Cocked, safety device to 'FIRE', ready for instant use.


(P.R. Badman)
Maj
OC

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Serial 11/68
Numbers 40 - 51

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

BY

MAJOR P.R. BADMAN

OC C SQN 1 ARMD REGT RAAC

NUI DAT

5 MAR 68

<u>RO Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
40	DUTIES
41	DECLARATION OF PREVALENT OFFENCE - LOSS OF WEAPON
42	VIETNAM MEDALS
43	MESS DUTIES
44	OUT OF BOUNDS
45	IDENTITY DISCS
46	DRESS
47	WATER WASTAGE
48	LAUNDRY SERVICE
49	BEER RATION
50	DRESS - BERETS
51	DISCIPLINE : LITTER
NOTICE	POSTAL ADDRESS FOR PERSONAL MAIL

40. DUTIES

1.	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duty Officer</u>	<u>Orderly Officer</u>
	7 Mar 68	2lt Butler	2Lt Butler
	8 Mar 68	WO2 Pettet	WO2 Pettet
	9 Mar 68	Lt Jones	Lt Jones
	10 Mar 68	WO2 Garcia	WO2 Garcia
	11 Mar 68	WO2 Gallagher	WO2 Gallagher
	12 Mar 68	WO2 Maxwell	WO2 Maxwell
	13 Mar 68	WO2 Simpson	WO2 Simpson

2.	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duty NCO</u>	
		<u>1845 - 0100</u>	<u>0100 - 0700</u>
	7 Mar 68	Sgt Russell	Cpl Wilson
	8 Mar 68	Sgt Wells	Cpl Lord
	9 Mar 68	Sgt Taylor A.M.	Cpl Murphy
	10 Mar 68	Sgt Naughton	Cpl Bedford
	11 Mar 68	Sgt Pettit	Cpl Cadzow
	12 Mar 68	Sgt Jago	Cpl Mason
	13 Mar 68	Sgt Jensen	Cpl Reeves

41. DECLARATION OF PREVALENT OFFENCE - LOSS OF WEAPON (Extract of 1 ATF R01 16/68).

1. There has been an increase in the number of weapons lost by members.

2. All members are to secure and safeguard their weapons at all times against loss or theft.
3. Loss of a weapon by a member is declared to be a prevalent offence.
4. Where a member's weapon is stolen in circumstances involving negligence or carelessness on the part of the member, the member is to be charged and the offence is to be regarded by the OC or CO as a prevalent offence.
5. A member who is found guilty of an offence which has been declared to be prevalent may be awarded a severe punishment although a more lenient punishment would otherwise be appropriate. In such a case the punishment must be regarded by the CO or OC more from the effect which it will produce on other members of the Task Force than from that of the offender himself.

42. VIETNAM MEDALS

1. 1499 Lt K.H. Jones is given approval to wear the Vietnam Medal and Vietnamese Campaign Medal, subject to verification by CARO.

43. MESS DUTIES

1. When warned for duty, personnel concerned will report to the appropriate mess at the times shown below:
 - a. Other Ranks Mess - 0610 hrs.
 - b. Officers and Sgts Messes - 0630 hrs.

44. OUT OF BOUNDS

1. Area surrounding 1 ATF ASCO Bulk Store for a distance of 30 metres is out of bounds to all personnel except ASCO staff, or member accompanied by ASCO staff, from 1700 hrs to 0700 hrs daily.

45. IDENTITY DISCS

1. All ranks are reminded that identity discs are to be worn at all times. Disciplinary action will be taken against any person not wearing them.
2. Any loss is to be reported to SHQ.

46. DRESS

1. When riding in AFVs, the following order of dress is to be worn:
 - a. Long trousers and shirt, or tanksuit, or flying suit.
 - b. When outside the 1 ATF area sleeves are to be rolled down.

47. WATER WASTAGE

1. The 'Q' service provides a satisfactory facility for the laundering of greens. Personnel are not to wash greens.

48. LAUNDRY SERVICE

1. Laundry will be accepted at the Q Store only during the following times:

GREENS — 1600-1630 hrs Sun Tue Thu

SHEETS, PILLOW SLIPS — 0745-0815 hrs Tue Fri

2. All laundry will be delivered to the Q Store in troop lots, tied in bundles of ten, Odd quantities will not be tied.

3.

3. Workshops will deliver in bulk tied in bundles of ten.
4. Troop Sgts and TQMS Wksps will be notified when laundry is ready for collection.
5. C Sqn 1 Armd Regt Routine Order Part 1 number 22/68 is cancelled.

49. BEER RATION

1. The beer ration is reduced to two cans per person per day.

50. DRESS -- BERETS

1. Bush hats are not to be worn in AFVs. Berets are to be worn by all crewmen except that the driver may wear a steel helmet.

51. DISCIPLINE : LITTER

1. The amount of litter, consisting mainly of beer and soft drink cans, left in the area of the theatre is excessive. Personnel are to ensure that all empty cans are placed in the receptacles provided.

Alan Nickles Capt.
(P.R. Badman)
for Maj
OC

NOTICE

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR PERSONAL MAIL

1. Minor delays are still occurring due to letters being wrongly addressed or showing wrong detail.
2. The correct postal address for members of 1 ATF is as follows:

NUMBER	RANK	NAME
		SUB UNIT/UNIT
		AFPO 4
		c/- GPO SYDNEY 2890
		NSW

3. It is in the interest of all ranks to ensure correspondents know the correct address.

N3

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HQ 1 ATF - NUI DAT

TROOPS INFORMATION SHEET

Number 86

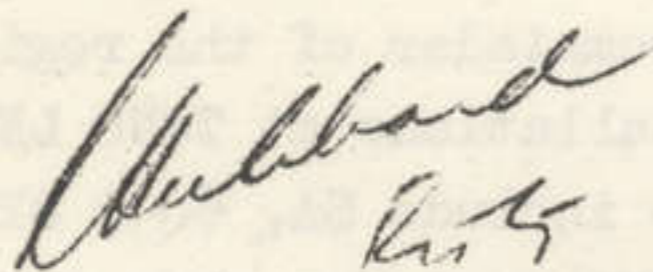
Period:- 3rd - 9th March 1968

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(R.L.Hughes)
Brigadier
Commander 1 ATF

OFFICIAL



(G.C.CAMERON)
Maj
GSO2 (Int)

Distribution:- List B, (less serials 23, 24, 25 & 26)
plus two copies per Platoon/Troop Commander

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Section 1 III Corps.

(A) Enemy Situation.

1. Enemy-initiated activity was highlighted by two battalion-sized ground attacks conducted against ARVN forces in Sub-region E-5. During the period there were 260 enemy-initiated incidents reported compared to 206 last week. There were 61 mortar and rocket attacks as compared to 57 last week. Sub-regions E-1, E-5 and VC MF THO Province were the areas of heaviest activity.
2. In War Zone 'C' enemy activity remained at a low level. This lack of activity can be attributed to the absence of major VC MF units in the area and the reduction in Allied operations. The only activity occurred on 3 and 6 Mar (vic XT 315926 and XT 200650) when elements of 5th SFG made contacts with VC squad-sized units. The VC showed a reluctance to become engaged and contact was broken immediately in both cases. No unit identifications were made; however, these units were probably COSVN security elements.
3. In VC TAY NINH Province enemy activity was extremely light. The only sustained ground action occurred 3 km SOUTH-WEST of TAY NINH City (vic XT 185468), on 6 Mar when an estimated VC coy attacked an RF OP. Concurrent attacks by fire were conducted on TAY NINH and a PF OP vic XT 123504, apparently in an attempt to suppress Allied reaction. On 5 Mar, TAY NINH airfield received an attack by fire, and elements of Co A, 5th USSF were attacked by a company-sized VC unit (vic XT 204502). It was reported that D-14 Bn was identified in these contacts. Other contacts NORTH of TAY NINH have probably been with COSVN Base Security elements.
4. Enemy-initiated activity increased throughout MR10. On 3,4,5 and 6 Mar 101st Abn Div and the PF compound at SONG BE received harassing 60 & 82mm mortar attacks. The most significant of these occurred on 5 Mar when SONG BE received a ground attack by an estimated VC battalion. One PW captured in this action stated he was from the Province Finance and Food Logistics Agency. Further identification of combat units has not been established, but it appears that the VC have taken local and provincial units and elements and are using them in increasing pressure against SONG BE. In the remainder of the region, unidentified VC units continued to harass Allied installations at TONG LE CHON, LOC NINH, CHI LINH and BUNARD with attacks by fire to include SA, 60 & 82mm mortars. Light ground contacts were limited to LOC NINH on 3 Mar when the SF compound received an attack from an estimated VC platoon and on 5 Mar when the National Police engaged an estimated VC squad. On 7 Mar, QUAN LOI received from 75 to 100 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. VC casualties are unknown and no unit identifications have been made.
5. VC Sub-region E-1 remains the area of heaviest contacts with the enemy, primarily concentrated between LAI THIEU and HOC MON. Mortar and rocket attacks were received at LAI KHE, PHU LOI and CU CHI Base Camps. On 5 Mar, elements of 25th US Inf Div were ambushed (vic XT 8504) by an estimated VC company. While no unit identification was made, elements of 2nd LF Bn have been identified as participating in the numerous, continuing contacts in this area. Other contacts primarily consisted of light, scattered actions, mostly as a result of friendly operations. Although the number of attacks along Route 1 in Sub-region E-1 lessened, attempts to interdict the road and prevent its use continued at a high level.
6. In VC Sub-region E-2, the towns of BAO TRAI, DUC HOA and DUC HUE received co-ordinated attacks on 4 Mar. BAO TRAI and DUC HOA were attacked by fire, and DUC HUE received a ground attack. There were no unit identifications made, but the method of attack and weapons employed indicated local force elements were involved. Contacts and sightings SOUTH-WEST of SAIGON continue to indicate the

presence of enemy elements in that area. This activity is indicative of the enemy's continuing capability to conduct resupply and infiltration activities into CHOLON. Several sharp contacts resulting from friendly activities between the "Parrot's Beak" and SAIGON also indicate the continued enemy presence in and use of this area for resupply and refitting activities.

7. In VC Sub-region E-3, enemy activity was concentrated along Route 4 and was highlighted by attacks by the TRAN TRU District Unit identified through captured documents on 7 Mar along the highway from BIEN LUC to TAN AN, by the attempted destruction of the BIEN LUC Bridge on 3 Mar and an attack by fire on the town of BIEN LUC on 4 Mar, and an attack by fire on the NHA BE POL Storage area on 4 Mar. Documents identified A-3 Bn, DONG NAI Regt in the vicinity of CAN GUIOC and other intelligence information continues to indicate the presence of an enemy troop concentration in this area. On 8 Mar, elements of 4/47th Inf came in heavy contact with an unknown size VC force vic XS 569476. No unit identification was made.

8. In VC Sub-region E-4, enemy-initiated activity continued to be light. On the night of 4-5 Mar, six incidents of interdiction along Route 1 about 6 km EAST of TRANG BOM suggest that screening operations for movements were being conducted. Since there has been no known movement of personnel in this time period, the repositioning of supplies is suggested. Increased SLAR activity during the week substantiates previous information that the general flow of supplies to 5th VC Div elements is from SOUTH to NORTH, probably going to elements of 274th and 275th VC Regts located both NORTH and SOUTH of Route 1. During the night of 7-8 Mar, a group of five VC attempted to infiltrate the LONG BINH ASP. On 8 Mar, co-ordinated attacks by an unknown number of VC were conducted against 3/48th ARVN Inf and the NHON TRACH DIST RE self defence force (vic YS 031865, YS 005850, YS 003826). No unit identifications were made.

9. In VC U-1 Province, the VC continued attacks by fire against US installations. On 4 Mar, BIEN HOA Air Base and 101st Abn Div HQ received approximately 24 rounds of 122mm rockets. In what was probably an attempt to suppress counter-fire against VC rocket positions, almost simultaneous attacks by fire were received at FSPB "Concord" (vic YT 025178). Reports continue to indicate the presence of VC elements in the BIEN HOA-LONG BINH area. Heavy concentrations of "people sniffer" readings continue to be recorded along the southern and southeastern edge of the "Catcher's Mitt", SOUTH of the DONG NAI River and along the BIEN HOA/LONG KHANH Province boundary NORTH of TRANG BOM. There were also several concentrations of "people sniffer" readings, SOUTH of Route 1, approximately 10 km NORTH-EAST of BEARCAT.

10. In VC BA BIEN Province, harassment of Allied installations continued. On 4 and 5 Mar, XUAN LOC received mortar attacks, and a co-ordinated attack was conducted against 812 RF Co (YT 390267), an element of 1/82nd Arty (YT 403260) and the TUNG SON RD Cadre Team (YT 403260) on 8 Mar by an estimated two VC platoons. No unit identifications were made.

11. In VC Sub-region E-5, enemy-initiated activity was light. With the exception of two battalion-sized attacks on the morning of 5 Mar (1 vic XT 788177 in which 2nd Bn, 141st NVA Regt was identified, and one vic XT 844105 in which 3rd Bn, 165th NVA Regt was identified), activity was limited to attacks by fire, primarily against PHUOC VINH, and contacts resulting from friendly operations. On 3 Mar, in one of these contacts, 1st Bn, 165th NVA Regt was identified vic XT 897270 (8 km NORTH-WEST of TAN UYEN). On 7 Mar, vic XT 880100, elements of 5th ARVN Div reportedly made contact with an unknown-sized VC force. Two 12.8mm AA MG were captured and 9 VC were KIA. Documents identified the AA Company of the DONG NAI Regt. On 8 Mar, 1/48th ARVN contacted an estimated VC Bn vic XT 998278, 5 km NORTH-EAST of TAN UYEN. Elements of the DONG NAI Regt were

identified in contact and 50 VC were KIA.

12. In VC MY THO Province enemy activity continued at a high level. Attacks by fire during the week were conducted against MY THO, CAI LAY, DONG TAM, VINH KIM, GIAO DUC, LONG DINH and FSPB FIELDS and JAEGER. Interdiction of Route 4 on the nights of 4-5 and 5-6 Mar was very heavy with 75 craters and roadblocks being placed on the first date and almost as many on the second. Activity on other nights, with the exception of 6-7 Mar continued at a moderate level. VC persistence in this tactic indicates emphasis on attempts to disrupt or sever this Allied supply and communications route.

13. In SAIGON, there have been no reports of significant activity as the National Police and ARVN forces continue house-to-house search operations. The lack of activity, including an absence of harassing attacks by fire against TAN SON NHUT Air Base indicates the VC are maintaining a passive role within the capital city while they continue interdiction of LOC and movement of supplies into the city. No additional units have been identified.

14. During the reporting period, the basic disposition of the enemy forces has remained relatively stable, except for the southward re-deployment of 165th NVA Regt, but his actions have shifted primarily from an offensive to a defensive orientation. A general re-evaluation of enemy strengths, reinforced the belief that, except for 7th NVA Div and certain local force elements, the enemy is no longer capable of mounting a sustained offensive with the forces currently available. Intelligence sources continue to reflect heavy resupply activity, and the relatively light intensity of recent attacks by fire indicate either a shortage of indirect fire ammunition in the tactical units, or a conservation programme to build up stocks for another attempt to mount a major offensive. The resupply activity is probably a reflection of the re-distribution of supplies from prepositioned stocks to the manœuvre elements. Intelligence indicators continue to provide evidence of movement of supplies, especially in the "Parrot's Beak" and the RSSZ. Increased use of the RUNG SAT, probably through LONG AN Province, may reflect an attempt to compensate for over extended supply lines from base areas in MR10 and CAMBODIA. The identification of the DONG NAI Regt in the "Catcher's Mitt" may indicate that certain enemy units are temporarily repositioning northward to facilitate resupply activity.

15. In the SAIGON-TAN SON NHUT area, there have been no additional unit identifications in the past week. However, the identification of 165th NVA Regt SOUTH and WEST of TAN UYEN now places all known enemy manœuvre regiments in proximity to either the CMD or the BIEN HOA-LONG BINH complex. The threat to SAIGON and the surrounding area continues to consist of the Local and Main Force Bns currently committed within the CMD, 88th, 101st and 141st NVA Regts, 9th VC Div and 165th NVA Regt.

16. In areas where 9th VC Div is operating, 271st, 272nd and 273rd VC Regts continue to avoid Allied contact. 271st Regt remains in the area NORTH and EAST of HOC MON (vic XT 7604) and is probably capable of launching a two battalion-sized attack, providing local force support is available. 272nd Regt also remains in the vicinity of HOC MON, extending NORTH-WEST to XT 7009, and has the same capabilities as 271st. Although not contacted during the period, 273rd Regt probably remains in the DI AN-THU DUC area, avoiding Allied contact, and could also mount a two battalion-sized attack. The current mission of the regiments of 9th VC Div probably consist of attempting to resupply, harassing US and GVN operations primarily by attacks by fire and limited ground probes, and interdicting lines of communication. However, all three regiments are capable of participating in a renewed co-ordinated offensive, at a reduced strength but for severely restricted periods of time. Elements of these units may have relocated to close in supply areas.

17. 101st NVA Regt continues to operate in a decentralized posture, probably in battalion-sized elements NORTH of the GO VAP District, with the missions of encirclement and harassment. The last known contact with 88th NVA Regt was vic XT 7115, approximately 8 km NORTH-EAST of CU CHI. However, the regiment has not been noted in contact for the past week and is now considered unlocated, but believed to remain in southern Sub-region E-1. Its present subordination is not firm. PW have stated that the regiment is still subordinate to 5th VC Div, but its area of operations and method of employment since the beginning of the TET offensive suggests an association with 7th NVA Div. The regiment could possibly mount an understrength regimental-sized attack, but is more likely to be used as a security force or in attempts to disrupt Allied lines of communication and sweep activities.

18. 7th NVA Div has moved into central and southern Sub-region E-5. 141st Regt is in the vicinity of PHU CUONG, and 165th Regt is apparently operating in battalion-sized elements spread from PHU CUONG to NORTH-WEST of TAN UYEN. While 7th Div has the capability to either reinforce the enemy elements NORTH of SAIGON, or to conduct attacks against the BIEN HOA-LONG BINH complex, it is more likely that the unit's current mission involves providing security for the supply lines passing through the PHU LOI-PHU CUONG area, and harassing US and GVN base camps.

19. In 5th VC Div's area of operations (VC U-1 Province and northern Sub-region E-4), the division HQ and 275th VC Regt are probably regrouping and re-equipping their forces in the area NORTH of TRANG BOM and SOUTH of the DONG NAI River. 274th VC Regt is probably dispersed in battalion-sized elements astride Route 1, performing similar functions. However, based on continuing evidence of heavy VC activity along Route 1, it is reasonable to assume that 274th Regt retains the major portion of its combat capability, and is probably preparing to continue attacks by fire and limited objective ground attacks against US and GVN installations and activities in the BIEN HOA-BEARCAT-XUAN LOC areas, in accordance with the known COSVN directives for the current time frame.

20. The capture of two 120mm mortar rounds by 1 ATF on 28 Feb in the vicinity of TRANG BOM reflects a capability on the part of the VC to conduct attacks by fire utilizing this weapons system. The capture of an aiming circle and firing data taken from the body of a forward observer on 7 Mar vic XT 082240 is further evidence of the VC continued emphasis on preparing firing positions for rockets and other indirect fire weapons.

21. The DONG NAI Regt, less its 3rd Bn but with PHU LOI I Bn was identified on 8 Mar in the "Catcher's Mitt", with elements operating in LAI THIEU District. The regiment is considered capable of attacking Allied installations and activities in this area, and reinforcing local force elements.

22. The threat remains unchanged in MR10, where the enemy has the capability of conducting a maximum of three battalion equivalent sized attacks against Allied installations in central PHUOC LONG.

23. In VC TAY NINH Province, the threat consists of the equivalent of three battalions, including elements of 66th Base Security Regt and D-14 LF Bn.

24. In VC Sub-region E-2, the reported 267B Bn poses a threat in the BAO TRAI-DUC HOA-TRA CU area, possibly augmented by D-16 LF Bn and 267th and 269th MF Bns, which, due to the absence of contacts, may have withdrawn from TAN SON NHUT Air Base to the western edge of the CMD in order to regroup and refit.

25. The threat in VC Sub-region E-3 consists of LF elements and 2nd Ind Bn, and possibly other elements now committed in the southern portion of the CMD. K-3 Bn, DONG NAI Regt, which was identified in the vicinity of CAN GIUOC poses a particular threat at that location.

26. In VC MY THO Province, the threat consists of 261st and 263rd MF Bns, and 514th LF Bn, unlocated but possibly in the vicinity of MY THO City.

27. The enemy has been unusually inactive for the past 4-5 days. Beginning on 8 Mar, a sudden increase in intelligence reports refer to enemy plans to reinitiate his attacks after resupplying and re-aligning his forces. These reports indicate that the enemy intends to attack during the period 10-13 Mar. Targets for these attacks are expected to include the LONG BINH Ammunition Storage area, BIEN HOA Air Base, LONG BINH logistical and command complex and the helicopter operational facilities at BEARCAT and LONG BINH. Captured documents from the DONG NAI Regt indicate that resupply and training activities were to be completed by 10 Mar. This time frame probably also applies to other enemy elements in the SAIGON-BIEN HOA area.

28. Enemy Losses. For the reporting period there were 1,186 VC KIA(BC), 49 VC FW, 267 individual and 91 crew-served weapons were captured. There were 8 HOI CHANH and 49.6 tons of rice were captured or destroyed.

(B) Friendly Activity.

29. During this reporting period US/FW Forces were engaged in 9 large unit operations in III CTZ. In Operation SARATOGA, in HAU NGHIA Province, elements of 25th US Inf Div had 476 VC KIA (BC); in all other operations contact was light to moderate only. ARVN Forces carried out 27 large unit operations in III CTZ but contact was light to negligible only. Operation TRAN HUNG DAO II, the ARVN clearing operation in the SAIGON area concluded with final totals of 713 VC KIA (BC), 1626 detainees, 181 SA and 77 crew-served weapons captured. Friendly losses were 67 KIA, 216 WIA.

(C) Other Information.

30. A document dated 14 Feb and captured in SAIGON'S 8th Precinct, reveals the existence of a new Command Group (CG) and a commo-liaison route. The CG, termed the "Joint Field Command" is composed of approximately 100 VC cadre who exfiltrated SAIGON after TET attacks in the capital. The mission of the CG is to replenish the strength of VC forces in the capital and supply weapons to the SAIGON area. In order to accomplish its mission, the CG established a commo-liaison route from AN TINH area (XT 5321) in northern HAU NGHIA Province, through the DINH TAN area, to PHU THO HOA (XS 8092), WEST of SAIGON. As of 14 Feb, the route was open to MY HANH (XT 6303) in eastern HAU NGHIA Province. The addressee, a high ranking cadre of COSVN, is requested to "call back new recruits and local militia labourers", as they are needed, to move supplies and troops. The document indicated a need for B-40 rockets and launchers, AK-47s, sub-machine guns and ammunition, and hand grenades. The writer states that he contacted F-1 to request weapons. F-1 is the VC Sub-region controlling BEN CAT, TRANG BANG, CU CHI and GO MON Districts.

(MACV DISUM 70-68).

Section 2 South Vietnam (excl III Corps) and North Vietnam.

(A) Enemy Activity.

31. Generally enemy activity remained at a low level, but the enemy continued to maintain a presence around selected key urban areas. During the week the enemy avoided large scale actions while attempting to solve manpower and logistics difficulties. For the week there was a decrease in the number of attacks/ambushes. There were 25 attacks and 3 ambushes in I CTZ, 23 attacks and 3 ambushes in II CTZ and 52 attacks in IV Corps. The main enemy-initiated incident in II CTZ was in BINH DINH Province when an unknown sized enemy force attacked the PHU MY District town and HQ, and also the jail on 4 Feb. Over 80 prisoners were released but more than half voluntarily returned to GVN control. VC losses were 73 KIA (BC), 2 crew-served weapons captured; ARVN losses 1 PF KIA, 2 PF WIA. In IV CTZ, in AN XUYEN Province, vic WR 180150, an estimated VC reinforced

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- 6 -

battalion launched a ground attack against the province capital, CA MAU. on 5 Mar. Part of the city was occupied before the VC were driven off after more than 24 hours fighting. VC losses were: 257 KIA (BC), 5 PW, 6 crew-served and 44 individual weapons captured. In addition one sampan of plastic explosive was captured. Friendly losses: 10 ARVN KIA, 20 civilians killed, 2 US WIA, 41 ARVN WIA, 50 civilians wounded; over 1000 civilian homes burned.

32. At present the enemy has approximately 50 combat battalions available in I CTZ; of these 8-10 are in the GIO LINH area, approximately 5 are in the QUANG TRI city area, 11-15 are in the HUE area, 13 are in the KHE SANH area and the rest are probably in single battalions throughout the CTZ. In II CTZ the enemy has approximately 20 combat battalions available; 3 battalions are in the DAK TO area, 2-4 battalions in the KONTUM area, approximately 3 battalions in the PLEIKU area and 3-5 battalions in the BAN ME THUOT area. In IV CTZ the enemy has 9-12 combat battalions available; of these 2 are in MY THO area and 2 are in CAN THO area, the rest are in single battalion strength throughout the CTZ.

33. The most likely areas for enemy attacks in the coming week are KHE SANH, HUE and GIO LINH in I CTZ, KONTUM City and BAN ME THUOT in II CTZ. The anniversary of the start of the DIEN BIEN PHU siege, 13 Mar, may be the occasion for some increase in enemy activity.

(B) Friendly Activity.

I Corps

34. US/FW Forces were engaged in 11 large unit operations in I CTZ during the reporting period. In Operation KENTUCKY, in QUANG TRI Province, elements of 3rd US Marine Div had 261 VC KIA (BC); in Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE in QUANG TRI Province, elements of 1st and 3rd US Marine Divs had 219 VC KIA (BC); in Operation JEB STUART, in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Provinces, elements of 1st US Cav Div (Air Mbl) and 101st US Abn Div had 411 VC KIA (BC); in Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA, in QUANG NAM and QUANG TIN Provinces, elements of the AMERICAL Div had 417 VC KIA (BC); in all other operations contact was light to moderate only. ARVN Forces carried out 12 large unit operations in I CTZ for the week; contact was negligible except in Operation LAM SON 192, in QUANG TRI Province, when elements of 1st ARVN Div had 155 VC KIA (BC).

II Corps

35. US/FW Forces were engaged in 6 large unit operations in II CTZ for the week. In Operation BOLLING, in PHU YEN Province, elements of 173rd US Abn Bde had 140 VC KIA (BC); in Operation MAC ARTHUR, in KONTUM, PLEIKU, DARLAC and QUANG DUC Provinces elements of 4th US Inf Div had 154 VC KIA (BC); in Operation PATRICK in BINH DINH and QUANG NGAI Provinces, elements of 4th US Inf Div had 88 VC KIA (BC); and in Operation MEANG HO 10, in BINH DINH Province, elements of the Captiol ROK Inf Div had 151 VC KIA (BC). ARVN Forces carried out 16 large unit operations in II CTZ for the week. Contact was negligible except in Operation TIEN BO 4, in DARLAC Province, when elements of 23rd ARVN Inf Div had 160 VC KIA (BC).

IV Corps.

36. US/FW Forces were engaged in 4 large unit operations in IV CTZ for the reporting period for only light to moderate contact. ARVN Forces carried out 58 large unit operations for the week with only light to negligible contact.

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(C) Other Information.

37. Two enemy tracked vehicles were reportedly sighted on 5 Mar in the DMZ 7 km NORTH-WEST of CON THIEN (YD 061749), and were destroyed by artillery. On 6 Mar, AO examined the remains of the reported tracked vehicles and determined that they were wooden dummies (model unknown) with pipes arranged to look like quad-mounted guns. Although this is the first known instance of such NVA deception in the DMZ area, this tactic is used extensively in NORTH VIETNAM. Increased use of dummies and decoys in the form of assorted NVA hardware, particularly missiles, should now be expected, as the enemy attempts to spread our recce effort and inflate credible threats.

(MACV DISUM 67-68)

38. Explosive charges, designed to resemble a concrete building block, were found in I CTZ in the vicinity of two bridges at YD 354548 and YD 369558. The explosive charges were made of TRITONAL (60% TNT and 40% aluminium), with two TNT booster charges located on the top surface near the ends. Each charge consists of two 200 gram blocks of TNT with a cap well. The following are the characteristics of the charges:

Colour	Grey (colour of mixed concrete)
Total weight	30 lbs
Length	19 inches
Width	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Depth	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Charges of this kind, weighing 528 lbs, were discovered by a PF unit on a raft near TAM KY Highway number 1 bridge, on 9 Feb 68. According to EOD personnel on the scene, one block of the type described above could have rendered the bridge impassable.

(III MAF Perintrep 9-68).

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Serial 12/68
Numbers 52 - 54

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

BY

MAJOR P.R. BADMAN

OC C SQN 1 ARMD REGT RAAC

NUI DAT

13 MAR 68

RO Number

52 DUTIES
53 MOVEMENT OUTSIDE UNIT HARBOUR AND DEFENSIVE POSITIONS
54 FIRE PREVENTION

52. DUTIES

1.	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duty Officer</u>	<u>Orderly Officer</u>
	14 Mar 68	2Lt Catterall	WO2 Simpson
	15 Mar 68	WO1 Juers	2Lt Catterall
	16 Mar 68	WO2 Jackson	WO1 Juers
	17 Mar 68	WO2 Pettit	WO2 Jackson
	18 Mar 68	WO2 Lilley	WO2 Pettit
	19 Mar 68	WO2 Maxwell	WO2 Lilley
	20 Mar 68	WO2 Garcia	WO2 Maxwell
	21 Mar 68		WO2 Garcia

2.	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duty NCO</u>	
		<u>1845 - 0100</u>	<u>0100 - 0700</u>
	14 Mar 68	Sgt Smith	Sgt Calliss
	15 Mar 68	Sgt Russell G.I.	Cpl Cook
	16 Mar 68	Sgt Taylor W.J.	Sgt Blakeney
	17 Mar 68	SSgt Laker	Cpl Kjellgren
	18 Mar 68	Sgt Taylor W.J.	Cpl Wilson
	19 Mar 68	Sgt Jeffrey	Sgt Russell S.G.
	20 Mar 68	Sgt Taylor A.M.	Sgt Wells

53. MOVEMENT OUTSIDE UNIT HARBOUR AND DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. (Extract of HQ 1 ATF GS Instruction 6/68 dated 16 Mar 68).

1. To prevent any operational accidents the following measures are to be adopted when in Pl, Coy or Sqn harbour defensive positions or a FSB:

a. The Pl etc Comd is to site the latrine or latrine area inside the perimeter at all times.

b. Any person or group required to leave the perimeter for any reason will notify their immediate superior, who will by normal channels inform the Pl, Coy, Sqn or FSB Comd depending on the size of the position. The group will then wait until they have been informed by the officer in command that the whole position has been informed of their intention.

/c.

c. Movement of Patrols outside the perimeter is the responsibility of the officer in command. In the case of a Pl position, the Pl Comd; in the case of a Coy position, the Coy Comd, etc. It is the responsibility of the Commander, whether Pl, Coy or Sqn or FSB, to ensure that everyone in the position is notified through the normal chain of command.

d. The following information is to be passed about patrols either leaving or approaching the position:

- (1) Time of movement out or estimated time of arrival.
- (2) Direction of movement out or probable direction of movement in.
- (3) Identity of troops moving out or in.
- (4) Number of troops in the patrol.

e. The setting up of claymores is to be coordinated by the officer in charge ie. the Pl, Coy, Sqn or FSB Comd depending on the size of the position. All members are to be warned of movement of the setting up parties by following procedures outlined in para c.

54. FIRE PREVENTION (Extract of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt Gp Camp Standing Orders (prov) Section 6).

1. These fire orders will read to all ranks and the attention of all ranks will be drawn to these fire orders once per month.

2. a. All grass in the vicinity of military installations is to be cut short. Where there is an existing fire risk, action is to be taken to provide fire breaks around all buildings, dumps, vehicle compounds and tentage.

b. Electrical fittings will be maintained in good order. Any frayed or loose wires, or faulty fittings, will be reported as soon as they are detected. Under no circumstances will any member other than a qualified electrician attempt to carry out any repairs to electrical equipment and fittings.

c. Smoking will be prohibited in storehouses, storerooms, magazines, ammunition stacking areas, POL stacking areas, vicinity of petroleum pumps, and other refuelling points, engine rooms containing CI or IC engines, engine testing houses or bays, carpenters, oil and paint shops. Smoking will also be prohibited within thirty feet of open stacking sites and storehouses of temporary or combustible construction and in all vehicles carrying explosives or POL. Under no circumstances will a driver smoke while actually driving any vehicle. No member will be permitted to smoke in bed.

d. Any infringement of orders regarding smoking will be considered a serious offence and appropriate action will be taken against offenders whether military or civilian.

e. Places at which smoking is forbidden will be clearly indicated by NO SMOKING notices which will be prominently displayed. Where smoking is permitted, ash trays or suitable metal containers must be provided.

f. Matches and lighters will not be carried into ammunition depots, magazines, or within 50 feet of any stack of ammunition drums, tins or cans containing POL or ships loading or discharging POL or ammunition. Matches will not be left lying about or stored in warm places.

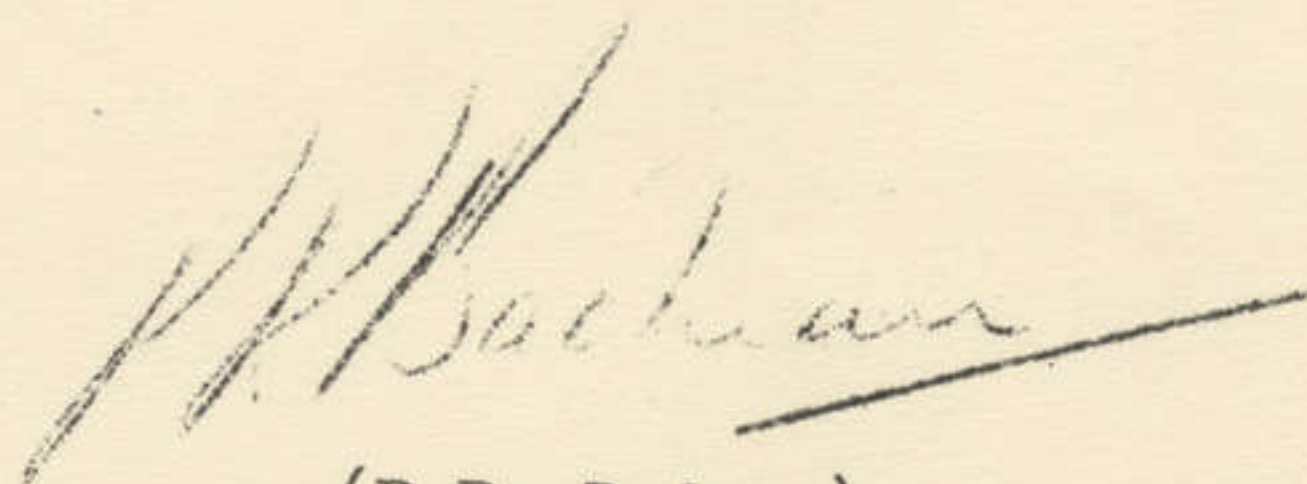
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g. Tidiness and cleanliness are essential fire prevention measures. All rubbish, unservicable packing materials or other inflammable substances will be cleared away at regular intervals, and removed to a safe outside location for early disposal.

h. Packing materials such as wood, wool, straw and similar materials of a highly combustible nature will not be stored in any ordinary storehouse or room. These materials will be stored in a special storehouse (preferably of fire resisting construction) or in the open.

j. The indiscriminate lighting of fires in the open is forbidden. Where it is necessary to light a fire in the open action will be taken to clear the area around the location of the fire of all grass, brush and rubbish. No fire will be left unattended until it is properly extinguished. Burning off will not be permitted without the prior approval of the 1 ATF Fire Officer.



(P.R. Badman)

Maj

OC

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Serial 14/68
Numbers 56 - 64

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

BY

MAJOR P.R. BADMAN

OC C SQN 1 ARMD REGT RAAC

NUI DAT

23 MAR 68

<u>RO Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
56	DUTIES
57	SECURITY OF INFORMATION - LAUNDRIES
58	ARMoured CALLSIGNS
59	CONTROL OF AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES
60	MEDICAL DOCUMENTS - F MED 4 ENVELOPE
61	DRESS IN VEHICLES
62	DRESS - SHORTS GREEN
63	PAYING OF COMPLIMENTS - SALUTING
64	CANTEEN AND MESSSES
Notice	WILLS

56. DUTIES

1. Duty Officer

24 Mar 68	WO1	Juers	28 Mar 68	Capt	Dittmar
25 Mar 68	WO2	Jackson	29 Mar 68	Lt	Jones
26 Mar 68	WO2	Lilley	30 Mar 68	Lt	Howell
27 Mar 68	Capt	Thompson			

2. Orderly Officer

The Duty Officer, as rostered above, is to be Orderly Officer on the day following the date shown.

57. SECURITY OF INFORMATION - LAUNDRIES (Ref 1 ATF Routine Order Part 1, number 26/68).

1. All ranks are to personally empty the pockets of garments before sending clothes to laundries. A wide range of articles recently recovered from the **three** authorised civilian laundries in BARIA, included ID Cards, Identity Discs, personal letters and one document classified CONFIDENTIAL.

2. These articles have been returned to the units concerned for necessary corrective action.

/3.

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3. It must be assumed from the number of articles recovered from authorised laundries that similar items are being left in clothes washed by unauthorised laundries. The result could well be that the Viet Cong have access to Australian ID Cards, Identity discs, personal mail and perhaps classified documents or information.

4. Authorised civilian laundries are laid down in 1 ATF Routine Order Part 1, number 7/67.

5. Units and members are to deal only with authorised laundries and to exercise greater care in the preparation of clothing for servicing.

58. ARMoured CALLSIGNS

1. With the arrival of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt a certain amount of confusion over armoured callsigns has been experienced.

2. The system to be used, with immediate effect, is outlined below:

Sub-unit/Elm	Callsign
C Sqn 1 Armd Regt	T3
1 Tp	T31
2 Tp	T32
3 Tp	T33
A Sqn 3 Cav Regt	TA
1 Tp	TA1
2 Tp	TA2
3 Tp	TA3

3. When referring to armoured elements over a radio net the above callsigns are to be used. In particular, such phrases as "MY TANGO ELEMENTS" are no longer to be used. Either, "MY TANGO THREE ELEMENTS" or "MY TANGO ALPHA ELEMENTS", as applicable, are to be used.

59. CONTROL OF AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES (Ref 1 ATF Routine Order Part 1, number 23/68).

1. No soldier in 1 ATF Base is to have in his possession (or on his person or in his lines) any more ammunition or explosives than his unit considers necessary for his own protection or his role in Base Defence.

2. Between operations all surplus ammunition and explosives are to be checked and that which is still serviceable but in excess of the individual soldier's requirements for his base defence duties, is to be removed from the soldier and stored separately under unit arrangement.

3. Prior to RTA, a member is to return all ammunition, explosives and surplus equipment and clothing to his unit. The disposal of these items will be in accordance with current instructions. Great care is to be exercised in checking clothing and equipment for explosives prior to destruction by fire.

60. MEDICAL DOCUMENTS - F MED 4 ENVELOPE

1. This document is becoming lost more frequently. No F Med 4 is to be issued from the RAP unless:

/a.

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3.

- a. The person issuing the document obtains an acknowledgement of receipt.
- b. The personal particulars marked on the envelope are correct and clearly legible. The particulars are to show the rank and unit of the person and both these entries are to be in pencil.

61. DRESS IN VEHICLES (Ref 1 ATF Routine Order Part 1, number 17/68).

1. All members of 1 ATF are to wear headress when travelling in vehicles. This includes the driver as well as the passenger. The 1 ATF SOP Chapter 1 Section 4, para 107.b. concerning headress, no longer applies and is to be amended.

62. DRESS - SHORTS GREEN (Ref 1 ATF Routine Order Part 1, number 25/68).

1. Para 383 of the Dress Manual 1963 states: "Shorts are to be of sufficient length to reach to within 2 inches above the top of the knee". However, because Ordnance issue shorts are not always available in the required trouser length the following is to apply in 1 ATF:

- a. Shorts, Military, green are to be worn as issued to members of 1 ATF and are not to be altered by the person to whom they are issued.
- b. Shorts are not to be worn by members of 1 ATF with the trouser legs rolled up.
- c. In the case where issue shorts have trouser leg length which is excessive, i.e., less than 2 inches above the top of the knee, the length may be adjusted by a tailor, to comply with the Dress Manual 1963, i.e., to within 2 inches above the top of the knee.

63. PAYING OF COMPLIMENTS - SALUTING (Extract of 1 ATF Routine Order Part 1, number 18/68).

1. Members of 1 ATF are to pay compliments at all times in 1 ATF Base, and at all other times outside the Base except when engaged on operations.

2. Senior officers travelling in vehicles are to be saluted. There are two main ways of recognising senior officers in vehicles:

- a. By the star plates displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle.
- b. By the red head band.

64. CANTEEN AND MESSES

1. For any period when the majority of C Squadron is away from the NUI DAT base the following rules in messes and canteens are to apply:

a. Unit Canteen. All alcoholic beverages are to be consumed before 1800 hrs daily. The canteen may remain open until normal closing time for the sale of soft drinks and dry goods only. Supervising officer is to police this.

b. Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. All alcoholic beverages are to be consumed before 2000 hrs daily. Bars may remain open until the normal closing time for the sale of dry goods and soft drinks. PMCs are responsible for the operation of respective messes.

2. Any person violating this ruling is to be charged.

Alan Wickham
Capt
(P.R. Badman)
for Maj
OC

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4.

NOTICE

WILLS

1. All members are reminded that it is advantageous from every point of view to have properly drawn will. Members who have not made a will are again urged to make one.
2. It is advised that the ATF Legal Officer will make legal advise available to members. All requests for this advise are to be made to C Sqn Adjt. Members are not to approach the ATF Legal Officer direct.

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FM AUSTFORCE VIETNAM

TO RAYAFM/1 ARMD REGT PUCKAPUNYAL

INFO RAMABC/ C SQN 1 ARMD REGT ✓

RAMABC/1 ATF

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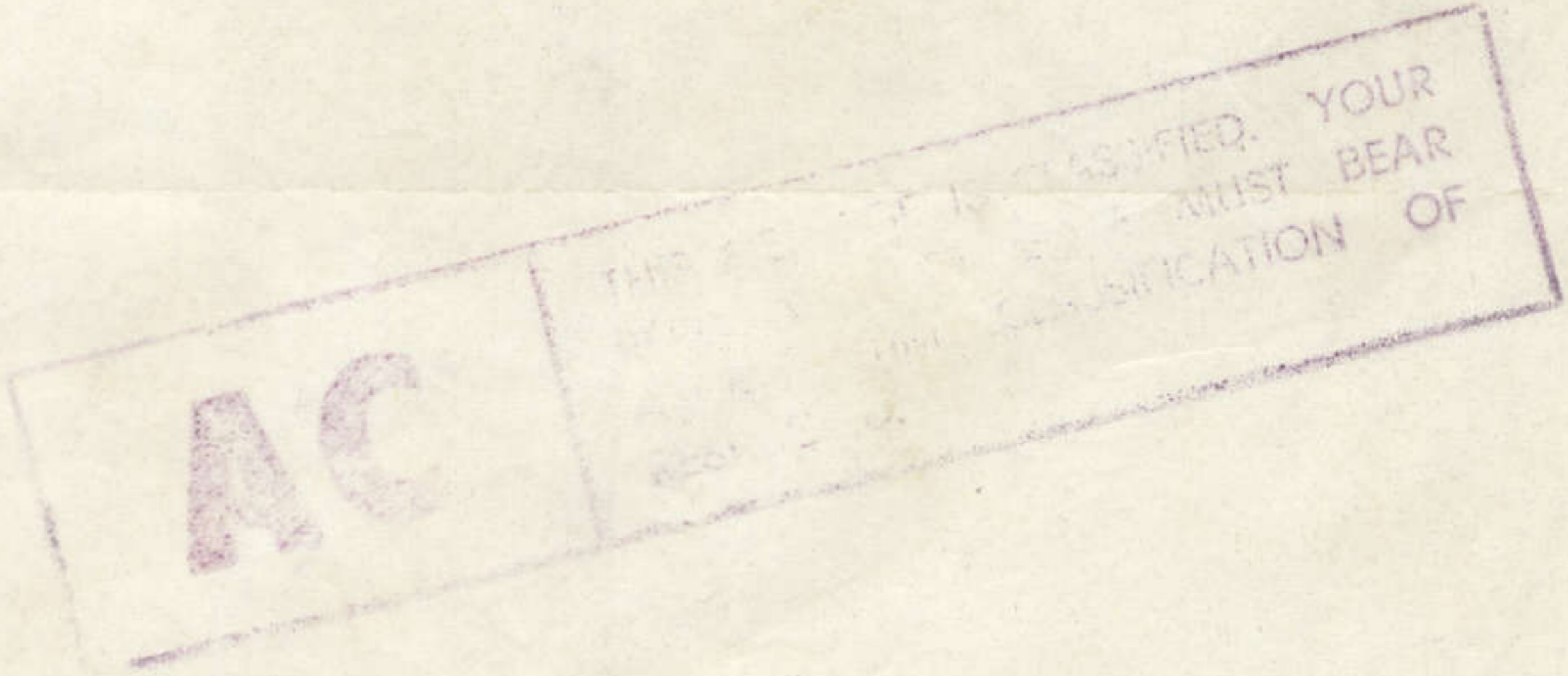
R E S T R I C T E D PA13564. FROM C SQN. QUOTE. REF YOUR A155 9%
030400Z. DETAILS ARE ALPHA. CMM COMD SGT RJ SNAPE CMM GNR TPR D J MAHAR
CMM OP TPR TM COSGROVE CMM DVR TPR BC TARRAN. BRAVO. OP PINNAROO CMM
8 MAR 68 CMM VEH 92 A CMM VEH NO 169106 CMM LOC YS482554 CMM SPEC
FIRE INTO SUSPECTED AMBUSH POSN. UNQUOTE

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

5 March 1968

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders' Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 040001H to 042400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO in vicinity of LONG DIEN, YS4259 and AO MOSELLE, with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt RAAC, remained at NUI DAT Base.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt RAAC, continued to support 2 RAR in Operation PINNAROO and 7 RAR in Operations in vicinity of BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Sect 1 Tp YS373611, 2 Tp YS421722.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations in PHUOC TUY Province. 132 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt RAA and A Bty 2/35 Arty (US), 1 ATF Base.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. W Coy, in conjunction with 1 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt and elements of 1 Div Int Unit screened the population of XA TAM PHUOC YS4558. 15 VC suspects and 2 draft dodgers were detained. The village was evacuated and the population resettled by Sector authorities. Locations: 2 RAR (-) YS4962; A Coy YS445555; B Coy YS441567; V Coy YS434624; W Coy YS445588.

(e) 3 RAR remained in 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in vicinity of BARIA YS3760 and 1 ATF TAOR and commenced Operations in vicinity AP SUOI NGHE YS4271. At 2040H, C Coy engaged 3 to 4 VC at YS370675. Result: 2 VC KIA(Poss). Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; B Coy YS372611; C Coy YS378674; D Coy YS421722.

(g) Detachment 17 Construction Squadron RAE commenced land clearing operations in vicinity of AP SUOI NGHE YS4271. Location: YS421722.

(h) Air Support. Significant Airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
0551H	YS48254970	VC Base Camp	2 military structures destroyed, 2 military structures damaged, 1 tunnel caved in.

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1028H	YS461544	VC Base Camp	2 military structures damaged.
1038H	YS476564	VC Base Camp	2 secondary explosions
1104H	YS461544	VC Base Camp	1 bunker damaged, 1 military structure damaged.
1113H	YS476564	VC Base Camp	3 secondary explosions.
1202H	YS461544	VC Base Camp	100 metres of trench destroyed, 5 bunkers destroyed, 3 military structures destroyed.
1332H	YS365739	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 1 ox cart destroyed.
1403H	YS364734	VC Base Camp	2 fighting positions damaged.

(i) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES:

- a Personnel: Nil
- b Materiel: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

- a Personnel: 2 KIA (Poss)
- b Materiel: Nil

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Continue present Operations.

c. Small Unit Actions.

- (1) Company - Four
- Platoon - Five
- Squad - Seven

(2) 2 SAS Sqn RA Inf has one LRRP deployed in the 1 ATF

(3) One.

(4) Results: 2 VC KIA(Poss).

TAOR.

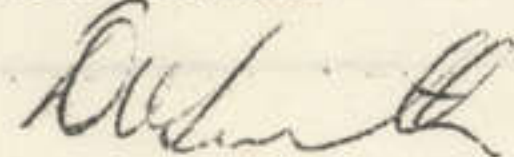
R.L. HUGHES
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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

02

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

7 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 060001H to 062400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations within the 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt remained at NUI DAT Base.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 2 RAR on Operation PINNAROO, and 7 RAR on Operations in vicinity BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271. At 1300H 3 Tp in vicinity YS431722 received SA fire from unknown number of VC. Search of area resulted in 1 VC suspect and 5 draft dodgers detained. Locations: A Sqn(-), NUI DAT Base; 3 Sect 1 Tp, YS372611; 3 Tp, YS422721.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations in PHUOC TUY Province. 268 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt(-), A Bty 2/35 Arty(US) and A Bty 1/83 Arty(US), NUI DAT Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty at Horseshoe Hill, YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. V Coy detained one VC suspect and 2 draft dodgers in vicinity YS4362. Locations: 2 RAR (-), Horseshoe Hill; A Coy, YS431567; B Coy, YS438573; V Coy, YS434624; W Coy, YS445588.

(e) 3 RAR remained at NUI DAT Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in vicinity BARIA, YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE, YS4271 with minor contact. At 1500H D Coy engaged 1 VC at YS430728 without result. Locations: 7 RAR(-), NUI DAT Base; B Coy, YS372611; D Coy, YS421722.

(g) Aust Land Clearing Team continued operations in vicinity AP SUOI NGHE. 18 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS421722.

(h) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Table with 4 columns: Time, Coordinates, Target Description, Bomb Damage Assessment. Rows include details of airstrikes on VC occupied caves and base camps.

(i) Results:

- 1 AUST LOSSES:
a Personnel: Nil
b Materiel: Nil

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2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Two suspects detained.

b Materiel: Nil

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit actions.

(1) Company - Two
Platoon - Three
Squad - Six

(2) 2 SAS Sqn has three LRRPs deployed in the 1 ATF TAOR.

(3) One

(4) Two VC suspects detained.

R.L. HUGHES
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03

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

8 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 070001H to 072400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in 1 ATF TAOR, BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271 areas with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt remained in 1 ATF Base.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. 3 Tp provided protection for land clearing tasks in the AP SUOI NGHE YS4271 area. One section continued to support B Coy 7 RAR in the BARIA area. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 3 Tp YS424720; 3 Sect 1 Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations in PHUOC TUY Province. 148 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-), A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and A Bty 1/83 Arty (US) 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1604H at YS453576 while carrying out a cordon and search of a house 3 Pl W Coy was fired on by 4 VC from outside the cordon. During the action that followed one NZ soldier was wounded by a mine. There were possibly two VC casualties. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS431567; B Coy YS438575; V Coy YS434624; W Coy YS459582.

(e) 3 RAR remained in 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in the BARIA and AP SUOI NGHE areas without contact. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; B Coy YS372611; D Coy YS421723.

(g) Aust Land Clearing Team continued operations in vicinity AP SUOI NGHE. 28 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS421722.

(h) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
071327H	YS451535	VC Base Camp	1 tunnel destroyed, 1 tunnel damaged, 1 bunker destroyed.
071355H	YS461508	VC Base Camp	6 bunkers destroyed, 6 bunkers uncovered, 20 metres trench uncovered, 30 metres trench destroyed, 1 tin structure destroyed.
070934H	YS461544	VC Base Camp	1 military structure destroyed, 5 metres trench destroyed.

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(i) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES:

- a Personnel: 1 NZ WIA
- b Materiel: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

- a Personnel: 2 VC WIA (poss)
- b Materiel: Nil

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue. Additional elements as listed in paragraph d will begin participation in Operation PINNAROO.

c. Small Unit Actions.

- (1) Company - Two
Platoon - One
Squad - Twelve
- (2) 2 SAS Sqn has four LRRPs deployed.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) Nil.

d. Remarks. The Task Organization of Operation PINNAROO has been increased and is now as follows:

- 2 RAR
- 3 RAR
- A Sqn (-)
- 108 Fd Bty
- 161 Fd Bty
- Elements of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt
- Elements of 1 Fd Sqn

The area of operation for Operation PINNAROO now includes the hill features centre of mass YS4652.

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04

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

9 March 1968

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 080001H to 082400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in 1 ATF TAOR, BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271 with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt deployed a small element, including two tank dozers, in support of 2 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt on Operation PINNAROO. The remainder of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt remained in 1 ATF Base.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. 2 Tp commenced Operation PINNAROO in support of 3 RAR. 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing operation in the AP SUOI NGHE area. 2 Sec 1 Tp relieved 1 Sec 1 Tp supporting B Coy 7 RAR in the BARIA area. At 1030H at YS493551 2 Tp contacted 1 VC with no known results. At YS492541 2 Tp found some tunnels containing 10lb of rice, some fish and eating utensils. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp YS492552; 3 Tp YS422722; 2 Sec 1 Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations in PHUOC TUY Province. 283 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-), A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and A Bty 1/83 Arty (US), 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. During the day a number of M16 mines were found which were either lifted or destroyed. At 2005H at YS460585, W Coy engaged 25 VC with SA and Artillery fire. There were no known results. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446556; B Coy YS443566; V Coy YS438513; W Coy YS459582.

(e) 3 RAR commenced Operation PINNAROO. 3 RAR conducted an Airmobile Assault into position along the EASTERN bdy of AO MOSELLE. At 1345H at YS517547 9 Pl C Coy sighted an unknown number of VC carrying three wounded VC. The VC were engaged with Artillery with no known results. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS487577; B Coy YS492552; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF base.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in the BARIA and AP SUOI NGHE areas and at 2300H began deploying A Coy and C Coy to the WEST of HOA LONG YS4163, following a patrol report of 46 VC moving towards HOA LONG from the WEST. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS408644; B Coy YS372611; C Coy YS413651; D Coy YS421723.

(g) Aust Land Clearing Team continued operations in vicinity of AP SUOI NGHE. 43 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS421722.

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(h) Air Support.

(1) Significant airstrikes

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Description
1820H	YS468564 YS477557 YS459544 YS453551	B52 strikes	4 trails cut, 3 tunnel entrances uncovered, 6 bunkers damaged, 30 metres of trench exposed, 4 small pits uncovered.
0904H	YS304836	VC Base Camp	1 bunker destroyed, 10 metres trench exposed, 2 bunkers damaged, 2 fighting positions uncovered.
1641H	YS461509	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers damaged, 4 fighting positions damaged, 10 metres trench damaged.

(2) Riot Control Agent was successfully disseminated between 080730H and 081050H in selected targets in the following squares: YS4749, YS4750, YS4751, YS4752, YS4849, YS4850, YS4851.

(i) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES: Nil

2. b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - Four
Platoon - Five
Squad - Six

(2) 2 SAS Sqn has four LRRPs deployed.

(3) Nil.

(4) Nil.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

10 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 090001H to 092400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
11 Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt (-) continued to support 2 Tp A Sqn on Operation PINNAROO. The remainder of C Sqn remained in 1 ATF Base.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations with minor contact. 2 Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO. At 0920H at YS486552 1 RPG round was fired at 2 Tp without result. At 0935H at YS485551 a further RPG round was fired at 2 Tp with the result 1 APC damaged (repairable in 72 hours). A sweep of the area failed to locate the VC. 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing operation in the AP SUOI NGHE area. 1 Tp escorted a recce gp of 1 Fd Sqn to recce PHU MY Airstrip YS2377. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp YS492552; 3 Tp YS422722; 3 Sect 1 Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 180 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) A Bty 2/35 (US), A Bty 1/83 Arty (US) and 102 Fd Bty RAA 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 0330H at YS459583 5 VC were contacted by W Coy with the result 3 VC KIA, 2 PWS, 4 weapons and 3 packs containing food captured. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446545; B Coy YS446556; V Coy YS458513; W Coy YS454574.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1950H at YS478575 A Coy reported an estimated Pl of VC moved from EAST to WEST 300 metres SOUTH of its location. The area was engaged with Artillery without result. At 2113H at YS492552 B Coy received 2 bursts of automatic fire from outside its perimeter. There were no casualties the area was engaged with Artillery. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS478575; B Coy YS492552; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271. A and C Coys were deployed into cordon positions to the WEST of HOA LONG after a previous report of VC moving towards HOA LONG from the WEST. The VC returned to the WEST avoiding the cordon, the area was engaged with Artillery. A subsequent search resulted in 2 packs containing food, 1 M1 magazine and 1 Chicom grenade captured. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; B Coy YS372611; D Coy YS422722.

(g) Aust land clearing team continued operations in vicinity of AP SUOI NGHE. 2 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Locations: YS422722.

(h) 1 Aust Civil Affairs Unit projects for period 2 March to 8 March:

1 Construction continued on the following projects:

- a RF housing at BARIA Rifle Range.
- b Erection of toilet block at LON HUON School YS3561.
- c Roads drains and wells at AP SUOI NGHE.
- d Repair of furniture at Province Schools.

2 Commodity support for refugees continued.

3 Minor repairs completed at BARIA Primary and the Schools at XUYEN MOC YS6768.

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4 General assistance to the Province on education continued.

5 11 Medcaps were conducted.

(i) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage assessment
LATE REPORT 081750H	YS461544	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers destroyed. 4 foxholes destroyed.
090746H	YS461513	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed. 10 metres of trench destroyed. 1 small secondary explosion possibly a mine.
091332H	YS455538	VC Base Camp	6 foxholes damaged.

(j) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil

1 Materiel : 1 APC damaged (repairable in 72 hours)

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: 3 VC KIA
2 VC PW

b Materiel : 2 M1 carbines

1 Captured: 1 Garand
5 packs
1 M1 magazine
quantity of food.

2 Destroyed: 1 Chicom grenade
quantity of food

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Operation PINNAROO continues.

c. Small Unit Actions

(1) Company - Two
Platoon - Three
Squad - Eleven

(2) 2 SAS has four LRRPs deployed in 1 ATF TAOR.

(3) Nil

(4) Nil

2. Remarks: Nil

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM
NUI DAT

11 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 100001H to 102400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
11 Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and Operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt (-) continued to support 2Tp A Sqn on Operation PINNAROO. The remainder of C Sqn remained in 1 ATF Base.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations without contact. 2Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO. At YS502548 2Tp located 4 bunkers containing 1 M16 mine, 5 detonator sets for M16 mines and a small quantity of rice in cooking pots. 3Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing Operation in the AP SUOI NGHE area. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2Tp YS501543; 3Tp YS443722; 2 Sect 1Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 186 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) A Bty 2/35 (US) Arty, A Bty 1/83 (US) Arty and 102 Fd Bty RAA 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At YS455576 W Coy located 1 M16 mine. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446545; B Coy YS447559; V Coy YS438512; W Coy YS454574.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 2029H at YS486552 B Coy contacted 3 VC without result. Locations: Bn HQ YS477575; B Coy YS492552; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS477575.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271. A Coy replaced B Coy at BARIA, B Coy returned to 1 ATF Base. C Coy replaced D Coy at AP SUOI NGHE, D Coy returned to 1 ATF Base. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS372611; C Coy YS432722.

(g) Aust land clearing team continued operations in vic of AP SUOI NGHE. 20 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS4372.

(h) Air Support. There were no significant airstrikes in the reporting period.

(i) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil

b Materiel:

1 Captured: Nil

2 Destroyed: 2 M16 mines
4 bunkers
quantity of food.

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present Operations continue.

c. ~~Small~~ Unit Actions.

(1) Company - Two
Platoon - One
Squad - Ten

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- (2) 2 SAS Sqn has four LRRPs deployed.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) Nil.

2. Remarks: Nil.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

12 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 110001H to 112400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Viet Nam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and Operations in the 1 ATF TAOR without contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt (-) continued to support 2 Tp A Sqn on Operation PINNAROO. The remainder of C Sqn are conducting a familiarization patrol in 1 ATF TAOR.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations without contact. 2 Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO. At YS503550 an APC set off 1 M16 mine without damage to the vehicle. 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the Land Clearing Operation in AP SUOI NGHE area. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp YS492552; 3 Tp YS443722; 2 Sect 1 Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 155 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) A Bty 2/35 (US) Arty, A Bty 1/83 (US) Arty and 102 Fd Bty RAA 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446540; B Coy YS447559; V Coy YS438512; W Coy YS454574.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy YS492552; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271. A Coy continued its protection task in BARIA. C Coy continued to protect the Land Clearing party at AP SUOI NGHE. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS372611; C Coy YS432722.

(g) Aust Land Clearing team continued operations in the vicinity of AP SUOI NGHE. 26 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS4372.

(h) Air Support. The Significant Airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
111205H	YS470550	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers damaged. 10 meters of trench damaged.
111235H	YS473533	VC Base Camp	1 tunnel entrance destroyed. 20 meters of trench damaged.
111655H	YS470558	VC Base Camp	6 bunkers destroyed.

(i) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil.

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil.

b Materiel: 1 M16 mine destroyed.

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- b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present Operations continue.
- c. Small Unit Actions.
 - (1) Company - Two.
Platoon - Four.
Squads - Seven.
 - (2) 2 SAS has four LRRPs deployed.
 - (3) Nil.
 - (4) Nil.

2. REMARKS: Additional results to B Coy 3 RAR contact at 102029H, 4 M16 mines and 8 M16 primers captured. Correction to Locstat 3 RAR Bn HQ in Sitrep dated 11 Mar 68, YS4962.

R.L. HUGHES
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08

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT		13 March 1968
SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP) From 120001H to 122400H March 1968.		
TO: Commanding General II Field Force Vietnam ATTN: AFVBC-RE		
1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY		
a. General		
(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and Operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.		

(a) C Sqn 7 Armd Regt elements continued to support 2 Tp A Sqn on Operation PINNAROO. C Sqn (-) continued its familiarization patrol in 1 ATF TAOR. Location: C Sqn (-) YS488647.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 2 Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO. 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing operation in AP SUOI NGHE area. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp YS495552; 3 Tp YS422721; 2 Sect 1 Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 127 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-), A Bty 2/35 (US) Arty, A Bty 1/83 (US) Arty and 102 Fd Bty RAA 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1645H at YS459570 W Coy contacted 2 VC, 1 Pl followed up a heavy blood trail to the SOUTH, located 2 packs and 1 weapon. The blood trail lead into a VC Base Camp at YS461568 where the Pl located 1 VC KIA, numerous packs, food and supplies, training manuals, documents, a VC flag and female clothing. The camp consisted of 5 two man bunkers with overhead protection. The search of the camp is not complete. At 1725H at YS454573 W Coy contacted 4 VC outside W Coy perimeter setting a CD mine. The VC were engaged with SA fire with the result 1 VC KIA, 4 weapons, 4 packs and a quantity of documents captured. There is a heavy blood trail to the SW. At YS455576 W Coy located 1 M16 mine. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446540; B Coy YS447559; V Coy YS438512; W Coy YS454574.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 2047H at YS503523 C Coy contacted 2 VC without result. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy YS490552; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in BARIA YS3760 and AP SUOI NGHE YS4271 with minor contact. A Coy continued its protection task in BARIA. At 2135H at YS367613 A Coy contacted 4 VC with the result 2 VC KIA, 1 .45mm Pistol, 1 M2 carbine and some documents captured. C Coy continued to protect the land clearing team at AP SUOI NGHE. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS372611; C Coy YS432722.

(g) Aust land clearing team continued operations in the vicinity of AP SUOI NGHE. 32 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS4372.

(h) Air Support. The significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
121308H	YS478557	VC Base Camp	2 trails cut.
121323H	YS477554	VC Base Camp	20 small secondary fires and explosions due to mines. 1 trail cut in several places.
121405H	YS460552	VC Base Camp	1 road cut, 1 military structure destroyed.

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Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
121423H	YS460552	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers damaged, 1 command bunker with 4 ft of overhead cover uncovered, 2 weapon pits destroyed, 1 large secondary explosion with white smoke occurred 5 minutes after las bomb fell.
121504H	YS473533	VC Base Camp (Sector FAC air-strike)	5 large bunkers destroyed, 20 metres of trench destroyed, 20 metres of trench damaged and uncovered.

(i) Results:

1 AUSTALLOSSES: (- Nil.)

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: 4 VC KIA.

b Materiel:

- 1 Captured:
- 3 Mosin Nagants
 - 1 Mauser
 - 1 .45mm pistol
 - 1 M2 carbine
 - 1 weapon (unk)
 - documents
 - female clothing
 - 1 VC flag
 - 6 packs

2 Destroyed: 5 bunkers, food and supplies, 1 M16 mine

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present Operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

- (1) Company - Two
- Platoon - Three
- Squad - Nine

(2) 2 SAS has four LRRPs deployed.

(3) Nil.

(4) Nil.

2. Remarks: Nil.

R.L. HUGHES
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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

09
14 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 130001H to 132400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and Operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt elements continued to support 2 Tp A Sqn on Operation PINNAROO.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 2 Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO. 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing operations in AP SUOI NGHE area. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp YS492552; 3 Tp YS422722; 2 Sect 1 Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 146 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-), A Bty 2/35 Arty(US), A Bty 1/83 Arty (US) and 102 Fd Bty 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. W Coy in VC camp previously reported at YS461568 located a small transmitter/receiver. At YS446529 V Coy located 1 M16 mine and 6 CBU's set up as booby traps. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446540; B Coy YS447559; V Coy YS438512; W Coy YS461568.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 2025H at YS473574, A Coy contacted 10 VC moving SOUTH to NORTH without result. At 2152H at YS487525 C Coy contacted an estimated 10 VC with the result 3 VC KIA, 3 AK 47's, 1 RPG2 launcher, 2 RPG rounds and some webbing captured. There could be additional results after a further sweep at first light. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy YS492552; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in BARIA 3760, AP SUOI NGHE and 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact. A Coy continued its protection task in BARIA. At 122354H A Coy contacted 3 VC with the result 1 VC KIA, 1.38 cal pistol and 1 pack containing food and documents captured. C Coy continued to protect the land clearing team at AP SUOI NGHE. At 2125H C Coy contacted 4 VC with no known result. The area will be searched at first light. At 1315H a D Coy Patrol contacted an unknown number of VC with the result 1 VC KIA, 1 VC captured. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS372611; C Coy YS422722.

(g) AUST Land Clearing Team continued operations in the vicinity AP SUOI NGHE. 59 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location YS4272.

(h) Air Support: Significant airstrikes were:

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Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
121440H	YS473533	VC Base Camp	FAC observed significant secondary explosion while directing an airstrike NORTH of YS473533. Airstrike using Napalm had been used on this camp at 121135H.
131215H	YS311798	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 20 metres of trench damaged.
131300H	YS480530 to YS490530 to YS480510 to YS490510	B52 strike	YS479528-1 well uncovered. YS482517-landslide of boulders. YS481515-1 cave entrance damaged possibly sealed. YS486523-1 pit uncovered and damaged. YS483530- 2 bunkers damaged. YS483514-1 cave entrance direct hit, no apparent damage. YS479528-3 secondary explosions.
131303H	YF311798	VC Base Camp	30 metres of covered trench damaged, 10 metres of covered trench exposed, 10 metres of covered trench burning. 1 large command bunker damaged. Further damage could not be assessed due to smoke in the target area.
131505H	YS475553	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers uncovered and damaged, 1 well uncovered, 1 military structure destroyed. 3 secondary explosions with grey smoke. 1-15ft square bunker with heavy overhead protection uncovered.
131708H	YS470558	VC Base Camp	5 small secondary explosions with grey smoke to 25 ft.
131735H	YS458543	VC Base Camp	2 metal military structures destroyed, 15 metres of trench uncovered, 18 secondary explosions with grey smoke to 25 ft.

(i) Results:

- 1 AUST LOSSES: 1 AUST WIA (to be evacuated)
- 2 ENEMY LOSSES:
 - a Personnel: 5 VC KIA
1 VC captured.

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b Materiel:

1 Captured: 3 AK 47s
1 RPG2
1 .38 cal pistol
2 RPG2 rounds
Transmitter/receiver
webbing
1 pack
documents.

Destroyed: 9 bunkers
1 M16 mine
6 CBU's.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

15 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 140001H to 142400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt elements continued to support 2 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt on Operation PINNAROO. 2 Tp commenced operational work-up with D Coy 3 RAR and 1 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt in area centre of mass YS4067.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. 2 Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO. At 1259H at YS503555 one vehicle detonated a M16 mine with the result 1 Aust WIA (not evacuated). The vehicle was not damaged. 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing operations in AP SUOI NGHE area. Locations: A Sqn(-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp YS398664; 2 Tp YS495552; 3 Tp (-) YS422721; 2 Sect 3 Tp YS372611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 116 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt(-), A Bty 2/35 Arty(US), A Bty 1/83 Arty(US) and 102 Fd Bty 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446540; B Coy YS447559; V Coy YS436515; W Coy YS461568.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1045 at YS489532 C Coy contacted 1 VC with the result 1 RPG2 round and 3 propellant charges captured. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy YS492551; C Coy YS503523; D Coy YS399664.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in BARIA YS3760, AP SUOI NGHE and 1 ATF TAOR without contact. Locations: 7 RAR(-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS372611; C Coy YS422422.

(g) Aust Land Clearing Team continued operations in the vicinity AP SUOI NGHE. 22 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS4272.

(h) Air Support: The significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
131546H	YS475553	LATE REPORT- SECTOR AIR STRIKE IN AO MOSELLE. VC base camp	2 bunkers destroyed, 4 small secondary explosions.
141203H	YS304790	VC base camp	2 bunkers damaged, 10 metres of trench uncovered.
141230H	YS303838	VC base camp	3 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker damaged, 20 metres of trench destroyed.
141323H	YS476554	VC base camp	1 bunker destroyed, 2 bunkers exposed, 5 metres of trench destroyed.

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Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
141230H	YS467532 YS477534 YS471512 YS481514	B52 Strike	26 bunkers destroyed, 30 metres trench destroyed.
141540H	YS488527	Follow up of B52 Strike	7 VC were contacted at YS488527 leaving the B52 strike area by Light Fire Team 4 VC KBA(BC). YS488528 one secondary explosion possibly a mine.
141716H	YS471535	VC base camp	20 metres of trench destroyed, 40 metres of trench damaged, 4 bunkers destroyed, 6 bunkers damaged, 2 fighting positions destroyed.

(i) Results:

- 1 AUST LOSSES: 1 Aust WIA (not evacuated)
- 2 ENEMY LOSSES:
 - a Personnel: 4 VC KBA (BC)
 - b Materiel:
 - Destroyed: 1 RPG2 rounds, 3 RPG propellant charges.
- b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue.
- c. Small Unit Actions.
 - (1) Company - Three
Platoon - Two
Squad - Ten
 - (2) 2 SAS has four LRRPs deployed.
 - (3) Nil
 - (4) Nil
2. Remarks: Additional to previous SITREP.
 - a. Additional to C Coy 3 RAR contact at YS487525, 1 VC KIA (total now 4 VC KIA). 1 M1 carbine and 3 large bags of rice found at first light.
 - b. Additional BDA to B52 strike at 131300H, 150 metres of trench destroyed, 1 large bunker destroyed, 4 small bunkers destroyed.
 - c. Add
 - c. Small Unit Actions.
 - (1) Company - Two
Platoon - Three
Squad - Eight
 - (2) 2 SAS has three LRRPs deployed.
 - (3) Nil
 - (4) Nil

R.L. HUGHES
Brig

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCESHEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAMNUI DAT

16 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 150001H to 152400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Viet Nam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt elements continued to support 2 Tp A Sqn on Operation PINNAROO.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations without contact. 2 Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO and 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing operations in AP SUOI NGHE area. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp, YS492551; 3 Tp (-) YS422721; 2 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 130 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) A Bty 2/35 (US), A Bty 1/83 (US) and 102 Fd Bty 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446540; B Coy YS447559; V Coy YS436515; W Coy YS461568.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1115H at YS477567 2 Pl A Coy contacted 10 VC with the result 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 Aust WIA (evacuated). At 0955H at YS475567 2 Pl A Coy suffered 1 Aust WIA (not evacuated), as the result of an enemy mine contact. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy YS492551; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in BARIA YS3760, AP SUOI NGHE and 1 ATF TAOR without contact. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS371611; C Coy YS422722.

(g) Aust Land Clearing Team continued operations in the vicinity of AP SUOI NGHE. 32 acres were cleared in the reporting period. Location: YS4272.

(h) Air Support: The significant Airstrikes were :

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
150904H	YS479503	VC Base Camp	150 meters trench destroyed. 100 meters of trench exposed.
151403H	YS478557	VC Base Camp	1 large bunker destroyed. 1 well uncovered. 3 secondary explosions with grey smoke to 25ft (mines). 1 piece of metal equipment (unidentified) destroyed.
151508H	YS469560	VC Base Camp	6 bunkers destroyed. 1 KBA (BC) and 3 KBA (possible).
151530H	YS466539	SECTOR FAC TARGET FOR INFO: VC Base Camp	1 bunker destroyed. 3 bunkers uncovered.

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2.

(i) Results.

1 Aust Losses:

- a. Personnel: 2 Aust WIA (1 evacuated)
- b. Materiel : Nil.

2 Enemy Losses:

- a. Personnel: 1 VC KIA (BC)
1 VC KBA (BC)
3 VC KBA (poss)
- b. Materiel : Nil.

b. Plans for the next 24 hours: Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions:

- (1) Company: Two
Platoon: Three
Squad : Eight
- (2) 2 SAS has three LRRPs deployed.
- (3) Nil
- (4) Nil

R.L. HUGHES
Brig

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

17 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 160001H to 162400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt elements continued to support 2 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt on Operation PINNAROO.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations without contact. 2 Tp continued to support 3 RAR on Operation PINNAROO and 3 Tp continued to provide protection for the land clearing operations in AP SUOI NGHE area. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp YS492551; 2 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 86 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-), A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 102 Fd Bty 1 ATF Base; 108 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty YS4962.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1105H at YS550588 8 Pl C Coy contacted 2 VC with the result 2 VC KIA (BC) and 1 M26 grenade captured. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS446540; B Coy YS454558; V Coy YS436515; W Coy YS461568.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1740H in area YS490553 B Coy contacted 4 VC with unknown result. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy YS492551; C Coy YS503523; D Coy 1 ATF Base.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in BARIA YS3760, AP SUOI NGHE and 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact. At 1411H at YS415593 A Coy, in conjunction with 1 Div Int Unit, apprehended 4 VC. At 2000H at YS371611 A Coy contacted 8 VC with unknown results. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS371611.

(g) Aust Land Clearing Team concluded operations in the vicinity of AP SUOI NGHE. 32 acres were cleared in the reporting period. A total of 327 acres were cleared in 12 days. Location: 1 ATF Base.

(h) 1 Aust Civil Affairs Unit projects for period 9 March to 15 March:

1. Construction continued on the following projects:

- a. RF housing at Baria Rifle Range.
- b. Erection of toilet block at LONG HUONG School
- c. Three classrooms for BARIA High School.
- d. Repair of furniture at BARIA High School.
- e. Wells, drains and fences at AP SUOI NGHE.

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2. Plan for rehousing refugees of TET Offensive in BARIA and LONG DIEN completed.

3. General assistance to the Province on education continues.

4. 13 Medcaps were conducted.

5. Agricultural advice given to the Province and people of AP SUOI NGHE.

6. Maternity kits issued to BARIA Hospital.

(i) Air Support: The significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
161106H	YS642640	VC Base Camp	2 military structures destroyed, 1 military structure damaged.
161206H	YS332702	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed, 2 large bunkers damaged, 2 fighting positions damaged.
161222H	YS482499 492503 474517 483521	B52 Strike	10 large rock slides with rocks 10 - 20 feet in diameter covering an undetermined number of tunnel entrances. At YS481511 25 metres trench destroyed. YS480508 1 tunnel entrance uncovered. YS482508 1 tunnel entrance uncovered. YS475514 1 military structure destroyed.
161408H	YS474546	VC Base Camp	15 small secondary explosions with grey smoke to 25 feet (mines).
161437H	YS467538	VC Base Camp	1 large tunnel entrance uncovered. 20 metres of trench damaged.
161649H	YS477554	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged.

(j) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: 2 VC KIA (BC)
4 VC PW

b Materiel:

Destroyed: 1 M26 grenade

b. Plans for next 24 hours: Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions:

(1) Company - One
Platoon - Two
Squad - Ten

(2) 2 SAS Sqn has three LRRPs deployed.

(3) Nil

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3.

(4) Nil

2. Remarks. In 3 RAR paragraph of previous SITREP delete "an enemy mine contact" and insert "a contact with an enemy booby-trapped grenade".

R.L. HUGHES
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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

18 March 1968

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 170001H to 172400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1/ OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt commenced Operation PINNAROO. Location: C Sqn YS492551.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations without contact. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp and 3 Tp (-) YS492551; 2 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 100 H and I missions were fired during the reporting period. At 0800H 161 Fd Bty deployed by air to FSPB HERRING YS4955. At 1400H A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) deployed by road to HORSESHOE HILL YS4962. At 1500H at YS663620 Naval Gunfire engaged a VC Base Camp with the result 1 VC KBNGF. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) and 102 Fd Bty 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty YS492551.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1405H at YS457513 1 Pl V Coy observed 2 VC and engaged them with mortars with unknown result. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS450541; B Coy YS454558; V Coy YS438515; W Coy YS461568.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At 1115H at YS488552 6 Pl B Coy found 1 x 175mm UXB minus fuze and explosive and 2 live 81mm mortar bombs. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B and D Coys YS492551; C Coy YS503523.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in BARIA YS3760 and 1 ATF TAOR without contact. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS371611.

(g) Air Support. The significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
161222H	YS482499 YS474517 YS492503 YS483521	B52 Strike	3 Villas damaged, several rock slides.
170956H	YS312709	VC base camp	15 metres of trench destroyed, 10 metres of trench uncovered, 2 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker damaged.
171415H	YS479551	SECTOR FAC STRIKE Info only: VC Base area	2 small secondary explosions.
171418H	YS479557	VC Base camp	2 large unidentified pits destroyed 1 military structure destroyed 2 secondary explosions from mines
171640H	YS474555	VC base camp	4 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 4 small secondary explosions 1 road cut

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(h) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: 1 VC KBNGF (BC)

b Materiel:

Destroyed: 2 x 81mm mortar bombs.

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company: One
Platoon: Five
Squad: Nineteen

(2) 2 SAS Sqn has three LRRPs deployed.

(3) Nil.

(4) Nil.

2. Remarks.

a. Amend previous SITREP as follows:

(1) A Coy 7 RAR, in conjunction with 1 Div Int Unit, apprehended a total of 4 VC, 3 VC suspects, 1 VC agent, 2 draft dodgers, 1 AWOL Rural Development Cadre.

(2) Under 'Small Unit Actions' amend as follows:

(3) At 0915H at YS652638 a 2 SAS Sqn LRRP contacted 3 VC with the result 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 VC KIA (Poss). The patrol was extracted.

(4) Results.

(a) AUST LOSSES: Nil

(b) ENEMY LOSSES: 1 VC KIA (BC)
1 VC KIA (Poss)

b. The Task Force Organisation of Operation PINNAROO has been increased and is now as follows:

2 RAR
3 RAR
C Sqn 1 Armd Regt
A Sqn 3 Cav Regt (-)
A Bty 2/35 Arty (US)
108 Fd Bty
161 Fd Bty
Elements of 1 Fd SqnR.L. HUGHES
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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

19 Mar 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 18001H to 182400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and Operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 0955H at YS479516 3 VC were engaged with unknown results. At 1750H at YS482513 1 VC was engaged with MG with negative results. Locations: C Sqn (-) YS492552; 2 Tp YS479524.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations without contact. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955; 2 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 98 H and I missions were fired during the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) and 102 Fd Bty 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 0815H at YS457514 1 Pl V Coy observed 7 people and 3 oxcarts. These were engaged with mortars with unknown results. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS450541; B Coy YS456555; V Coy YS461530; W Coy YS462568.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 2315H at YS499554 6 Pl B Coy engaged 1 VC with MG and claymores with unknown result. A search will be made of the area at first light. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS492552; C Coy YS503520; D Coy YS479524.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in BARIA YS3760 and 1 ATF TAOR without contact. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS371611.

(g) Air Support. The Significant Airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
181058H	YS478557	VC Base Camp	3 weapon pits destroyed. 3 weapon pits uncovered. 4 small secondary explosions with grey smoke to 25 feet.
181440H	YS485517	VC Locations	1 large tunnel entrance uncovered. 1 small tunnel entrance uncovered.
181725H	YS392828	VC staging area	2 bunkers exposed. 5 pits uncovered. 3 pits destroyed. 2 tunnel entrances uncovered.

(h) Results:

- 1 AUST LOSSES: NIL.
- 2 ENEMY LOSSES: NIL.

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b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present Operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - One
Platoon - Three
Squad - Nineteen

(2) 2 SAS Sqn has four LRRPs deployed.

(3) At 0740H an OH-13 of 161 Indep Recce Flt received automatic ground fire from YS550615. Pilot was wounded but landed his aircraft safely at 1 ATF Base.

(4) At 1430H an OH-13 of 161 Indep Recce Flt engaged 2 VC in the vic of some ricemats and vegetable stands at YS433867. Result 1 VC KIA, 1 VC WIA. At 1630H at HOA LONG (YS4264) a vehicle of 1 Aust CA Unit received a number of bursts of automatic SA fire. The vehicle was hit but no casualties resulted.

(5) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES:

a PERSONNEL: 1 WIA

b MATERIEL: 1 OH-13 aircraft damaged (repairable within 24 hours)

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a PERSONNEL: 1 KIA

b MATERIEL: 1 WIA

2. Remarks: Nil

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015

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

20 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 190001H to 192400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINAROO and Operations in 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued Operation PINAROO with minor contact. At 0845H at YS486518 C Sqn engaged 1 VC with unknown results. Location: FSB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp FSB HERRING YS4955; 1 Sect 3 Tp YS371611; 2 Sect 3 Tp YS4962.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 99 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty(US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSB HERRING YS4955

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINAROO with minor contact. At 1140H at YS467542 A Coy 2 RAR fired on a VC woman armed with a rifle with no results. At YS457553 B Coy 2 RAR found an unoccupied platoon sized VC camp. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS467542; B Coy YS457555; V Coy YS463528; W Coy YS466566.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operations without contact. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS476574; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955; C Coy YS478514; D Coy YS479525.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in BARIA YS3760 and 1 ATF TAOR without contact. 6 Pl 7 RAR detained 1 VC agent in HOA LONG YS4163. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS371611.

(g) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
191000H	YS478557	VC Base Camp	1 bunker destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 1 tunnel entrance uncovered.
191502H	YS555598	VC Base Camp	10 metres of trench destroyed, 30 metres of trench damaged, 2 bunkers destroyed.
191710H	YS392828	VC Base Camp	3 pits destroyed, 1 bunker damaged.

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(h) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES: 1 VC Agent detained.

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present Operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - One
Platoon - One
Squad - Thirty.

(2) 2 SAS has three LRRPs deployed.

(3) At 182310H at YS235864 a 2 SAS patrol ambushed with shaped charges and claymores an unknown number of VC moving on a tractor and trailer. The ambush resulted in 15 VC KIA(BC), destruction of one tractor and trailer and the capture of one 75mm RCL and one 75mm round.

(4) Results.

(a) AUST LOSSES : Nil

(b) ENEMY LOSSES:

1 Personnel: 15 VC KIA(BC)

2 Materiel:

a Captured: 1 x 75mm RCL
1 x 75mm round.

b Destroyed: 1 tractor and trailer

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM
NUI DAT

21 Mar 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 200001H to 202400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Viet Nam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO, Operations in BARIA YS3761 and 1 ATF TAOR and carried out a small Operation in the LONG DIEN YS4259 area.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued Operation PINNAROO and became opcon 3 RAR at 1130H. Location: C Sqn 1 Armd Regt (-) FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations. At YS492542 a vehicle from 1 Tp hit a booby trap. The vehicle was very slightly damaged. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 2 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955. 1 Sect 2 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 66 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base. A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4902; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At YS469564 W Coy found a well constructed camp which had been occupied about 7 days ago. The camp was booby trapped and several M16 mines were found. In the area of YS480514 in a series of caves A Coy found some 7.62mm ammunition batteries and documents. At YS467540 A Coy found one Mosin Nagant rifle some medical stores and some ammunition in an abandoned VC camp. V Coy found VC camps at YS468528 and YS495513. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS467542; B Coy YS458552; V Coy YS462530; W Coy YS465566.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1025H at YS483546 6 Pl with 2 Tp C Sqn were fired on from an enemy camp by an unknown number of VC with automatic weapons. The results of this contact were 1 AUST KIA, 2 AUST WIA, 1 VC KIA(BC) and one rifle of an unknown type captured by 6 Pl. At 1830H at YS483525 A Coy had two men wounded by an M16 mine. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS481514; C Coy YS478513; D Coy YS479524; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and carried out a small Operation in the LONG DIEN YS4259 area. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS371611.

(g) Air Support. Significant Airstrikes were:

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Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
1003H	YS424843	VC Base Camp	1 bunker destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 1 military structure destroyed, 20 metres trench destroyed, 30 metres trench uncovered, 1 picnic table destroyed.
1007H	YS546597	VC Base Camp	1 military structure destroyed, 1 large fighting position uncovered, 2 bunkers destroyed.
1528H	YS304837	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed.

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(h) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES:

a Personnel: 1 AUST KIA
2 AUST WIA

b Materiel: nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: 1 VC KIA

b Materiel: 2 rifles captured.

b. Plans for next twenty four hours. Present Operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - Two
Platoon - One
Squad-- Thirty one.

(2) 2 SAS Sqn have five LRRPs deployed.

(3) Nil.

(4) Results nil.

2. Remarks. Add to Sitrep 190001H to 192400H. At 192255H at YS371611 A Coy 7 RAR engaged with unknown results an estimated Pl of VC who were harrassing and attempting to infiltrate BARIA YS3761.

R. L. HUGHES
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HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

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22 Mar 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 210001H to 212400H March 1968

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR operations on Operation PINNAROO. Location: C Sqn FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. Location: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955; 1 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 91 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS475554; B Coy YS458552; V Coy YS462530; W Coy YS465566.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1458H at YS494511 the Anti-tank pl sighted 3 VC. The VC were engaged with artillery with unknown results. At 1942H at YS493517 an ambush patrol from D Coy engaged a VC squad. Results are unknown at this time. In a VC camp at YS484546 B Coy with elements of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt found 4 M16 rifles, 2 tons of rice, 2 M16 mines, 4 anti-tank mines, 1 RPG2 rocket, 2 M26 grenades, 1 Chicom stick grenade, 1 US claymore and a quantity of small arms ammunition. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS482513; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955; C Coy YS477514; D Coy YS479524.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and the 1 ATF TAOR. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS371611.

(g) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
211256H	YS312800	VC Base Camp	100 metres of trench destroyed, 125 metres of trench damaged, 3 bunkers destroyed, 7 bunkers damaged, 4 secondary explosions with white smoke to 150 feet.
211357H	YS323834	VC Base Camp	4 bunkers destroyed, 1 trail cut. No further assessment due to smoke in the target area.
211730H	YS400817	VC Base Camp	7 bunkers damaged, 3 bunkers uncovered, 30 metres of trench uncovered. Appears to be articles of black clothing in a bomb crater.

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(h) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil

b Materiel: 4 M16 rifles
2 tons of rice
2 M16 mines
4 anti-tank mines
1 RPG2 rocket
2 M26 grenades
1 Chicom stick grenade
1 US claymore
Qty small arms ammunition

b. Plans summary for the next 24 hours: Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

- (1) Company - One
Platoon - Two
Squad - Thirty

(2) 2 SAS have seven LRRPs deployed.

(3) At 2230H at YS419692 a 7 RAR patrol contacted 2 - 3 VC with unknown results. At 2330H at YS428682 a 7 RAR patrol contacted 2 - 3 VC with unknown results.

(4) Results. Nil.

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HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

23 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 220001H to 222400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and Operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR operations on Operation PINNAROO. Location: C Sqn FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955; 1 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 88 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At YS469565 1 Pl W Coy found a VC camp consisting of fourteen bunkers. Two M16 mines, five CBU's, one mortar round, four grenades and three weapon magazines were found in the camp. At YS471552 3 Pl located a VC camp. Two bungalow torpedoes four weapon magazines, a small amount of medical supplies and documents were found in the camp. Locations: Bn HQ and C Coy YS4962; A Coy YS477554; B Coy YS458552; V Coy YS462530; W Coy YS465566.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1230H at YS424511 C Coy detonated three VC mines causing 3 AUST KIA and 4 AUST WIA. At 1649H at YS488519 the Anti tank pl engaged one VC in a cave entrance with a 106mm RCL with unknown results. At YS479511 9 Pl found one M16 mine, a sewing machine, a small quantity of small arms ammunition, a tape recorder, a transistor radio and a small quantity of rice. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS482513; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955; C Coy YS477513; D Coy YS473539.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR. B Coy relieved A Coy of its task protecting the western approaches to BARIA. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; B Coy YS371611.

(g) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
221033H	YS310800	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed, 25 metres of trench destroyed.
221046H	YS310800	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed, 15 metres of trench destroyed.
221055H	YS365739	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 1 "T" shaped fighting position exposed.
221320H	YS425842	VC Base Camp	4 bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged, 20 metres of trench damaged.

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(h) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES:

a Personnel: 3 AUST KIA
4 AUST WIA

b. Materiel: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil

b Materiel: 3 M16 mines
5 CBU's
1 mortar round
4 grenades
2 bangalore torpedoes
4 weapon magazines
small amount of medical supplies
small quantity of rice
small quantity of small arms ammunition
1 tape recorder
1 transistor radio
Documents
Sewing machine

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions

(1) Company one
Platoon four
Squad thirty one.

(2) 2 SAS have seven LRRPs deployed.

(3) Small unit actions with contact: Nil.

(4) Results: Nil.

d. Remarks. Further to Sitrep for period 210001 = 212400H.

(1) A sweep of the area of contact of 212330H at YS428682 by a Ptl from D Coy 7 RAR revealed 4 VC KIA (BC), 2 AK47 and 1 M14 rifle were captured.

(2) At 212355H approximately 15 82mm mortar rounds were fired at 1 ATF Base from the vicinity of YS395658. The rounds impacted 4-500 metres from the base perimeter. The base plate position was not engaged due to the proximity of own troops.

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HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

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24 Mar 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 230001H to 232400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and continued operations in the BARIA YS 3761 and 1 ATF TAOR with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR operations on Operation PINNAROO. Location: C Sqn FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. Locations: A Sqn(-) 1 ATF Base 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS 4955. 1 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 108 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty(US) and 108 Fd Bty YS 4962; 106 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At YS 477554 A Coy found a VC base camp which was booby trapped with M26 grenades a Chicom 7.62mm weapon was found in the camp. 2 RAR extracted to 1 ATF Base pm 23 Mar by RAAF helicopter and CH47. Location: 2 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base .C Coy YS 4962.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1445H at YS 489512 4 Pl with elements of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt and A Sqn 3 Cav Regt was fired on by an unknown number of VC. The fire was returned with no known results. At YS 470535 11 Pl found a cave, bunker and tunnel complex which was heavily booby trapped. Two Mossin Nagant rifles and two M26 grenades were found in the caves. At 1630H at YS 481513 C Coy saw 1 VC in a cave. The VC escaped. Four M1 rifles, one Russian rifle and 12 M26 grenades were found in the cave. At YS 484546 D Coy found a large VC base camp which had been recently occupied. There are approximately fifty bunkers in the camp. Locations: Bn HQ YS 4962 A Coy YS 483513 B Coy FSPB HERRING YS 4955 ; C Coy YS 477513 D Coy YS FSPB HERRING YS 4955.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in BARIA YS 3761 and 1 ATF TAOR without contact. Locations: 7 RAR(-) 1 ATF Base; B Coy YS 371611.

(g) On 18 Mar 68 the Land Clearing Team began clearing the WESTERN approaches to 1 ATF Base. At this stage 167 acres have been cleared.

(h) Air support. There were no significant Airstrikes.

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(i) Psychological Operations. During the period 1-20 Mar 68 there were no Psy Ops ground activities by 1 ATF however an active policy of leaflet drops and broadcasts by voice aircraft was carried out.

A total of 40 hours were flown by voice aircraft. The main area of activity was over the LONG HAI hills centre of mass YS 4653 and NUI THI VAI/NUI DINH hills area centre of mass YS 3268. The voice aircraft was also used to inform civilians of Medcaps conducted by 1 Aust Civil Affairs Unit.

There were a total of eight leaflet drops into similar areas covered by the voice aircraft.

(j) 1 Aust Civil Affairs Unit projects for period 16 March to 22 March 68.

1 Projects completed:

- a School furniture for BARIA High School and Boys School.
- b Water tank for BARIA Girls school.
- c Repairs to XUYEN MOC compound.

2 Projects in progress:

- a Classroom BARIA High school 20% complete.
- b LONG HUON toilet block 90% complete.
- c BARIA married quarters 20% complete.
- d Housing for refugees of TET offensive commenced.

3 Medcaps were held in thirteen locations.

4 Assistance with education and advice on agricultural matters continued.

(k) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES.

a Personnel : Nil

b Materiel : 1 7.62 Chicón weapon
2 Mossin Nagant rifles
14 M26 Grenades
4 M1 rifles
1 Russian rifle.

b. Plans for next 24 hours : Present operations continue.

c. Small unit actions:

(1) Company -- One
Platoon -- Two
Squad -- Thirty three

(2) 2 SAS have six LRRPs deployed.

(3) Small Unit Action with contact. Nil.

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d. Remarks. Amend Sitrep 220001H to 222400H. Reference paragraph
1. a. (1) (e) delete YS 424511 and insert YS 474511.

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25 Mar 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commanders Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 240001H to 242400H March 1968.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Viet Nam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO in AO MOSELLE and operations in the 1 ATF TAOR and in vicinity BARIA YS3761 with minor contact.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR in Operation PINNAROO without contact. Location: FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF in all areas of operations. Locations: A Sqn (-), 1 ATF Base, 1 Tp at FSPB HERRING and 1 Sect 3 Tp at YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations from the following locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base, 108 Bty and A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) at HORSESHOE HILL YS4962 and 161 Bty at FSPB HERRING. 90 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period.

(d) 2 RAR remained at 1 ATF Base. Locations: 2 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base, C Coy at HORSESHOE HILL.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 1015 hrs at YS481512 9 Pl C Coy detonated an M16 mine resulting in 5 WIA (1 DOW). At 1610 hrs 5 VC were sighted at YS486542 and engaged with arty fire with NO known result. Locations: HQ 3 RAR at HORSESHOE HILL, A Coy YS483513, B Coy FSPB HERRING, C Coy YS477513 and D Coy at YS503523.

(f) 7 RAR remained at NUI DAT Base and continued operations in 1 ATF TAOR. B Coy remained at YS371611.

(g) Air Support. Significant Airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
241151H	YS400817	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers damaged. 20 metres trench damaged.
241110H	YS309788	VC Base Camp	10 metres trench destroyed. 15 metres trench uncovered. 3 bunkers uncovered. 1 military structure destroyed.

(h) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES:

a Personnel: 1 KIA
4 WIA

b Material: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil

b Material: Nil.

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b. Plans for next 24 hours. Operation PINNAROO continues and Operation ASHGROVE TRAM commences.

c. Small Unit Actions.

- (1) Company - Two
Platoon - Four
Squad - Thirty.
- (2) 2 SAS Sqn has six LRRPs deployed in the 1 ATF TAOR.
- (3) Small Unit Actions with contact: one. At 1715 hrs 9 Pl C Coy 2 RAR contacted 3 VC at YS546560 and engaged them with small arms and arty fire.
- (4) Results: 1 RPG7 and 1 rocket captured.

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Serial	Description	Quantity	Remarks
1	1 Rocket	1	1 Rocket captured
2	1 RPG7	1	1 RPG7 captured
3	1 Rocket	1	1 Rocket captured
4	1 Rocket	1	1 Rocket captured

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

26 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 250001H to 252400H March 1968

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO, continued operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR and commenced Operation ASHGROVE TRAM.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support Operation PINNAROO and deployed 2 Tp op con 2 RAR on Operation ASHGROVE TRAM. Locations: C Sqn (-) FSPB HERRING YS4955; 2 Tp YS441500.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. Sqn HQ and 2 Tp are op con 2 RAR for Operation ASHGROVE TRAM. Locations: A Sqn (-) YS451488; 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955; 3 Tp (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 100 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR commenced Operation ASHGROVE TRAM. 2 RAR deployed by road and helicopter to the area of LONG HAI YS4449. By last light with assistance from US Naval elements, a cordon had been established around LONG HAI village. Locations: Bn HQ YS445504; A Coy YS452488; B Coy YS448499; C Coy YS4962; V Coy YS443501; W Coy YS451495.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At YS502544 6 Pl found a VC camp. A claymore, fifteen M16 detonators and 40 lbs of rice were found in the camp. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS483513; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955; C Coy YS477514; D Coy YS503523.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR and deployed A Coy op con 2 RAR on Operation ASHGROVE TRAM. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS452488; B Coy YS371611.

(g) The Land Clearing Team continued clearing the Western approaches to 1 ATF Base. Thirteen acres were cleared today.

(h) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
251040H	YS313783	VC Base Camp	4 large bunkers destroyed. 30 metres of trench uncovered. 1 secondary fire with white smoke for 5 minutes. 1 VC KBA (poss).
251500H	YS322834	VC Base Camp	3 bunkers destroyed. 3 bunkers uncovered. 1 military structure uncovered.

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251632H	YS751769	VC Base Camp	15 metres of trench destroyed. 10 metres of trench uncovered. 1 military structure destroyed. 1 secondary explosion with black smoke smelling of rubber.
251655H	YS367744	VC Base Camp	4 bunkers destroyed. 3 bunkers damaged. 1 military structure destroyed.

(i) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: 1 VC KBA (poss)

b Materiel: 1 Claymore
15 M16 detonators
40 lbs rice

b. Plans summary for next 24 hours. Operation ASHGROVE TRAM concludes and all other operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - One
Platoon - One
Squad - Twenty-eight

(2) 2 SAS Sqn has four LRRPs deployed.

(3) Small Unit Action with contact. Nil.

(4) Results. Nil.

d. Remarks. Task Organization for Operation ASHGROVE TRAM:

2 RAR less C Coy
2 Tp C Sqn 1 Armd Regt
HQ and 2 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt
One tp 1 Fd Sqn
Det 1 Div Int Unit

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HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

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28 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 270001H to 272400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and Operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR Operations on Operation PINNAROO. Locations: C Sqn FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF Operations. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955; 2 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF Operations. 84 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR remained in 1 ATF Base. Locations: 2 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; C Coy YS4962.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. In a camp at YS479545 which was being destroyed by engineers 1 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt found 1 claymore, 1 RPG round and 1 Garrand rifle. At YS483512 3 Pl found a cave complex which had been used as a hospital. 90 lbs of rice and some documents were found in the caves. The complex is still being investigated. C Coy continued investigation of a cave complex in the vicinity of YS480514. During the day 80 lbs of rice, a quantity of small arms ammunition a transistor radio and some documents were found. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS483513; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955; C Coy YS477514; D Coy YS500517.

(f) 7 RAR continued Operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; B Coy YS371611.

(g) The Land Clearing Team carried out maintenance today.

(h) Air Support. Significant Airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
271312H	YS314723	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers damaged.
271508H	YS317728	VC Base Camp	4 bunkers destroyed. 3 bunkers damaged.
271731H	YS569841	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers destroyed. 4 bunkers damaged. No further damage assessment due to smoke in the target area.
271834H	YS317728	VC Base Camp	5 bunkers destroyed. 3 bunkers damaged. 100 metres of trench uncovered. 5 bunkers uncovered.

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(i) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil

b Materiel: 1 Garant rifle
1 claymore
170 lbs of rice
1 transistor radio
Quantity of small arms ammunition.

b. Plans for the next 24 hours. Present Operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - One
Platoon - One
Squad - Thirty one.

(2) 2 SAS have four LRRPs deployed.

(3) At 2258H at YS371611 3 rockets and small arms were fired into B Coy 7 RAR's perimeter by an unknown number of VC. The fire was returned with unknown results.

(4) Results. Nil

d. Remarks. Amend Sitrep 260001H to 262400H as follows:

(1) Paragraph 1. a. (1) (d) delete "8 persons with no identification cards" and insert "80 persons with no identification cards".

(2) Paragraph 1. a. (1) (e) delete from "At 1010H" to "1 VC KIA (BC)" and insert "At 1010H at YS472583 6 VC approached 11 Pls position. They were engaged with small arms, artillery and mortars. Results of the action were 2 VC KIA (BC) 1 VC WIA and 1 M14 captured. At 1220H at YS473508 8 Pl was fired on by an unknown number of VC. The fire was returned resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC)."

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

29 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 280001H to 282400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AVFBC-RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR operations on Operation PINNAROO. Locations: C Sqn FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955; 3 Sect 3 Tp YS371611.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 79 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty(US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR remained in 1 ATF Base. A Coy relieved C Coy of their task of defending and maintaining the HORSESHOE HILL YS4962 defence locality. Locations: 2 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS4962.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO with minor contact. At 0004H at YS480512 a patrol from C Coy covering the entrance to a cave in which VC were known to be hiding engaged a number of VC who attempted to leave the cave. The VC withdrew back into the cave. At YS480510 in a tunnel complex, 7 Pl found 400lbs of rice, 17 RPG2 charges, 7 RPG7 charges, 11 home made grenades and 600 detonators. At YS480513 C Coy found 100-150lbs of Chicom TNT. At YS482510, 9 Pl found 1 M16 mine, 1 Russian rifle and 1 Chicom grenade. At YS482511, 3 Pl found some medical equipment and medical records. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS485515; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955; C Coy YS477514; D Coy YS500517.

(f) 7 RAR remained in 1 ATF Base and continued operations in the BARIA YS3761 area and 1 ATF TAOR. Locations: 7 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base. B Coy YS371611.

(g) The Land Clearing team carried out maintenance.

(h) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

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Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
281320H	YS318727 to YS317723	VC Base Camp	8 bunkers destroyed, 10 bunkers damaged, 1 large ordnance cache destroyed (1 secondary explosion with grey smoke to 300 ft)
281724H	YS316728	VC Base Camp	4 bunkers destroyed, 8 bunkers damaged, 40 metres of trench damaged, 2 fighting positions damaged.
281844H	YS316728	VC Base Camp	5 bunkers destroyed, 3 bunkers damaged, 10 metres of trench destroyed, 4 fighting positions uncovered.

(i) Results:

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil

b Materiel: 400 lbs of rice
17 RPG2 charges
7 RPG7 charges
11 home made grenades
600 detonators
100-150 lbs of Chicom TNT
1 M16 mine
1 Russian rifle
1 Chicom grenade
medical equipment and records.

b. Plan summary for the next 24 hours. 7 RAR concludes operations in the BARIA YS3761 area. Other operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

- (1) Company - One
Platoon - Four
Squad - Thirty five.
- (2) 2 SAS have three LRRPs deployed.
- (3) Small unit action with contact - Nil.
- (4) Results. Nil.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM

NUI DAT

30 March 68

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 290001H to 292400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC - RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in the 1 ATF TAOR and concluded operations in the BARIA YS3761 area.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR operations on Operation PINNAROO. Location: C Sqn FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 1 Tp FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 89 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR remained 1 ATF Base. Locations: 2 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS4962.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At 0835H at YS480514 C Coy apprehended 4 detainees. In a VC Camp at YS482510 3 Pl found and destroyed 300lbs of rice. In the same camp 9 Pl found 7 M16 mines, 2 M1 rifles and 1 AK 50. Locations: Bn HQ YS4962; A Coy YS483513; B Coy FSPB HERRING YS4955; C Coy YS477514; D Coy YS500517.

(f) 7 RAR continued operations in the 1 ATF TAOR and concluded operations in the BARIA YS3761 area. Locations: 7 RAR 1 ATF Base.

(g) The Aust Land Clearing Team carried out maintenance.

(h) Air Support. Significant Airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
290013H	YS555767	VC Base Camp	Bombs fell 100 meters SOUTH of the target exposing and damaging 15 small pits (1 ft to 1½ ft in diam)
291415H	YS546596	VC Base Camp	2 bunkers destroyed. 4 bunkers damaged. 20 meters trench destroyed. 80 meters trench uncovered and damaged.
291557H	YS317728	VC Base Camp	50 meters trench damaged. 6 bunkers destroyed. 7 bunkers damaged.
291621H	YS312759	VC Base Camp	15 meters trench damaged. 3 bunkers damaged.

(i) 1 Aust Civil Affairs Unit projects for the period 23 Mar to 29 Mar 68.

1 Project completed. Repairs to the BARIA High School.

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2 Projects in progress.

a Market at AP SUOI NGHE - 5% complete.

b Housing for refugees of TET offensive. 14 house frames have been erected.

c Repairs to the BARIA Boy's school - 5% complete.

3 Medcaps were conducted - thirteen locations.

4 Assistance with education and advice on agriculture and medical matters to Province officials continued.

(j) Results

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil.

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: 4 Detainees.

b Materiel : 2 M1 rifles
7 M16 mines
1 AK 50
300lbs rice

b. Plans summary for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - Nil.
Platoon - Four.
Squad - Thirty.

(2) 2 SAS have three LRRPs deployed.

(3) At 0100H at YS416654 a 7 RAR patrol contacted 5 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA(BC) and 1 9mm SMG being captured. There was 1 Aust WIA. At 1350H at YS343765 a 2 SAS LRRP engaged 3 VC resulting in 2 VC KIA(BC).

(4) Results.

(a) AUST LOSSES:

Personnel: 1 Aust WIA.

Materiel : Nil.

(b) ENEMY LOSSES:

Personnel: 3 VC KIA(BC).

Materiel : 1 9mm SMG.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM
NUI DAT

31 March 1968

SUBJECT: Ground Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)
From 300001H to 302400H March 68.

TO: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
ATTN: AFVBC - RE

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

a. General

(1) 1 ATF continued Operation PINNAROO and operations in the 1 ATF TAOR.

(a) C Sqn 1 Armd Regt continued to support 3 RAR operations on Operation PINNAROO. Locations: C Sqn (-) FSPB HERRING YS4955; 2 Tp YS490498.

(b) A Sqn 3 Cav Regt continued to support 1 ATF operations. 3 Tp is now opcon 3 RAR and 1 Tp returned to 1 ATF Base. Locations: A Sqn (-) 1 ATF Base; 3 Tp (-) FSPB HERRING; 3 Sect 3 Tp YS500517.

(c) Task Force Artillery continued to support 1 ATF operations. 87 H and I missions were fired in the reporting period. Locations: 4 Fd Regt (-) 1 ATF Base; A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and 108 Fd Bty YS4962; 161 Fd Bty FSPB HERRING YS4955.

(d) 2 RAR remained in 1 ATF Base and carried out TAOR patrols. Locations: 2 RAR (-) 1 ATF Base; A Coy YS4962.

(e) 3 RAR continued Operation PINNAROO without contact. At YS481510 7 Pl found 9 M16 mines, an 8 gallon tin of kerosene and one full M1 magazine in a cache.

(f) 7 RAR remained in 1 ATF Base and carried out TAOR patrols. Location: 1 ATF Base.

(g) The Aust Land Clearing Team carried out maintenance.

(h) Air Support. Significant airstrikes were:

Time	Coordinates	Target Description	Bomb Damage Assessment
301322H	YS312758	VC Base Camp	200 metres of covered trench destroyed. 50 metres trench damaged. 3 bunkers destroyed. 5 bunkers damaged.
301353H	YS312758	VC Base Camp	100 metres covered trench destroyed. 100 metres trench damaged. 50 metres trench uncovered. 2 bunkers destroyed. 2 bunkers damaged.
301612H	YS312758	VC Base Camp	5 bunkers destroyed. 5 bunkers damaged. 50 metres of trench uncovered and damaged. 2 fighting positions uncovered. 1 small secondary explosion with grey smoke.
301655H	YS413806	VC Base Camp	1 bunker destroyed. 4 bunkers damaged. 20 metres of trench damaged.
301703H	YS390820	VC Base Camp	6 bunkers destroyed. 4 bunkers damaged. 15 metres of trench destroyed. 40 metres of trench uncovered.

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(i) Results.

1 AUST LOSSES: Nil.

2 ENEMY LOSSES:

a Personnel: Nil.

b Materiel : 9 M16 mines
8 gallon tin of kerosene
1 full M1 magazine

b. Plans summary for the next 24 hours. Present operations continue.

c. Small Unit Actions.

(1) Company - Nil.

Platoon - Five.

Squad - Thirty.

(2) 2 SAS have four LRRPs deployed.

(3) Small Unit Actions with contact. Nil.

(4) Results. Nil.

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