

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Detachment, 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

Item number: 5/1/11

Item: Detachment 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

Operational Report no. 10

[photocopy]

[1-28 Feb 1967]



File Copy

1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE VIETNAM



DET 1 TOPO SVY TP
OPERATIONAL REPORT

Nº 10

REPORTING PERIOD 1ST-28TH FEB 1967

Copy No.

① Action Copy.

② File Copy.

③ AHQ. Survey Regt

④ School of Mil. Eng.

9 Mar 67

See Distribution List

OPERATIONAL REPORT NO 10

Covering period 1 Feb - 28 Feb 67

PART 1 G MATTERS

Present Location

1. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp remains in location at GR YS 43456671.

Enemy Contacts

2. There were no enemy contacts during the reporting period either at the base camp or whilst engaged on survey operations.

Tasks

3. Technical production during the reporting period was at a reduced level, due to the construction of a further 50' x 18' tropical hut using unit labour. The following tasks undertaken were completed during the reporting period. A summary of major tasks is attached as Annex A.

a. 1:25000 overprint revision - L8015 series.
Additional track and building information has now been overprinted on 8 x 1:25000 sheets of the L8015 series. In some cases this is a series 2 overprint. The only sheet outstanding for which overprint information is now available is 6430 - 11 - NE. Annex A lists details of the sheets overprinted to date.

b. 1:25000 revision for re-printing - L8015 series.
Revision information for 8 sheets of the L8015 series has been forwarded to Directorate Mil Svy on 27 Feb 67. Revision information will be provided for a further 3 sheets in early March. Sheet details are shown in Annex A. It was initially intended to re-compile all large scale village plots for direct photo reduction to 1:25000. (Ref Op Report No 3 Para 5c) This has been carried out on sheets 6430 - 111 - SE and 6429 - 1V - NW however operational commitments have not allowed this treatment to be effected on other sheets. On these, direct positive copies have been supplied of the original compilations.

c. Photo Edited Enlargements - DAT DO - PHUOC HAI Area Route TL 44.
Increasing operational commitments along Route TL 44 (GR YS 506552) suggested the requirement for a provisional series of photoplots of each of the main village areas. These have taken the form of extensively photo edited enlargements of the following village areas:

DAT DO	1:10000	GR YS 490600 - complete for dyeline
AN NHURT	1:5000	GR YS 462596 - printed S/S
PHUOC LOI	1:10000	GR YS 500570 - complete for dyeline

/PHUOC HAI

CONFIDENTIAL

PHUOC HAI	1:5000	GR YS 517532	Printed S/S
HORSE SHOE HILL - DAT DO	1:5000	GR YS 495620	complete for dyeline

Work is progressing on the provision of a single dyelined sheet at 1:10000 to cover the entire length of route TL 44. PHUOC HAI is attached as an enclosure to this report.

d. Sundry plans and traces.

(1) Operational overprints were prepared and printed in 3 colours to cover a series of projected operations. Details are shown on Annex B - Summary of Silk Screen Printing.

(2) TAOR boundary revision - prepared initially for overprinting in 3 colours on the L7014 series, but subsequently produced as a dyeline.

(3) Operational Overlays for dyelin^{ing}g - OP KIRRABILLI.

(4) Intelligence overprint on 2 sheets - OP RENMARK.

4. The following tasks are currently in hand or pending.

a. BINH GIA 1:10000 Special - Compilation at 1:5000. A final editing of the BINH GIA 1:5000 photoplot is in hand. It is intended to forward the compilation sheet and data to D Mil Svy for colour separation and printing in AUSTRALIA. This will be covered in detail in separate correspondence.

b. Hwy 15 Strip Map - PHU MY Section (GR YS 252746). No further progress has been achieved during the reporting period.

c. 1 ATF Cantonment Svy.
Good vertical air photography at a scale of 1:5000 has been obtained from ARVN sources and this is being used as the basis of a photo revision of the NUI DAT Cantonment area. The area will be plotted at a scale of 1:2500 on the Steriotope using the previously established survey as control. A larger area will be covered in this revision to allow for the increased base area and the more complex and extensive nature of the surrounding defenses.

d. 1 ATF Base Area - NUI DAT SPECIAL (Ref Op Report No 9 Para 5c). Due to the requirement to cover an increased area this map has been held pending the photogrammetric revision of the Cantonment Svy.

e. 1 ALSG Cantonment Survey (Ref Op Report No 9 Para 5e). Phases 1-3 have been completed as scheduled. The detailed survey has been held pending the finalisation of earth works in some areas. All horizontal detail of a permanent nature and 60% of the contouring has been completed. Some areas will have to be re-contoured upon completion of earth moving operations.

Silk Screen Printing

5. During the reporting period 4701 impressions were taken from the silk screen equipment. A summary of tasks carried out on the silk screen equipment is included as Annex B to this report.

Survey Control

but subsequently produced as a dyeline.

(3) Operational Overlays for dyeline^{ing} - OP KIRRABILLI.

(4) Intelligence overprint on 2 sheets - OP RENMARK.

The following tasks are currently in hand or pending.

a. BINH GIA 1:10000 Special - Compilation at 1:5000. A final editing of the BINH GIA 1:5000 photoplot is in hand. It is intended to forward the compilation sheet and data to D Mil Svy for colour separation and printing in AUSTRALIA. This will be covered in detail in separate correspondence.

b. Hwy 15 Strip Map - PHU MY Section (GR YS 252746). No further progress has been achieved during the reporting period.

c. 1 ATF Cantonment Svy. Good vertical air photography at a scale of 1:5000 has been obtained from ARVN sources and this is being used as the basis of a photo revision of the NUI DAT Cantonment area. The area will be plotted at a scale of 1:2500 on the Steriotope using the previously established survey as control. A larger area will be covered in this revision to allow for the increased base area and the more complex and extensive nature of the surrounding defenses.

d. 1 ATF Base Area - NUI DAT SPECIAL (Ref Op Report No 9- Para 5c). Due to the requirement to cover an increased area this map has been held pending the photogrammetric revision of the Cantonment Svy.

e. 1 ALSG Cantonment Survey (Ref Op Report No 9 Para 5e). Phases 1-3 have been completed as scheduled. The detailed survey has been held pending the finalisation of earth works in some areas. All horizontal detail of a permanent nature and 60% of the contouring has been completed. Some areas will have to be re-contoured upon completion of earth moving operations.

Silk Screen Printing

5. During the reporting period 4701 impressions were taken from the silk screen equipment. A summary of tasks carried out on the silk screen equipment is included as Annex B to this report.

Survey Control

6. Phase 5 of Operation TRISIDER is still outstanding due to
/1 ATF

CONFIDENTIAL

protecting parties. It is anticipated that HORSE SHOE HILL at DAT DO (GR YS 491621) will be fixed in early March 67.

7. During the reporting period, a tellurometer connexion was measured from AAS 004 (NUI LON) GR YS 263473) to BINH BA GRAVEYARD (GR YS 442737) and a traverse connexion made from this point to BINH BA RUBBER FACTORY (GR YS 454748). This closed the figure NUI LON (AAS 004) - BINH GIA KNOLL (AAS 008) - DUC THANH (AAS 009) - BINH BA RUBBER FACTORY - BINH BA GRAVE YARD - NUI LON (AAS 004) to 1 metre in position. It also revealed a gross error in the Artillery Regimental Survey from NUI DAT (AAS 001) to BINH BA RUBBER FACTORY of about 60 metres.

Air Photography

8. During the reporting period 100% vertical air photo coverage of the Area of Operations was obtained flown at a scale of 1:30000 with a 6" focal length camera by the USAF. Unfortunately nearly 40% was cloud covered and upon requesting a re-fly of the cloud covered runs, it was decided to re-fly the complete area again. To date this has not been received however it is hoped that this will eventually lead to a block of air photographs sufficiently homogenous to permit possible analytical block adjustment, and as the basis of a complete revision of the L7014 series covering the area of operations.

9. Vertical air photography covering the 1 ATF Base Area at a scale of 1:5000 flown by the RVN AF was obtained and this is being used as the basis of the cantonment area survey. This is undoubtedly the best photography obtained from any agency so far in Vietnam.

10. A request has been lodged with the AC of S Mapping and Intelligence Division US Army Engr Comd Vietnam for the 1958 "WANDA" air photo coverage of PHUOC TUY Province. The following has been requested.

- a. Duplicate negative of the film.
- b. One set of positive prints marked with all field and office control
- c. Co-ordinate listing of all office and field control.

11. It is planned that the combination of the WANDA control, which was strip adjusted in runs and an overall block adjustment carried out on the adjustment strips, and the 1:30000 photography currently being flown, will provide the base material for a photogrammetric solution to the provision of a high density of battery positions and artillery calibration points over the 1 ATF area of operations.

Maps

12. The 547 Engr Platoon (Map Distribution) has completed its move to LONG BINH. It appears that the shortage of some sheets of the L7014 series has been relieved and that adequate stocks are now held in the depot. Map movements both accumulative and within the reporting period are summarised in Annex C to this report.

Visits

13. During the reporting period, the following visits

/took

CONFIDENTIAL

took place:

a. 3 - 5 Feb 67 - OC visited HQ AFV; the Maps, Charts, and Geodetic Adviser on MACV - J2, 1st Engr Topo Co - ARVN to finalise arrangements for the visit of AD Mil Svy.

b. 10 - 13 Feb 67 - Visit by AD Mil Svy as follows:

(1) 10 Feb 67 (SAIGON) - Arr SAIGON visited HQ AFV. Visited Lt Col Ruthe - MACV J2.. Proceeded to 1 ATF NUI DAT.

(2) 11 Feb 67 (NUI DAT) - At 1 ATF - Visited Comd 1 ATF, CO 1 Fd Regt, CO 5 RAR. Addressed Det 1 Topo Svy Tp and inspected unit.

(3) 12 Feb 67 (LONG BINH) - Visited AC of S, M & I Division USAECV, 66 Engr Co (Corps) (Topo)

(4) 13 Feb 67 - To SAIGON - Visited 1st Engr Topo Co ARVN at TAN SON NUIT. - Departure scheduled for 1230 hrs delayed until 14 Feb 67.

(5) 14 Feb 67 - Departed SAIGON.

c. 24 - 25 Feb 67 - OC to BIEN HOA to brief Maj Gen T.J. Hayes (111), Director of Topography and Military Engineering, Office of Chief of Engineers, on the role of Det 1 Topo Svy Tp.

PART 2 A MATTERS

Attachments and Detachments

14. The following personnel of Det 131 Div Loc Bty remained attached to Det 1 Topo Svy Tp during the reporting period for the purpose of survey operations:

1731043	LBdr	J.F.	SELLWOOD	
2781996	Gnr	K.A.	WHITTLE	
2782439	Gnr	G.W.	LOCK	
3787334	Gnr	B.G.	EARWICKER	(RTA 2 Mar 67)
2782129	Gnr	B.W.	KILLWORTH	(RTA 2 Mar 67)

Personnel

15. 3788404 Spr L.C. Rotherham RTA ex NUI DAT on 2 Feb 67.

16. A Confidential Report for T/Cpl B.W. Firms approving substantive promotion to Cpl on the basis of 3 months in temporary rank whilst on war service, was submitted to CARO on 20 Feb 67.

Medical

17. Health is good in the Det. No members were hospitalised during the reporting period. There has been no incidence of malaria or other tropical fevers.

R & R - R & C

18. The following members were allocated R & C at the R & C Centre at VUNG TAU.

36871	Sgt	E.G. GIRI	4 - 6 Mar 67
2781982	Cpl	R.B. SMITH	27 Feb 67 - 2 Mar 67

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

9. A further allocation of R & R has been received, permitting some members to take a 2nd period of R & R during the period March - April.

Relief of The Det

20. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp correspondence 165-1-1 (58) of 3 Mar 67 deals with the question of RTA and attempts to clarify the requirement both in principle and specific detail as to when members are to RTA and when replacements are required. Uncertainty and lack of decision on both this problem and that of postings on return to Australia has tended to produce a fairly vexed point within the Det. The problems are appreciated by all however this does little to alleviate the points of contention.

Morale

21. Morale remains at an acceptably high level amongst all members.

PART 3 Q MATTERS

Stores and Equipment

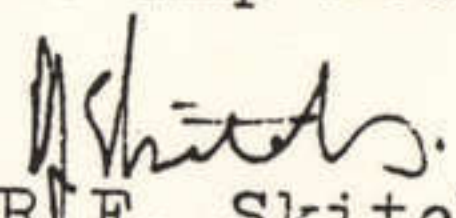
22. The repair state of tellurometers held by Det 1 Topo Svy Tp is as follows.

Unit Number	1169	-	Not workable - requires IF alignment.
"	1170	-	Good working order.
"	1175	-	Good working order.
"	1176	-	Not workable - Requires IF alignment.

23. Problems are still being experienced in developing a supply system for expense stores for the Silk Screen Printing Equipment. Some items are filtering through however more times than not indents are not filled within the time frame requested, so requiring priority demand action. The time frame requested on the December indents was 2 months. In January a further series of maintenance demands allowed a time frame of 3 months, however it is envisaged that priority action will probably be necessary on much of this in April 67.

Accommodation

24. A second 50' x 18' tropical hut was commenced on 10 Feb 67 and at the end of the reporting period was 90% completed. The building is on a concrete floor and is partitioned to allow space for the Silk Screen Eqpt, Q Store, Orderly Room, OCs Office and computing room. The portion of the 1st tropical hut currently occupied by the Silk Screen Eqpt will become the Map Store.


(R. F. Skitch)
OC
Capt

Annexes: A. Summary of Major Tasks
B. Summary of Silk Screen Printing
C. Map Distribution Summary

Enclosures: A. Photo Edited Enlargement PHUOC HAI

Distribution

SUMMARY OF MAJOR TASKS

TASK	DATE COMMENCED OR PLANNED DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	% PROGRESS ACHIEVED								% COMPLETED	DATE COMPLETED OR PLANNED DATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
		Field work	Enlarge- ment	Photo Inspection	Photo plotting	Compilat- ion work sheet	Final drawing	Colour separation	Printing			
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
1:25000 OVERPRINT REVISION												
6430 111 NE Series 1									100			
NW Series 1									100			
SW Series 2	Dec 66								100	100	20 Feb 67	
SE Series 2									100			
6430 11 NW Series 1									100			
SW Series 2									100			
6429 1V NE Series 1									100			
1 NW Series 1									100			
1:25000 REVISION FOR REPRINTING												
6430 111 NE						100						
NW						100						
SW						100				100	20 Feb 67	Fwd to D M:
SE						100						22 Feb 67
6430 11 SW						100						
6429 1V NE						100						
SW						100						
6430 11 NW	Feb 67					100				100	4 Mar 67	For forward
6429 1 NW						100						Mil Svy ear

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
PHOTO EDITED ENLARGEMENTS DAT DO 1:10000 AN NHURT 1:5000 PHUOC LOI 1:100C PHUOC HAI 1:5000	3 Feb 67 10 Feb 67 28 Feb 67 15 Feb 67		100	100	100	100	100		100	100		Vertical photo requested at for detailed this area.
BINH GIA SPECIAL 1:10000	Jan 67	100	100	100	100	100	Editing	90		80	4 Mar 67	For on-forward D Mil Svy for early Mar.
HWY 15 STRIP MAP - THU MY SECTION	23 Nov 67					100		80			30 Mar 67	For Silk Screen Printing.
NUI DAT SPECIAL 1:5000	10 Jan 67							50			31 Mar 67	Area covered extended photogrammetrically.
TRANSCRIPTION OF VC TRACKS AND NAMES							50			75	31 Mar 67	To be limited 6430-11 & 111 1 & 1V.
1ST ATF CANTONMENT SVY REVISION					10					10	30 Apr 67	To be plotted 1:2500.
ALSG CANTONMENT SVY		80				80				80	31 Mar 67	To be recontir
) OPERATION TRISIDLER)	COMPUTATIONS RECORDS			100%	50%)		

SUMMARY OF SILK SCREEN PRINTING FEBRUARY 1967

JOB NO a	NAME b	NO OF COLOURS c	NO OF COPIES d	NO
AFV/F7-12/1107	Revision overprint 6430 - 111 - NW	1	250	
	Report Covers	1	15	
AFV/F7-12/1095	L8015 and L8020 index	1	400	
AFV/F7-12/1084	Revision overprint 6429 - 1V - NE	1	250	
AFV/F7-12/1100	After Action Report CANARY	1	30	
	Invitation	1	35	
AFV/F7-12/1106	Revision overprint 6430 - 111 - SW	1	250	
AFV/F7-12/1099	Revision overprint 6430 - 11 - SW	1	250	
AFV/F7-12/1109	XA AN NUIT VILLAGE MAP	1	200	
AFV/F7-12/1110	Op overprint XA AN NUIT 1:5000	1	100	
AFV/F7-12/1111	Op overprint 6430 - 11	3	30	
AFV/F7-12/1113	Op overprint 6430 - 111	1	30	
AFV/F7-12/1114	Op overprint 6429 - 1	3	30	
AFV/F7-12/1114	Cp overprint 6429 - 1V	3	30	
	Overlay on tracing paper (3 sheets)	5	20	
AFV/F7-12/1112	Intelligence overprint 6429 - 1 - NW	1	100	

a	b	c	d	
AFV/F7-12/1112	Intelligence overprint 6429 - 1V - NE	1	100	
AFV/F7-12/1083	Revision overprint 6429 - 1 - NW	1	300	
AFV/F7-12/1105	Revision overprint 6430 - 111 - SE	1	422	
AFV/F7-12/1084	Revision overprint 6429 - 1V - NE	1	1:01	
AFV/F7-12/1083	Revision overprint 6429 - 1 - NW	1	398	
AFV/F7-12/1120	LANG THUOC HAI village map 1:5000	2	300	
	TOTALS 1 - 28 Feb 67		3941	
	ACCUMULATIVE		11941	1

MAP DISTRIBUTION SUMMARYPERIOD 1 FEB TO 28 FEB 67

UNIT	MAP SERIES AND SCALE							
	L8020 1:25000		L8015 1:25000		L7014-L701 1:50000		JOG G/A 1:250000	
	FEB	ACCUM	FEB	ACCUM	FEB	ACCUM	FEB	ACCUM
1 ATF	14	324	275	511	66	1152		186
A SQN 3 CAV	40	502		289	80	1759		6
1 FD REGT	68	839	143	802	93	1813		42
1 FD SQN RAE		99	20	136	24	269		14
TOPO SVY		4	1	91	17	113		6
103 SIG SQN		68		123	7	266		
5 RAR	200	3044	550	1525	610	3495	34	104
7 RAR	1000	1000	1100	1100	700	700		
6 RAR		3742	200	1542	150	4599	21	121
SAS		515	20	467	50	1324		6
ALSG		140		430	147	1397		65
CIVIL AFFAIRS		59		65	6	91		6
ARU	12	21	12	96	6	64		2
1 DIV INT	21	76	113	291	43	169	4	65
RAAF/67 GL	6	236		263		359		23
USAF		45	2	185	30	123		
161 RECCE FLT	48	195		210	8	283		245
SECTOR HQ		27		221	12	86	4	4
TOTAL	1409	10936	2436	8347	2049	18062	63	895

MISC MAPS	FEB 193	ACCUM 1766
GRAND TOTAL	6150	40006