

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Detachment, 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

Item number: 5/1/16

**Item: Detachment 1 Topographical
Survey Troop**

Operational Report no. 15

[photocopy]

[1-31 Jul 1967]

See Distribution List

OPERATION REPORT No 15
Covering Period 1 Jul - 31 Jul 67

"I am quite transported at the thought that ere long, perhaps very soon, I shall bid an eternal adieu to all the pains, and uneasiness and disquietude of this weary life."

Robert Burns 1759-1796

PART 1 - 6 MATTERS

1. Location. A Sec 1 Topo Svy Tp remains in present loc at YS4335 6671.
2. Enemy Contact. Nil.
3. Tasks. All elements of unit were fully employed during the reporting period. A summary of major tasks undertaken is given in Annex A.
4. Survey Control. Two third order stations, AAS 017 and AAS018, were established during the reporting period. These replace AAS013 and HORSESHOE EAST respectively. Both these stations were destroyed during extensive earthworks on the HORSESHOE feature. Stations were established by tellurometer distance and azimuth from AAS001 NUI DAT. Coordinates for stations are:

AAS 017	:	E 749051.26
		N1162117.98
AAS 018	:	E 749564.71
		N1162022.43
5. Attempts were made during July to relocate BINH BA GRAVEYARD from AAS004 NUI LON. Taking advantage of Op SOUTHPORT a new station AAS019 BINH BA GRAVEYARD was ground marked and the distance to AAS004 measured. Due to cloud cover an azimuth could not be measured but it is hoped that the complete re-establishment will be effected in the near future. A tacheometric traverse from AAS019 to a marked traverse station on Route 23 immediately NORTH of BINH BA villiage was also observed. This traverse station had been established by tacheometric traverse from AAS012 DUC THANH in February 1967.
6. Extensive earthworks, erection of permanent buildings and re-location of weapon pits, bunkers and gun emplacements has made HORSESHOE SPECIAL 1:1250 obsolete. During reporting period the feature was completely resurveyed for edition 2 of this map.
7. A series of level traverses within 1 ATF area has been commenced with a two fold purpose.
 - a. To satisfy an RAE requirement for drainage planning.
 - b. 2nd edition NUI DAT (SPECIAL) compilation by stereoscope.
8. Photo identification of existing control and establishment of height control in preparation for compilation of ALSG 1:1200 Special map was effected during reporting period.

CONFIDENTIAL

SURVEY MARKING
9. 1 ATF AREA. During July ten (10) permanent traverse stations within this area were permanently marked with star pickets set in concrete to a depth of two feet. To prevent destruction of stations substantial notices of mild steel plates (15in x 9 in) marked

SURVEY MARK
DO NOT DISTURB
OFFENCE UNDER DA 69.2

and welded to 8 ft star pickets have been placed next to the marks.

10 3rd Order Stations. Due to lack of RA Svy Marks, gunmetal, and ease with which these marks can be removed, a new ground mark has been devised. It consists of a 105mm cartridge stamped RA Svy Corp 1967 and the station number. This cartridge has a number of steel rods through it parallel to the ground and the whole is enclosed in a substantial concrete block poured in situ.

CARTOGRAPHIC SECTION

11. With five unit draughtsmen and two members of 131 Div Loc Bty working in this section the draughtsmen are able to keep abreast of compilation and printing for the first time.

SCREEN PRINTING

12. This section continues to use the Trucks, Van, expansible, M292 as a printing room. The removal of this van for Op PADDINGTON (See Op Report 14 para 14) did not eventuate.

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY

13. The following air photography was received during the reporting period:-

MISSION	AREA	SCALE
07041	LONG SON ISLAND	1:6300
07047(1)	DAT DO SOUTH TO COAST	1:5500
07047(2)	LONG SON ISLAND	1:5000
06073 and 06074	VUNG TAU incl 1 ALSO	1:2500

VISITORS

14. After preliminary discussion between OC and CO 66 Engr Coy (Topo) an exchange of personnel has been arranged between the two units. The system allows for one member of each unit to be exchanged on a weekly basis. The following members were exchanged during the reporting period.

Sgt R.F. RIX	-	Spec 5 M WILKERSON	17-24 Jul 67
Cpl K.S. SLATER	-	Spec 5 B BOTTEMILLER	24-31 Jul 67

15. Mapping Conference. OC attended an informal mapping conference on 12 Jul 67 at ARVN TOPO Coy HQ. Personnel present were:-

Col HRITZKO	-	Assistant C of S M and I
Lt Col BLANK	-	MC and G, MACV
Lt Col DIEN	-	National Geographic Service
Maj RUYEN	-	National Geographic Service
Maj LEE	-	Ops Offr, M and I
Capt LAING	-	A Sec 1 Topo Svy Sec
Capt SOLLOHUB	-	Engr Advisory Section

This conference is the subject of separate correspondence with D Mil Svy.

16. Map Store. Extensive reorganisation during reporting period has allowed map store to function more efficiently. Further shelves were built by unit labour to allow systematic stacking of sheets, stacks were consolidated and accounting procedure was standardized.

CONFIDENTIAL

17 Special Instructions. - The following special instruction was received by unit during July 1967.

- a. Stripping and cleaning SMG F1.
- b. Live firing SMG F1.
- c. Voice procedure (2 hours).

PART 11 - A MATTERS

18. The following personnel arrived at NUI DAT during the reporting period.

214094	Sgt	H.H.	Kramer	19 Jul 67.
3788404	Spr	L.C.	Rotherham	19 Jul 67.
2784779	Spr	R.A.	Hucker	23 Jul 67.

COURSES

19. 214416 T/Cpl K.S. Slater attended a Subject C, promotion to Cpl course organised by 7 RAR during July 1967. Results at date have not been promulgated.

20. 44024 Spr S. Wojtowicz has been attending a class 1 Edn course at the Education Centre 1 ALSG, VUNG TAU since 3 Jul 67. The course finishes early August.

LEAVE

21. Due to Op PADDINGTON there was no R and R during July, the following members are to take R and R during August.

213569	Ssgt	P.	Rossiter	HONG KONG	5-15 Aug 67.
235238	Lt	D.K.R.	McCloy	BANKOK	21-26 Aug 67.

22. 37573 Spr T.L. Wellins took R and C at VUNG TAU 6 - 12 Jul 67.

RELIEF OF UNIT

23. The unit relief as specified in Annex A to D Svy 38425 of June 1967 was well received by all members. This document was originally received by OC as a DO letter but due to it being, apparently, common knowledge in B Sec 1 Topo Svy Tp he was forced to publish it prematurely.

24. 54671 Spr E.C. Sorenson has applied for a two month extension in order to do R.M.I.T. Survey Diploma examinations, previously arranged with Edn Offr, 1 ALSG. His application has been recommended by OC.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

25. OC was interviewed by Maj B. Gillman PR Offr 1 ATF and a number of publicity photographs were taken for publication in Australian Country newspapers.

MEDICAL

26. Health within unit remains very good. There was no hospitalization during the reporting period.

MORALE

27. Morale remains high and many members with large cuts in in-theatre time are already looking forward to RFA.

STORES AND EQUIPMENT

28. Three of four tellurometer units went US during reporting period. RAEME have been requested to thoroughly overhaul and report on general state of all equipments.

29. Dyeline machine was sentenced BLR by RAEME and a new equipment has since been purchased and delivered to unit.

30. Unit took delivery of new weapons SMG F1 during July.

RESUPPLY

31. Resupply of expense items improved considerably during July. The only outstanding indents are for the following items:

- a. 8010-66-010-0113 Mineral Turpentine.
- b. 6750-66-016-4599 Paper Dyeline.

The latter item is in such short supply that an Operational Demand has been submitted by G Staff and it is hoped the shortage will be alleviated almost immediately.

.....
(A.W. Laing)

Capt

OC A Sec 1 Topo Svy Tp

Annexes A : Summary of Major Tasks
B : Summary of Silkscreen Printing
C : Map Distribution Summary

Appendices A : DUC PLAN 1:5000 Special
B : BINH BA 1:5000 Special

DISTRIBUTION

HQ 1 ATF	1
Directorate of Mil Svy	4
B Sec 1 Topo Svy Tp	2
DAD Svy E Comd	1
66 Engr Coy (Topo)	1
Diary	1
File	1

SUMMARY OF MAJOR TASKS

Task	Date Commenced	Fieldwork	Enlargement	Photo Inspection	Photo Plotting	Compilation Worksheet	Final Drawing	Colour Separation	Printing	Completed	Date completed or date planned	Remarks
1:2500 Intelligence Overprints 6430ii NW				100	100	100	100			80	Aug 67	
6430iii NE				100	100	100	100			80	Aug 67	
6430iii SE				100	100	100	100		100	100	28 Jul 67	
1 ATF Cantonment Survey 1:2500	Mar 67	100	100	100	100	100	100		100	100	Jul 67	Dyelines done by MACV.
DUC THINH Special 1:5000	22 May 67	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	27 Jul 67	
1 ALSG Cantonment Survey 1:1200		80	80	80	80	50				50	Aug 67	Plotted at 1:2400, and enlarged up to be dyeline only.
BINH BA Special 1:5000	23 May 67	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	31 Jul 67	
KUYEN MCC 1:10,000	10 Jun 67	100	80	80	80	80	50	50			Aug 67	Awaiting further photography of area.
HORSESHOE Special 1:1250 2nd Edition.	Jul 67	90	100	100	100	100	80	80			Aug 67	Four colours.
<u>AFTER ACTION REPORTS</u> Op PORTSEA							100	100	100	100	28 Jul 67	5 overprints, 7 dyelines
Op CALOUNDRA							100	100	100	100	17 Jul 67	
Op PADDINGTON							80	100		80		
<u>OPERATION ORDERS</u> Op PADDINGTON							100	100	100	100	9 Jul 67	5 overprints.

SUMMARY OF TELESCREEN PRINTING

JOB NO	NAME	No OF COLOURS	No OF COPIES	No OF PULLS
AFV/F7-12/1150	Enemy Installation overprint sheet 6430ii	1	100	100
" 1151	" " 6530iii	1	100	100
" 1154	Manoeuvre Plan Op FARRINGTON overprint 6430ii, 6430iii	1	110	220
" 1153	BINH BA Special 1:5000 map	2	220	440
" 1152	DUC THANH Special 1:5000 map	3	220	660
" 1141	Track and Building Information overprint 6430iii SE	1	300	300
" 1161	Patrol Area overprint 6430ii SW	1	305	305
" 1162	" " 6430iii SE	1	305	305
"	After Action Report Op PORTSEA	1	160	160
	Operational Report Covers	3	220	660
	Commander's Diary Covers (for 13 months)	1	78	78
	Overprint on microfiche	1	40	40
	Total 1 - 31 Jul 67		2158	3368
	Accumulative		21529	31649

MAP DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

Unit	L7014 1:50,000	L8015 1:25,000	L8020 PICTO	JOG 'A'	JOG 'G'	MISC
A Sqn 3 Cav	45	365	240			
106 Bty	18	26	14			
108 Bty	20	52	44			1
1/83 Bty	43				15	
2/35 Bty	2					
Arty Tac	40	69	100			24
131 Div Loc Bty						7
161 Bty RNZA	18		8			
1 Fd Sqn RAE	46	2	2			3
21 EST						
104 Sig Sqn	12					6
547 Sig Tp	4					2
2 RAR	240	11	460			160
7 RAR	136	690	290	2	16	7
1 SAS						
161 Recce Flt						
HQ 1 ATF	926	467	95	6		25
1 ARU	40	22				1
HQ Coy 1ATF	37	48				7
1 Topo Svy Tp	10	614	7			48
Div Int Unit	21	2				6
1 ACAU	11	33				33
1 ALDG	55		48	420	438	
Totals	1724	2401	1308	428	469	330