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Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Detachment, 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

Item number: 5/1/23

**Item: A Section 1 Topographical
Survey Troop**

Operational Report no. 22

[photocopy]

[1-29 Feb 1968]

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
VIETNAM

A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp
NUI DAT

/ Mar 68

See Distribution Lists

OPERATION REPORT No 22

Covering period 1 Feb - 29 Feb 68

PART I - G MATTERS

GENERAL

- 1.1. Location: A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp remains in location YS 4345 6671.
- 1.2. Enemy Contact: Nil.
- 1.3. Command: Capt J.BULLEN assumed command on 19 Feb 68.

SURVEY SECTION

1.4. Field Work: Due to increased enemy activity during this month, field work was restricted to some extent, however the following tasks were undertaken:-

a. Revision and extension of existing LONG DIEN sketchmap.
A field party of 4 surveyors went with 7 RAR on Operation CLAYTON on 20-21 Feb. This was a cordon and search of LONG DIEN. The surveyors could not start work until the village was secure, and by then insufficient time remained for the survey task. Although no mapping was done, the survey party performed civil aid work while the village was being rendered secure.

b. Mapping of 3 RAR perimeter wire.
A field party of 4 surveyors with protection from 3 RAR carried out a tacheometric traverse along the 3 RAR perimeter wire on 22 Feb. This traverse provided a plot of the wire for the NUI DAT (Special) 1:10000 map.

c. Ba Ria radio mast.
4 field parties were positioned on various stations on 29 Feb in order to fix Ba Ria radio mast to 3rd order accuracy. Parties were positioned as follows:-

AAS001, NUI DAT,	YS 433 673,	positioned by vehicle.
AAS027, FRENCH FORT,	YS 396 627,	" " "
NGS, THANH,	YS 367 526,	" " "
AAS017, HORSESHOE,	YS 491 621,	" " RAAF.

The line AAS027 - AAS017 was measured. The angle between AAS001 and AAS027 was observed at AAS017. The angle between AAS001 and Ba Ria radio mast was observed at THANH. The position of the radio mast is now being computed from these and previous observations. This will be of use both to RA Svy and to USAECV(P). The mast will be used as a DECCA station.

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1.4. d.

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d. RA Sigs aerals, Long Binh.

On 21-22 Feb, the siting of 2 rhombic aerals for RA Sigs in the LONG BINH area was done by a 2 man party at the request of SO Sigs AFV. This involved determination of azimuth by sun observation, setting out the site, and some levelling. This work was done in an insecure area, and a clearing patrol was necessary first.

1.5. Computing: The following computations and records were completed:-

a. HOA LONG tacheometric traverse. This is to provide control for the HOA LONG (Special) 1:5000 map which is on programme.

b. All check computations and compilation of records outstanding from Jan 68 were completed.

1.6. Compilation:

a. DAT DO (Special) 1:10000 map. Slotted templates have been cut and are being laid. Photos have been office annotated. Limited field annotation will be carried out.

b. HOA LONG (Special) 1:5000 map. Boundaries of this sheet have been revised to suit new operational requirements. Compilation has commenced.

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY

1.7. No aerial photography was received during Feb 68.

CARTOGRAPHIC SECTION

1.8. No aid from other units has been possible during February.

1.9. Operational Mapping:

a. LANG PHUOC HAI (Special) 1:5000 map. Drawn and passed to Reproduction Section for printing.

b. NUI DAT (Special) 1:10000 map. Fair drawing 50% complete at 1:7500.

c. BA RIA (PHUOC LE) 1:2850 sketchmap. compiled for dyeline reproduction.

d. AP LONG TUAN 1:1969 (1 inch to 50 metres) sketchmap compiled for dyeline reproduction.

e. Operation MACKAY map overprint.
Enemy activity information was drawn for overprinting onto two L8015 series map sheets. This operation has not yet taken place. Further details will be provided after the operation.

1.10. Miscellaneous Tasks:

a. 2 RAR History map overprints.
This is a series of 26 maps for a forthcoming publication by 2 RAR. A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp is providing the reformat for reproduction by AHQ Svy Regt.

Map 1	:	100%	Fair drawn.
" 2	:	30%	" "

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Map 3	:	50%	Fair drawn.
" 4	:	100%	" "
" 7	:	70%	" "
" 10	:	100%	" "
" 12	:	5%	" "

b. Wall maps.

Composite wall maps at 1:25000 and 1:50000 have been assembled for each of the following: Comd 1 ATF, 1 ATF Conference Room, 1 ATF Comd Post, 1 ATF Arty Tac.

Tactical areas of operational responsibility have been drawn on each wall map.

c. Commander's Diary covers.	Task complete
d. Manning Chart for 1 ALSG.	" "
e. Mortar Diagrams for 131 Div Loc Bty.	" "
f. Operational Recovery Diagrams for HQ LAD report.	" "

REPRODUCTION SECTION

1.11. Arc lamp and vacuum frame are now working again.

1.12. LANG PHUOC HAI (Special) 1:5000 map. Printing is complete. The following matters are worthy of mention:

a. Cpl SNELSON spent 3 days with 66 Engr Coy (Topo) at LONG BINH on 12-14 Feb. This visit was necessary for the performance of tasks associated with the LANG PHUOC map as follows:-

- (1) Use of larger copy board for contact photography.
- (2) Use of more accurate camera.
- (3) Use of a Cronaflex based photographic film.
- (4) Use of a suitable stipple.

b. Two blue colours have been used in printing - a pale blue solid infill for the sea and a darker blue for the drainage detail on the land. This was because a suitable stipple is not held here for use with the screen mesh available. Procurement of finer mesh is now being attempted.

1.13. Operation Mackay overprint. Task complete.

1.14. Commander's Diary covers. Task complete.

FUTURE TASKS

1.15. Revision material L8015 series. This is almost complete and will be despatched when ready.

1.16. PHUOC LOI (Special) 1:5000 map. No change from previous report.

1.17. AP SUOI NGHE cadastral survey. It is expected that this project will be resumed in Mar 68 after more clearing work has been done by RAE.

1.18. AP SUOI NGHE (Special) 1:10000 map. No change from previous report. This map will not be commenced until after completion of the cadastral survey mentioned above in paragraph 1.17.

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PART 2 - A MATTERS

POSTINGS

2.1. Arrivals: The following personnel arrived from AUSTRALIA on the dates shown:

235151.	Capt	J. BULLEN	3 Feb 68	by sea.
5821	Sgt	E.C. CLUTTERBUCK	3 Feb 68	by sea.
29608	Sgt	E. MORRIS	3 Feb 68	by sea.
18425	Spr	D.G. CAMPS	3 Feb 68	by air.
36566	Capt	N. SPROLES	19 Feb 68	by air.

Capt BULLEN assumed duty as 2IC on 7 Feb and as OC on 19 Feb.
Capt SPROLES assumed duty as 2IC on 19 Feb.

2.2. Departures: The following personnel returned to AUSTRALIA by air on the dates shown:

42003	Sgt	R.F. RIX	4 Feb 68.
214094	Sgt	H.H. KRAIER	4 Feb 68.
235238	Capt	K.R. McCLOY	7 Feb 68.
3411876	Spr	A.T. HASELOFF	12 Feb 68.
57058	Capt	A.W. LAING	19 Feb 68.

VISITS

2.3. Maj N.R.J. HILLIER RA Svy, DAD Svy FARELF, arrived on 27 Feb for a one month visit.

2.4. Capt LAING and Capt BULLEN made technical liaison visits as follows:-

12 Feb	:	66 Engr Coy (Topo), LONG BINH.
12 Feb	:	547 Map Distr Pl, LONG BINH.
12 Feb	:	Geodetic Information Center, LONG BINH.
12 Feb	:	USAECV(P) Mapping & Intelligence, LONG BINH.
13 Feb	:	MACV, Mapping, Charting & Geodesy, SAIGON.
13 Feb	:	MACV, Combined Intelligence Center Vietnam, SAIGON.

2.5. Cpl SNELSON performed miscellaneous tasks using photographic equipment at 66 Engr Coy (Topo), LONG BINH, on 12-14 Feb. For technical details refer to paragraph 1.12.a. above.

2.6. Capt SPROLES and WO1 LONG made a technical liaison visit to the organisations listed below and performed a field survey task (See para 1.4.d. above) for RA Sigs while at LONG BINH

20-24 Feb	:	66 Engr Coy (Topo), LONG BINH.
	:	547 Map Distr Pl, LONG BINH.
	:	Geodetic Information Center, LONG BINH.

LEAVE

2.7. R & R: 3 members took R & R leave during Feb 68, 2 to HONG KONG and 1 to AUSTRALIA. One member returning from R & R in SINGAPORE in Jan 68 was delayed several days in SINGAPORE due to the closure of TAN SON NHUT Airport at SAIGON during the intensive enemy activity early in Feb.

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2.8.

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2.8. R & C: R & C leave was suspended while enemy activity was at its strongest. It has since been re-instituted, but priority is given to convalescents. No member of the Tp took R & C leave during Feb 68.

PROMOTIONS

2.9. Subject to confirmation by CARO Routine Orders Part 2, the following promotions have been effected:

19 Feb 68 : 38210 L.Cpl G.J. WILLIAMS to T/Cpl.
19 Feb 68 : 18425 Spr D.G. CAMPS to L/Cpl.

ATTACHMENTS AND DETACHMENTS

2.10. Due to the strong enemy activity during February, especially in the LONG BINH - BIEN HOA area, no exchange of personnel with 66 Engr Coy (Topo), LONG BINH, has been possible, except for the special visits listed above in paragraphs 2.4., 2.5., 2.6.. Early in Feb, 66 Engr Coy (Topo) bore the brunt of an unsuccessful attack by two VIET CONG battalions. Several minor incidents have occurred there since, and the atmosphere is still tense.

DUTIES

2.11. A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp now has to provide one Spr for general duties in the 1 ATF HQ Coy kitchen every third week for one week. This matter has been under discussion since Dec 67 and the above decision has been made. Should the occasion arise where technical commitments cannot be met as a consequence of this, the matter will be re-opened by OC A Sect.

MEDICAL

2.12. Health has been good during Feb 68. A few members have reported sick for minor stomach upsets. This is not abnormal.

2.13. Some difficulty and delay was experienced in obtaining replacement spectacles for one member. It is recommended that all personnel wearing spectacles and posted to A Sect be provided with at least one spare pair of spectacles prior to leaving AUSTRALIA.

MORALE

2.14. The only problem appears to be uncertainty of return date to Australia for some members. This is caused by late arrival of posting orders or late advice of impending arrival of replacements and by difficulties in booking on flights to Australia. Flights to Australia are usually fully booked out several weeks in advance, whereas notice of only a few days is usually given of the arrival of a replacement.

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PART 3 Q. MATTERS

3.1. A handover stocktake was conducted during this period. There was one minor discrepancy, not of technical equipment. This has been adjusted.

3.2. Replacement vacuum frame and arc lamp have arrived. The old equipment was returned to 2AOD and will probably be repaired and held in theatre stock.

3.3. Two rifles, complete equipment, were taken on charge, these being issued to new members before departure from Sydney. Following the recent enemy activity causing unarmed new members to be almost involved in fighting while on the way, all new members are now being armed in Australia. Departing members now are armed and carry the surplus weapons back...

3.4. At the moment there is little inward movement of expense items. This is causing some concern, especially in regard to Cronaflex. The supply due on 1 Jan 68 has still not arrived by 1 Mar 68. RAAOC has taken action to hasten delivery but this has not yet had any effect.

3.5. From samples of nylon mesh used at AHQ Svy Regt and brought up by Capt Bullen it is apparent that AHQ Svy Regt is using a finer mesh than A Sect I Topo Svy Tp for screen printing. Indent action for the finer mesh has been taken.

3.6. The FRIDEN SBT 10 Electric Calculating Machine has given minor trouble. Local repair took 2 weeks. Fortunately this occurred during a light work period in the Survey Section.

3.7. Bearing in mind that a major breakdown of key items of equipment could easily occur unexpectedly and cause operational embarrassment, it has been requested that the following items be held as reserve stock in theatre :-

- a. 3610-66-023-6902. Dyeline Machine. Qty 1.
- b. 6760-66-011-5595. Arc lamp. Qty 1.
- c. 6675-66-018-6067. Tellurometer. Qty 1 set of 2 instruments.
- d. 6675-66-021-8418. V406 Tavistock Theodolite. Qty 1.
- e. 7420-66-018-5932. Friden Calculating Machine. Qty 1.
- f. W6/WFA 0029. Vacuum Frame. Qty 1.
- g. 6115-66-021-0360. 500 watt, 24 volt DC, charging set. Qty - 1.

This request has been endorsed by HQ IATF.

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3.8. The V406 Tavistock Theodolite indented for in early November 67 has still not been received.

3.9. Due to shortage of engineer stores, the map store intended to be built by 1 Mar 68 has still not been started. It is a high priority engineer task however, and it is expected that stores will soon become available and enable the building to be complete by 1 May 68.

Buller

Capt

(J. RULLEN)

OC A Sect I Topo Svy Tp

Annex A : SUMMARY OF MAJOR TASKS.

B : SUMMARY OF SCREEN PRINTING

C : SUMMARY OF IAF DISTRIBUTION

F : LANG PHUOC HAI (SPECIAL) 1 : 5000 MAP

Q : BA RIA (PHUOC LE) 1 : 2850 SKETCHMAP

R : AP LONG TUAN 1:1969 SKETCHMAP.

(For reasons of operational security, the map overprints for Operation MACKAY are not attached).

DISTRIBUTION

HQ IATF	1
D Mil Svy	4
B Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp	2
DAD Svy E Comd	1
66 Engr Coy (Topo)	1
M&I, USAECV (P)	1
Diary	1
File	1

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Annex A to Op Report 22

SUMMARY OF MAJOR TASKS

TASK	Date Commenced	Fieldwork	Computation	Enlargement	Photo Inspection	Photo Plotting	Compilation	Fair Drawing	Colour Separation	Printing	Extent Complete	Date Complete	Expected Date Complete
LANG PHUOC HAI 1 : 5000	Sep 67	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Feb 68	
PHUOC LOI 1 : 5000	Sep 67	100	100										Apr 68
DAT DO 1 : 10000	Sep 67	100	100		100						25		Mar 68
AP SUOI NGHE 1 : 10000	Oct 67	50	50								5		May 68
NUI DAT 1 : 10000	Dec 67	100	100	100	100	100	100	50	50		60		Mar 68
BA RIA (PHUOC LE) 1 : 2850	Feb 68			100	100	100	100	100			100	Feb 68	
AP LONG TUAN 1 : 1969	Feb 68			100	100	100	100	100			100	Feb 68	

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Annex B to Op Report 22

SUMMARY OF SCREEN PRINTING

Job Number	Name	Colours	Copies	Pulls
AFV/F7 - 12/2033	Annex Q to Op Report 21	1	60	60
" " 2034	Annex P to Op Report 21	2	60	120
" " 2035	Op MACKAY overprint	1	200	200
" " 2035	Op MACKAY overprint	1	200	200
" " 2029	Additional information overprint on 6530-IV-SW	1	200	200
" " 2032	Additional information overprint on 6430-1-3E	1	200	200
" " 2030	Additional information overprint on 6530-111-1W	1	200	200
" " 2031	Additional information overprint on 6530-111-SW	1	200	200
" " 2005	Additional information overprint on 6430-111-NE	1	200	200
" " 2023	LANG PHUOC HAI (Special) 1:5000	6	300	1800
	Commanders Diary Cover	1	144	224
	FIRESTONE TRAIL overprint on 6430-111	1	200	200
	" " " 6430-1V	1	200	200
		Total for Feb 68	2464	4004
		Cumulative Total	43714	52907

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Annex C to Op Report 22

MAP DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

UNIT	L8015 1:25000	L7014 1:50000	L8020 PICTO	L607 1:100,000	JOG'A'	MISC
A Sqn 3 Cav Regt	44	105	125			3
108 Bty RAA	31	12				
4 Fd Regt RAA	8	4			8	7
1/83 Bn	15	38		59		
131 Div Loc Bty RAA	14	20	3			
161 Bty RNZA	15	53	2			4
1 Fd Sqn RAE	40	69				2
3RAR	595	910	595		66	
104 Sig Sqn	15	15		3	5	
547 Sig Tp		4				
2RAR	456	100	297			11
7RAR	735	308	250			94
1SAS Sqn	20		80			20
1 Recce Flt		30	83			
HQ IATF	16	46	4	7	33	4
ARTY TAC		30	9			1
26 Tp Coy RAASC		20				4
1ARU	48	21	36			
HQ COY	5	2		2		
1 Topo Svy Tp	485	30	8	1	11	7
Det 1 Div Int Unit	138	8		30	11	7
Battle Int Unit	254	20				
Det 1 Pro Unit	8					
1 Aust CA Unit	1			2		
HQ IALSG		30				20
Armd Regt	234	37	130	4		10
RAAF	3	22	4	133		9
TOTAL	3180	1934	1626	241	134	203

Total Maps Issued 7318

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