

Series: AWM95
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[Vietnam]

Detachment, 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

Item number: 5/1/33

Item: A Section 1 Topographical
Survey Troop

Operational Report no. 32

[photocopy]

[1-31 Dec 1968]

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

VIETNAM

A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp
AFPO 4
GPO SYDNEY
N.S.W. 2890

7 Jan 69

See Distribution List

OPERATIONAL REPORT NO 32

Covering period 1 - 31 December 68

PART 1 - G MATTERS

GENERAL

1. Location: A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp remains in location YS 4345 6671 at NUI DAT.
2. Enemy Contact From 13 to 21 Dec, Cpl LAYBUTT was working with a US Army field survey party from 66th Engr Co (Topo) from LONG BINH on NUI THI VAI (YS 294 711), approximately 15 km west of NUI DAT. During the night of 18-19 Dec, the party received several rounds of artillery fire from ARVN 105 mm guns, but no casualties occurred. On 20 Dec, the 4 RAR protection party with the survey party had contact with 2 armed VIET CONG. Shots were fired but neither side incurred casualties.

SURVEY SECTION

3. Fieldwork:
 - a. New roads in the 1 ATF base area were surveyed by compass and pace for addition to the compilation of the 1 ATF Road Map.
 - b. Cpl LAYBUTT was employed on first order field survey work from 13 to 21 Dec on NUI THI VAI (YS 294 711) with a party from 66th Engr Co (Topo), LONG BINH as part of the MEKONG DELTA first order traverse being conducted by USARV.
 - c. Cpl LAYBUTT and Spr OFFER are both now employed with 66th Engr Co (Topo) on the MEKONG DELTA Traverse.
4. Compilation
 - a. The following sketchmaps were compiled:-

HUONG GIANG	(YS 37 61)	1:2 000 (Annex C attached)
XOM MY XUAN	(YS 25 74)	1:2 000 (Annex D attached)

The HUONG GIANG sketchmap supersedes an earlier sketchmap of the same area produced in Sep 68.
 - b. Route 15 sketchmaps. Compilation of a strip of sketchmaps to cover Route 15 from BA RIA to PHU MY has been commenced.

/c.

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c. Miscellaneous Tasks.

(1) 7 charts of various Government organisation in PHUOC TUY province were drawn up and hand lettered for 1 Aust Civil Affairs Unit.

(2) Assistance was lent to Battle Intelligence, HQ 1 ATF, by plotting tracks from patrol reports onto map overlays.

5. Aerial Photography. Reconnaissance photography at 1:3 000 along Route 15 (BA RIA to THAI TIEN) has been received and has been or is being used for the sketchmap tasks described above in paragraphs 4a and 4b. This photography has been unsatisfactory due to excessive camera tilt and due to incomplete coverage of some villages, but some progress with compilation has been made nevertheless.

CARTOGRAPHIC SECTION

6. General Since 9 Dec, a draughtsman has been with HQ 1 ATF (Main) at Fire Support Base JULIA at VS 2281 for Operations fighting during Op GOODWOOD.

7. Operational Mapping

a. SUOI NGHE (Special) 1:10 000 map. Drawing 80% complete.

b. BA RIA 1:2850 Sketchmap. Key buildings and installations were marked and labelled for a fresh printing of this map.

8. Miscellaneous Tasks

a. The following overlays were produced as annexes to 1 ATF Op Orders:-

Op GOODWOOD	- III	(Overlay on tracing paper)
" "	- IV	" " " "
" "	- V	" " " "
" "	- VI	" " " "
" "	- VII	" " " "
AO NAIRNE		" " " "
AO HUNTINGDALE		" " " "
ARVN AO		" " " "

b. The following miscellaneous maps were drawn:

(1) 1ATF Road Map. Complete (Annex E attached)

(2) Index diagram to Special Mapping by 1 Topo Svy Tp. Complete.

c. The following wall charts were drawn:-

(1) Marked wall map for HQ 1 ATF CP.

(2) " " " " HQ 1 ATF Conference Room.

(3) Various charts for GS03 (Air).

d. The following sign was painted:-

(1) Sign for 8 Fd Amb.

/e.

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e. The following miscellaneous tasks were drawn:-

- (1) VR report forms for 161 Recce Flt.
- (2) Advice to LOs form for GS02 (Ops).
- (3) Christmas dinner menu for 12 Fd Regt.
- (4) Card for presentation by Comd 1 ATF.
- (5) Christmas card overprint for 131 Div Loc Bty and HQ 1 ATF Sgts Mess.

REPRODUCTION SECTION

9. General.

- a. Full details of operational mapping and miscellaneous tasks are included in Annex B.
- b. Tasks worthy of special mention are as follows:
 - (1) Christmas poster for chaplains of 1 ATF and 7th Engr Gp, LONG BINH. Stencils were hand cut for this task which was printed in 4 colours. Stipples and overprinting were combined to give 13 different shades on the finished product.
 - (2) Cover for Christmas Mass for chaplains of 1 ATF. This task was printed in 2 colours from hand cut stencils.
- c. During December minor repairs to the screen press were performed.

MAP DISTRIBUTION

10. Map Distribution Summary

MAP SERIES	SCALE	QUANTITY ISSUED
L8020 (PICO)	1:25,000	1,222
L8015	1:25,000	1,075
L7014	1:50,000	2,465
L607	1:100,000	351
JOG (A)	1:250,000	28
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	855
TOTAL FOR MONTH		6,796
CUMULATIVE TOTAL		181,710

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PART 2 - A MATTERS

POSTINGS

11. a. Arrivals. The following members arrived from AUSTRALIA by air:-

15486	Sgt P.J.STRUNKS	19 Dec 68
3411827	Cpl R.M.KAY	19 Dec 68
38908	Spr R.W.GILBERT	19 Dec 68
39846	Spr I.M.WARK	19 Dec 68

- b. Departures. The following members departed for AUSTRALIA by air:-

38607	Cpl P.J.DEW	10 Dec 68
216475	Spr T.J.MARSH	10 Dec 68
216968	Spr J.M.HUNTER	10 Dec 68
15542	Sgt G.E.SMALL	17 Dec 68

PROMOTIONS

12. The following promotions were effective from the dates shown:-

10 Dec 68 235151 Capt J.BULLEN to Maj (Seniority 29 Jun 68)

22 Dec 68 2789109 Spr O.A.BIZIAK to T/Cpl.

VISITS

13. Visits made during December were as follows:-

a. 1-8 Dec: Spr WETZIG to AFV Edm Centre, VUNG TAU, to attend SGCE English course.

b. 4-7 Dec: Cpl ROLFE to 66th Engr Co (Topo), LONG BINH, for photographic work not possible within 1 ATF.

c. 8-18 Dec: Capt SPROLES to Fire Support Base JULIA at YS 2281 as Command Post Officer with HQ 1 ATF (Main) during OP GOODWOOD.

d. 9-29 Dec: Spr AUKSTINAITIS to Fire Support Base JULIA at YS 2281 as Operations Draughtsman with HQ 1 ATF (Main) during Op GOODWOOD.

e. 30 Dec-Mid Jan: Cpl KAY to Fire Support Base JULIA at YS 2281 as Operations Draughtsman with HQ 1 ATF (Main) during Op GOODWOOD.

f. 9-11 Dec: Capt BULLEN to 66th Engr Co (Topo) and HQ USARV, LONG BINH, for monthly mapping conference with HQ USARV, HQ MACV, NGS, and ARVN Topo Coy.

g. 9 Dec-Mid-Jan: Cpl LAYBUTT to 66th Engr Co (Topo) LONG BINH, for field survey work on the MEKONG DELTA first order traverse now being conducted by USARV.

h. 22 Dec -Mid-Jan: Spr OFFER to 66th Engr Co (Topo) LONG BINH, for field survey work on the MEKONG DELTA traverse mentioned above.

i. 27-28 Dec: Cpl SOKIL to 66th Engr Co (Topo), LONG BINH, to collect maps and for administrative liaison.

ADDITIONAL

DUTIES

14. In addition to CP duties at FSPB JULIA mentioned above. Capt SPROLES has been acting as Command Post Officer with HQ 1 ATF (REAR), NUI DAT, for the rest of December. This work has also been done by Maj BULLEN, but on a part-time basis only.

15. Due to a desperate shortage of manpower in HQ Coy near Christmas time, A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp supplied sentries for the 1 ATF main gate and assistance in the HQ Coy kitchen for several days.

MEDICAL

16. The following casualties occurred during December:-

<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Time off Duty</u>
1 x Back injury	1 day
2 x Stomach upset	1 day
1 x Ear infection	-
1 x Throat infection	-
2 x Skin rash	-

LEAVE

17. R & R Leave. One member took R & R Leave in AUSTRALIA.

18. R & C Leave. One member took R & C Leave in VUNG TAU.

RECREATION

19. Christmas. Breakfast was served in bed on Christmas Day to all members by WO2 JONES and Sgt MORRIS, the meal consisting of black coffee plus an additive from NORTH QUEENSLAND. Most members have since made a good recovery. Christmas parcels from AUSTRALIA were distributed and a very pleasant Christmas Day was enjoyed by all, concluding with a barbecue beside the unit canteen in the evening. The generous efforts made by many organisations and other RA Svy units to make Christmas Day a happy one were very much appreciated by all.

20. Television Set. Despite the minor nature of the fault which occurred in September, repair does not seem likely in the near future. Many other units in 1 ATF are in the same situation, so prospects are not hopeful.

21. PETER BADCOE Club Beach Annex. Between 25 and 31 Dec all members spent 2 nights and 1 day at VUNG TAU at the Beach Annex of the PETER BADCOE Club.

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PART 3 - Q MATTERS

22. Technical Expense Supplies. Supply of all items was satisfactory during December.
23. Technical Stores.
- a. Dyeline Machine. The new machine requested in Nov 68 (refer to paragraph 24 of Op Report 31) has been received.
 - b. Small Arms and Technical Stores Inspection. Inspection by RAEME EIS was carried out on 14 December. Overall comment was good.
24. Transport. The Truck, utility, 3/4 ton GS, in 102 Fd Wksps, VUNG TAU, since 28 Oct was returned on 5 Dec.
25. Printing Room Fume Extraction. No further progress, but it is believed that some of the Engineer Stores necessary are now in VIETNAM.

PART 4 - GENERAL INTEREST

26. Below is a photo of A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp in Oct 68.



Standing, left to right: Spr B.J.WETZIG, Cpl P.J.DEW
Cpl P.T.ALDERSON, Cpl S.WOOD, Cpl M.R.RICE, Cpl M.APFELBAUM,
Spr W.N.BLACK, Pte D.C.LEARY, L/Cpl D.G.CAMPS, Spr J.M.HUNTER,
Spr T.J.MARSH, Cpl A.J.ROLFE, Spr R.A.LAWSON, Spr P.S.SMITH,
Spr M.SOKIL.

Sitting, left to right: Sgt E.C.CLUTTERBUCK, Sgt G.E.
SMALL, Capt N.SPROLES, Capt J.BULLEN, WO2 R.B.JONES, Sgt P.D.
COX, Sgt E.MORRIS.

J. Bullen
(J.BULLEN)
Maj
OC

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7.

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex A: Summary of Major Operational Mapping Tasks.
Annex B: Summary of Screen Printing.
Annex C: HUONG GIANG 1:2 000 Sketchmap.
Annex D: XOM MY XUAN 1:2 000 Sketchmap.
Annex E: 1 ATF Road Map.
Annex F: BA RIA (Special) 1:10 000 map.

DISTRIBUTION LIST.

HQ 1 ATF	:	1
D Svy AHQ	:	4
B Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp	:	1
DAD Svy E Comd	:	1
66th Engr Co (Topo)	:	1
M&I, HQ USARV	:	1
Diary	:	1
File	:	1

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SUMMARY OF MAJOR OPERATIONAL MAPPING TASKS

Annex A to Operational Rep

TASK	Date Commenced	Fieldwork	Computation	Enlargement	Photo Annotation	Compilation	Fair Drawing	Printing	EXTENT COMPLETE	Date Complete	Expected Date Complete
SUOI NGHE 1:10,000	Oct 67	100	100		100	100	80		70		Jan 69
HOA LONG 1:5,000	Mar 68	100	100	100	100	100	25		60		Mar 69
BA RIA 1:10,000	May 68	100	100		100	100	100	100	100	Dec 68	
1 ATF Base Defence Plan 1:2,500	Aug 68	100		100		100	85		90		Feb 69
1 ATF Road Map	Oct 68			100			100	100	100	Dec 68	
LONG DIEN 1:3,800 Sketchmap	Dec 68			100	100	100			90		Jan 69
HUONG GIANG 1:2,000 "	Dec 68				100	100			100	Dec 68	
XOM MY XUAN 1:2,000 "	Dec 68				100	100			100	Dec 68	
Route 15 Strip Sketchmaps	Dec 68				30	20			25		Feb 69

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Annex B to Operational Report 32

SUMMARY OF SCREEN PRINTING

TASK NO	TASK NAME	COLOURS	COPIES	PULLS	REMARKS
AFV/F7-12/2114	BA RIA (Special) map	5	440	2200	Annex F attached
" " 2120	Op GOODWOOD Overlay - III	1	110	110	Printed on tracing paper
" " 2121	" " " - IV	1	110	110	" " " "
" " 2122	AO HUNTINGDALE Overlay	1	110	55	" " " "
" " 2123	Op GOODWOOD Overlay - V	1	150	150	" " " "
" " 2124	" " " - VI	1	110	110	" " " "
" " 2125	" " " - VII	1	110	110	" " " "
Miscellaneous	ARVN AO Overlay	1	85	85	" " " "
"	AO NALINE Overlay	1	85	85	" " " "
"	Christmas Poster	4	220	880	
"	Covers for Christmas Mass	2	260	130	
"	Advice to LOs form	1	110	110	Printed on tracing paper
"	BA RIA (Sketchmap)	1	220	220	Reprint with added detail
"	Christmas card overprint for 131 Div Loc Bty	1	100	100	
"	" " " " HQ 1 ATF Sgts Mess	1	60	60	
"	1 ATF Road Map	1	220	220	Annex E attached
"	RAEME SOP covers	1	70	70	Printed on cardboard
"	1 Topo Svy Tp Monthly Report Covers	1	220	110	
TOTAL FOR DEC 68			2790	4915	
Cumulative Total			67783	93039	