Series: AWM95 Australian Army commanders' diaries [Vietnam]

Detachment, 1 Topographical Survey Troop

Item number: 5/1/9

Item: Detachment 1 Topographical Survey Troop

Operational Report no. 8

[photocopy]

[1-31 Dec 1966]



1st AUSTRALIAN TASK FORGE VIETNAM



DET 1 TOPO SVY TP OPERATIONAL REPORT NO 8 REPORTING PERIOD $1^{st}-31^{st}$ Dec

OJan 67

See Distribution List

OPERATIONAL REPORT NO 8

Covering period 1 Dec - 31 Dec 66

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 reporing period, either in the base camp or whilst engaged on survey operations.

Tasks

- Full technical production was maintained throughout the month of December. Allocation of Det personnel to OPERATION TRISIDER caused a slowing down of some of the compilation tasks in hand, and this was further aggravated by the requirement to use the entire draughting element almost exclusively on drawings for After Action Report Annexes and the Task Force Operational History during the final two weeks of December.
- The following tasks undertaken were completed during the reporting period. A summary of major tasks is attached as Annex A.
 - This task is a continuing one, however all additions up to and including 31 Dec 66 have been surveyed and included on 1:2000 work sheet. Dyeline copies of this are readily available to all 1st ATF Units. An additional survey has been carried out of the 1/83 US Arty Bn area between the 1 ATF area and HOA LONG VILLAGE. An attempt is being made to obtain vertical air photography of the base area and surrounding environs. It is hoped to use this photography for the purpose of improving the detail in the contours currently shown on the Cantonment Plan, and to plot with more detail, the surrounding wire and mine field defences.
 - b. Combat Operations After Action Report Annexes.
 These were prepared on a format suitable for use in the
 1 ATF Operational History for 1966. Annexes were prepared
 for the following reports:

Operation HAYMAN

and 1:10000, the latter being an overprint of the LONG SON ISLAND 1:10000 SPECIAL.

Operation CANBERRA
Operation ROBIN
Operation QUEANBEYAN

- 1 Annex 1 Annex 1 Annex

The format adopted consists of a black base map at a convenient scale overprinted with electric blue detail. An example is included as Enclosure A to this report. It is

/intended

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intended that for future reports this format will be maintained. However relevent segments from the L7014 or L8015 film positives will be used to make up base maps which will be printed down in grey.

- c. BINH BA SOUT! (DUC MY) 1:5000 Enlargement.
 This sheet is an enlargement from the 1:10000 BINH BA
 SPECIAL. It was printed in two colours on the silk screen
 press. This is the first map printed with the screen and
 a copy is included with this report as Enclosure B.
- 5. The following tasks are currently in hand:
 - a. BINH GIA 1:5000 Photoplot Ref Op Report No 6. No further progress has been acheived during the reporting period. Dyelines are being provided of the work sheet in limited numbers. Fair drawing for reproduction by 66 Engr Co at LONG BINH will commence soon.
 - b. LANDING ZONE PLOT of Area of Operation Ref Op Report No 6 Para 5c. No further progress has been acheived and it is currently felt by the US Army Aviation Representative on HQ 1 ATF that the task is redundant. This task will not be reported upon in future reports.
 - c. 1:25000 Revision L8015 Series.
 - (1) Work is continuing on the overprint series and currently ready for overprinting on sheets 6430 11 NW, 6429 1 NW, 6429 1 NE.
 - (2) In accordance with SVY 40036 of 16 Dec 66 work is progressing on a compilation of the additional and revised detail on the following sheets:

6430 11 SW NW 111 SW SE 6429 1V NE NW

The compilation will take the form of:

- (a) Village 1:5000 and 1:10000 sheets previously produced at these scales, drawn for reduction to 1:25000.
- (b) Track and other cultural detail from air photo inspection, compiled at a scale of 1:25000.
- (c) Revision of vegetation classification and boundaries from existing photography and the Picto series compiled at a scale of 1:25000. This will only be attempted when significant differences occur at this stage.

In view of the impending proposed reprint of this series, the revision compilation is considered very worth while and will be given as much priority as possible within limitations imposed by direct operational committments.

d. Transcription of VC tracks and names onto L7014, 1:50000 series.

No further overprints have been effected during the reporting period. Additional name information has been obtained from the Provincial Sector HQ and this will be incorporated on to future sheets and onto the current two overprints which

will be due for reprinting during January 1967.

- e. LONG PHUOC 1:5000 Photoplot.
 This sheet has now been completely replotted from vertical photography on the Zeiss Steriotope and is awaiting fair drawing. It will be produced as a 1:5000 special and printed at 66 Engr Co at LONG BINH.
- f. PHUOC TUY Provincial Agricultural Map Ref Op Report No 6 Para 5g No further progress has been acheived during the reporting period.
- g. 1ST ATF BASE AREA 1:5000 NUI DAT.
 This sheet is being prepared for reproduction as a 1:5000 special, from the cantonment plan and will butt HOA LONG SPECIAL and LONG PHUOC SPECIAL.
- h. Hwy 15 Strip Map 1:5000 PHU MY Section GR YS 252746. The PHU MY 1:3000 photoplot (Ref Svy Op Report No 7 para 4c) is being developed and fair drawn into a strip map covering approximately 1000 meters either side of Hwy 15 in the PHU MY Area, at a scale of 1:5000. This will be printed on the silk screen. Additional vertical photography has been requested of Hwy 15 between BARIA and PHU MY and it is hoped that it will be possible to produce a series of strip maps of similar format to include all the villages along the Hwy.
- i. 1 ATF Operational History 1966.
 A series of 40 maps and diagrams have been produced of 1 ATF operations in 1966 and are to be included in the 1 ATF. Operational History for 1966. This is the subject of separate correspondence with Directorate Military Survey.
- Dyelines During the reporting period 300 dyelines were produced. The number of dyelines per month has fallen considerably since the introduction of the silk screen and further monthly tallies will not be maintained.
- 7. Silk Screen Printing Most problems appear to have been over come with the Silk Screen Printing Equipment. The use of Cresylic Acid as a degreaser before the first stencil is applied has satisfactorily over come the problem of the stencil not adhering sufficiently well to the screen. Conceivably, unlimited numbers of copies could now be obtained from a single stencil. The problem of inks of insufficient density has not been entirely over come by the use of the direct positive Cronaflex film. Only slight improvement is obtained by producing the direct photo positive before producing the stencil. Weaknesses are to an extent emphasised in the direct positive, and can be then re-touched with a drawing pen. This to some extent is helpful. It would appear that the solution to this problem must surely lie in obtaining drawing ink more dense than the one currently being used by the Det, which is Pelikan Graphos. Various proprietry brands have been tried here, but all of these were generally of the "school room" variety and were not noticeably denser that the Graphos. A summary of tasks carried out on the Silk Screen Equipment is included as Annex B to this report.

Maps

Map stocks are adequate in all series and no problems of re-supply are likely to occur in the foreseeable future. The 547 Engr Platoon (Map Distribution) will move from SAIGON to LONG BINH in the near future. This should improve the time taken to effect re-supply. Map movements both accumulative and within the reporting period are summarised in Annex C.

Survey Control

9. Operation TRISIDER phases 1 - 4 are complete. Phase 5 -

XUYEN MOC - DAT DO connexion - is still pending. It is planned to carry out this phase in late January, early February in conjunction with a cavalry type operation employing APCs and infantry for protection. Annex D provides a summary of distances measured directions observed and other survey tasks carried out to this date as part of Operation TRISIDER.

Extra Regimental Appointments

10. 1454 WO1 R.H. Rollston has been appointed President of the HQ 1 ATF Sgts Mess.

Civic Action

- During the reporting period, 37657 Spr J.W. Campbell was made available to the 1 ATF Civil Affairs Section for the purpose of co-ordinating and supervising the construction of a sewing room for the widows of RF PF soldiers at BARIA. Spr Campbell has worked continuously on this project throughout December, without taking rest days. Vietnamese labour has been unreliable and sporadic, and with very little assistance he has carried out much of the construction himself. The effort he has made has been most commendable. The project is listed in the monthly Civil Affairs Report as a 1 Topo Svy Tp project.
- 12. On Christmas day approximately 120 lbs of foodstuffs in the form of cakes, pudding, crystalised and canned fruit, nuts, confectionery, etc donated by unit members including attached artillery prsonnel were distributed to the RF-PF dependants in the compound at BARIA. These people live a very frugal existence and welcome these small extravagances.

PART 2 A MATTERS

Personnel

13. The following members were RT. on 11 Dec 66:

52878 Sgt T.D. King 61130 Cpl A.R. Carew 36639 Spr S.R. Johns

14. The following members arrived at 1 ATF on 13 Dec 66:

3788404 Spr L.C. Rotherham - To RTA Feb 67 54671 Spr E.C. Sorenson

15. A message from CARO on 23 Dec 66 confirmed temporary promotion to Cpl for 2781982 Spr R.B. Smith.

Medical

16. Health remains 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

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

214295 Cpl D.G.P. Ceruti- 31 Dec 66 3 Jan 67

18. The following members have taken R & R at the destinations

/shown

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shown during the reporting period.

214295 54467 18457 36616	Cpl Cpl Spr Sgt	D.G.P. B.W. D.E.J. S.R.	Firns Chambers	HONGKONG HONGKONG BANGKOK	30	Now Dec Nov	-7 -6	Dec Dec	66	
20010	n ga	D.R.	Campbell	BANGKOK	30	Dec	-4	Jan	67	

Amenities

19. During the reporting period Christmas cheques were received for inclusion in Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Regimental Funds from:

Staff and Students of:
School of Military Survey
Survey Service E Comd
Field Survey Depot
Survey Ex Servicemens Association of N.S.W.

In addition to these, a comprehensive hamper of nuts and dried fruit was received from AHQ Svy Regt and a large Christmas cake from C Comd Fd Svy Unit.

20. OC and members of Det 1 Topo Svy Tp wish it to be recorded in this report their pleasure at receiving these gifts with the good wishes that accompanied them, and sincerely thank all members of RA Svy both past and present who participated in this generous gesture.

Christmas Celebration

21. On Christmas Eve 1966 members of Det 1 Topo Svy Tp celebrated the occasion with a party in the unit work area. The party was attended by members of the Staff of HQ 1 ATF with whom the Det had associated in 1966, and members friend's from surrounding units. Ample Christmas cheer was provided from the generous donations from RA Svy units in AUSTRALIA.

Morale

22. Morale remains at an acceptably high standard amongst all members.

PART 3 Q MATTERS

Stores and Equipment

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

Unit No	1169	in good order
11	1170	in good repair
11	1175	in good repair
11	1176	wksps awaiting crystals from AUSTRALIA

24. Annex D lists equipment which Det 1 Topo Svy Tp is currently holding either in addition to or in excess of TWET entitlement (Annex Q) as theatre increment stores. An RVE was raised in Jul 66 on items 1 - 3 in the Annex. The outcome of this action is not known. Items 5 - 9 are from the Det TWET but are not included in Annex Q to the TWET. Should the Det initiate action to have these included on the Q series table? A recent directive from AFV indicates that AHQ has stopped all further additions to the theatre increment and that in future stores in excess of or in addition to unit entitlements can only be obtained after RVE action has been approved. This is expected to take from 6 - 12 months. It is

/suggested

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suggested to that if the relieving Det is contemplating introducing any further equipment of any nature, then RVE action should be taken immediately, if this has not already happened.

Accommodation

Construction is delayed on the second tropical hut due to non availability of cement mixers. It is hoped that a start can be made before the end of January. It is considered that there is no longer the requirement to construct an enclosed area within this building equipped with a de-humidifier unit.

(R.F. Skitch)
OC
Capt

Annexes:

A. Summary of Major Tasks

B. Summary of Silk Screen Printing

C. Map Distribution Summary

D. Operation TRISIDER - Tellurometer Lines Measured E. Stores Held as Theatre Increment for RVE Action

Enclosures:

A. Example Annex Combat Operations After Action Report B. BINH BA SOUTH (DUC MY) 1:5000 Enlargement

Distribution

HQ 1 ATF Directorate Military 1 Topo Svy Tp DAD Svy E Comd HQ 6 TF	Survey	(1) (4) (2) (1) (1)
Diary File		(1)

SUMMARY OF MAJOR TASKS

	1	MENC	ED OR	The same of the sa		% F	PROGR	ESS A	CEIV	E D		%	DATE COMPLETED OR	
TASK			DATE		Enlargeme	Inspectio	Photo	Compilet:	Final drawing	Colour	Printing	completed	PLANNED DATE OF COMPLETION	REMARKS
a		<u>b</u>		c	-d	e	f	95	_h_	L	Li_	k		
BINH BA SCUTH (DUC MY) 1:5000		Dec	66		100				100	100	100	100	20 Dec 66	Enlargement for SPECIAL printed Silk Screen
COMBAT OPERATIONS HAYMAN AFTER ACTION CANBERRA						- 1			je E	100	100			
REPORTS QUEANBEYAN ROBIN	15	Dec	66							100	100	100	31 Dec 66	
ONG PHUOC 1;5000 SPECIAL		Nov	66			100	100	100		10		7.5	30 Jan 67	For printing at
INH GIA 1:1000 SPECIAL	20	Jun	6 6	100		100	100	100	100			80		Survey connexion for printing at and photo reduc
														1:10000
PHU MY PHOTOPLOT 1:3000 (Hwy	23	Nov	66	100		100	100	100				100	1 Dec 66	
15 strip map PHU MY section 1:5000)								100		10		60	30 Jan 67	Hwy 15 version screen printing
:25000 OVERPRINT REVISION														
6430-11 SW - SERIES 2		Dec	66			100	100					60	20 Jan 67	2nd overprint
6430-11 NW - SERIES 1		Dec	66			100	100		100			80	20 Jan 67	1st overprint
6429- 1 NW -1V NE - SERIES 1		Dec	66			100	100		100			80	20 Jan 67	1st overprint
;25000 REVISION FOR REPRINTING		Dec	66					30				30	1 Mar 67	

100
-

							i	1				
a	Ь	С	d	9	f	g	h	ı	j	k		
VC TRACK & NOMENCLATURE TRANSCRIPTION	1 Sep 66						33	33	33	33	Mar 67	2 sheets completed
DRAWINGS FOR 1 ATF OPERATIONAL HISTORY	Aug 66						90			90	10 Jan 67	Consisting of 40 m;
LZ PLOT	15 Jul 66	80		100	100	100						Task shelved indef
PHUOC TUY PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL				10	10	10						Task Shelved Indef
1 ATF CANTONMENT SVY REVISION	10 Nov 66	100				100						Current to 31 Dec 6
OPERATION TRISIDER		80	C	omput	ing 2	20%					14 Feb 67	Extension of Svy Co

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

MAP DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY PERIOD 1 DEC TO 31 DEC 66

,	1		MAD	SERTES	AND SCA	יד די			
UNIT	T80	L8020 L8015 L7014-L701						G / 1	
		1:25000		5000		- L701	JOG G/A 1:250000		
	DEC	ACCUM	DEC	ACCUM	DEC	ACCUM	DEC	ACCUM	
HQ 1 ATF	44	310	93	198	88	851	4	171	
1 APC SQN	102	322	6	285	2	1659		6	
FD REGT	3	725	27	587	231	1495	30	36	
1 FD SQN RAE		99	6	111		245		14	
TOPO SVY		4	1	57	6	92		- 5	
103 SIG SQN	15	68	2	117	9	259			
5 RAR	800	2456	20	955	204	2697		60	
6 RAR	6	1942	2	1322	454	3803		100	
3 SAS	36	490	6	443	119	1198		6	
ALSG		140		430		1245		65	
CIVIL AFFAIRS		59		65		80		6	
ARU		9	6	84		58		2	
TODIV INT	30	55	12	173	7	112	15	61	
RAMF/67 GL		. 180	6	259	2	359	4	15	
USAF	301+ -	45	20	179		93			
161 RECCE FLT		147	6	206	2	275		245	
SECTOR HQ		27	34	221		53			
TOTAL	1066	7078	247	5692	1124	14574	53	792	

MISC MAPS 200 ACCUM 1185 GRAND TOTAL 2690 29321

Annex D to Svy Operational Report No 8

OPERATION TRISIDER

TELLUROMETER LINES MEASURED

FROM		TO					
STATION	GRID REF	STATION	GRID REF				
CAP ST JAQUES	287 419	AAS 005 (BLOCKHOUSE)	298 448				
.CAP ST JAQUES	287 419	AAS 003 (AZ MARK)	301 442				
AAS 005 (BLOCKHOUSE)	298 448	AAS 006 (THANH MINOR)	329 503				
11	11	AAS 004 (NUI LON)	263 473				
11	ıı	ENGINEER PT 1	299 439				
11	11	ENGINEER PT 2	294 438				
AAS 004 (NUI LON)	263 473	AAS 006 (THAN MINOR)	329 503				
TI TI	11	AAS 007 (PHU MY)	238 772				
n	11	ARTY PT 1 (LONG CAT)	293-622				
"	11	ARTY PT 2	264 672				
11	11	ARTY PT 3	275 658				
**	11	BARIA WATER TOWER	376 609				
11	11	AAS 008 (BINH GIA)	488 772				
AAS 007 (PHU MY)	238 772	PHU MY WATCH TOWER	252 745				
BARIA WATER TOWER	376 609	BARIA ARVN BTY POS	381 612				
"	11	AAS 001 (NUI DAT)	434 674				
AAS 001 (NUI DAT)	434 674	DAT DO ARTY PT	476 602				
1 7 008 (BINH GIA)	488 772	AAS 009 (DUC THANH)	462 780				
11	11	NUI CHAU CHAN	604 102				

The distance BINH GIA to NUI CHAU CHAN was measured between the American 8th Tgt Acq Bn Survey Platoon Surveyors at CHAU CHAN with MRA 1 Tellurometer and Det 1 Topo Svy Tp Survey Party at BINH GIA.

/OPERATION

OPERATION TRISIDER

DIRECTIONS OBSERVED

AT STATION

TO STATION

ni biniion			
STATION	-GRID REF	STATION	GRID REF
CAP ST JAQUES	287 419	AAS 003 (AZ MARK)	301 442
•	11	AAS 005 (BLOCK HOUSE)	298 448
. AAS 005 (BLOCK HOUSE)	298 448	AAS 006 (THANH MINOR)	329 503
11	11	AAS 004 (NUI LON)	263 473
11	11	ENGINEER PT 1	299 439
11	"	ENGINEER PT 2	294 438
11	11	AAS 003 (AZ MARK)	301 442
11	11	CAP ST JAQUES	287 419
AAS 004 (NUI LON)	263 473	AAS 006 (THANH MINOR)	329 503
11	11	AAS 007 (PHU MY)	238 772
***	11	AAS 005 (BLOCK HOUSE)	298 448
11	11	ARTY PT 1 (LONG CAT)	293 622
	11	ARTY PT 2	264 672
"	11	ARTY PT 3	275 658
	11	BARIA WATER TOWER	376 609
"	11	AAS 008 (BINH GIA)	488 772
AAS 007 (PHU MY)	238 772	PHU MY WATCH TOWER	252 745
RIA WATER TOWER	376 609	BARIA ARVN BTY POS	381 612
11	t i	AAS 001 (NUI DAT)	434 674
11	11	AAS 004 (NUI LON)	263 473
AAS 001 (NUI DAT)	434 674	DAT DO ARTY PT	476 602
11	11	BARIA WATER TOWER	376 609
AAS 008 (BINH GIA)	488 772	AAS 004 (NUI LON)	263 473
11	11	AAS 009 (DUC THANH)	462 780
11	11	NUI CHAU CHAN	604 102

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/OPERATION

OPERATION TRISIDER

CHAIN & THEODOLITE TRAVERSE CONNECTIONS

FROM

TO

STATION	GRID	STATION	GRID
BARIA WATER TOWER	376 609	BARIA ARVN BTY POS	381 612
AAS 008 (BINH GIA)	488 772	AAS 010 (EAST BINH GIA)	508 774
AAS 009 (DUC THANH)	462 780	BINH BA RUBBER FACTORY	454 748

Annex E to Operational Report No 8

DET 1 TOPO SVY TP

STORES HELD AS THEATRE INCREMENT FOR RVE ACTION

	CLASS/IDENT NO	NOMENCLATURE	QTY
1	6675-66-010-9002	STEREOSCOPE LENS PRISM MIRROR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ZEISS (6881/05)	2
2	6675-66-010-8825	PICTURE CARRIAGE STEREOTOPE ZEISS	2
3	W10 WKA 02012	STEREOSCOPES SCANNING OLD DELF	2
12+	W10 VBA 4454	WIRES MEASURING STEEL 300' x &	1
5	W6 WFA 0216	ARC LAMP CAMERA COPYBOARD PORTABLE PEDESTAL STAND 200/230V AV 20/60 AMPS	1
6	W6 JDA 0114	DRYER ELECTRIC HAND 200/230V	3
7	W6 WFA 0029	FRAME PRINTING DOWN MAX PLATE SIZE 252"x 322" (SILCO)	1
8	NIC	NYLON STRETCHER	1
9	NIC	SCREEN PRINTER	1