



THE EYES and EARS

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at Nui Dat, South Vietnam"

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Heard and seen...

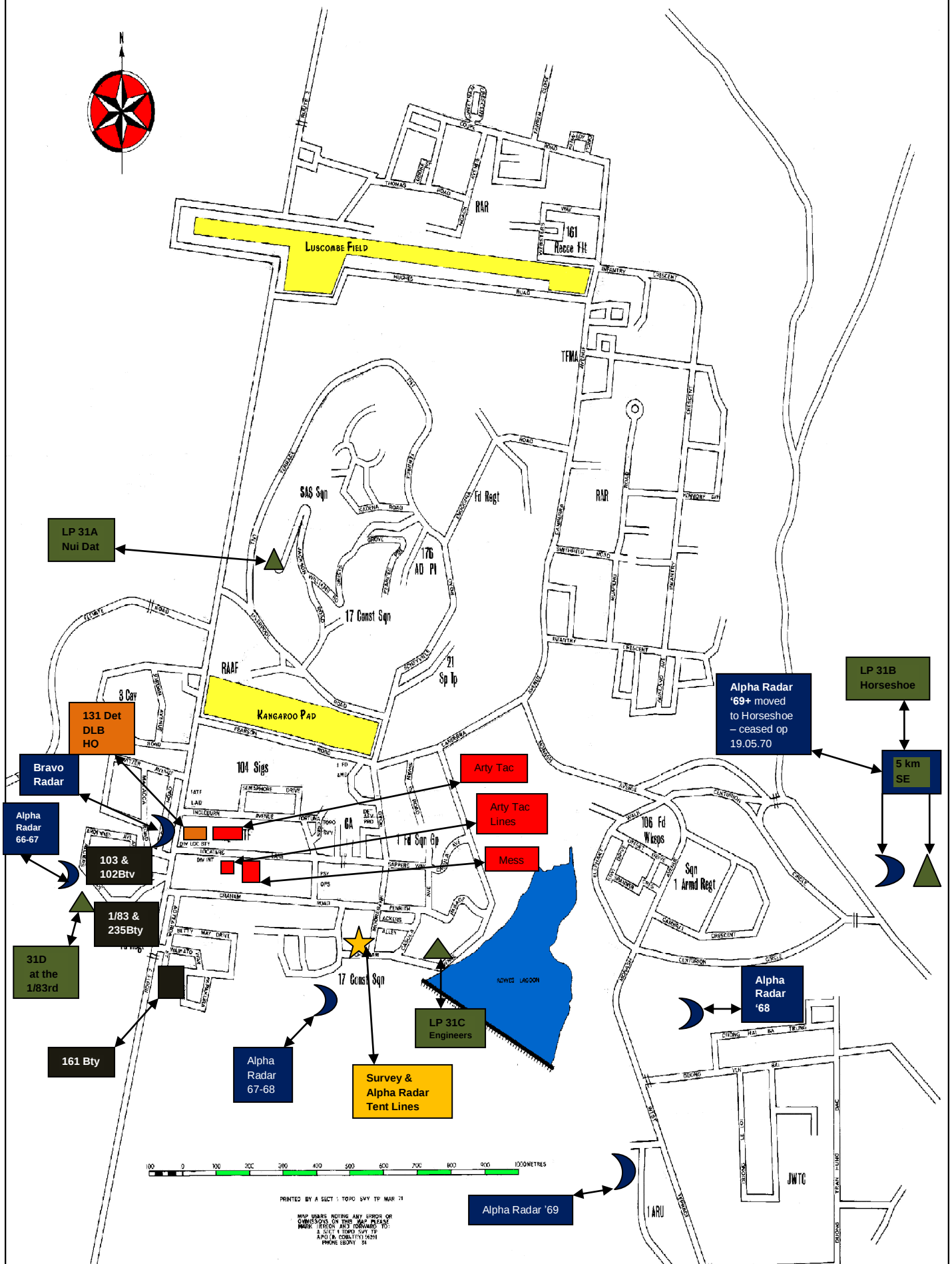
. **1ATF Road Map** – Here's something **Ernie Newbold** instigated and got going on an enquiry from **Bill Taggart** from the 1/83rd as to where we all were roughly located in the 1966-68 era in Nui Dat. Mind you when we started this project none of us could remember where Alpha Radar was and weren't too sure about the Survey Lines' position either!! However, after contacting **John "Kanga" McFadden** and **Ian Amos** who directed the enquiry onto **Ian Finlay**, who in turn got "el Maestro", **Keith Ayliffe**, involved we came up with the enhancement below. Now not only did Kanga give us Survey's location, but he positioned the LP 31-C correctly. Then Keith not only gave us a couple of Gun Battery locations as a bonus, but the various positions for Alpha Radar and the movement notes, which finally saw it out at the Horseshoe feature.

Ed comments - I've got to add that my putting in the "Mess" hall near Arty Tac on the "1ATF Road Map" amused Ernie to the point he wanted to know that did I want to put in the ablution block as well!! I felt like saying that the Mess hall function was vital and the dunny block was just crap, but I didn't!

Was Alpha Radar on a trailer or something? Steve Boutlis and Dave Crowther set the scene when Alpha was initially sited in the flood plain and under the barrels of the 103 Battery's 105's...

1 ATF ROAD MAP

Not to be taken outside
1 ATF area without the
authority of GSO 2 OPS.



...then the reply from Keith Ayliffe...

"G'day Ian, Paul

the story off the radars is a complicated one, I have spent the last 40 years trying to fathom it out. Firstly you have records which say one thing and radar operators who say another thing.

To try and put it in perspective I've condensed it -

On arrival at Nui Dat on the 6/6/66 Alpha radar moved to 105 Bty (which moved in prior from bien Hoa) location and B radar to 103 Bty Location (From Records)

1 Fd Regt took up the south west corner as this was prior to the arrival of the Yank Bty.

This would put Alpha radar on the perimeter probably between 103 and 105 Bty which would make Dave Crowther story tally in. From speaking to various members of these radars including (Don Simmons for one) these two positions were not far apart.

The radars failed to work effectively for the remainder of the year requiring replacement radar which arrived in 67.

However Dave's story brings in to play that there was an original CP (which common sense tells us there had to be) that flooded in 66 because the one between the Engineers and 161 Bty was not built until mid 67 (records). This would also account for why there was only one Radar position noted in late 66 early 67.

During this time late 66 to early 67, as best can be determined only one site remained in existence (Bravo) however the detachments were switched with one detachment doing other mixed duties. (From Records)

In 67 the Bravo site became a fixture and the new radar was moved to a site between (new) 161 Bty and engineers and the CP dug somewhere around June 67 The (2nd) one that flooded.

This is only a brief account and when speaking with the operators the account varies depending on memories. For this period 66-67 I could find no maps or recorded grid references to verify positions. Later half of 67 and all of 68 no problem we have maps and records of where they were located 69 -70 more problems occurred when the radars simply became Nui Dat Radar, Horseshoe Radar.

The whole story of Radar movement was poorly recorded.

I hope this confuses you more Best regards Keith"

. Barry Guzder continues the 31-C story in his own style...

"Hi Dicko Yes vivid memories of 31C. This position originally was quite a dangerous one but subsequently (by the time I got there June, 68 Rick Marquis was with me, don't know who else) it became the most redundant because the perimeter had gone forward with infantry positions attached. So we virtually had nothing to do and so drank a bit. I got had up for drinking on duty and nearly court martialled for threatening to shoot SGT. Ruddick. Anyway Capt. Perron gave two weeks confined (spent some time up in the Stockade), and had to run around the Task Force lines with weight in backpack! Only thing that saved me from gaol term was being a Nasho and almost going home. Saw Ruddick at the Canberra dedication and called out to him in an unfriendly manner - he just walked on and didn't want to know! Ah memories! Regards Barry"

.Whilst on the **Guzder** subject – **Ed** sent Bob Billiards an email with the photo below, which was in Barry's Locator



Profile and he identifies Bob Billiards (rt) and Sonny Galloway in the middle -

"Bob g'day to you wherever you are.

There's no need for an instant response, but I have the attached photo from Barry Guzder and I was wondering who the American on the left is?

Barry doesn't know.

If you can't recall I'll send it to Bill Taggart.

Paul"

...then Bob replied with...

"Dicko,

It is Michael Anderson who was and is a great bloke.

I caught up with him in Nevada in 2003 and hope to catch up with him in March next year once again in Nevada.

Regards from Cumbria (Hawkshead YHA) Bob"

. Vic Danko sent me the following letter he dug out of the "plastic bag" that his mother had kept. Well what a ripper of a letter from Roger McDonnell while out on Operation Coburg back in February 1966. Again like the last one published (E&E's July 2010 – Kevin Browning) it is so simplistic – bugger we're not being shot at – "we haven't been attacked yet"!! The Yanks back in Nui Dat were having all the fun and 3RAR and the Cav got involved – let's not talk about the laundry business in Baria though.
It's a great read...

1
Fire Support Base
"Harrison".

10 - 2 - 68

Hi Vic,
Nice to hear from you pal. Glad
to hear you are out of the army
too, even if it did take 2 weeks.
Yes, we had a great Christmas
up here, thanks for the card too. We
all got pretty merry of course and
yorks came up to our lines so he
ended up a mess too.

I'm on operation "Coburg" now as
you can see from the above. We've
been out since the 24th Jan. We're
up near Long Binh and Bien Hoa.
"B" radar and 31C are here plus five
from survey who make up L.P. 31G, a
pretty slack L.P. as you could well
imagine. We haven't been attacked
here but I reckon we'd be about
the only place in South Vietnam that
hasn't. They had a go at 1st 83d

2

back at the Dat and also tried
to take Baria but 3RAR and the
Car. Reg got stuck about them
and killed about 120. The V.C.
bumped off a few laundry owners
who did laundry for the Australians.
So we missed out on all the fun,
being here at the time. Not much
doing here, we just sit around all
day and do a shift at night. The
operation looks like going till at
least the 20th and could even go
longer than that.

Had a letter from Dicko, he
bought himself a 1966 Sprite, it
looks like a few of the blokes
have gone for sports cars, you too huh!
Back at the Battery the dog is giving
the boys a hard time, puts them on
mess duties as soon as they get back.
I'm glad I won't be going back there.
I'll try and get that radio for
Val but as things stand it looks a
bit doubtful. I'm supposed to be

going home on the 19th. but I think
that will get hit in the head now.
As yet though we haven't been
told, typical army. If we do still
go on the 19th we will only have
a few days back at Nui-Dat and you
know what the P.X. is like, never got
anything when you want it. I'll do my
best though.

Not much news I'm afraid but
I must go now. Hope school is
going along alright. Say hello to any
of the boys you see for me. Give
Val my love. Hope to be able to
call in to see you soon.

Regards
Roger.

. **What the...?** Ernie Newbold sent the following article...

"G'day Paul,

When we think of Mortar Locating Radar we naturally think of the AN-KPQ/1 which represented the latest technology of that type in our era.

In the ARMY newspaper dated 30th September 2010 there is an article that may be of interest to former (and present) locators.

It is about the new "counter-rocket artillery and mortar" (C-RAM) locating radar to be deployed in Afghanistan by the end of this year.

See the attachments below for further details and a picture.

Regards, Ernie."

Ed – as Ernie stated to me separately that the units are not going to the STA Regt, but none the less it is an interesting concept – makes you wonder what war the Swedes are preparing for?

+ 4 WORLD NEWS

New antirocket kit anticipated

By Lt-Col Christopher Holcroft

THE Afghanistan battlefield will see a change from the end of 2010 when Australia introduces a new form of protection for troops.

Australian soldiers will start deploying counter-rocket artillery and mortar (C-RAM) capabilities from as early as December 2010.

The systems are capable of providing advance warning to troops on the ground in order for them to take protective measures and determine points of impact for enemy indirect fire attacks.

Colonel Joint Fires with HQ 6 Bde Col Brian Bailey said the \$300-million project would start rolling out by end of this year.

"The CDF has directed 6 Bde to be part of an Air-Land Integration system that will give the ADF new technology to assist the troops on the ground in Afghanistan," Col Bailey said.

"We will be deploying state-of-the-art technology that will give our soldiers early warning of incoming mortar and missile threats down to point of impact.

"This will allow the troops in those affected areas to take cover

and help lessen the chance of death or injury from such attacks."

Col Bailey said soldiers from the Woodside-based 16 AD Regt would travel to the USA to receive initial C-RAM training later this year.

They will then deploy shortly after to Afghanistan.

He said that in addition to operating newly procured radar systems, the soldiers would operate a series of special mobile warning towers that will form part of a network of early warning defence for Australian bases in Afghanistan.

Col Bailey said C-RAM was one step in an exciting series of modernisation initiatives for 16 AD Regt being pursued under Adaptive Army.

In the near future this unit would transition to a new entity titled the Air Land Regiment and take on enhanced missions in the air-land and ground-based air-defence space.

"Our troops have used the American AN/TPQ Firefinder weapon-locating radar system, which locates the point of origin for incoming rocket and artillery fire.

"But the system has some limitations and operation is primarily designed for counter-battery

fire rather than for use as a C-RAM radar," Col Bailey said.

"The bulk of the C-RAM systems will be procured from the United States and European contractors.

"Initially we will lease a Swedish radar system that is mounted on a tracked light armoured vehicle. The system is the Giraffe Agile Multi Beam (G-AMB) 740 radar system.

"This device has an extendable mast with a radar sensor mounted on the top that can operate 360 degrees up to 24 hours a day."

Col Bailey said the G-AMB 740 was developed and manufactured by Saab.

In addition to the Swedish lease system, Australia will have units manufactured in a wheeled truck configuration for delivery in 2012 to be owned by the ADF.

"This will mean we will have early warning of low-flying aircraft, artillery and mortars and have time to warn the soldiers who are located near the impact," he said.

Col Bailey said 6 Bde expected to have Australian bases in Afghanistan covered with a C-RAM capability by the end of 2011.



Impressive: The giraffe agile multi beam 740 radar system in extended mode. New counter-rocket and mortar capabilities are bound for Afghanistan.

. **Bert Blink sent** this in and it is interesting – "Hi Paul This might be worth putting in Eyes & Ears Bert

Hi This is an initial - but hopefully not intrusive - inquiry.

Writing on behalf of the Kings Cross & Potts Point Partnership, I am investigating the impact that the Vietnam War had on Kings Cross. We are hoping to install a small (no-budget) exhibition of memorabilia in the Kings Cross Library and to host an evening where people speak about their Kings Cross experiences (about 1968-1973). I hope you can help me contact a serviceman who visited The Cross at this time and would like to share his memories. Possibly even an American. I am contacting a police historian, the Garden Island historian and several of the local identities who saw the other side of the scene. Thank you for your time and I hope that you can help.

Gavin Harris, Community historian for the Kings Cross & Potts Point partnership.

THE CROSS Art + Books 33 Roslyn Street Kings Cross 2011 T: 9357 2038 (10.00-6.00 everyday)

. **Jim Hognog** has replied to our query from last month's E&E's with regards to the bloke tinkering with the radar in the photo (on the left) –



"G'day Dicko Have just finished reading Eyes & Ears No 24 and as usual another great effort. In response to the identity of the digger with the radar, I am certain it is Sgt. Fred Walter a RAEME mechanic attached to 131 workshops. From my recollections he arrived in May 67 and set up a two man tent (photo on the right) at the end of the survey lines opposite the bamboo beer garden. I



recall he had light ginger hair and the other guy in his tent who also arrived in May was Sgt. Ted Doust of 131.

I have no thought on where the photo was taken am very sure to his identity.

I have included a photo of the bamboo beer garden (on the left) taken in April 67 prior to RTA of three in the photo at the end of that month, left to right, the late Paul Jones, George Clark, Keith Dean and Bob Ness.

Keep up the good work and keep them coming.

Regards, Hoggy"

. **Bob Billiards** makes some comments on another article in last month's E&E's – "Paul after reading this month's E's and E's, I thought that I would comment on the "Heli-borne satellite station for long distance survey". When I finished at 31D when the ARVN took over the compound, I was posted to Survey and did errands for Geoff Jebb. We then did some surveys using helicopters and Phil Perrin would be able to give more details. The first one I went on, Phil was lying on the floor looking down at the battery as we hovered straight up until the surveyors got the fix from 3 points. No way I was going to stick my head outside, I had my seatbelt firmly fastened!! Did a few of these in either the Hueys and did a couple in the ch47 chook.



"waiting for a helicopter"



"bob hard at work on operations"

The other item was the 1967 report and 31d going to Snata Fe. The blokes that went were Guz, Blakey, Mouse (Baker), Des and me. We were 3 weeks in one position? Then 3 weeks at another (Xa Tui Tic). I have attached a couple of photos and have a couple of stories from that my first Op. Regards Bob"

. **Steve Boutlis** sent the following in and is well worth a read – "Hi, Dicko.

The following site was given to me by a fellow member of the Sunshine Coast Sub Branch of the VVAA. and has a very good article from our mate Keith Ayliffe. I think that our other mates may enjoy the site and it also seems like a good repository for any photos of Our Days In the Funny Place. Cheers, Boots.

G'day Steve, this is the site below which I was talking about. Bruce.

My name is Ern Marshall and I run the web site listed below. I'm on a sort of a mission. I'm trying to save all the slides that are slowly decaying in drawers and cases owned by Vietnam Veterans.

This is my proposal, you send me your slides, pictures or even your own story, whatever and I'll put them on CD for you. This will be done at no cost to yourself.

All I ask is your permission to put them up on the web page for everybody to share.

You can see what I'm doing at the URL - <http://www.hotkey.net.au/~marshall/images/index1.html>

. Extracts From "Cracker's" Blotter in November 1967...

November saw a bit of activity out into the scrub, new arrivals and some VC activity noted by "Cracker"...

Annex // to 4 Pd Regt RAA
Operational Report
5 Dec 67

OPERATIONAL REPORT - 1st ATF DET, 131 DIV LOC BTY RAA **1-30 NOV 67**

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

GENERAL

1. The month saw the completion of SANTA FE I on 18 Nov 67, the commencement of Rice Denial Operations, Operation FORREST, on 23 Nov 67, the commencement of a fragment examination project, the arrival of 15 replacements and a reasonable amount of VC activity of concern to ourselves in particular.

ARTY INT SECTION

2. On 27 Oct 67, LP 31D moved to FSPB WILTON (YS5476). 31C moved complete to 1/83 US ARTY area to take over 31D's position during the Op. The operation dictated that the LP would have to be within the FSPB and a reasonable position was found. During the day the LP was split and a forward LP (31G) moved to the ridge in the area YS544780 with a section of A Sqn 3 Cav Regt. The advantages of this was displayed by the accuracy of the intersections of reports of small arms and friendly fire given by these LP's.

3. On 3 Nov the LP moved with the guns, by air to FSPB LION in the THUA TICH area (YS6181) where it took up a position on the EASTERN side of the actual base, at YS614811. As it happened this was near the radar site. The configuration of the radar site was such that the generator was to the inside of the base, i.e. WEST of the LP. This severely limited their capabilities in this direction and so on the 5 Nov 67, Sgt WAGHORN took a composite LP (31G), made up of 2 members of Arty Tac and the remaining 3 f4cm other LP's and Survey, to the FSPB and established themselves at YS609809 on the SOUTH WESTERN side of the base in the Infantry Coy area. Timber in the centre greatly helped reduce the generator noise.

4. On 6 Nov 67, at approximately 2015 hours, the VC mortared the FSPB in conjunction with a probing attack from the North, East and South. Details are shown in Annex "A" to this report. It was yet another example of the VC using our gunfire to cover his own firing.

5. There were no other incidents during SANTA FE I and the radar and LP's returned on 16 Nov 67 without incident.

6. On 27 Nov at approximately 0115 hours there was mortaring reported in HOA LONG (area YS4264) and BARIA (area YS3861). Subsequently it was proved by examination of fragments found at each site that the attacks were made by RPG2 and RPG7 anti-tank grenades. This was the first confirmed use of the RPG7 in this area.

7. The following morning, the 28 Nov 67, at approximately 0220, the SUB SECTOR post at LONG DIEN (area YS4359) received mortar fire. "A" Radar at the RESERVE obtained only one LOCREF at 437609. This area and escape routes were bombarded. A subsequent crater analysis was carried out, a report of which is shown as Annex "B". Once again RPG7 and RPG2, together with 60mm mortar fire was used. Circumstantial evidence tends to confirm the LOCREF obtained as a possible site.

8. Later in the afternoon, D Coy 7 RAR attacking a VC base

.....2/ camp

A Y INT SECTION cont

8. camp at YS 336708 was engaged by what was described as rocket fire. A round was captured and identified by Arty Int as being RPG7. Approximately 5 rounds were fired at D Coy, resulting in the majority of the casualties of the engagement.

9. The sudden appearance of the RPG7 round in this area is of some significance. This is a relatively new weapon which made its appearance in SVN early this year, with the first round and launcher being captured in Apr 67. It is a sophisticated, second generation version of the PG2 launcher and round.

11. During the month the Arty Int Section was requested to identify a number of pieces of projectiles and fuzes recovered mainly from the new 3 RAR area but including a separate plug from a 155mm illuminating round found in a house in LONG DIEN. One piece of fuze, probably from a VC claymore type mine has been sent to CMEC in SAIGON for further investigation. The arrival in NOV of 3 Kits Shell Identifying has considerably aided identification during the month.

12. A project has been commenced to collect, inert, sectionalise and collect data on all Free World Force and VC projectiles likely to be encountered. Where possible a display board showing the projectile and its typical fragments is to be made. The data collected, including photographs of the complete round and typical fragments, is to be made into a loose leaf book, condensed notebook versions of which will be carried with each identification kit. The proposed CMEC book of similar design has had a hold up and a date of completion and publication is not available. The LP's and Arty Int Section shall be conducting this project with help from specialist sources for such things as inerting and sectionalizing the projectiles.

13. A proposed list of projectiles is shown in Annex "C".

.....3/ It is

It is hoped to have most of these obtained by the end of Dec 67. In some cases fragments are already held but the complete round is not. It is realised that this is rather a long project but it should pay off as at the present time there is no ready reference available for identification of even our own shells. In addition there will be considerable training value gained by the LP's and Arty Int staff.

14. Communications have been further improved by the construction of a RC 292 aerial on NUI DAT. This made considerable difference during Op SANTA FE. The Orderly Room is now a PT22 switchboard with connections to the OC's Office, Survey Office, 2 Store, Transport and the Rec. Room, with a line to ENTERPRISE (4 Pd Regt Switch) as well. All cables except the line to "B" Radar are now Spiral 4. The "B" Radar line is not being laid until the Engineers complete the installation of their new power lines. All our internal line is now being maintained by ourselves and not the Regimental Sig Troop.

RADAR SECTION

15. Both radars have been deployed during the period with little or no problems other than :-

- a. A sudden series of generator failures which became critical at the beginning of Op SANTA FE. One new BUCKNELL generator has been obtained, and old one 406'd and WVE's submitted to raise the total generators held by the Det to 8 and the Wkaps to 3.
- b. The failure of the two azimuth/elevation drive motors resulting in the need to take the motors from the new set in workshops. The problem of spare motors and bearings has been the subject of many previous signals and letters and I do not mean to elaborate other than point out that there are now absolutely NO spares available here. A quantity of bearings did arrive but were hopelessly too large. The current situation is fully understood by 1 ATF.

16. ALPHA RADAR remained in base location during Op SANTA FE and moved out to the HORSESHOE by road on 26 Nov to support the South East portion of the Rice Dental Op, Op FORREST. It took up the previously sited position at YS495617 without any problems and came straight into action. It was appreciated that mortaring attacks were likely in the LONG DIEN to DAT DO area and against the villages along "the fence" to the South. This has appeared correct and a Locrep was obtained on the night 27/28 Nov when LONG DIEN was mortared. Only one was obtained, but only a few mortar rounds were fired. "A" Radar shall be remaining at the HORSESHOE until completion of Op FORREST.

17. BRAVO RADAR det deployed during Op SANTA FE at FSPB LION. They moved out on 3 Nov by air and returned on 16 Nov. The air move went without fault except for slight vibration damage to one generator. Details of load are covered in Annex "D" to this report. The radar operated fairly consistently with only a few hours lost to one major fault. There was one mortaring incident. Only 8-12 rounds were fired. It is believed under the current VC practice that probably all the rounds were in the air at the same time. Thus by the time the radar traversed it was too late. Annex A will elaborate on this.

SURVEY SECTION

19. The main operation during this period was the US 9 DIV OF SANTA FE from 27 Oct to 18 Nov. Two FSPBs were occupied by 4 Pz Regt, the first, FSPB WILTON has already been discussed in last months Op report. The second FSPB, LION, was established at THUA TICH - YS6181.

20. This FSPB caused quite a headache survey-wise as there was no control in the area. Prior to the commencement of the Op this problem was discussed with TOPO Survey and the initial plan was to traverse along Routes 327 and 328 starting from FSPB WILTON at YS 5476. The protection for this job was to come from infantry and cavalry elements who were to move along this Route. However, after discussions with the Infantry and Cavalry it was found that their rate of advance would have been too fast and consequently this plan was dropped. The next possible alternative was provided by a move of 2 BAR HQ to a hill at YS566764. A quick recon of this hill proved the idea impractical owing to very dense trees and undergrowth.

21. The only remaining workable solution was a long range scheme using NUI DAT, NUI CHAU CHAN (YT605102), an RO South of SAIGON and THUA TICH. This scheme was to be done in conjunction with TOPO Survey who were to establish a third order trig point in THUA TICH.

22. The plan to establish this point was to use the first order trig point at CHAU CHAN, RO on a point just South of SAIGON (Marked by 66 Engineers TOPO Survey US ARMY) and measure the angles and distances to NUI DAT and THUA TICH. This plan was put into effect on 5 Nov and successfully completed on 6 Nov. Our surveyors assisted TOPO Surveyors at NUI DAT and THUA TICH and LT YERBURY went to CHAU CHAN to control the scheme.

23. Once the coordinates of the point in THUA TICH were found a change of grid was carried out and theatre grid established for the guns.

24. During and on completion of the Survey in FSPB LION the surveyors acted as protection for the radar and one of the LF's deployed in the area.

25. After the return from OP SANTA FE the surveyors have been assisting TOPO Survey with the layout and mapping of the new battalion and Armoured Group area which is currently being prepared on the South East of the Task Force area.

REPLACEMENTS

27. On 28 Oct 67, 15 replacements arrived at NUI DAT unannounced. Previous enquiries as to when the anticipated draft might arrive had proven fruitless. 1 ATF are looking into this matter generally to obtain a better system for early moving of units. These people have been settled in. A basic sig course is going to be run as soon as possible to provide them with knowledge of basic voice procedure, SOI and code usage, operation and maintenance of the PRC 25, VRC 125, AN/GRA 39 Antenna RC 292 and the various telephone switches and facilities available in the area. It is recommended that all replacements should be trained to this basic sig level. In addition, instruction has been carried out on the M16 rifle and a range practice with this weapon, the M60 and a zeroing shoot for personal weapons will be conducted as soon as possible.

WEAPONS

28. The personal weapons carried by the detachment have now been made firm and consist of the SLR, the M16 and the 9mm pistol. M60's are not used as personal weapons but are manned in various posts and distributed for Ops on the tactical requirement. At present these are all borrowed although the change of establishment changing from AR to M60 and increasing the number to 8 has been approved. AR's and F 1's are not held by the Det. It was pleasing to note that all the replacements were familiar with the M60. It is recommended that future replacements be trained with the M16 rifle and if possible the M79 grenade launcher, which is sometimes presented to posts for local defence.

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29. EXTENSIONS. Applications placed in October for extensions by 13 members due to MTA in the JAN - MAY period have all been NOT approved by CARO. This has had an extremely detrimental effect not only on these soldiers but on others as well and it is considered unlikely that any future applications for extensions will be received.

30. L/Bdr DODDS has been promoted T Bdr and has become the No 2 on B Radar. GARFROSKURIN has been appointed L/Bdr and is in charge of LP 31A on NUI DAT.

31. From 24-28 Nov Lt Col J D KELLY visited 4 Fd Regt RAA. During this time he was able to have a brief look at some of our positions and to briefly discuss the current situation with the OC.

32. WELFARE

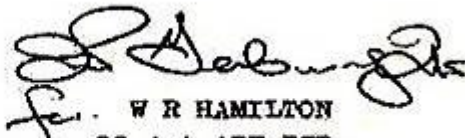
a. Bdr ARCH returned to Australia on 13 Nov 67 for welfare reasons.

b. 10 Members went on R & R or R & C during the period. These figures are lower than normally required and it is hoped they will increase.

c. The photographic equipment for the darkroom has arrived with the exception of the enlargers. These are due at any time.

d. On 26 Nov the Rec Room opened for the sale of beer and soft drinks for Sunday afternoons. It was a great success and it is now planned for each Sunday afternoon. It is NOT proposed to turn the Rec Room into a canteen proper.

...now we come to an interesting observation by Ernie Newbold as to why was November's Operational Report signed by the late Ian Yerbury - OK, so where was "Cracker"? Was his biro not working??


W R HAMILTON
OC 1st ATF DET,
131 DIV LOC BTY RAA

...this Annexe also makes interesting reading...

Annex A to Operational Report
1st ATF Det,
131 Div Loc Bty RAA
5 Dec 67

MORTAR ATTACK - FSPB LION, 6 NOV 67

1. On the night of 6 Nov 67, at approximately 2015 hours, 12 rounds of 82mm mortar were received approximately 200m South of the SOUTHERN edge of the FSPB in area YS6181.
2. The VC fired at the same time as we were adjusting a mortar DF in the same area. This made it extremely difficult to pick up the fact that the FSPB was being mortared, particularly since there were no actual incoming rounds. This resulted in considerable confusion as to ;
 - a. Were we actually being mortared
 - b. Where were the rounds falling
 - c. Mortars which gave bearings to our own mortars.
3. Once there was a reasonable suspicion the hostile fire was being received, all artillery and mortar fire was stopped. The VC too stopped.
4. The Radar was swung to the most likely area YS620830, but nothing was seen. It is believed the mortars had probably just stopped
5. This grid was engaged using 2 RAR mortars as it appeared a reasonable site.
6. The next morning it was confirmed that 12 x 82mm mortars had been received. Crater analysis lead to an area YS628638 which when compared with the air photos had a reasonable clearing on a track within 100m of that grid. An offshoot of the track lead to the area YS629828 where 2 RAR HQ maintains there was a second position heard firing by them. No ground inspection was made.
7. Due mainly to the confusion of our own mortars firing from a Battalion position relatively close to the enemy site, firing into almost the same area as the enemy rounds fell, this could not be considered a good example of locating practice. The main lesson is if in doubt as to whether there is incoming fire all artillery and mortars in the area must be stopped instantly.

. Going Home / Getting Out...

Here's another version in this series -

. **Dickson, Paul** - I've just used dot-points to recall some thoughts/events/happenings that relate to my end of army experience...

1. Knowing I was going home on 12th December, 1967 and going out into the scrub to FSB Lion on 5 November was an awakening.
2. Our CO, "Cracker"/"Blue Leader" - and now friend (and that is what is great about re-connecting) Warwick Hamilton - having the "obligatory" conversation - "Gunner Dickson have you considered..."...or..."you should consider a career..."
3. Having a farewell drink/s in the "Rec Hut"
4. Having a photo taken with a bunch of us departing Nui Dat on 12 December - all dressed in our polyesters. Some or most of the group and the blokes left behind I was never to see again or re-connect with till a very long time later.
5. Getting to Ton Son Nuit and after a few or several beers while surveying the QANTAS plane on the tarmac.
6. Having to literally support one nameless Gunner stagger up the gangplank, fearful of him NOT being allowed on the flight.
7. Drinking the plane "dry" at some stage - the transfer of fluid into the toilets kept the equilibrium I guess!
8. Getting back into Sydney and being told "NOT to wear uniforms".
9. Arriving back in Brisbane and met by my "real family" welcome and a reporter from the Courier Mail.

10. Weeks later getting back to Holsworthy, in the Austin Healy Mk III A and painting stones white, avoiding everyone with rank and having some fun times with Al Adams, Leigh Hemming and Tony Goldsmith.

11. Getting some hilarious comments etc from some really odd-bods when I was doing front gate guard duty at Victoria Barracks.

12. Very proudly doing a Thursday Honour Guard march down through Martin Place with a couple of ribbons on my chest – not making a mess of “rest on your arms reversed” - and then onto the Shrine.

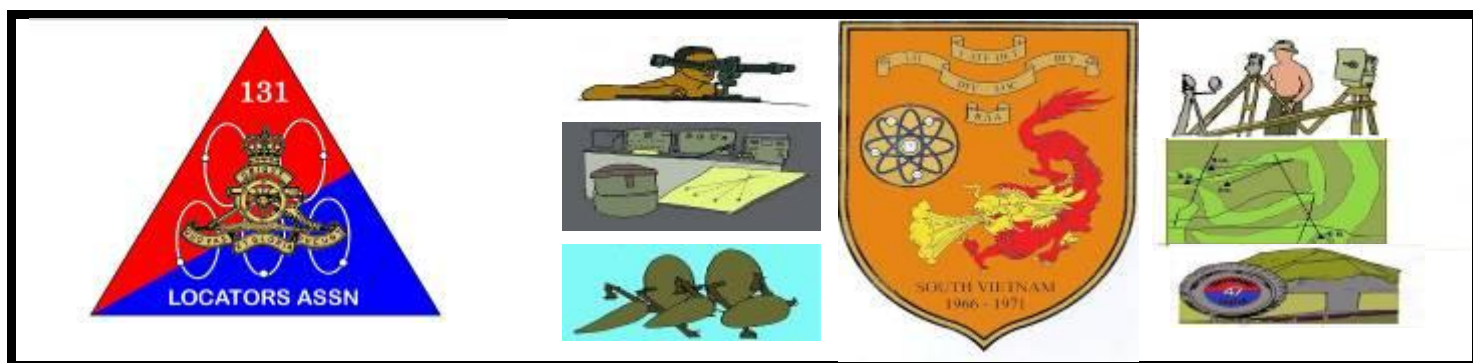
13. When the 19th April, 1968 came just turning up at Enoggera (Gallipoli Barracks) in Brisbane and being wished “all the best” or something and told whatever was or may ail me that Army would take care of that, but you’re OK now so get going!

Crikey - there could be a book in all of this!! No, seriously I'm going to have a crack in expanding on this, hopefully soon.

A lot had happened in the intervening 2 years after arriving at Enoggera on April 20, 1966 – saying goodbye to family, going by bus the Brisbane airport, getting onto a Fokker Friendship, arriving at Williamtown then onto a double decker bus for the trip to Singleton – not even at the legal age to drink or vote.

One of the best aftermath happenings is being able to share a lot of memories with so many now.

. 131 Locators Association Inc...



. **The Association Committee** is excited to announce the design, which was voted on by our members, for the Lapel Badge (featured left in the panel above) has gone to the manufacturer for final specs and production. We hoping to have the first batch out as quickly as **Grahame Dignam** can seal envelopes and lick stamps!!

...the **Locators Association** welcomes more new members as at 26th November –

Members – Dave Crowther; Brian “Wirey” Hackett and Jim “Hoggy” Hogno

Thanks again fellas for the additional funds provided in the way of donations.

. **Birthdays in the Battery**...OK November breaks the trifecta and quadrella cycle preferring twins – 8 sets!!

Dennis Smith and **Vaughn Millar** started the month off on the 1st, **Trev Waghorn** and **Ken Halligan** were quick to follow on the 2nd, **John Henshaw** and **Harold Little** completed the duo on the 4th then did the same tour duty times in SVN – now that’s a double, but unluckily came from Victoria, **Barry Uren** was solo on 4th as was **Thomas Lempriere**, the late Michael Campbell drew his first breath on 13th (13.11.46-1984), **Ken Long** shared the 16th with Allen Morley, but Al drew the short straw a copped Victoria as the home state, now you’d never guess to look at them that Warwick Hamilton and Terrence “Lofty” Hayes are twins – obviously not identical, maybe same father but different mothers born on 17th – “Lofty” set up Nui Dat for Warwick in ‘66, then had the decency to come back and tidy up late ‘68 after “Blue Leader” had gone home, **Desmond Bury** put a smile on his Mum’s face on 18th and **John Perry** likewise on 19th, the 20th brought **Michael Fletcher** and **Leslie Bates** to life, Murray Poustie had his first look around on the 22nd and might have seen **Brian Ruddock** – though Murray Poustie did arrive 10 years later, Don Simmons on 24th snuck in with **Stanley Todkill** on the 25th just before the month’s only trifecta of the late Michael O’Keeffe SVN 1968-69 (26.11.46-1980), **Fred Walter** and Jeff Schafer who all broke out of the blocks on the 26th, John Bayford made it before the end of the month on the 28th, while **Ron Saunders** and **Gary Stratton** shut the gate on the 30th.

Ed – 18 blokes in bold is still too many not accounted for!

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received **48** and we’ve sent out **42**.

Ed - The tap has been turned on slightly with a couple more this month – how about a twist more?

. Found...

.**Steve Boutlis** gave us info on **Graham Smith** with the following – “I met a fellow member and 131 Comrade at the Drop-in-Centre this morning. He was a Bdr. Sensor in SV during 1970 and he would like to be included in The Eyes and Ears mail-out list. His name is Graham Smith. He asked after Johnny Brewer (Sgt.).

Ed – we sent Graham an email late in November, so let’s see what eventuates. Hey and does anyone have details on John Brewer??

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

(A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand 131 Artillery Surveying

Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the contacts page for details: <http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

. Locating Artillery Assoc...notes taken from their website –

. The Annual Reunion and BBQ be held at the North Fort Artillery Museum on 5 December 2010 at 12.00noon. Further details will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP. Complete the Attendance form and return no later than 22 November 2010.

. The next Committee Meeting will be held at the North Fort Artillery Museum on 5 December 2010. The Annual Reunion and BBQ will be after the meeting. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.

. Work parties at the RAA National Museum are normally held on the last Sunday of each month. Work parties commence at 1000 hrs sharp in the Locating Hangar and conclude with an *Association*-funded BBQ at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess. Scheduled work party dates for this year are as follows: 28 November.

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/8rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

Editor contact email: three-zero@hotmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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