

Commanders Diaries 1969

10 February 1968:

'1530hrs: 1st Armoured Regiment held a farewell parade for the main party of C Squadron and Workshops rear party. C Squadron marched off to the strains of the RAAC Band playing *Waltzing Matilda*. A large crowd was present to watch the unit leave.

1924hrs: A train carrying the above party left Seymour Station. The RAAC Band was there and again many tearful relatives. Notable visitors were Lt Col I J Wilton, CO 1st Armoured Regiment, Brigadier K Colwill, Chief of Staff, Southern Command, and Brigadier D O Jackson, Area Commander, Puckapunyal. All expressed their confidence in the usefulness of the Centurion in SVN'.

12 February 1968:

The flight was excellent - good breakfast at Singapore and everyone pretty excited.

LSM Clive Steele arrived carrying two ARVs and two AVLBs; the first armoured vehicles to arrive from Australia.

13 February 1968:

Day spent erecting tents, filling sandbags and getting the messes underway. There was so much sweat lost by the newly arrived, who at this stage were not acclimatised. The bright red dust, added to the sweat, made most of the squadron appear as red Indians by the end of the day.

24 February 1968:

Jeparit arrived at last. Crews worked under Techo most of the night to offload tanks and stores. Tanks were lifted by "Big John", a huge floating crane, and placed into Land Craft Utility (LCUs). They were then taken to a 'hard' and driven ashore. The first tank onto SVN soil was 169099, driven by Sgt N J Callis and commanded by Capt B R Sullivan.

27 February 1968:

1500hrs: The first load of tanks arrived at Song Dinh hard. The following call signs were included: 31, 31A, 31B, 31C, 92A, 36, 36A, 36B. By 1700hrs all tanks

were in position at Nui Dat.

28 February 1968:

1545hrs: The remaining tanks arrived: 32, 32A, 32B, 32C, 92C, 30D, 30E

2 March 1968:

Squadron training program began, morning devoted to instruction on: zeroing, MG shooting, FCE checks. A zeroing shoot was conducted during the afternoon and all tanks completely zeroed took part in night shoot with IR.

6 March 1968:

Tank dozers were being prepared to move to FSB HERRING on 8 March. They were to conduct land clearing operations in the Light Green to prevent enemy infiltrations from the Long Hais to the Long Green

7 March 1968:

The dozer group moved with 2 Troop A Squadron to FSB Herring. On route the first 20 pdr round was fired in anger by 92A. It was fired into a tongue of jungle which was suspected of being an ambush position.

10 March 1968:

Both dozer tanks were breaking down regularly and front idlers were broken. This is unusual and it is thought that the sandy soil may be responsible.

11-13 March 1968:

Squadron shakedown exercise designed to introduce everyone to the ground, vegetation, weather and general troop movement.

15 March 1968:

During night 2 Troop engaged lights in the Nui Dinh hills. The lights were soon extinguished.

16 March 1968:

Remainder of Squadron moved to join dozers at FSB Herring for the start of Operation PINNAROO.

18 March 1968:

C Squadron less 2 Troop moved to 4952 to give fire support for 3RAR's move into the Long Hais. 2 Troop moved with D Company 3RAR to establish Forming Up Place and Start Line for next day's move by A Company 3RAR.

19 March 1968:

2 Troop fired into hills in support of A Company advance.

20 March 1968:

Callsign 32 went to the aid of 6 Platoon 3RAR who were in contact. Some difficulty in finding the right area and the sounds of firing were the only guide. The tanks led the platoon out of the jungle, engaging one area en route.

25 March 1968:

2 Troop moved from FSB Herring to support 2RAR on Operation ASHGROVE TRAM, a cordon and search of Long Hai. 32B experienced a broken idler on the way.

26 March 1968:

1 Troop in fire support position while 1 Tp A Sqn 3 Cav conducted sweep. Cav were fired on, threw smoke and tanks engaged area to west of smoke.

30 March 1968:

2 Troop set off for ambush. On way ordered to link up with D Coy 3RAR. 32 developed engine problems and changed to 32C. D Coy had received info from a wounded VC that there were several VC in the cellar of a house. Nothing found. Ambush set up on beach to try and catch sampans moving stores/people. None sighted that night

1 April 1968:

C Squadron came under Operational Control of 2RAR/NZ prior to commencement of Operation COOKTOWN ORCHID.

2-4 April 1968:

Remained at FSB Herring preparing for infantry/tank training with W Company.

6 April 1968:

C Squadron's first independent operation. It's purpose was to investigate the Light Green. After the minefield from Dat Do to the coast was breeched, a base camp was established and APC Section/troop/platoon groups conducted recon in force. At 1630hrs 1 Troop were in contact.



7 April 1968:

Further recon was conducted without incident. An old base camp was located and destroyed.

10 April 1968:

The force was extracted yesterday. 2 Troop joined W Company and with engineer support the tanks would attempt to detonate the mines in the field. Remainder of Squadron at the Horseshoe.

11 April 1968:

2 Troop entered minefield, but tracks were broken and suspension units damaged. The operation was called off.

13 April 1968:

1 Troop involved in Operation COOKTOWN ORCHID VI...a recce in force with A Sqn 3 Cav through the Long green. 2 Troop joined the land clearing team.

16 April 1968:

Both 1 Troop and 2 Troop back in Nui Dat. Mechanical problems had hindered 1 Troop and tested the resupply system. in all, this was a good introduction for C Squadron.

17-20 April 1968:

Infantry/Tank/Cav training continued with all members of IRAR. Each company and troop carried out the following program: firing demo; talk by OC to officers and senior NCOs; infantry/Tank target indication; overnight harbour with company/troop/Cav troop group.

21-30 April 1968:

The squadron remained at Nui Dat and engineers tried to develop a mine destroyer to mount on a tank. During this period all infantry were committed and tanks deployed around Nui Dat to assist in base defence.

1-10 May 1968:

Callsign 32C was fitted with large 'eye' beams back and front to assist mine clearing. The remainder of the squadron continued building the base and undergoing a comprehensive gunnery program.

11 May 1968:

2Tp deployed with 1ARU to location near Long PHUOC Hai to attempt further mine clearance.

12-13 May 1968:

Mine clearance commenced and approx 200 mines were detonated before the operation was stopped as too much damage was being done to the tanks. 2Tp returned to Nui Dat and 1 Tp was committed as protection for land clearing operations east of Binh Ba.

14-19 May 1968:

1 Tp continued in support of LCT. During this period 30D detonated a mine on Route 2

20 May 1968:

1 Tp returned to Nui Dat.

22 May 1968:

C Sqn was called forward to FSB Coral. This was the longest haul the tanks had faced and everyone was looking forward to the challenge. North of Blackhorse 92A struck a mine and ripped off a suspension unit. The Sqn arrived at Long Binh at 1830hrs and was accommodated at 11 ACR staging area.

23 May 1968:

The Squadron arrived at FSB Coral at 1430hrs. The vehicles were located on the perimeter by virtue of the layout. 2 Troop was warned for a move to FSB Balmoral to support 3RAR operations.

24 May 1968:

There was a lot of minor repair work to be carried out and 2Tp prepared to move to Balmoral the following day.

25 May 1968:

2Tp with B Coy IRAR moved to FSB Balmoral and had a contact. They were in location by 1500hrs that afternoon.

26 May 1968 At 0330hrs:

2Tp and FSB Balmoral received an attack by fire and a ground assault by large enemy force. During that day 1Tp followed up the contact 2Tp were involved in the previous day. They moved with D Coy IRAR and had a successful day.

27 May 1968:

Both troops remained in their respective FSB s.

28 May 1968:

Coral received mortar and RPG attack. Balmoral received fire and ground attack. Crew members on callsign 32 were wounded in the initial mortar attack on Balmoral. During the day 1Tp with B Coy IRAR conducted reconnaissance in force operations with minor contact

30 May 1968:

Lt McCormack and Cpl Reeves moved to assist C Coy IRAR after a heavy contact. The use of the tanks in this situation was the major factor in upsetting the enemy and allowing C Coy to break contact.

31 May 1968:

Coral received mortar and RPG fire at approx 0200hrs. Balmoral received fire into their perimeter that afternoon.

2 June 1968:

A composite troop led by 2Lt Wilson went to area of C Coy IRAR contact. The enemy had not returned to the area which says a lot for the shock action by the tanks during the previous engagement.

4 June 1968:

At 0322hrs two RPG's and two rockets were fired into Balmoral hitting callsign 32 and causing scouring to the mantlet.

5 June 1968:

C Sqn moved from Coral to Bearcat. One tank was on tow and had to be unhooked at each of the seven bridges of low classification.

6 June 1968:

We had considerable mechanical difficulty on Route 15, but were all in Nui Dat by 1700hrs.

7/8 June 1968:

Maintenance of all vehicles

9 June 1968:

1 Troop with D Coy 4 RAR and 3 Troop A squadron 3 Cav moved out for a day of Inf/Tank co-operation training

10 June 1968:

1 Troop continues training with 4 RAR

11 June 1968

4 RAR Inf / Tank training completed

12-15 June 1968:

Make and Mend Gunnery training continued

16 June 1968:

Operation BULLER

18-19 June 1968:

2 Troop conducted Inf / Tank co-operation training with V Coy 4 RAR at the Horseshoe.

20 June 1968

Ops instruction received for Operation Ulladulla. This was to be a comprehensive Squadron Operation.

21-25 June 1968

Preparation of vehicles, issue of orders, move out on Op Ulladulla

26 June 1968

At 0300hrs 3 Troop with 2 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav engaged several Sampans from ambush on Song Thi Vai. The squadron, with A Bty 2/35 Arty (USA) in direct support were located at FSB Stingray.

30 June 1968

Operation concluded and squadron returned to base.

1-5 July 1968

Squadron worked on vehicles and stores after Op Ulladulla and prepared for operation Blue Mountains

6 July 1968

C Squadron deployed to area of FSB Barracuda, with A Bty 2/35 Arty deployed to Horseshoe.

6-10 July 1968

During this operation there was no contact, but a lot of the area was still navigatable for tanks. Even though the wet was setting in, there were many places we could still work in.

11-14 July 1968

Squadron remained at Nui Dat.

15 July 1968

2 Troop supported a search in conjunction with 3 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and B Company 1RAR

16-17 July 1968

*C Squadron prepared for Operation ARUNTA. **18-22 July 1968***

C Squadron DEPLOYED TO Xa Bang for operation ARUNTA. Returned to 1 ATF base on 22 Jul 68

23 July 1968

C Squadron escorted a 1 ATF convoy to a cordon and search of Ap Ngai Gioa. During the day a fine meal was served to 1 RAR HQ by C S quadron

24-31 July 1968

C Squadron remained in 1 ATF base

1 August 1968

3 Troop moved to FSB Avenger with V Coy 4 RAR

2 August 1968

1 and 2 Troops, together with SHQ moved to FSB Coolah to assist in support of 3 RAR in AO's Kimberley and Hamersley

3 August 1968

C Sqn(-) conducted RIF in vicinity of FSB Avenger. 31A hit a mine.

4 August 1968

Repairs were completed on 31A, with a suspension station and a final drive being changed in situ. This was the largest field repair attempted by the workshop and was very successful.

5 August 1968

2 Troop ambushed route 2, while remainder moved to FSB Avenger. At 2300hrs C Sqn were ordered to return to Nui Dat at first light.

6 August 1968

2 Troop remained at Avenger and C Sqn(-) returned to Nui Dat. On arrival it was lwarned of a possible VC attack on Baria / Long Dien. C Sqn were to supply two troops to assist in the defence of the area.

7 August 1968

2 Troop conduvted route forcing operations and convoy escorts from FSB Avenger to IATF base.

8 August 1968

2 Troop were ambushed on route 2 by a considerable VC force. 1 Troop moved to Baria Stadium with A Coy 1 RAR, to act as a ready reaction force.

9-10 August 1968

Operations continued without contact.

11 Aug 1968

3 Troop deployed east of Baria with C Coy 1RAR

12 Aug 1969

2LT Owens assumed command of 4 Troop awaiting the arrival of our remaining tanks from Australia

13 Aug 1968

2 Troop returned to Nui Dat from FSB Avenger

14-15 Aug 1968

Defence tasks continued in the Baria Area

16 Aug 1968

Elements of C Squadron HQ with 1 RAR HQ and B & D Coys deployed to consolidate Baria defences. A bridgelayer was bogged badly and it took all day to recover using both ARV's

17-22 August 1968

Defence ops continued without contact until 0830hrd(22 August). 3 Tp and 1Tp were committed to long Dien with B Coy and C Coy 1 RAR. It was a successful day, even though the tanks were confined to the road. Inf/Tank co-op as taught was used and was a success. The infantry moved astride the road and indicated targets to the tanks who moved forward to engage them. The infantry were overjoyed.

23 August 1968

1Tp with B and D Coys conducted a sweep through Long Dien. Denton the dynamic duck was captured by 1 Tp and retained as a pet.

24-25 August 1968

Defence tasks continued

26 August 1968

2 Tp replaced 3 Tp in Baria. 3Tp returned to Nui Dat

27 August 1968

1 Tp supported a road runner operation on Route 15, covering over 45 miles for the day.

28-29 August 1968

Defence tasks continued without contact.

30 August 1968

Elements C Sqn HQ and 1RAR HQ returned to Nui Dat from their position north of Baria.

31 August 1968

2 Tp and 1 Tp continued Ready Reaction Force (duties) in Baria.

13 September 1968

2 and 4 Troops Continued RRF tasks (at)Baria

14 September 1968

Road Runner operation to TAOR northern boundary without contact. Night location FSB Gabo

15 September 1968

Escorted A Bty 2/35 US Artillery from Nui Dat to FSB Coolah and returned to Route 2. One tank was struck by a mine and the tank damaged beyond local repair. The damage proved the safety and protection aspects of the centurion. 4 Troop returned to Nui Dat.

16 September 1968

C Sqn secured area for fly out of V and W Coys 4 RAR.

17 September 1968

Province authorities and C Sqn (-) conducted a cordon and search of AP Ngai Giao. Thirty People were apprehended.

18 September 1968

Another mine struck at 464 804 and a suspension station blown off.

19 September 1968

After recovery of the damaged tank ,C Sqn(-) moved to FSB Coolah, prior to a move of the base to FSB Dampier

20 September 1968

Using the bridgelayer across a creek,C Sqn escorted A Bty 2/35 Arty to FSB Dampier

21-22 September 1968

Remained at FSB Dampier

24 September 1968



Escorted A Bty 2/35 Arty to Nui Dat and 4 Tp evacuated the Baria site

25-30 September 1968

Remained at 1 ATF base

1-6 October 1968

Sqn remained at Nui Dat and MAJ A.H.Smith, OC B Sqn, visited for familiarisation.

7 October 1968

C Sqn moved to Route 15 for Operation TRACK DUSTER.

12 October 1968

Returned to Nui Dat

13-22 October 1968

Remained at Nui Dat

23 October 1968

C Sqn moved to FSB Wilton

27 October 1968

Returned to Nui Dat

28-29 October 1968

Remained at Nui Dat

30 October 1968

C Sqn deployed to AO Rapier for operation DIAMOND PIN. We had under operational control 3 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and A Coy 3 RAR. The operation was designed to interdict Route as the enemy were moving east to west and west to east depending on the movements of 1 ATF.

31 October 1968

Operation Diamond Pin Continued without contact.

1-2 November 1968

Operations in AO Rapier concluded without contact and C Sqn returned to Nui Dat.

3-6 November 1968

C Sqn remained at 1 ATF Base

7 November 1968

2 Troop moved to Duc Than as Tango Force to assist Duc Than District Chief with operations in his AO. The force consisted of a platoon of infantry, section of APC's and a Troop of tanks and remained in location until 23 Nov 69

8 November 1968

C Sqn (-) moved to FSB Lion to 1 ATF on Operation CAPITAL II. During the op a new technique of indirect shooting was employed. Results were good, but in thick jungle the 20Pdr round explodes in the trees and has only limited use against bunker systems.

19 November 1968

Major Badman returned to Australia and the 2IC, Captain Vickers was promoted to Major. Major Badman's early return was to allow him his leave prior to attending staff college in Jan 69.

28-30 November 1968

C Sqn remained at Nui Dat

1-2 December 1968

C Sqn remained at Nui Dat servicing and completing repairs to tanks.

3 December 1968

2 and 3 Troops and SHQ deployed to FSB Dyke under command of IATF. The LO, LT Mc Cormack, commanded 3 Troop in the absence of 2 LT Wilson who was on R&R. 2 Troop was placed under operational control of A Coy 1 RAR.

4 December 1968

3 Troop remained at FSB Dyke and, following a foot recce by 2LT Butler, a crossing was found over a creek previously considered impassable and 2 Troop continued to support A Coy 1RAR.

5 December 1968



3 Troop remained at FSB Dyke and 2 Troop passed to op con C Coy. During the day an assault was made on a base camp at 310840 with nil results.

6-7 December 1968

2 Troop continued to support C Coy, 3 Troop came under op con A Coy 1RAR and 1 Troop commenced inf-tank training with 9RAR.

9 December 1968

Continues as above.

10 December 1968

30B and 2 Troop moved to join B Coy 1RAR. At 250802 32C detonated a mine causing suspension damage. 30D replaced 32C which was escorted by 3 Troop back to FSB Dyke for repairs.

11 December 1968

2 Troop remained at FSB Digger's Rest whilst SHQ and 3 Troop moved to FSB Julia

12 December 1968

4 Troop deployed to FSB Avenger under operational control of 9RAR.

14 December 1968

At 1215 hrs at 278781, Callsign 33A detonated a mine which rendered the tank BLR and Trooper Hannaford, the driver was mortally wounded.

15 December 1968

3 Troop continued RIF operations north of FSB Julia.

17 December 1968

3 Troop assisted with the fly in of 4/12 US Infantry into AO Panhandle.

18 December 1968

3 Troop continued RIF operations and 2 Troop commenced RIF operations north of FSB Julia.

19-20 December 1968

2 and 3 Troops conducted roadblocks on Route 15 whilst 4 Troop remained op con to 9 RAR.

21-22 December 1968

2 and 3 Troops remained at FSB Julia.

23 December 1968

2 and 3 Troops deployed for night ambushes with 4 RAR.

24 December 1968

2 Troop returned to FSB Julia, 4 Troop returned to Nui Dat, 3 Troop remained with 4 RAR.

25 December 1968

Christmas Dinner taken to Troops at FSB Julia. 3 Troop reacted to ceasefire violation to US vehicle on Route 15

26 December 1968

SHQ, 2 and 3 Troops with 1 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav conducted RIF operations in AO Kilcoy and then returned to FSB Julia.

28 December 1968

3 Troop with 2 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and 1 ATF D&E Platoon supported ARVN forces west of the Song Thi Vai.

29 December 1968

SHQ, 2 and 3 Troops with 1 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav conducted road clearing operation to FSB Barbara.

31 December 1968

2 Troop returned to Nui Dat, 1 Troop conducted a road clearing operation to FSB Barbara, then returned to FSB Julia.

1 January 1969

SHQ, 1 and 3 Troop remained at FSB Julia, 2 and 4 Troops remained at Nui Dat.

2 January 1969



3 Troop moved to FSB Barbara for base protection and reaction for 2 Airborne Brigade (ARVN). 1 Troop D Coy 1 RAR conducted an RIF about FSB Chestnut and 4 Troop with A Company 1 RAR, reacted along Route 2 following a report of 100 VC moving from west to east from Route 15, returning to Nui Dat without contact.

3 January 1969

3 Troop returned from FSB Barbara and completed escort tasks to FSB Diggers Rest.

4 January 1969

1 Troop returned to FSB Julia and 3 Troop moved again to FSB Barbara.

5 January 1969

1 Troop with 1 ATF D&E Platoon carried out RIF operations north of AO Kilcoy. A total of 15 recently occupied structures and bunkers were destroyed.

6 January 1969

3 Troop returned to FSB Julia and 1 Troop continued RIF Operations

7 January 1969

1 Troop continued RIF operations and 3 Troop was 'op con' to B Coy 9 RAR in AO Wondai.

8 January 1969

3 Troop in support of B Coy, moved into a freshly evacuated camp where an ammunition cache was uncovered.

9 January 1969

1 Troop escorted C Battery 2/35 Artillery(US) to and from FSB Barbara.

10 January 1969

1 Troop conducted RIF south of FSB Julia and returned there. At 2015hrs, 3 Troop with B Coy 9 RAR fired at movement with no results

11 January 1969

1 Troop supported Psy Ops activity along Route 15

12 January 1969

1 Troop moved to 'op con' B Coy 9 RAR, 3 Troop returned to Nui Dat and 4 Troop moved to FSB Julia.

13 January 1969

4 Troop conducted road clearing operation to and from FSB Barbara.

14 January 1969

4 Troop with A Sqn 3 Cav(-) conducted RIF ops in AO Sherman. At 1310hrs fire received from an unknown number of enemy. A sweep was made with no results. At 1815hrs callsign 34B detonated a mine with no injuries to the crew but a suspension station was damaged 4 troop and 1 Troop(-) A Sqn 3 Cav remained in the contact area for the night.

15 January 1969

4 Troop returned to FSB Julia.

16 January 1969

4 Troop 'op con' to C Coy 1 RAR for the day only.

17 January 1969

4 Troop with D&E Platoon carried out RIF south of FSB Julia

18 January 1969

4 Troop replaced 1 Troop with 9 RAR.

19 January 1969

4 Troop remained 'op con' to 9RAR. 1 Troop remained at FSB Julia.

20 January 1969

2 Troop moved to 'op con' 1 RAR.

21 January 1969

At 0825hrs at YS265180, 32B detonated a mine without suffering any casualties or damage. B Sqn advance party arrives

22 January 1969

1 Troop moved 'op con' 1 RAR for RIF in AO Knightsbridge, then returned to FSB Julia.

24 January 1969

1 Troop moved 'op con' 1RAR for RIF in AO Shermans Saddle. 2 Troop engaged int targets in the Nui Thi Vais, resulting in one structure and three bunkers being destroyed.

25 January 1969

2 Troop relieved 4 Troop under 'op con' 9 RAR who returned to FSB Julia.

26 January 1969

1 Troop returned to FSB Julia. At 1408hrs YS 265780,31A detonated a mine resulting in no crew injuries ,but a suspension station was damaged.

27 January 1969

4 Troop supported the deployment of 4RAR into AO Riverdale.

28-29 January 1969

1 Troop remained at FSB Julia.

30 January 1969

2 Troop returned to Nui Dat.

31 January 1969

4 Troop returned to Nui Dat and Major Smith, OC B Sqn, assumed control of forward SHQ elements, 1 Troop and 3 Troop which moved to FSB Julia.

1 February 1969

1 Troop remained in support of 4 RAR / NZ

2 February 1969

1 Troop discovered a mine laid in previously made tracks

3 February 1969

SHQ and 3 Troop remained at FSB Julia. 1 Troop remained in support of W Coy 4 RAR/ NZ providing mobile reaction to that company, 2 and 4 Troops remained at 1 ATF base as Task Force Ready Reaction.

4 February 1969

SHQ returned to FSB Julia, 3 Troop moved to FSB Barbara.

5 February 1969

1 Troop carried out RIF in the north of AO Kilcoy, 3 Troop moved to FSB Barbara to assist in night defence.

6 February 1969

1 Troop remained in support of 4 RAR / NZ. 3 Troop carried out RIF with 1 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and elements of D & E Platoon.

7 February 1969

1 Troop remained in support of 4 RAR / NZ, 3 Troop helped conduct route clearing and escort tasks from FSB Dyke to FSB Janice.

8 February 1969

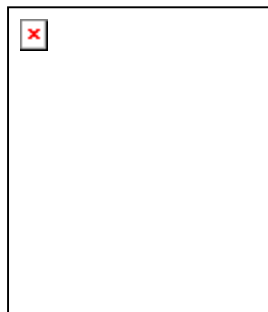
3 Troop relieved 1 troop in support of 4 RAR / NZ after supporting a road move from FSB Kathleen to FSB Elizabeth. 1 Troop remained at FSB Dyke until abandonment and the move to FSB Julia.

9 February 1969

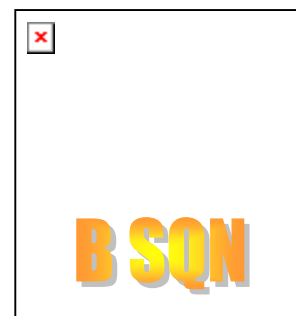
1 Troop operated in support of 4 RAR / NZ and returned to FSB Julia, 3 Troop moved to support 9 RAR.

10 February 1969

3 Troop continued to support 9 RAR operations in AO Wondai.



B SQUADRON



11 FEB 69 - 22 DEC 69

11 February 1969

B Squadron commenced operations in 1 ATF at 1200hrs ,11 Feb 69. B Sqn (-) at FSB Julia, 3 Troop supporting 9 RAR in AO Wondai, 2 & 4 troops at NuiDat

12 February 1969

As above

13 February 1969

1 Troop conducts RIF in area of FSB Julia, 3 Troop remained in support of 9 RAR.



14 February 1969

2 Troop op con B Coy 9 RAR; 4 Troop op con C Coy 4 RAR for immediate reaction against towns south of Nui Dat

15 February 1969

1 Troop op con 4 RAR; 2 Troop supported B Coy 9 RAR in 1 ATF TAOR; 3 Troop supported 9 RAR in AO Wondai; 4 Troop remained at the Horseshoe Op con a Troop to A Sqn 3 Cav, 2 Troop had to fulfil.

16 February 1969

1 Troop involved in a contact at 213901. At 1323hrs B Coy 4 RAR were fired on by MG.RPG ,Small arms and Claymores from enemy located in bunkers. 1 Troop moved to a position to engage the enemy and in so doing callsign 21A was engaged by RPG rounds. There was evidence of four hits resulting in three penetrations. The tank was also 'strafed' by MG fire. One round penetrated the fume extractor. Five members of 1 Troop were WIA.

17 February 1969

1 ATF orders g for operation Federal issued. B Sqn (-) moved to FSB Kerry.

19 February 1969

1 Troop plus platoon of 11ACR conducted route reconnaissance in AO Dracula. SHQ 3 Troop, plus platoon of 11 ACR conducted similar ops in AO Arunda.

20 February 1969

1 and 3 Troops with elements of 11 ACR carried out route reconnaissance of AO Belconnen. 2 and 4 Troops continued RRF tasks.

21 February 1969

B Sqn(-) carried out reconnaissance tasks in northern and western areas of AO Arunda.

22 February 1969

Locs: B Sqn(-) FSB Kerry; 2 Troop 402622 (1 KM north of Baria)

23 February 1969

0245hrs 2 Troop placed on alert ready to move as VC activity to their south intensifies.

0315hrs All units STAND TO

0330hrs 2 Troop moved to relieve attack on RF post.

0440hrs 2 troop stopped in paddy field and engaged unknown number of enemy.

0655hrs STAND DOWN.

0715hrs 2 troop 3 VC KIA (BC)

24 February 1969

3 Troop supported 9 RAR in AO Arunda.

25 February 1969

No change.

26 February 1969

1 Troop supported A Coy 9 RAR on RIF in AO's Arunda and Dracula. 2 Troop supported B Coy 9 RAR in sweep of Hoa Long. 3 Troop supported C Coy 9 RAR in AO Arunda. 4 Troop supported C Coy 4 RAR/NZ in Horseshoe AO.

27 February 1969

B Sqn (-) remained at FSB Kerry. 2 Troop supported B Coy 9 RAR on RIF. 4 Troop supported 4 Troop supported C Coy 4 RAR/NZ on RIF vicinity of Long Dien. 1 and 3 Troops conducted night road block on Route 1

28 February 1969

2 Troop conducted recce ops in vicinity of Baria.3 Troop supported C Coy (RAR in AO Arunda) 4 Troop remained in support of C Coy 4 RAR/NZ vicinity Long Dien.

1 March 1969

Op Instruction 19/69 received (Operation QUINTUS THRUST). 2 Troop allocated task after Land Clearing Team protection.

2 March 1969

2 Troop returned to FSB Kerry. 2 Troop to 5 RAR.

3 March 1969

2 Troop carried out ops with 5 RAR.

4 March 1969

2 Troop supported 5 RAR.

5 March 1969

SHQ remained at FSB Kerry;1 Troop carried out practice reaction to FSB Maria;3 Troop remained in FSB Maria;3 Troop op con to 9 RAR;4 Troop supported 4 RAR.

6 March 1969

B Sqn (-) remained at FSB Kerry. 2 Troop moved to FSB Maria (5 RAR);3 Troop remained in FSB Maria.4 Troop reconnaissance-in-force AO Fogie.

7 March 1969

No change.

8 March 1969

SHQ remained FSB Kerry;1 Troop op con to 9 RAR for ambush;2 Troop op con 5 RAR in AO Burrinjuck;3 Troop op con 9 RAR;4 Troop op con 4 RAR Horseshoe

9 March 1969

1 Troop op con B Coy 9 RAR; 2 Troop op con 5 RAR,cordon and search at Hoa Long; 4 Troop departed Horseshoe for Nui Dat

10 March 1969

SHQ remained FSB Kerry; 1 Troop returned to Kerry; 3 Troop op con 9 RAR till 5 RAR replaces.

11 March 1969

3 Troop op con 5 RAR; 2 and 4 Troops Nui Dat

12-13 March 1969

No change.

14 March 1969

1 Troop moved to road block with Int and APC's; 2 Troop op con 9 RAR; 3 Troop released from 5 RAR; 4 Troop Nui Dat

15 March 1969

B Sqn (-) FSB Kerry; 2 Troop op con 9 RAR; 2 and 4 Troops Nui Dat.

16 March 1969

1 Troop supported elements of A Squadron 3 Cav and A Coy 2/52 Inf (ARVN) on reconnaissance-in-force in area of Trang Bom.

17 March 1969

1 Troop FSB Kerry; 2 Troop Nui Dat; 3 Troop, 1 Troop A Squadron 3 Cav and C Coy 5 RAR conducted reconnaissance-in-force in area east of Belconnen; 4 Troop conducted RIF with A Coy 9 RAR near Nui Dat.

18 March 1969

4 Troop conducted RIF with A Coy 9 RAR in area 1 ATF base. At 1330hrs 4 Troop and A Coy 9 RAR moved to area of AP Ngai Giao to assist ARVN securing the area following a VC attack early in the day.

19 March 1969

1 Troop supported D Coy 5 RAR RIF operations east of Trang Bom; 4 Troop supported 9 RAR operations in 1 ATF TAOR; 2 and 4 Troops at Nui Dat.

20 March 1969

Troop supported 5 RAR operations in AO Arunda; 4 Troop supported 9 RAR operations in 1 ATF TAOR.

22 March 1969

B Sqn(-) at FSB Kerry; 2 and 4 Troops remained at Nui Dat as Ready Reaction Force (RRF)

23-25 March 1969

No Change

26 March 1969

4 Troop commenced operations with 4 RAR in area NE of 1 ATF base; B Sqn (-) Kerry

27 March 1969

B Sqn remained at Kerry and supported 1 ATF arty ops by firing 11 H & I missions during period. 2 Troop conducted RIF operations with HQ 1 ATF Defence Platoon east of AO Arunda without contact. 4 Troop supported C Coy 4 RAR in AO Drayton.

28 March 1969

1 Troop fired 9 H & I missions in support of 1 ATF arty; 2 Troop remained in 1 ATF as RRF; 3 Troop conducted RIF ops with 3 section 3 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and elements of HQ 1 ATF Defence Platoon in SE AO Arunda; 4 Troop returned to ATF base from FSB Avenger after supporting C Coy 4 RAR.

29 March 1969

B Sqn (-) remained FSB Kerry and fired eight H& I missions in support of 1 ATF arty. 1 Troop remained FSB as RRF; 2 Troop remained 1 ATF base as RRF; 3 Troop plus 2 section 2 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and HQ 1 ATF Defence Platoon (-) conducted RIF in southern portion AO Arunda and northern portion of AO Belconnen without results. 4 Troop departed Baria Hard at 1000hrs for Long Binh on LCM.

30 March 1969

B Sqn (-) at Kerry fired 11 H&I missions in support of 1 ATF arty. 1 Troop departed Kerry by road and LCM for Nui Dat. 2 troop moved as RRF with W Coy 4 RAR to YS 392638. 3 Troop remained at Kerry as RRF. 4 Troop arrived Kerry from Long Binh at 0900hrs. 3 Troop conducted RIF in AO Arunda...one person detained.

31 March 1969

B Sqn(-) at Kerry fired 9 H & I missions in support of 1 ATF arty 1 Troop returned to Nui Dat after operating in support of W Coy 4 RAR as RRF in AO Lois, 3 Troop conducted RIF in AO Arunda.

1 April 1969

B Sqn (-) remained FSB Kerry; 1 Troop remained Nui Dat; 2 Troop moved to AO Lois as part of RRF deployment; 4 Troop with 2 section 3 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and elements of HQ 1 ATF D & E Platoon conducted RIF in AO Belconnen and Arunda.

2 April 1969

B Sqn(-) FSB Kerry; 1 Troop Nui Dat as RRF; 2 Troop returned to Nui Dat from RIF in area 1 ATF base ; 4 Troop moved with elements above into Belconnen to conduct RIF.

3 April 1969

B Sqn(-) moved from FSB Kerry to FSB Jillian; 1 Troop remained Nui Dat as RRF; 2 Troop moved with 1 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav and Victor Coy 4 RAR/NZ to check reports of VC activity(No enemy contacted, some bunkers located, force returned to 1 ATF base at 1730hrs); 3 Troop moved from FSB Kerry to FSB Wattle; 4 Troop.

moved from overnight position to Jillian.

4 April 1969

SHQ remained FSB Jillian; 1 and 2 Troops remained Nui Dat; 3 Troop remained op con to 9 RAR; 4 Troop conducted RIF in AO Reid with elements of D & E Platoon until 1400hrs and then under op con 5 RAR.

5 April 1969:

SHQ remained FSB Jillian. 1 and 2 Troop remained 1 ATF base; 3 Troop op con to 9RAR (FSB Wattle); 4 Troop remained op con 5RAR

6 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) FSB Jillian; 1 Troop Nui Dat; 2 Troop deployed with D Company 4RAR and 1 Troop A Sqn 3 Cav at 1530hrs in Baria area; 3 Troop op con 9RAR; 4 Troop op con 5RAR.

7 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) FSB Jillian; 1 Troop Nui Dat RRF; 2 Troop returned to Nui Dat with C Company 4RAR/NZ; 3 Troop op con 9RAR; 4 Troop released from op con 5RAR and returned to FSB Jillian.

8 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) deployed from FSB Jillian to FSB Martine; 1 and 2 Troop remained Nui Dat; 3 Troop remained op con 9RAR.

9 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) remained FSB Martine; 1 and 2 Troop remained Nui Dat; 3 Troop remained op con 9RAR.

10 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) FSB Martine; 1 and 2 Troops Nui Dat; whilst returning to FSB Martine from 9RAR, a Centurion tank from 3 Troop detonated a mine at 1426hrs, tank received moderate damage, no crew casualties. 4 Troop carried out RIF in AO Camden with 2 Troop A squadron 3CAV.

11 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) remains at FSB Martine; 1 Troop Nui Dat; 2 Troop with 1 Troop (-) A Sqn 3 Cav carried out a search in area YS5763, returning to Nui Dat at 1700hrs; 3 Troop moved to FSB Juanita and became op con to 9RAR, 4 Troop carried out RIF in AO Camden with 2 Troop A Sqn [3 Cav] and elements of HQ IATF D&E Platoon. At 1140hrs at YS283709 two persons were sighted moving into a cave, the cave entrance was destroyed by tank fire.

12 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) remained in FSB Martine; 1 and 2 Troops Nui Dat; 3 Troop op con 9RAR; 4 Troop engaged several caves, tunnel entrances and bunkers in the Nui Thi Vai mountains without incident.

13 April 1969:

No Change

14 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) remained in FSB Martine; 1 and 2 Troops Nui Dat; 3 Troop op con 9RAR; 4 Troop with elements of D&E Platoon carried out RIF in AO Camden without contact.

15 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) returned to IATF base; 1 and 2 troops remained Nui Dat; 3 Troop remained op con to 9RAR until 1700hrs then returned [to Nui Dat]. This is the first time B Sqn have been together since 11 Feb 1969, a total of 61 days. However, as B Sqn took over from C Sqn deployed, it was the first time all tanks had been together for 133 days.

16 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) remained Nui Dat; 2 and 3 Troop provided security for the establishment of FSB Virginia; 4 Troop op con 9RAR.

17 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) IATF base; 2 Troop op con 4RAR/NZ; 4 Troop op con 9RAR.

18 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) IATF base; 2 Troop op con 4RAR; 4 Troop op con 9RAR. At 1220hrs 2 Troop engaged two VC with negative results. At 1301hrs 2Troop were fired on by enemy from houses.

19 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) IATF base; 2 Troop 4RAR (FSB Virginia); 4 Troop 9RAR (FSB Mardi)

20 April 1969:

B Sqn (-) IATF Base; 2Troop 4RAR; 4 Troop 9RAR. At 1200hrs 2 and 3 Troop supported W Company 4RAR with fire during a sweep through a suspected enemy camp.

21 April 1969:

 *B Sqn (-) IATF base; 2 Troop op con 4RAR; 2 Troop conducted an operation to move illegal squatters.*

22 April 1969:

1 Troop moved with 5RAR into FSB Bruiser; 2 Troop op con 4RAR; 3 Troop IATF base, 4 Troop remains op con 9RAR.

23 April 1969:

1 Troop op con 5RAR; 2 Troop op con 4 RAR; 4 Troop carried out escort duties in AOs Glenelg and Coogee.

24 April 1969:

2 Troop op con 4RAR; 4 Troop relieved 1 Troop op con 5RAR

25 April 1969:

2 Troop remained op con 4RAR (FSB Virginia); 4 Troop remained op con 5RAR (FSB Bruiser)

26-30 April 1969:

As above

1 May 1969:

2 Tp released op con 4RAR at 1200hrs and joined a composite force consisting of elements of B Sqn HQ, elements of A Sqn 3 Cav Regt and 1 ATF D&E Pl for operations in AO Tahbilk. 4 Tp released op con 5RAR and placed under Comd 1 Field Sqn with effect 0630hrs for land clearing operations.

2 May 1969:

SHQ (-) and 2 Tp continued operations in AO Tahbilk. At 1615hrs elements of the force located a tunnel. This will be destroyed by Sector Authorities.

3 May 1969:

SHQ (-), 2Tp, 2 Sect Support Tp A Sqn 3 Cav and D&E Platoon (-) continued operations in AO Tahbilk without contact. 1 Tp became op con 5RAR with effect 0630hrs. 2 Tp (-) carried out bridge recce at YS 486636. 4 Tp remains op con to 1 Field Squadron for land clearing operations. 4 Tp engaged caves in which movement was seen.

4 May 1969:

SHO (-) and 2 Troop continue operations in AO Tahbilk without contact; 1 Troop remains op con 5RAR in AO Illawarra. 4 Troop remains op con to 1 Field Sqn for land clearing ops.

5 May 1969:

As above.

6 May 1969:

SHQ (-) and 2 Troop continued operations in AO Tahbilk. 4 Troop remained under op con 1 Field Squadron for land clearing ops. At 1109hrs at YS443575 3 Sect 4 Troop struck a M16 mine with no casualties or damage. (Can anyone help me in understanding the reference to "3 Sect 4 Troop"?...Bruce C)

7 May 1969:

SHQ (-), 2 Troop, 4 Troop as above. 1 Troop remained under op con 5 RAR. At 1405hrs callsign 24Bravo struck a pressure Chicom mine, 40-50lbs TNT, suffering minor damage. One Aust WIA (evacuated) with minor injuries. At 1700hrs callsign 24 was fired on by six enemy armed with small arms and an RPG7, resulting in one Aust WIA (evacuated) and moderate damage to the tank. At 1920hrs the D&E Platoon, under op con B Sqn, contacted one enemy resulting in one en KIA (BC) and one Russian 7.62mm rifle recovered.

8-9 May 1969:

No entry.

10 May 1969:

SHQ (-) and 2 Tp continued operations in AP Tahbilk without contact. 1 Tp remained under op con 5RAR in AO Illawarra. 3 Tp remained under op con 9RAR in AO Aldgate. At 0745hrs, B Sqn Group in AO Tahbilk swept the area of [callsign] TA 83's contact at 092145hrs, locating two drag marks.

11 May 1969:

SHQ (-) and 2 Tp continued operations in AO Tahbilk. At 1004hrs, the force located an illegal village. One suspect VC nurse was captured. Nurse plus 35 illegal residents were handed over to Sector authorities at Duc Thanh. At 1730hrs the force located one VC pack at a tunnel system. The tunnel was destroyed. At 2150hrs the B Sqn force moved from its planned night location to assist ARVN troops in contact at Binh Ba. The force came under fire from an estimated squad of enemy. Enemy force engaged with unknown results.

12 May 1969:

SHQ (-) and 2 Tp plus elements of Support Tp A Sqn 3 Cav Regt and the 1 ATF D&E Platoon continued operations in AO Tahbilk without contact. 1 and 3 Tps remained op con to 5RAR and 9RAR resp. [Callsign] 21Alpha hit a mine at 0852, no casualties, slight damage, track broken.

13 May 1969:

Ops in AO Tahbilk (2Tp) and AO Aldgate (3 Tp) continue. At 0930hrs a tank hit a mine which caused moderate damage to the tank. Aust casualties were 1 KIA and 1 WIA (evacuated). 1 Tp redeployed to YT 174110 op con to 5RAR.

14 May 1969:

2 and 3 Tp continue ops as above. 1 Tp continues ops in AO Kangaroo. At 1040hrs, infantry elements with [Tango] Force contacted four VC. Results: three KIA (BC), one pistol and one M1 carbine captured.

15 May 1969:

At 1100hrs SHQ (-) and elements located an extensive new bunker system which was destroyed. 3 Tp moved from FSB Thrust to the area of Dat Do to support a 9RAR cordon. 4 Tp deployed from Nui Dat at 0940hrs as part of a ready reaction force to assist sector elements re-establish control in Dat Do. 1 Tp continued ops in AO Kangaroo.

16 May 1969:

B Sqn (-) remained IATF base. SHQ (-), 2 Tp, plus elements of Sp Tp 3 Cav continued RIF operations in AO Tahbilk. At 161145H SHQ (-) and elements sighted and engaged two VC who withdrew north. Results: two bicycles captured. 1 Tp continued operations in AO Kangaroo. 3 TP and 4Tp continued to support 9RAR in the cordon of Dat Do.

17 May 1969:

18 May 1969:

SHQ, 1 Tp, 2 Tp as above. 3 Tp continued operations in AO Aldgate. 4 Tp deployed with IATF ready reaction force south of IATF AO.

19 May 1969:

SHQ, 1 Tp, 2 Tp as above. At 191000H, SHQ (-) and supporting elements located eight 105mm shells and two 82mm mortar bombs. These were destroyed. At 192030H at Binh Ba village, SHQ (-) plus supporting elements formed a screen while sector elements swept the village for VC. 4 Tp continued to support 9RAR in AO Aldgate. Ready reaction TP was deployed with reaction force at 191600H.

20 May 1969:

SHQ, 1 Tp, 2 Tp, 3 Tp as above. 4 TP (Ready Reaction) returned to IATF Base at 200520H, then conducted in-theatre training with 6RAR.

21 May 1969:

B Sqn (-) remained in IATF base. SHQ (-) and 2 Tp continued operations in AP Tahbilk. 1 Tp continued operations in AO Kangaroo. 3 Tp continued to support 9RAR in AO Aldgate.

22 May 1969:

B Sqn (-) continued Phase 2 operations in AO Tahbilk. Other elements remained in support of 5RAR and 9RAR in AOs Illawarra and Aldgate respectively. Det B Sqn 1 Armd Regt with Cav/Inf elements conducts Phase 2 operations in AO Tahbilk. At 221135H callsign 21Charlie detonated a pressure mine (approx 50lbs Chicom TNT). No casualties, moderate damage to tank.

23 May 1969:

Phase 2 operations and support to 5RAR and 9RAR continued as above. At 230900H a tank from B Sqn 1 Armd Regt was engaged with RPG fire. One shot fell short and the other went wild. The tanks returned fire and withdrew. Artillery was called in on the suspected firing position.

24 May 1969:

Phase 2 operations and 5RAR and 9RAR support as above.

25 May 1969:

As above.

26 May 1969:

B Sqn (-) continued Phase 2 operations in AO Tahbilk. Other elements remained in support of 5RAR and 9RAR in AOs Illawarra and Aldgate.

27 May 1969:

As above. At 271805H D&E Platoon, 2 Tp B Sqn 1 Armd, Spt Section B Sqn 3 Cav, contacted 20 enemy confirmed as NVA resulting in one enemy KIA (BC), six heavy blood trails, two AK 47 captured. Follow up located two RPGs, four packs with one containing women's' apparel.

28 May 1969:

B Sqn (-) continued Phase 2 operations in AO Tahbilk. Other elements remained in support of 5RAR and 9RAR in AOs Illawarra and Aldgate. Det B Sqn 1 Armd Regt with Cav/inf elements secured FSB Virginia for initial deployment 6RAR on Operation LAVARACK.

29 May 1969:

No change in task or locations

30 May 1969:

B Sqn (-) remained IATF base. SHQ (-), 2 Tp secured FSB Virginia in preparation for Operation LAVARACK in support of 6RAR/NZ (ANZAC). Other elements remained in support of 5RAR and 9RAR in AOs Illawarra and Aldgate.

31 May 1969:

B Sqn (-) secured FSB Virginia for the deployment of 6RAR/NZ (ANZAC) into AO Lavarack and then returned to IATF base. Other elements remained in support of 5RAR and 9RAR in AOs Illawarra and Aldgate.

1 June 1969:

1 Tp returned to IATF base with 5RAR. Elements remain op con 6RAR in AO Vincent and 9RAR in AO Aldgate.

2 June 1969:

Elements remain op con 6RAR in AO Vincent and 9RAR in AO Aldgate.

3-5 June 1969:

As above

6 June 1969:

Elements remain op con 6RAR in AO Vincent and 9RAR in AO Aldgate. At approx 4 Tp ceased op con to 6RAR and became op con to 5RAR for an operation in Binh Ba. 1 Tp was also deployed from the 1 ATF base Ready Reaction Force to take part in this operation. At 0720H a Centurion (2Zero Delta) was struck and penetrated by an RPG 7. Fire was returned and enemy casualties suspected. One Aust was WIA and evacuated from Duc Thanh Post.

Commencing at approx 1100H until 1830H, B and D companies 5RAR, 1 and 2 Tp B Sqn 1 Armd Regt, elements of B Sqn 3 Cav Regt and Duc Thanh RF/PF were engaged with an estimated [enemy] company plus, in the village of Binh Ba. Results approx 27 enemy KIA (BC), two enemy PW. Friendly losses, two Centurion MBT's moderately damaged, but remained in battle, one Aust KIA, eight Aust WIA (evacuated). Total B Sqn 1 Armd Regt casualties for this action was six WIA (evacuated).

Tp Ldr callsign 21 dodged RPG 2 which cut his back in passing. All casualties caused by RPG 7 strikes on the tanks. Many enemy casualties were caused by heavy tank fire and assault. Frontal sweep was conducted with tanks leading. At the following times 1525H, 1653H, 1930H, 2030H, 1ATF base received approx 15 rockets of unknown calibre. No casualties and no damage.

7 June 1969:

Elements remained op con to 5RAR on AO Anvil and 9RAR in AO Aldgate. 1 and 2 Tp became op con to C Company 5RAR to act as part of Ready Reaction Force in Hoa Long. B company 5RAR formed a block whilst D Company and 4 Tp B Sqn 1 Armd Regt swept through Binh Ba. Cumulative results from 060800Jun: One Aust KIA; six Aust WIA (Evac), 51 VC KIA, 11 VC PW. Enemy casualties Hoa Long...see Operation TONG After Action Report.

8 June 1969:

Elements remained op con to 5RAR in AO Anvil, 9RAR in AO Aldgate and RRF in Hoa Long. Elements op con to 5RAR reverted to op con 6RAR and elements with the RRF returned to the 1ATF pm on completion of operations.

9 June 1969:

Elements remained op con to 6RAR in AO Vincent and 9RAR in AO Aldgate. At 1500hrs a tank detonated a Chicom mine approx 30lbs. No casualties to troops. The tank suspension and two road wheels were damaged.

10-14 June 1969:

Elements remained op con to 6RAR in AO Vincent and 9RAR in AO Aldgate.

15 June 1969:

Elements under op con 9RAR in AO Aldgate released to op con 5RAR on 5RAR assuming responsibility for AO Aldgate.

16 June 1969:

Elements remain under op con 5RAR in AO Aldgate. Elements remain under op con 6RAR in AO Vincent.

17-28 June 1969:

As above

29 June 1969:

Elements remain op con 5RAR in AO Aldgate, 6RAR in AO Vincent and 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb.

30 June 1969:

Elements remain op con 5RAR in AO Aldgate, 6RAR in AO Vincent, until released 1800hrs, and 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb. Elements deployed in support of 2/48 ARVN in AO Gudgeon.

1 July 1969:

Elements remained op con to 5RAR in AO Aldgate, 6RAR in AO Vincent until release at 1800hrs and 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb. Elements deployed in support of 2/48 ARVN in AO Gudgeon.

2 July 1969:

Elements remained op con to 5RAR in AO Aldgate and 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb. Elements deployed in support of 2/48 ARVN in AO Gudgeon.

3 July 1969:

Elements remained op con to 5RAR in AO Aldgate and 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb. 2/48 ARVN ops completed this day. 3 Troop returns to Nui Dat.

4 July 1969:

Elements remained op con to 5RAR in AO Aldgate and 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb. 2 Troop reports ground difficult and extremely boggy conditions at FSB Flinders.

5 July 1969:

Elements as above.

6 July 1969:

Elements as above. 3 Troop came under op con 6RAR for operations in AO Moon.

7 July 1969:

Elements as above, plus 6RAR in AO Moon. 1 Troop on land clearing protection had a 1 Fd Sqn RAE LCT dozer hit by an RPG. NFTR at this time.

8 July 1969:

[no entry]

9-10 July 1969:

Elements as above.

11 July 1969:

Elements op con to 5RAR in AO Aldgate and 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb. 1 Troop returned to Nui Dat.

12-14 July 1969:

Elements as above.

15 July 1969:

9RAR ops continue in AOs Tom Thumb, Traverse and Tanundra.

16 July 1969:

Elements remained op con to 6RAR in AO Rosslea and to 9RAR in AO Tom Thumb. 9RAR ops continue in AOs Tom Thumb, Traverse and Tanundra.

17 July 1969:

Elements as above, plus elements deployed into AO Mick and commenced pacification ops in conjunction with Duc Thanh District Chief.

18 July 1969:

Elements remained op con 6RAR in AO Rosslea and continued pacification ops in AO Mick.

19-22 July 1969:

Elements as above.

23 July 1969:

Elements as above. Late entry. At 1400hrs on 22 July, B Sqn located a camp consisting of eight weapon pits with overhead cover.

24 July 1969:

Elements as above. At 1615hrs, B Sqn located a cornfield, food shelters and trip wires leading to Chicom grenades.

25-26 July 1969:

Elements as above.

27 July 1969:

Elements as above. One troop deployed to op con 9RAR for land clearing team protection in AO Porphyry (extended).

28 July 1969:

Elements as above.

29 July 1969:

Elements as above. At 1115hrs elements of Tango Force contacted two enemy. One rifle and two haversacks were captured, also documents taken in the haversacks.

30 July 1969:

One troop op con to 6RAR in AO Rosslea, pacification ops continue in AO Mick, one troop op con 5RAR in AP Porphyry (extended) for land clearing protection.

31 July 1969:

Elements as above. At 1530 hrs elements of Support Troop B Sqn 3 Cav op con to B Sqn [for Tango Force], sighted one enemy and heard voices. Engaged area with organic weapons, negative results.

1 August 1969:

Continued pacification operations in AO Mick. One tank troop op con to 5RAR in AO Mindy for land clearing team protection. At 011210H contact made by Tango Force with unknown number of enemy.

2 August 1969:

As above.

3 August 1969:

As above, plus one troop op con to 6RAR in AO West End.

4 August 1969:

As above, plus one troop op con to 6RAR in AO Rosslea. B Sqn, in conjunction with Duc Thanh District RF Forces and local villagers, recovered eight five ton trucks of VC cultivated corn.

5 August 1969:

Deployment to AOs Mick, Mindy and Rosslea as above

6 August 1969:

As above. At 062120H, 2 Troop engaged five VC at range of 100m, a sweep will be conducted at first light.

7 August 1969:



Deployment to AOs Mick, Mindy and Rosslea as above. At 071230H, a tank of B Sqn supporting 6RAR in AO Westend detonated a M16 mine---nil casualties or damage.

8 August 1969:

Elements returned to 1 ATF Base from pacification ops in AO Mick. Deployment in AOs Mindy/Rosslea continue.

9 August 1969:

One troop deployed with IATF Ready Reaction Force (RRF). One troop remained op con 5RAR for LCT protection in AO Mindy. One troop remained op con 6RAR in AO Rosslea.

10 August 1969:

One troop, plus elements of SHQ deployed to AO Stockton and commenced RIF and ambush ops. As above for AOs Mindy/Rosslea. One troop remained on IATF RRF. Squadron LO deployed to NSA, Nha Be to liaise with river patrol group (Moon River).

11 August 1969:

One troop, plus elements of SHQ conducted RIF and ambush ops in AO Stockton and commenced. As above for AOs Mindy/Rosslea.

12 August 1969:

One troop, plus elements of SHQ, supported by elements of B Sqn 3 Cav, conducted RIF and ambush ops in AO Stockton. As above for AOs Mindy/Rosslea. One troop remained on IATF RRF standby.

13 August 1969:

As above for AOs Mindy/Rosslea/Stockton.

14 August 1969:

One troop, plus elements of SHQ, supported by elements of B Sqn 3 Cav, conducted RIF and ambush ops in AO Stockton and then returned to IATF base for subsequent redeployment in AO Mick. As above for AOs Mindy/Rosslea and RRF.

15 August 1969:

One troop, supported by B Sqn 3 Cav, conducted phase II ops in Duc Thanh District. AO Mindy/RRF no change. One troop deployed to AO Umberatna to commence ops with 9RAR. At 1225hrs, 1 Troop engaged 2 enemy with unknown results.

16 August 1969:

One troop, supported by B Sqn 3 Cav, continued phase II ops in Duc Thanh District. One troop remained op con to 9RAR in AO Umberatna. AO Mindy/RRF no change.

17 August 1968:

One troop, supported by elements of B Sqn 3 Cav, continued phase 2 ops in Duc Thanh District. Other troops as above.

18 August 1969:

One troop, supported by elements of B Sqn 3 Cav, commenced RIF and ambush ops in AO Edward. Others as above.

19 August 1968:

As above.

20 August 1968:

As above. At 1150hrs 2 Troop contacted two enemy resulting in 1 KIA (BC).

21 August 1968:

Elements deployed from AO Edward to 1 ATF base. Others as above.

22 August 1968:

One troop plus AMC section remained op con 5RAR for LCT protection in AO Mindy. One troop deployed from Nui Dat to vic 2482 to support A Coy 5RAR. Others the same. At 0700hrs 2 Troop contacted two VC moving south, negative results.

23-27 August 1968:

Deployments as above.

28 August 1968:

Deployments as above. At 1445hrs 4 Troop, plus elements 1ATF RRF were sent to GR415755 where elements of 655 RF Coy had contacted an enemy group. No contact was made by the force which returned to Nui Dat at 1830hrs.