

MAPS FOR OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF 1ST ATF IN VIETNAM

Letter to Directorate of Military Survey

ANNEX J — Maps for Operational History of 1st ATF in Vietnam

One of thirteen annexes (A–M) to “War in Vietnam: A Surveyor’s Story”, by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Francis Skitch (Retd), 1934–2026 — Officer Commanding, Detachment 1st Topographical Survey Troop, Nui Dat, 1966–67.

Scanned and transcribed from the original documents. The complete four-part memoir, and the wider Skitch family archive:

history.skitch.me

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17-2-1 (14)

ANNEX J

Det 1 Topo Svy Tp
Aust Forces Vietnam
Aust FPO 4
c/o G.P.O. SYDNEY
7 Jan 67

Directorate of Military Survey

MAPS FOR OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF
1ST ATF IN VIETNAM
(Scanned and transcribed from original)

1. An operational history of the 1st ATF in Vietnam during 1966 has been prepared by HQ 1 ATF. The writing is tentatively called "NUI DAT - WITH THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM - 1966" It is anticipated that the history will be published in the form of a book or army manual.
2. Det 1 Topo Svy Tp has prepared a series of 36 map drawings and 3 diagrams to support the written text. Six proof copies of the history have been prepared with dyeline copies of the maps and diagrams included. A detailed description of each map drawing is attached as Annex A.
3. Also enclosed is one dyelined set of the maps and diagrams. Forwarded by safe hand with Maj R.R. Hannigan is the complete set of reproducibles, consisting of original drawings, and, in some cases direct positive copies on cronaflex.
4. It is requested that two film positives be produced from each original drawing. In cases where a separate drawing showing a tactical situation overlaps a base map, eg SMITHFIELD maps, it is requested that a composite film positive be prepared, to include the base map and the overlay.
5. The final editing and preparation for publication is to be undertaken by Major R.R. Hannigan of E Comd Training Cell, formally GS02 Operations on HQ 1st ATF. Major Hannigan would be able to answer any queries that might occur in relation to the task. It is requested that one set of film positives be supplied to Major Hannigan and the 2nd set forwarded to Det 1 Topo Svy Tp for record purposes.
6. Included with each proof copy of the operational history, and with the dyelined set of maps enclosed is a composite 1:50,000 map entitled "1ST ATF

AREA OF INTEREST - 1966". This map shows each "Area of Operation" of all the operations carried out by 1st ATF during 1966. Depending upon the nature of the publication in its final form, it is hoped to have a composite map overprinted with the detail shown on the proof copies included with each published copy of the history in the form of a map enclosure.

7. HQ 1 ATF has been made aware that problems, both in production and the possible infringement of mapping agreements might make the inclusion of the map enclosure impracticable. However, its inclusion would greatly enhance the value of the writing and it is recommended that the problem be looked at closely. Since the history could run into several thousand copies it would obviously be necessary to produce from the reproduction material held by RA Svy a special map sheet covering the area of interest. In doing this a reduction in the number of colours could perhaps be made to reduce the detail on the sheet to that which is essential to the history. Liaison with Major Hannigan would be needed both in this and also to determine the extent and nature of the marginal information.

R.F. Skitch Capt
OC Det 1 Topo Svy Tp

Annexes: A. Schedule of Maps and Diagrams

**Annex A to
MAPS FOR OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF
1ST ATF IN VIETNAM**

Annex A to SVY 117-2-1 (14)
of 7 Jan 67

MAPS FOR OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF
1ST ATF IN VIETNAM
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MAP NO	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Frontispiece	1 ST ATF BASE CAMP AND ENVIRONS	Single direct positive on cronaflex.
1	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION ENOGERA	Single drawing on cronaflex
2	INTELLIGENCE - OPERATION ENOGERA	Single drawing on cronaflex
3	INSTALLATIONS, CACHES AND EQUIPMENT - OPERATION ENOGERA	Single drawing on cronaflex
4	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION SYDNEY 1	Single drawing on cronaflex
5	VC INSTALLATIONS OPERATION SYDNEY 1	Single drawing on cronaflex
6	EXTENDED AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION SYDNEY 1	Single drawing on cronaflex
7	ASSEMBLY AREAS, ROUTES, CORDON AND HARBOUR POSITIONS - OPERATION SYDNEY 2	Single photo-positive on cronaflex
8	AREA OF SEARCH, AMBUSHES, ROUTES - OPERATION SYDNEY 2	Single photo-positive on cronaflex
9	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION HOBART 1	Single drawing on cronaflex
10	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION HOBART 2	Single drawing on cronaflex
11	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION HOLSWORTHY	Single drawing on cronaflex
12	ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTION NIGHT 16/17 AUG 66 - AREAS ENGAGED AND LOCATIONS	Single photo-positive on cronaflex
13	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Single drawing on cronaflex
14	OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Overlay on cronaflex marked map 14 over SMITHFIELD base map on cronaflex
15	OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Overlay on cronaflex marked map 15 over SMITHFIELD base map on cronaflex
16	OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Overlay on cronaflex marked map 16 over SMITHFIELD base map on cronaflex
17	OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Overlay on cronaflex marked map 17 over SMITHFIELD base map on cronaflex
18	OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Overlay on cronaflex marked map 18 over SMITHFIELD base map on cronaflex
19	OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Overlay on cronaflex marked

		map 19 over SMITHFIELD base map on cronaflex
20	OPERATION SMITHFIELD	Overlay on cronaflex marked map 20 over SMITHFIELD base map on cronaflex
21	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION TOLEDO 1	Single drawing on cronaflex
22	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION TOLEDO 2	Single drawing on cronaflex
23	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION VAUCLUSE	Single drawing on cronaflex
24	SAS INTELLIGENCE - OPERATION VAUCLUSE	Overlay on cronaflex marked MAP 24 over VAUCLUSE base map on cronaflex
25	VC CONTACTS AND INSTALLATIONS - OPERATION VAUCLUSE	Overlay on cronaflex marked MAP 25 over VAUCLUSE base map on cronaflex
26	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION CROWS NEST	Single photo positive on cronaflex
27	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION CANBERRA	Overlay on cronaflex over photo positive base map - CANBERRA
28	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION ROBIN	Photo positive overlay over photo positive base map as for CANBERRA
29	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION QUEANBEYAN	Photo positive overlay over photo positive base map as for CANBERRA
30	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION BUNDABERG	Overlay on cronaflex marked MAP 30 over Bundaberg Base Map on cronaflex
31	3SAS SQN AREA OF OPERATION (OPERATION HAYMAN PHASES 1 - 3)	Overlay on cronaflex showing zones 11 - 15 over HAYMAN base map showing zones 1 - 4
32	5RAR AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION HAYMAN PHASE 1	Photo positive overlay over photo positive base map showing PHUOC HOA VILLAGE
33	5 RAR AREA OF OPERATION - HAYMAN PHASES 2 & 3	Overlay on cronaflex over base map on cronaflex showing LONG SON ISLAND
34	INTELLIGENCE OPERATION INGHAM	Cronaflex overlay marked MAP 34 over INGHAM base map on cronaflex
35	AREA OF OPERATION - OPERATION INGHAM	Direct positive overlay over INGHAM base map on cronaflex
36	VC INSTALLATIONS - OPERATION INGHAM	Overlay on cronaflex over INGHAM base map on cronaflex
APPENDIX D	MINOR TUNNEL SYSTEMS - OPERATION ENOGERA	Single direct positive on cronaflex
APPENDIX E	XA LONG PHUOC TUNNEL COMPLEX LOCATION PLAN - OPERATION ENOGERA	Single drawing on cronaflex
APPENDIX F	APPARENT VC ORGANISATION - BINH BA	Single drawing on tracing paper
MAP ENCLOSURE	1 ST ATF AREA OF INTEREST 1966	Composite 1:50,000 sheets 6429-I, IV. 6430-I, II, III, IV.