

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVEUNIT: TD SQN RAEMONTH AND YEAR July 69OFFICER COMMANDING MAJ R. ROWE

DATE	EVENT OR INFORMATION	ANNEX LETTER AND ENCLOSURE No.
8 July	<p>The 2IC left for the CHIEU HOI centre to interview a CHIEU HOI with reference to the minefield suspected in the LONG HAI's north of the present L.C.T area. At 0805hrs the Tank Transporter left for the L.C.T. to recover a U/S D8. At 0810hrs the OC left for XUYEN MOC to attend the bridge opening ceremony being held by the VIETNAMESE. At 1005hrs the 2IC returned from the CHIEU HOI centre. At 1115hrs a convoy left for DAT DO with stores for checkpoints to be constructed. At 1430hrs the OC returned from XUYEN MOC. 2 Tp requested a dozer at THRUST to dig in an Artillery Radar set and this left under escort from NUI DAT at 1530hrs. At 1710hrs the normal L.C.T. and DAT DO resupply Albatross left. A quiet evening.</p>	
9 July	<p>A very quiet day. A mine incident occurred at the L.C.T. at 1213hrs, an M16 mine detonated under a D8 dozer, the machine was not damaged and the operator was only slightly wounded and continued on duty. At 1410hrs the TD15 at DAT DO became bogged in a well and RAEME assistance was despatched to assist. At 1730hrs the normal resupply Albatross departed for THRUST and DAT DO. The TD15 could not be recovered by nightfall and work was to continue on the 10th.</p>	
10 July	<p>At 0805hrs a D4 left in convoy for FSPB NELSON to close down the base. By 1130hrs the TD15 at DAT DO had been retrieved from the well and was ready again to operate. A requirement for an Albatross Kit was received from 3 Tp in 9RAR's area of operations at 1330hrs. This flew out at 1415hrs. At 1730hrs the normal Albatross resupply to DAT DO and L.C.T. left. The evening was very quiet.</p>	
11 July	<p>A very quiet day. Nothing of any great importance occurred, and operations proceeded as normal. The usual Albatross resupply took place at 1730hrs and the evening was very quiet.</p>	
12 July	<p>Once again a very quiet day. As with yesterday all proceeded smoothly and the usual resupply Albatross moved at 1730hrs. Another quiet night.</p>	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

UNIT 1 FD SQN RAE

MONTH AND YEAR July 69OFFICER COMMANDING MAL R. ROWE

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13 JULY	At 0830hrs information from 2 Tp indicated that a female CHIEU HOI was able to reveal more tunnels, and a Combat Team was despatched to DAT DO to assist. At 1000hrs the tunnels were found and a short contact ensued. Results, 1 VC KIA, 2 AUST WIA neither from 1 Fd Sqn. Elements of 2 Tp were involved in construction of a new ARVN FSPB called BATON and required extra stores at 1100hrs, and again at 1430hrs. The usual Albatross resupply took place at 1730hrs. The evening was quiet.	
14 July	This morning a Massey Ferguson Backhoe was backloaded by air from FSPB FLINDERS. At 1500 hrs 3 Tp HQ requested a Combat Team for minefield clearance at FSPB BUFFALO. This left by Albatross at 1500hrs. A DD at FSPB FLINDERS went U/S at 1530hrs, info on replacement parts was gained for the RAEME element to commence repairs. At 2230hrs Warning Orders for operation TUAN THANG 111 and operation RAIDER were received.	
15 July	A mine was discovered on Route 15 at 0800hrs at GR 224803. ARVN elements were to clear this. The L.C.T. which was preparing to move from its base to a new location received 1,000 gls of Diesoline via Chinook due to a misunderstanding in timings. The Dieso could neither be lifted or left behind. Another Chinook was being arranged to remedy the situation. At 1015hrs a convoy moved to the HORSESHOE. A TD15 was moved south from DUC THANH to NUI DAT at 1020hrs, and at 1300hrs the L.C.T. reported they were unable to move south of the orchard area due to bogging. The D8's also located a booby trap, which was duly reported. It was not detonated. The acting 2IC (Capt HADLEY) overflew the area in a Possum, and after consultation with the OC it was decided to retain the L.C.T. in their original base for the time being. This solved the problem of the 1,000 gallons of Dieso. (Capt FISHER had completed his tour of duty and left for Australia this day).	
16 July	At 0800hrs the two APC'S Mine Killers ET (ECHO TANGO) FLINT and ET STEELE left for the L.C.T. for their first particular test, accompanied by the OC. At 0930hrs a tower was delivered to YS500518, prior to commencement of a second L.C.T. using TD15's. Work by the Mine Killers commenced in the suspect minefield in the orchard area at 1230hrs, and at 1500hrs the OC reported that there were no mines in the suspected field. At 1500hrs a convoy left for the HORSESHOE carrying stores for the projected DAT DO-PHUOC HAI minefield clearance operation. At 1730hrs the normal L.C.T. resupply helicopter departed from Wombat Pad.	

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17 JULY

This day turned out to be a busy day. At 0700hrs extra stores for the DAT DO minefield operation departed from NUI DAT. At 0730hrs Plant deployed from the HORSESHOE and NUI DAT to move to the DINH CO Monastery to carry out a road clearance and repair task with elements of 1 Tp under command of Lt B.G.KOWALD. The two APC's FLINT and STEELE moved to DAT DO at 0745hrs. At 1000hrs the mine clearance operation commenced. Many mines were being successfully detonated, also some jumping and failing to explode. Ratio of these detonations : initiations was about 3:1. One mine killer suffered damage to its "killer" axle at about 1200hrs, the other APC was proceeding well. At about 1300hrs a tilt bed moved to THRUST to collect the D4 there and move it to the DINH CO operation. At 1320hrs a D8 at the L.C.T. was hit by an RPG and damaged. The operator was quite seriously wounded and was dusted off. The operator was Spr R.V.PRICE. At about 1500hrs the second axle on the mine-killers broke. The Sp Tp was immediately switched onto making new axles. The afternoon Possum collected the OC from DAT DO to visit the L.C.T. and the normal L.C.T resupply left WOMBAT at 1730hrs. The evening was quiet.

18 JULY

At 0600hrs a new FSPB set up the previous day FSPB CLAIRE received 15 rounds of 82mm Mortars. No casualties to 1 Fd SQN personnel. A Case Backhoe on loan from 17 Const Sqn was extensively damaged and a 1 Fd Sqn D4 received minor damage. At 0700hrs the minefield clearance convoy left for the HORSESHOE. FLINT and STEELE commenced minefield clearance at 0900hrs, and Plant Tp commenced work on the DAT DO/BARIA road as part of a general project to improve the entire route. The 1 Fd Sqn Plant elements were to work from the HORSESHOE. Progress continued on the DINH CO Monastery road task. At 1155hrs a D8 at L.C.T. detonated an M16 mine with no damage and no casualties. A new FSPB DAMPIER was being opened up by 9RAR and a backhoe was airlifted to this location at 1350hrs. A D8 broke down at the L.C.T. at 1355hrs and a 40 tonner low loader was despatched to THRUST to collect this at 1400hrs. At 1800hrs 6RAR informed 1 Fd Sqn that fuel resupply to the TD15^s had failed to arrive as APC's had refused to carry the fuel. Two air sorties of fuel by Albatross were arranged for the 19th. At 2030hrs B Sqn 3 Cav requested a Combat Team to move to XUYEN MOC on the 19th. A Combat Team was warned. At 2230hrs Task Force HQ requested defence stores for FSPB CLAIRE for the following morning. 21 Sp Tp was warned.