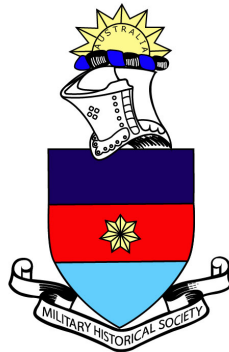


Military Historical Society of Australia  
*Sabretache*



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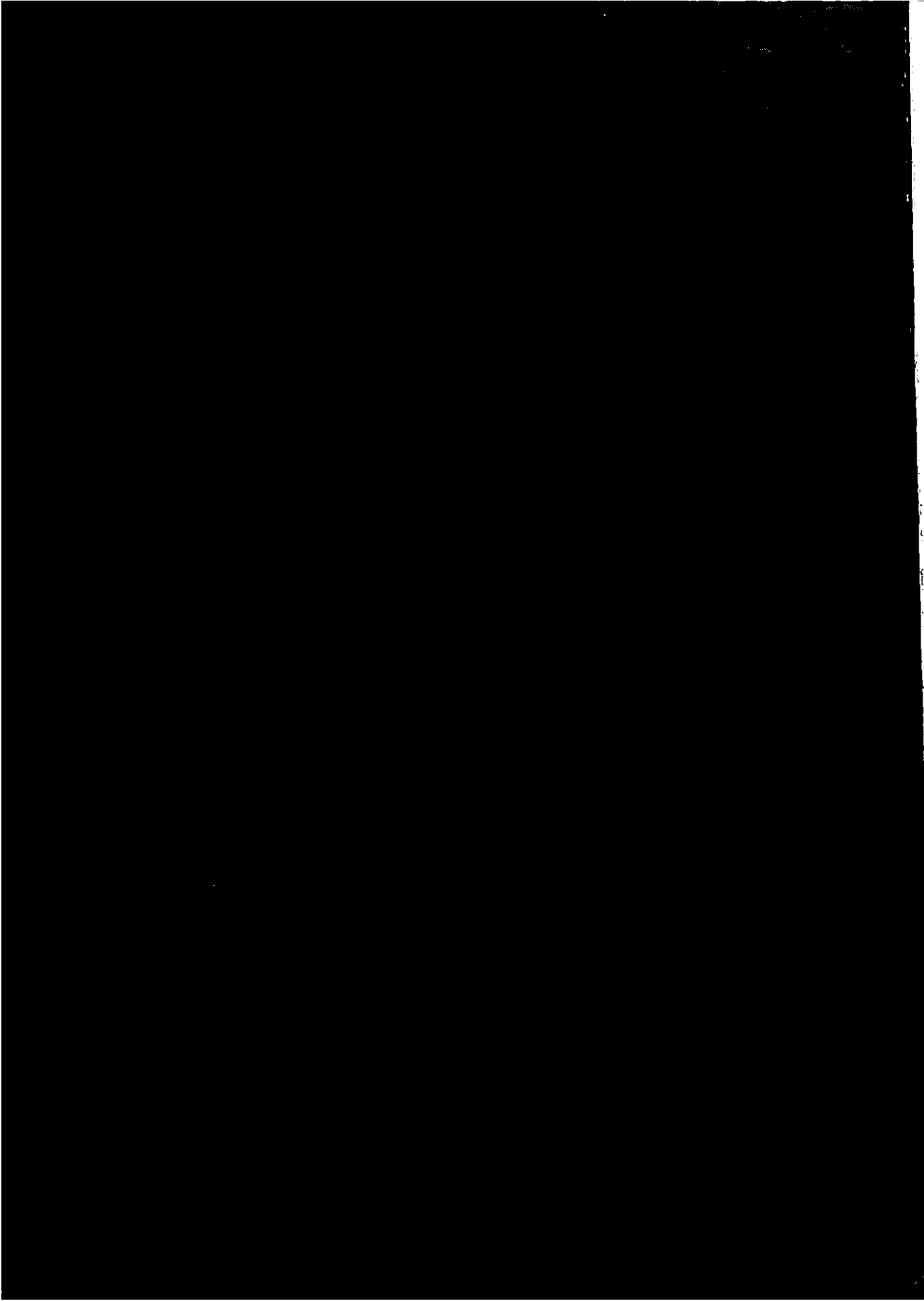
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# SABRETACHE

Vol. XXIII      October/December 1992      Number 4

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NM10587



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**OCTOBER—DECEMBER 1992  
VOLUME XXXIII — NUMBER 4**

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**The Digger in Asia**

---

- 5. Preface

---

- 6. Introduction

---

- 11. Occupation of Japan

---

- 13. Korea

---

- 18. Malaya

---

- 27. Confrontation with Indonesia

---

- 29. Vietnam War

---

- 45. Gulf War

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Contributions in the form of articles, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note, and, where possible, submit the text of the article on floppy disk as well as hard copy. The annual subscription to Sabretache is \$26.

Published by authority of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia. The views expressed in this journal are those of the relevant contributor and not necessarily those of the Society.



**The Journal and  
Proceedings of  
The Military  
Historical Society  
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# THE DIGGER IN ASIA

A Chronology of Australian and  
New Zealand Military Operations  
since the Second World War

**W M CHAMBERLAIN**

Military Historical Society of Australia

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

First published as *Asian Battle Diary*

FIRST EDITION (1950-1967), 1968

SECOND EDITION (1945-1968), 1969

THIRD EDITION (1945-1973), 1974

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MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

## Preface

Of the many forms of presenting history, chronology has probably the most shortcomings. At best, it is a collection of factual events in a systematic progression. There is no place in chronology for the discussion, the contrast of two points of view, or the hindsight analysis of events spanning time and place. At its worst, it degenerates into a collection of headlines that may or may not form a connected sequence.

I am fully aware of the drawbacks of confining oneself to such a methodical scheme, but have had to weigh them up against the one big advantage which chronology has of portraying an outline of the events of a lengthy time period in a comparatively small space. Vietnam: we are too close to these events to see them in the way that history will see them, following consideration of records not yet available.

I believe that part of the Society's function, in addition to unearthing and preserving the past traditions of the Armed Services, is to record as they happen the events of the present. In the turmoil of controversy, one is apt to forget the Australians and New Zealanders who have fallen in the line of duty in the little wars. There seems to be a need for a brief record of their achievements.

This period was a particularly interesting one, as the Australian and New Zealand Armed Services took over from Britain an increasing role in assisting Commonwealth and allied countries within the Asian sphere, including peacekeeping duties in places like Sinai and Cambodia. This service was characterised by garrison and cantonment life, training duties and active participation in hostilities in Korea, Malaya, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam. References in this compilation have included the few authoritative books relating to these campaigns, Official Commonwealth and New Zealand Year Books, Australia in Facts and Figures, and contemporary newspaper reports.

Items have been summarised and expressed in present tense. Some events are not capable of reduction to a date other than month of occurrence, and in some cases only the date of announcement of an item has been available. The entries mainly relate to the activities of the Military Forces, due to the support nature of Navy and Air operations. Therefore the latter have not been shown separately, but in each case naval and air units have been precisely identified. When the collective term "Australians" is used reference is to Army units.

Max Chamberlain



## Introduction

Australia has suffered much from war. By the end of its Vietnam participation it had been engaged in wars for half of the 20th century.<sup>(1)</sup> In terms of sacrifice the two world wars alone lasted 10 years for Australia compared with 5 years for the United States of America; and the cost to Australia in battle deaths was about 25 per cent of the US total, from a population never more than about 5 per cent of the US population.<sup>(2)</sup> Because sacrifice has been a major theme in Australian military history it is difficult to understand why the folk-hero, the Digger, met with apathy in Vietnam.

The period since 1945 saw radical departures from the traditional pattern of Australia's peacetime defence policy. In the past, involvement in wars was to assist Britain, and not until 1942 did a direct threat cause Australia to turn to the United States for assistance. After the Second World War, Australia was more conscious of its strategic importance in the Asian-Pacific sphere as Britain gradually vacated the region. Not until 1952 was the Peace Treaty with Japan signed, but by 1949 the British Commonwealth Occupation Force had become entirely Australian. In 1950, Australia was the first nation after the United States to offer assistance to the UN in the Korean War, and, although supporting Britain in the campaigns in Malaya and Borneo, in Vietnam it fought in a war for the first time without Britain being involved. Australia has provided naval forces for UN service in the Gulf region since 1990 but, fortunately, they were not required to fire any shots in anger during the Gulf War.

Professional ARA, RAN, and RAAF personnel serving overseas were probably too few for most people at home to be acquainted with many participants as in the world wars, but the introduction of the ballot to select conscripts in 1964 and their subsequent deployment in Vietnam affected many and led to controversies about conscientious objection.

This was in the tradition of the conscription issue of the First World War and the commitment to battle of militia in the second, and involved demonstrations like Moratorium Day in 1970 when thousands of citizens marched to protest at participation. Apathy may have stemmed, therefore, from the changed allegiance exemplified in "All the way with LBJ", lack of a direct threat, comparative smallness of forces and casualties, and growing weariness of a long, apparently unwinnable war.

## II

Encouraged by the success of the communists in China in 1949, movements arose in other parts of Asia to topple existing governments, and active operations to prevent this, although referred to as police action, emergency, confrontation, or guerilla campaign, were wars. The invasion of South Korea by the communist North in 1950 involved Australia as a United Nations member. Assistance was given to Malaya from 1950 by providing forces to the British Far East Strategic

Reserve. SEATO was formed following the defeat of the French in Indo-china in 1954 to perform a function similar to NATO by protecting the resources of the region and preventing the spread of communism. It comprised the US, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, and Pakistan (which later withdrew), and was disbanded following the Vietnam War in 1974. Australia and New Zealand also entered into an alliance with the US under the ANZUS Treaty. Suggested reasons for Australia's involvement in Vietnam range from response to a threatened cessation of US investment, to Australia "arranging" a reluctant request by South Vietnam for assistance.

At the end of the Second World War, Australia contributed forces to British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan. The 34th Australian Infantry Brigade was formed at Morotai from elements of six Australian divisions and disembarked at Kure in 1946. The Australian contribution to BCOF peaked at 10,000 servicemen in 1947 with families in cantonments. The commitment was reduced to 2,000 at the end of 1948 and the remaining forces were preparing to return to Australia in June 1950 when North Korean troops crossed the 38th Parallel.

The UN intervened, but Seoul fell and the UN troops, mainly US and South Koreans, were forced into a perimeter in the southeast corner about Pusan. A landing on the west coast at Inchon in September cleared the way to Seoul and the UN advanced northward. In November, the Chinese entered the war and forced the UN back to a defensive position about the 38th Parallel. In April 1951, General MacArthur was relieved as Supreme Commander. In August, cease-fire talks commenced at Panmunjon and continued during a further two years of relatively static operations until an armistice was signed in July 1953.

During the war, vessels of the RAN, including the aircraft carrier *Sydney*, three battalions of the RAR, and RAAF fighters and transports served. The main Australian ground force arrived in September 1950 to take part in the UN advance into North Korea. In October, it was in action at Sariwon, won the Battle of the Broken Bridge, and advanced to Chongju before the Chinese advance forced a withdrawal. The British Commonwealth Brigade assembled in Seoul in 1951, then crossed the 38th Parallel. The Australians took Hill 951 (Sardine) and on the eve of Anzac Day helped to halt the Chinese advance at Kapyong. In July, the British Commonwealth Division was formed with British, Canadians, Australians, Indians, and New Zealanders within one operational division for the first time in history. It crossed the Imjin river in September and the Australians advanced to the Jamestown Line. In 1952, Australian troops, were in the front line at Little Gibraltar, and were in action in 1953 in hills about Boulder City against increased Chinese aggression just before hostilities ended in July. About 10,000 Australians had served and 277 were killed.<sup>[3]</sup> The British Commonwealth Division was disbanded in 1956 and the last Australians returned in 1958.

From 1950, Australian forces were also engaged in active operations during the Malayan Emergency. The terrorist organisation in Malaya is believed to have developed from the People's Anti-Japanese Army, formed by the Malayan Communist Party as a national liberation army. In 1945, it became ambitious to take all Malaya and, by 1948, estate managers were being murdered. As it was compelling the people to supply food, the British brought them into safe areas and destroyed food plots in Operation Starvation, forcing the enemy to fight hit and run actions. The bandits, including women, were mostly Chinese, who murdered, slashed rubber trees, and destroyed houses and shops. The troops destroyed their hideouts, forced them back, and cleared safe areas. The enemy was reduced from 11,000 in 1950 to less than 1,000 when the emergency was officially ended in July 1960. Malaysia was established in September 1963, including the

Federated States, Singapore, Sarawak, and Sabah, although Singapore chose to become independent in August 1965.

The RAAF began anti-terrorist operations in Malaya in 1950. Australian Army Observers were present from 1952, and regular Australian military and naval forces joined the fighting in 1956. Land operations shifted northward in Kedah and Perak as more areas were declared clear. Several top-ranking Communist leaders were eliminated and patrols continued in central Malaya and along the Thai border until the end of the Emergency. About 7,000 Australians served and 6 were killed.<sup>[4]</sup> An Australian garrison continued to serve in Malaysia and Singapore until December 1973 when the last troops departed from Singapore leaving token units to serve at Butterworth. In Borneo, in 1962, a rebellion broke out in the Sultanate of Brunei against a merger with Malaysia, but was quickly suppressed by British troops. President Soekarno had opposed the Federation of Malaysia and had been sympathetic to communist Chinese of the People's Army of North Borneo. With his policy of expansion, West New Guinea became West Irian in 1963. From 1964, he commenced a program of confrontation of Malaysia and guerilla landings were made in Malacca as well as insurgency in Sabah and Sarawak. Not until after his replacement by a military regime in 1965, was it possible to end the 3 year undeclared war in 1966. Australian troops had rounded up a guerrilla force in mangrove swamps in Malacca in 1964 and Australian naval anti-infiltration patrols captured small craft offshore. About 3,500 troops served in Borneo and were involved in clashes in 1965 and 1966, when they returned to Singapore, having suffered 6 killed.<sup>[5]</sup> Malaysian and Indonesian forces cooperated in destroying the remnants operating along the border. By then, Australians were fighting in Vietnam.

### III

During the occupation of French Indo-china by the Japanese in the Second World War a nationalistic movement emerged which was actively opposed to the French from 1946 until their surrender at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. The area was divided into four states — North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. North Vietnam, needing the food supply of the South, used local communist guerillas, the Viet Cong, rather than open invasion to achieve conquest. Although the US gave aid to the South, by 1961, Viet Cong attacks increased in an attempt to overthrow the government. US advisers and technicians trained South Vietnamese troops, but the government fell in 1963 to be replaced by an administration backed by the military in 1965.

Following the North Vietnamese torpedo boat attacks on US destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964 and a Viet Cong attack on the US base at Pleiku in 1965, President Johnson ordered round the clock bombing of North Vietnam and the first US combat units landed at Da Nang. By 1967 half a million US troops were in Vietnam as well as troops from South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. The USSR-supported North Vietnamese Army entered the south and fighting and casualties increased. In 1968, the Tet (Lunar New Year) offensive attacked Saigon, Khe San was besieged for 77 days, and the My Lai massacre occurred.

With Moratorium marches and protests being held in the US, the first troop withdrawals were ordered, although the ground fighting continued — the allies generally holding the cities and the enemy the countryside. In 1972, domestic pressure forced the US troops to be evacuated and, in 1973, the Peace Agreement was signed in Paris after protracted negotiations. The last US troops departed and, in 1974, the North Vietnam offensive began, taking the central highlands, Hue, Da Nang and finally, Saigon by 1975, leading to a United Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with Hanoi as its capital.

Australian advisers went to Vietnam in 1962 and were committed to action in 1964. The Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam, was the first to arrive and the last to leave, serving continuously for 10 years in all 44 provinces. An infantry battalion was sent in 1965, the first of nine to serve — seven completing two tours, mainly in Phuoc Tuy Province. It was later expanded to a Task Force including Armoured, Aviation and other corps. RAN and RAAF units and civil aid teams also served. In 1966, the first National Service troops left for Vietnam and the first conscript was killed in May. The Task Force was increased to 6,000. In the largest single engagement in which Australians were involved, a substantial enemy force was defeated at Long Tan in August 1966. A force of three battalions continued to serve from 1967 to 1970 when one was not replaced. In constant actions the Australians, at first outnumbered 3 to 1, protected the main centres of population in Phuoc Tuy, clearing the local guerillas and defeating the North Vietnamese. To isolate the civilian population a mined fence was built from Nui Dat to the coast but the enemy removed and relaid the mines, which caused about a quarter of the Australian deaths. The Australians beat back repeated attacks by the enemy on Bien Hoa Air Base in 1967 in the Tet offensive in Saigon in February 1968 and in similar rocket and mortar attacks in many centres in 1969. Economic and medical assistance was given to villages, and roads, schools and markets were built to restore normal life as far as possible. Four battalions of the 18th Republic of Vietnam Division were trained to take over and, in September 1971, a pre-emptive battle was fought to restrict harassment on withdrawal. Australia's active role ended in November 1971 when the colours were lowered at Nui Dat. Over 47,000 Australians had served, 474 had died in action, and among many decorations were four Victoria Crosses.<sup>[6]</sup>

The returning troops were not welcomed home as their predecessors had been, possibly because of the people's disillusionment with the war, disapproval of conscription, or dissociation from an allied defeat. Although opposition had been for a variety of political, humanitarian and pacifist motives, the conscripts had been used exactly as regulars and, far from being defeated, the Australians had been highly successful.

Almost a decade of reports of codenamed operations in a comparatively small area did little to help the public understand what the Australians were doing, despite graphic television footage. Just as few can digest the details in voluminous histories which, of necessity, appear a generation after the event, so few can gain an overall impression of what is happening in a war from daily fragments at the time; but when assembled in chronological progression the images give some idea of what the Diggers did and how good they were.

One authority has described them as better than the Australian troops of the Second World War, with superb warrant and non-commissioned officers, many of whom had fought in three wars, and with National Servicemen who came to be identified with the regulars.<sup>[7]</sup> A contrasting view described them as unlike traditional Australian citizen soldiers but well trained professionals, without the same mateship as the AIF, resenting college trained officers, and with few conscripts volunteering to stay in the Army.<sup>[8]</sup>

Such controversial issues as the reasons for participation, extent of opposition to the war or conscription, and assessment of the quality of the troops, cannot be judged from a systematic summary, but perhaps a primary reason for the lack of public appreciation of the Vietnam Diggers is simply that the multitudinous events were too confusing for easy comprehension across a long time period. This implies a need for a concise overview of their major achievements.

**Max Chamberlain**

**FOOTNOTES TO INTRODUCTION:**

The general background descriptions in this paper are derived from innumerable sources and are applicable to New Zealand, which shares Australia's active service experience in this period.

## 1. The wars were:

Conflict	Period	Years
South Africa	1899-1902	2
World War I	1914-1918(19)	4
World War II	1939-1945	6
Korea	1950-1953	3
Malaya	1950-1960(65)	10
Borneo	1964-1966	3
Vietnam	1962-1973	12

2. Max Chamberlain, Australian War Statistics, *Australian Historical Statistics*, No.6, January 1983.

Year	US(a) Population (million)	Year	Australia(b) Population) (million)	% Aust to US (population)
1918	104.6	1918	5.1	4.9
1945	139.9	1945	7.4	5.3

Years	US Battle Deaths	Years	Aust Battle Deaths	%Aust to US
1917-18	53,402	1914-18	53,993	
1941-45	291,557	1939-45	27,073	
Total	344,959	Total	81,066	23.5

Source: (a) *US Historical Statistics*, (b) CARO, A Short History of the Australian Army, *Commonwealth Year Book*, No.40, 1954.

3. Statistics are notoriously variable. Figures for numbers who served and battle deaths are derived from CARO, A Short History of the Australian Army. Figures for fatalities shown in the *Australian Encyclopedia* are set out below:

AUSTRALIA	RAN	ARMY	RAAF	TOTAL
Korea	3	293	25	321
Malaysia		47	17	64
Vietnam	4	474	14	492
	7	814	56	877

4. *ibid*5. *ibid*6. Barnes, I L. *Gallant and Distinguished Service in Vietnam 1962-1973*, MHSA, 1974.7. Serong, Brig F P. *Australia in Vietnam*, in Grenville, K. *The Saving of South Vietnam*, Alpha Books, Sydney, 1972, and foreword in John J Coe (ed) *Desperate Praise: The Australians in Vietnam*, Artlook Books, Perth, WA 1982.8. King, Peter (ed). *Australia's Vietnam: Australia in the Second Indo-china War*, Allen & Unwin, 1983.

## OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

### 1945

- Sep 2 HMAS *Shropshire*, *Hobart*, *Warramunga*, *Bataan*, *Ipswich*, *Cessnock*, *Ballarat*, *Nizam* and *Napier* present at Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.
- Oct 27 First unit of 34th Aust Inf Bde arrives at concentration area in Morotai. (Bde HQ and 65 Bn from 7 Div, 66 Bn from 9 Div, 67 Bn from 3, 5, 6 and 11 Divs.)

### 1946

- Feb 13 34 Bde disembarks Kure from *Stamford Victory* to control Hiroshima Prefecture. Camp at Kaitaichi.
- Mar 9 81 Fighter Wing, RAAF stationed Iwakuni (76, 77 and 82 Sqns, RAAF flew in from Borneo).
- 17 NZ Bde (formed from 2 NZ Div in Italy) arrives Japan from Naples.
- 25 British and Indian Brigades arrive.
- 14 Sqn., RNZAF transported to Japan, stationed at Iwakuni, later Bofu.
- Jul - Original NZ Bde members replaced by volunteers.

### 1947

- Feb - UK begins withdrawing forces from Japan. 66 Bn moves into Morshead Barracks at Hiro. Later, rest of Brigade move into Vasey Barracks at Hiro.
- Jun - First Aust wives and families arrive Japan (NZ Govt did not authorise transferring NZ families to Japan).
- Aust naval component to BCOF fixed at one carrier, two destroyers. Airstrip begun by 5 AC Sqn, RAAF.
- NZ reduced to 2,400 men.
- Jul 1 Interim Forces raised with 2 year terms of enlistment for service with BCOF.

### 1948

- Feb - British and Indian contingents leave.
- Nov 26 Last of NZ left from Kure on *Westralia*.
- Dec. - 34 Bde withdrawn, leaving 2,000 Aust in Japan.

### 1949

- Jan - BCOF entirely Aust. Personnel remaining in Japan form part of ARA Field Force of 1 Brigade Group.

Dec - By this month all BCOF Sqns had been withdrawn except 77 Sqn, RAAF

### 1950

May 26 PM announces pending withdrawal of Aust component.

Jun 27 PM places 77 Sqn, RAAF at service of UN. Plans for the return of BCOF to Aust are to be held in abeyance. 3RAR becomes Special Force, Korea.

### 1952

Apr 28 Peace Treaty with Japan signed. BCOF becomes base in Japan for Korean campaign. 1,200 officers and men transferred from BCOF to BCFK.

# KOREA

## 1950

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Jun | 25 | N Korea invades S Korea.  |
|     | 29 | 77 Sqn, RAAF at Iwakuni ordered to prepare for combat. HMAS <i>Bataan</i> , <i>Shoalhaven</i> placed at disposal of UN.                                   |
| Jul | 2  | Mustangs of 77 Sqn, RAAF escort American B26 and B29s (5th US Air Force) in attack on N Korean airfield of Yong Po. (First non-American unit in action.)  |
|     | 3  | HMNZS <i>Tutira</i> and <i>Pukaki</i> sail from Auckland. Until cease-fire 2 NZ frigates maintained in area. (Patrol, escort, control ROK mine-sweepers.) |
|     | 26 | Ann: Aust to send ground troops to Korea.   |
| Aug | -  | HMAS <i>Warramunga</i> leaves Aust for Korea.   |
|     | 2  | 77 Sqn, RAAF has flown 1745 hours on combat ops with 40 pilots and 812 sorties. (First Aust use of Napalm.)   |
|     | -  | 77 Sqn, RAAF has destroyed 35 tanks, 44 other vehicles, 4 locos.  |
| Sep | 17 | Small advance party of Aust reaches Korea.  |
|     | 27 | 3RAR embark Tokyo for Pusan. (3RAR reinforced by volunteers from Aust.)   |
|     | 30 | 3RAR join 27th Brit Comm Bde (Argylls and Middlesex) in Songju-Waegwan area.  |
|     | -  | 77 Sqn, RAAF in repeated strikes to stop breakthrough of Pusan Perimeter and support B29s over N Korea.   |
| Oct | 2  | 3RAR first operational patrols. No contact.   |
|     | 5  | 3RAR airlifted to Kimpo to join invasion of N Korea.  |
|     | 9  | UN forces cross 38th parallel.  |
|     | 10 | 77 Sqn, RAAF moves from Iwakuni to Pohang, Korea, with 30 Trspt Unit (91 Wing).   |
|     | 12 | US Task Force, including HMAS <i>Warramunga</i> , lays barrage against Chongju (east coast).  |
|     | 17 | 3RAR in action near Sariwon, knock out T34 tanks. 7 Aust WIA in bayonet charge at Yongyu, 150 enemy killed, 239 captured.                                 |
|     | 22 | Aust secure Chongchon River bridgehead at Sinanju.  |
|     | 27 | Aust conclude the Battle of Broken Bridge, (8 KIA, 22 WIA).   |
|     | 29 | Aust advance to Chongju and dig in. (Most northerly point reached by 27 Bde. Nearest the Aust were to the Yalu River.)                                    |
| Nov | 1  | Chinese enter the war.  |
|     | 2  | UN withdrawal to Sinanju.   |
|     | 5  | 77 Sqn, RAAF supports 3RAR.   |
|     | 23 | Aust into reserve after 54 days in the line.  |
|     | 24 | NZ advance party departs Wellington.  |
|     | 28 | Aust in action again. Fall back on Sunchon, Casan.  |
|     | -  | HMNZS <i>Rotoiti</i> relieves <i>Pukaki</i> which engaged in 3 commando landings during service.  |
| Dec | 2  | Aust attack at Yopa-ri, disperse enemy.   |
|     | 3  | Aust withdraw to Hayu-ri, then Singye (4 Dec).  |
|     | 10 | Main force (NZ) departs aboard <i>Ormonde</i> .   |



- 11 Aust withdraw to Uijonbu.  
 - HMAS *Warramunga* and *Bataan* help evacuate 8,000 UN wounded from Pyong Yak, Taedong R.

## 1951

- Jan 2 27 Bde reassembles at Seoul.  
 4 UN forces abandon Seoul.  
 5 Aust at Changhowon-ni, 70 miles S of Seoul.  
 16 Aust ambush Chinese.  
 22 16 Fd Regt, RNZA joins 163 Aust Bty to support 3RAR.  
 - 77 Sqn, RAAF use Napalm and mg fire, NW of Inchon.
- Feb 4 British Brigade moves to Yoju.  
 14 Hand to hand fighting with Chinese.  
 23 Hill 614. Aust and Canadians meet stiff opposition.  
 25 Barrage assists Aust to capture Hill 614.  
 - Meteors arrive in Japan by carrier.
- Mar 11 Aust take Chisan.  
 14 US troops re-enter Seoul.  
 - NZ cover fire for Aust attacking Hill 410.  
 - Several Mustangs hit by ground fire.
- Apr 5 UN forces cross 38th parallel.  
 10 77 Sqn, RAAF begin training on Gloster Meteor VIII jets at Iwakuni  
 11 General MacArthur relieved.  
 11 Aust at Karim in Op Rugged. NZ Arty. clears nearby hill.  
 13 Aust move forward to establish Kansas Line - roughly 38th parallel.  
 15 Aust fighting to gain Sardine and Salmon features. NZ. shell Sardine. Hill 951 (Sardine) taken.  
 16 Salmon taken.  
 22 Chinese offensive begins. 20th Chinese Army breaks through 6 ROK Div  
 23 Brit Comm Bde moves up to stop gap. Aust beat off repeated attacks. NZ support.  
 24 Aust ordered to withdraw after 31 KIA 58 WIA at Kapyong. NZ cover withdrawal. Helped halt Chinese advance until US reinforced front. (3RAR awarded Presidential Unit Citation.) Chinese offensive fails. After Kapyong Aust Inf, NZ Arty and Trspt platoon in new 28th Brit Comm Bde. Aust turn over officers and men from Reinforcement Holding Unit in Japan.  
 - HMNZS *Hawea* relieves HMNZS *Tutira*.
- May 9 HMAS *Murchison* leaves for Korea.
- Jun - HMAS *Bataan* returns, relieved by *Murchison*.  
 - 77 Sqn, RAAF return to Korea. Meteors operate in Mig Alley.
- Jul - 28 Brit Comm Bde under 1 Brit Comm Div. First time in history troops from Britain, Australia, Canada, India, NZ under one operational Division (NZ provides ASC, Signals, Engineers as well as Artillery). With 25 Canadian Bde, 29 British Infantry Bde, man Kansas Line.
- Aug - Op Boomerang. Fifteen Aust casualties in raid across Imjin River.

- 2 NZ Force embarks aboard *Wahine*, Wellington (Vessel ran aground at Darwin, 15 Aug Troops later flown to Japan.)
- 2 HMAS *Anzac* sails for Korea.
- 31 HMAS *Sydney* sails for Korea with HMAS *Tobruk*.
- 77 Sqn, RAAF top cover for US F80 Shooting Stars, near Yalu R.
- Meteors in action with MIG fighters.
- Sep - Brit Comm Div crosses Imjin, establishes new defence line.
- 2 HMAS *Warramunga* returns. (*Anzac*, *Tobruk* replace *Bataan*, *Warramunga*.)
- HMNZS *Taupo* relieves *Rotoiti*, which had helped repel landing on island of E.Coast, sinking majority of junks carrying enemy troops
- Oct - Op Commando.
- 3 Hill 355 (Little Gibraltar) captured by Aust.
- 4 Attack on Hill 317, Brown Knoll, Baldy. NZ shell Hill 317.
- 5 Hill 317 captured.
- 7 Fight for the Hinge. In 6 days fighting, 20 Aust KIA, 89 WIA. Chinese withdraw. New front Jamestown Line.
- HMAS *Sydney* relieves HMS *Glory*. Sea Furies of 805, 806 Sqn's blast troop concentrations. Fireflies 817 Sqn bomb gun emplacements.
- Nov 3 Chinese offensive begins.
- 12 HMAS *Sydney* completes 1,000 sorties since September.
- Dec 1 Twelve Meteors in sweep N of Pyong Yang attacked by 40-50 MIGs. Three Meteors missing. Two MIGs shot down.
- 77 Sqn, RAAF taken off interception. Patrol Kimpo Seoul area and ground-attack duties.
- HMAS *Tobruk* and *Murchison* in bombardments.

## 1952

- Jan - HMAS *Bataan* (2nd tour) relieves HMAS *Murchison*.
- HMAS *Warramunga* begins 2nd tour.
- 18 Aust back on line at Little Gibraltar.
- Feb - RAAF developed Napalm rockets first used at Chaeryong.
- Mar 3 1RAR leaves Sydney, arrive in Korea in April.
- May 8 MIG shot down by a Meteor.
- Jun - 1RAR in Jamestown Line.
- 19 First action for 1RAR
- HMAS *Condamine* relieves HMAS *Warramunga*.
- Jul 2 Op Blaze. 1RAR in first major Op. Raid on Hill 227 with flame throwers. (Aust casualties 3 KIA, 34 WIA 1 DOW)
- Aug 29 77 Sqn, RAAF part of a 420 F/Bomber force attacking Pyong Yong.
- Sep - HMAS *Anzac* (2nd Tour) relieves HMAS *Bataan*.
- Oct 20 1RAR to reserve. Later in Oct patrol Little Gibraltar.

Dec - 1RAR and 3RAR cooperate in patrol activity. Op Fauna.

## 1953

Jan 24 3RAR patrols cut off by Chinese, fight.out.

Feb - 2RAR leaves Melbourne.

Mar - 1RAR, 2RAR and 3RAR parade together for first time.

- 1RAR returns to Aust, replaced by 2RAR.

3 HMAS *Culgos* leaves Sydney to relieve HMAS *Condamine*.

16 77 Sqn, RAAF attack enemy convoy, destroy 24, damage 74 trucks, S of Wonsan.

30 Trsp. Unit replaced by 36 Trsp. Sqn

Apr-May - Napalm rocket attacks on troop billets, villages. supply centres.

May 4-16 2RAR in front line Hill 355.

Jun - HMAS *Tobruk* relieves HMAS *Anzac*.

6 2RAR Patrol ambushed on The Mound.

Jul - 2RAR on The Hook, relieves French Bn. Chinese make repeated attacks main objective Boulder City. 3RAR reinforces 2RAR. 6000 shells fall in Aust areas (Aust casualties 5 KIA, 24 WIA).

24 Aust beat off attacks against US Marines on Hill 111

27 Armistice signed Panmunjon.

29 2RAR move from The Hook to the Kansas Line then to Truce Line.

## 1954

Apr - 1RAR relieves 2RAR

Nov - 3RAR returns from Korea.

Dec - 77 Sqn, RAAF returns on HMAS *Vengeance*.

- Naval forces reduced. One destroyer or frigate to remain.

## 1955

Mar 14 RAAF Trsp. Flight formed to link Japan & BCFK.

Nov - HMAS *Condamine* returns. Last ship to be sent direct to Korea.

## 1956

Mar 13 1RAR in last parade, Korea.

15 Brit.Comm Div disbanded.

Jun 30 Administrative responsibility passes from Australia to Britain. Aust Army commitment only a detachment.

Jul            7    Last three Dakotas depart. Seventy RAAF personnel depart later in month. RAAF  
cease active link with 5th US Air Force.

### **1957/58**

Last Detachments of Aust & NZ return from Korea.

# MALAYA

## 1950

- May 31 Decision to send RAAF Sqn to Malaya. Dakotas to be used for dropping supplies. (38 Sqn)
- Jun 17 Advance party leaves Schofields Air Base.  
19 Arrives Changi.  
27 Ann: 1 Sqn (Lincoln Heavy Bomber) RAAF to be sent to Malaya.  
29 Main body 38 Sqn arrives. Operational from this date.
- Jul 6 RAAF equipment and personnel under command Far East Air Force.  
12 Operational flying begins (Ambulance flight).  
23 First supply dropping mission.  
- Four Lincolns arrive Tengah, Singapore, 1 & 38 Sqns form 90 Wing, RAAF

## 1951

38 Sqn aids in supply dropping & communications. First Aust built Lincoln completes 100 bombing missions.

- Nov - 1 Sqn flies 83 sorties; 250,000 lbs. of bombs have been dropped since arrival in 1950.  
30 38 Sqn moves to Kuala Lumpur.  
- Two Lincolns made thousandth air strike of 1951 in Selangor State, followed up by ground forces.

## 1952

- 38 Sqn drop first British paratroops used in Malayan campaign. (SAS, Malayan Scouts Regt)
- Jul - 1 Sqn flies 71 sorties against targets all over the Federation.  
- 38 Sqn drop 50,000 lbs. supplies.
- Nov - Aust Army Observer Unit sent to Malaya.
- Dec - 38 Sqn have flown more than 1.5 million miles in 18 months. Withdrawn from Malaya because of large transport commitments in Korea.

## 1953

- Jan - 1 Sqn flies 50 day, 5 night ops
- Feb - 1 Sqn drops heaviest concentration in 1 day, 100,000 lbs on 100 acres of jungle in N Johore.
- Apr - 105 sorties wiping out bandit camps.

- Drop 170,000 lbs bombs in Op Commodore. Attempt to trap Bandit Committee in Jungle.
- Oct - Biggest Leaflet dropping ops in SE Asia since 1945.

## 1954

1 Sqn continues operations, Malaya.

## 1955

- Apr 2 Ann: 3,500 Aust Servicemen to be sent to Malaya this year. RAAF 1,500 (1 Bomber, 2 Fighter Sqns., 1 Airfield Cons Sqn), Army, 1,000 (2RAR), RAN, 2 Frigates or Destroyers and Aircraft Carrier occasionally (up to 2,000 men).  
Ann: RNZN will continue to maintain a frigate in the area. HMNZS *Kaniere* to relieve HMNZS *Pukski* after exercises May-Jun 1955. NZ SAS Sqn will be recruited to serve with British 22 SAS Regt  
14 Sqn, RNZAF moves from Cyprus to Singapore.
- May - 41 Sqn, RNZAF moves from NZ to Singapore. Medium Trspt (Courier flights, ground support ops).
- Jun - HMAS. *Quadrant*, *Arunta*, *Anzac*, *Warramunga*, *Tobruk* in Malayan and Asian waters. Exercise with British Far East Fleet. HMAS *Arunta*, *Warramunga* remain in Northern waters as part of Aust contribution to Commonwealth Strategic Reserve.
- 30 Ann: RAAF advance party of 30 officers, men, to fly to Malaya in Jul. 2 AC Sqn first air unit to go to SE Asia Strategic Reserve.
- Sep 1 Vanguard (456 all ranks) 2RAR, 2 AC Sqn, six nurses, leave for Malaya. Army personnel to be attached to 28 Brit Comm Inf Bde Group.
- 12 Advance Party Aust Army, 26 Officers, 144 ORs arrives Singapore.
- 13 Reaches Penang (Minden Barracks). RAAF stations at Butterworth.
- Oct 8 More than 800 men of 2RAR sail from Brisbane. (10 trained dogs accompany them).
- 2RAR arrive Penang.
- Nov - 6 Officers, 127 ORs leave NZ for Malaya.
- 23 RAAF Lincolns join new blows at Reds in Malaya.
- 29 RAAF Sisters leave for Malaya.
- 30 HMAS *Anzac*, *Tobruk*, on way to Malaya. arrive 3 Dec.
- Dec - Aust (RAASC) ambushed about 50m SE of Ipoh.

## 1956

- Jan 1 Aust Army fires first shots against terrorists. Artillery barrage by 105 Fd.Bty. in Kedah State. Aust part of a force operating against Kulim 2 and Kulim 4 (Communist Organisations).
- 3 First patrols return, no contact.

- 4 Offensive continues in Bongsu Mountains.  
 11 Aust capture first terrorist.  
 - NZ SAS joins parent unit in Op role.  
 23 NZ troops in first mission in Malaya.
- Feb - Three Aust accidentally shot by own men.  
 24 RAAF bombers strike at Hideouts 6 miles from Kuala Lumpur.  
 - Nearly 1 million lbs of bombs dropped, 196,000 on two targets in Johore in 1 day (record for RAAF in 5 1/2 years).
- Mar - First Aust KIA in jungle battle. Patrols kill one, wound two enemy in Bongsu Forest.  
 13 Patrol uses tracker dogs in S Kedah.
- Apr - Ops conclude S Kedah. Wellesley Province. Bn moves to Perak for Op Shark N.
- May 2 First New Zealander KIA in SAS action.  
 14 Aust in action N of Ipoh, 4 WIA in grenade attack on Sungei Siput.
- Jun 13 Aust and Malay Police in action N of Ipoh.  
 23 War enters 9th year. 6,000 Communist Terrorists, 1,800 Security Forces, 2,400 Civilians have been killed.  
 23 Ambush near Sungei Siput. (Aust casualties 3 KIA, 1 WIA.)
- Aug 10 Aust in action at Kroh, near Thai Border.
- Sep 28 6 Aust injured in premature shell burst.  
 30 HMAS *Anzac* and *Tobruk* fire 128 shells in bombardment of E coast of Johore.
- Oct 26 Aust patrol in engagement at Sungei Siput.
- Nov 11 Ann: HMAS *Queenborough*, *Quickmatch* to relieve HMAS *Anzac*, *Tobruk*.

## 1957

- Jan 22 HMAS *Queenborough* and *Quickmatch* bombard suspected terrorist hideouts on SE coast of Johore.
- Mar 19 Ann: HMAS *Melbourne*, *Tobruk*, *Anzac* to join FE Strategic Reserve.
- May 16 105 Fd Bty fire 300 shells in operation.  
 18 Midnight raid by 1 Sqn on jungle hideout kills Communist leader Teng Fook Long.  
 25 Two Lincolns drop 11 tons of bombs on suspected hideouts. A loudspeaker plane calls on terrorists to surrender.
- Jun 18 Recruiting starts for NZ Infantry Bn for Malaya.  
 24 HMAS *Melbourne*, *Quickmatch*, *Queenborough*, return from Malayan waters.  
 25 2 Aust KIA, 1 WIA near Thai border. British and Aust Artillery bombard targets on Malayan side of border.  
 27 Whole 2RAR in action after terrorist band.
- Jul 11 Ann: Aust bombers have dropped nearly 32 m. lbs of bombs in 7 years.
- Aug 27 HMAS *Tobruk* shells suspected communist hideouts, SE coast Johore.

- 31 Malaya achieves independence.
- Oct 10 Aust transport arrives at Singapore with 850 troops, 227 wives and children, after collision with a tanker in Torres Strait. 3RAR, 100 Fd Bty, 2 Fd Tp. RAE relieve 2RAR, 105 Fd Bty, 4 Fd Tp. RAE
- Nov 29 1RNZR Regt sails for Singapore.

## 1958

- Jan 9 3RAR in clash at Sungei Siput.
- 10 Since commencement of year 5,000 rounds fired in bombardment of terrorist positions around Ipoh (100 Bty RAA & Singapore Bty).
- 18 More than 10,000 British. Aust and Malayan soldiers and police fanned out over 1,200 sq miles of country in Op Ginger, aimed at 276 terrorists in Sungci Siput and Batu Gajah areas.
- 25 HMAS *Voyager*, *Warramunga* relieve *Tobruk*, *Anzac*.
- Apr 24 3RAR first kill in action on Anzac eve.
- May 31 1RNZR in action.
- Jul 2 Canberra 1 Sqn from 82 Bomber Wing, arrive Butterworth, Nos. 3 and 77 to go later.
- 8 Five Lincolns of 1 Sqn. arrive Darwin from Tengah, after 8 years active service. Just under 4000 sorties, 34 m. lbs of bombs dropped.
- After 10 years war only 1,000 (approx.) terrorists left. Peak was 1950 about 11,000 insurgents.
- Aug 16 NZ patrol in action in Ipoh district.
- 19 HMAS *Quiberon* arrives Singapore. *Voyager*, *Warramunga* return.
- 21 Sailors from HMS *Cheviot* work with NZ Regt (Exchange Service).
- Sep - Night attack by 3RAR
- 4 Canberra bombers in action for first time. Drop thousands lbs of bombs on terrorists hideouts in N Malayan jungle.
- Second raid with Canberras of RAF and RNZAF.
- Nov 11 Last of 19 Avon Sabre jets of 3 Sqn, RAAF land Butterworth. Fly in via Darwin, Dutch New Guinea, Philippines, Borneo to Malaya.
- 24 Ann: three Communist leaders killed by 3RAR patrol and Borneo Iban trackers near Lasah, N. Malaya.
- Dec - 100 A. Fd Bty has fired 50,000 shells since Nov 1957. Now harassing terrorists in jungle near Glik, N. Malaya.
- 29 41 Sqn, RNZAF logs second millionth mile flying in 3 1/2 years in Far East.

## 1959

- Jan 14 RAAF Hercules Transports leave with 10 tons freight for RAAF units based at Butterworth. First ops for Hercules.
- 27 HMAS *Queenborough* sails from Sydney for 3 months with SEATO.



- Feb 18 RAAF uses new Hercules to transport 12 Sabre jets to Malaya.
- Mar 16 HMAS *Tobruk, Anzac*, sail for Malayan waters.  
26 HMAS *Melbourne, Voyager* arrive Singapore to serve until Jun.
- May 5 3RAR patrol contact enemy in Perak.  
16 HMAS *Quiberon, Queenborough* return from Malaya.
- Jun - Aust and NZ patrol, led by a Maori in action near Thai border.
- Aug 13 RAAF Sabres in action for first time strafing terrorist hideouts located by ground troops. Support NZ and Aust Canberras in first airstrike for 7 months. First action for 3 Sqn, RAAF since 1939-45 War and for 77 Sqn, RAAF since Korea.  
31 Advance party 1RAR leaves by air.
- Sep 3 1RAR leaves Brisbane aboard liner *Flaminia*.
- Nov - 2RAR RNZR replaces 1RAR RNZR
- Dec 19 3RAR returns to Aust.  
25 800 Aust and Gurkhas seek 40 diehard guerillas in central Malaya.  
- HMAS *Vendetta, Quickmatch*, arrive Singapore to relieve *Tobruk, Anzac*.

## 1960

HMAS *Quickmatch* replaced by *Queenborough*.

- Mar 31 Aust begin ops N Kedah.
- May - Aust set trap for 7 uniformed terrorists, N Perak.
- Jun - HMAS *Vampire, Quiberon* replace *Vendetta, Queenborough*.
- Jul 31 Malayan Emergency officially ends.
- Nov/Dec - HMAS *Quiberon, Vampire* replaced by *Quickmatch, Voyager*.

## 1961

- Jan - HMAS *Melbourne* leaves for long cruise of SE Asia.
- Sep - 2RAR and 1RNZR replace 1RAR and 2RNZR

## 1962

- Jan 10 3 Fd Bty RAA equipped with 105 mm pack howitzers, Malaya.
- Jun 2 Eight RAAF Sabres, 79 Sqn, RAAF arrive at Ubon, Thailand.

**1963**

- May 14 Troops of 2RAR actively hunting Communists near Thai Border.  
- 3RAR and 1RNZIR replace 2RAR and 1RNZIR (NZ Bn was relieved by Company rotation).

**1964**

Action against Indonesians during Malaysian Confrontation 77 Sqn, RAAF.

**1965**

4RAR replaces 3RAR. Transfer to Borneo for action against Indonesians. 111 LAA Regt arrives Butterworth.

**1966**

- Apr 13 110 LAA Regt to relieve 111 LAA Regt, Butterworth.

**1967**

- Feb 15 3 Sqn, RAAF arrives home after 9 years at Butterworth to reequip with Mirage Fighters. To be replaced by 77 (Mirage) Sqn, RAAF.
- Apr 14 Canberras to transfer to Vietnam from Malaysia.  
28 HMAS *Hawk, Gull* return to Sydney after more than 1 year in Malaysian area. (Since Jan 1966).
- Nov - 8RAR replaces 4RAR

**1968**

- Jul 17 Ann: 79 Sqn, RAAF to be withdrawn from Ubon, Thailand to Butterworth in Malaysia. Brings strength at Butterworth to a Mirage Squadron, two Sabre Sqns, a transport unit and about 1,000 men.
- Dec 11 Aust Army commitment in the area: Force HQ at Singapore. 8RAR, plus support units at Terendak with 28 Commonwealth Inf Bde Group, a LAA Bty at Butterworth, Signals Sqn at Singapore — 1,500 men. Navy Commitment: Two vessels in Asian waters.  
- British Ann intention not to maintain ground forces in Malaysia/Singapore after 1971.

## 1969

- Jan 31 1RAR to leave Vietnam, return to Aust to reinforce with NS component and relieve 8RAR
- Feb 14 Transfer of RAAF Sabre jets from Butterworth (79 Sqn) back to Aust in exchange for a new Squadron of Mirage fighters (3 Sqn) has begun.
- 26 Ann: Aust will station 1,200 ground troops, 42 Mirage jets (34 at Butterworth, 8 at Singapore) and one warship in Malaysia/Singapore region after 1971. NZ to contribute one battalion ground troops and one naval ship (frigate) and medium transport planes, with periodic deployment of strike planes. Both Aust and NZ Bns would be based in Singapore with one company in turn maintained in Butterworth area.
- Apr 9 HMAS *Duchess* and *Derwent* return after 6 months in SE Asian waters with Commonwealth Strategic Reserve.
- 17 Probably last change over of Aust troops at Terendak 8RAR makes way for 1RAR Base expected to close before 1970.
- May 5 HMAS *Melbourne*, *Parramatta* and *Supply* leave for short period with Strategic Reserve.
- Sep 26 Transfer from Terendak has begun to conclude by Jan 1970.
- Oct 28 Brit Comm Bde ceremonial farewell. End of long association of British, Aust, NZ troops in Far East.
- 10 Sabres at Butterworth handed over to Malaysia.

## 1970

- Feb 4 Ann: Aust and NZ temporarily quartered at two British camps pending completion of Permanent Base for Anzac troops on Singapore.
- Apr 14 British troops airlifted for manoeuvres to Malaysia. Constant presence of at least 3,000 British troops in Malaysia at any one time seems guaranteed despite the British Govt's professed policy of general withdrawal from SE Asia.
- Jun 2 Ann: Singapore Govt. decide to accommodate Aust and NZ Bns in twin barracks complex.
- 17 Aust and Malaysian Govts in hitch in negotiating on the future of Butterworth Air Base. 1,500 RAAF men operating Mirage jets. Aust families rent 818 houses on Penang and the mainland.
- Oct 1 Ann: Malaysia's first Sabre jet squadron expected to be operational in a month, stationed at Butterworth. RAAF's 104 member Sabre Advisory Flight now being phased out.
- 30 Britain Ann that it will contribute an aircraft-carrier, five destroyers or frigates, one infantry Bn, a Gurkha Brigade, plus recce. planes and helicopters to defence of Malaysia and Singapore while counting on support of Aust and NZ forces.

## 1971

- May 17 Ann: that Malayan rebels becoming more active. Bridge dynamited 9 miles from Butterworth.
- Jun - 6RAR replaces 1RAR
- Jul 14 Ann: that Malaysian Parliament discuss possibility that the Mirage jets at RAAF Base, Butterworth are likely target for the guerilla force.
- Nov 1 5 power ANZUK defence arrangements come into effect (Aust, NZ, Britain, Singapore, Malaysia).

## 1972

- Mar 28 Communist guerillas active in Sarawak. 15 Malayan Rangers killed. Largest toll in Sarawak since confrontation.
- May 6 Ann: Mirage of 3 Sqn, RAAF missing in jungle.
- Dec 8 With Labour Governments in Aust and NZ, 6RAR (550 men) and 1RNZR may be withdrawn.
- 16 With cessation of National Service, only 13 of 131 Aust National Servicemen in Singapore ask to leave the Army.

## 1973

- May 9 Ann: RAAF units likely to stay in Malaysia until 1975.
- Jul 5 Ann: The last Aust combat troops overseas will be home by April 1975, incl 150 man army communication Spy force in Singapore, which will be moved to Darwin. (1700 troops are in Singapore under the five-power ANZUK defence arrangement. The only troops to remain will be a small technical core of about 150. 1250 to return by Feb 1974.)
- No decision has been made on the timing of the withdrawal of the two Mirage squadrons from Butterworth (for review before March 1975).
- Oct 2 Ann: 6RAR started retiring a week ago. 350 men and families left in Sep. To be reduced to 600, all services, in Singapore by Feb 1974. Withdrawal of more than 700 by Dec including Artillery Bty and some support units.
- 9 Aust formally farewelled from ANZUK military brigade (6RAR, Royal Highland Fusiliers, 1RNZR).
- In various forms the brigade was 23 years old and had served in Korea, the Malayan Eergency, the Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam.
- Nov 9 Ann: Aust combat troops being sent to Malaysia for training exercises on permanent rotation (120 soldiers, one company of 8RAR, 3 months posting to Butterworth). Will continue after ground forces have been withdrawn from Singapore.
- 12 HMAS *Sydney* decommissioned at Garden Island.

- Dec 1 Ann: PM states Aust will never again send troops to fight in Asian wars or garrison troops overseas as part of military commitment to involve Aust in Asian wars.
- 22 Ann: last Aust infantrymen (6RAR) due to leave Singapore. Only one company (to be changed every 3 months) will stay at Butterworth Air Base, Malaysia, on security duty.

## CONFRONTATION WITH INDONESIA

### 1963

Oct - 3RAR relieves 2RAR in Malaysia.

### 1964

Oct 29 Aust round up 50 Indonesian guerillas N of Kenang River, Malacca.

Dec 14 HMAS *Teal* engages Indonesians in two small boats. Three enemy killed.

### 1965

Feb 23/24 HMAS *Teal* captures boat load of armed Indonesians off S Malaya.

25 RAAF helicopter guides Malaysians to Indonesian guerillas.

27 1SAS (150 Aust troops) move into Borneo.

Mar - 3RAR on operations in Borneo.

25 3RAR clash with Indonesians in Borneo for the first time - no casualties.

Apr - 3RAR transfers to Bau district of Sarawak.

Apr/May - Three Aust KIA by Indonesian mines.

- Units of IRNZR fly from Singapore to Kuching, Sarawak. Remainder to join by ship.

Jun 3 24 Construction Squadron, RAE, departs Brisbane to relieve 1 Field Squadron in Borneo.

17 Aust ambush Indonesians across Sarawak border. At least 17 (possibly upwards of 50) killed. 2 Aust WIA.

30 New Zealanders kill 3 Indonesians. capture 1 in clash in Sarawak. No NZ casualties.

Jul - 102 Fd Bty RAA in action in Sarawak. NZ attack in Sinianggang area, Sarawak call in artillery support, forcing raiders back.

28 Helicopters from HMS *Albion* fly 3RAR men out to Terendak Camp, Malacca (also 2 Fd Tp. RAE) replaced by 10th Gurkha Rifles. 3RAR suffered 4 KIA, 4 WIA since March.

29 NZ in clash with infiltrators.

Aug 9 Singapore quits Malaysia.

- 1SAS return after 6 months duty, in two flights by RAAF Hercules. Replaced by a British Unit.

- 4RAR relieves 3RAR in Malaysia. A Bty relieves 102 Fd Bty and 7 Fd Sqn relieves 2 Fd Tp.

Sep 4 Nine Indonesians killed in clash with security patrol incl NZ.

- 4RAR arrives in Borneo.

- Oct 12 NZ Infantry break up Indonesian troop concentration on Malaysian border.  
Dec 8 Ann: General Service Medal with Borneo clasp for troops in Borneo.

## 1966

- Jan 18 HMAS *Ibis* and *Teal* on way home, replaced by HMAS *Hawk* and *Gull*.  
Apr 13 Ann: 100 National Servicemen to go to Malaysia and Borneo in Jun.  
- 4RAR on Ops Borneo under roster of 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group.  
Jun 15 Aust patrol in battalion sized op close to Indonesian border, Bau (Gunong Raya Ridge). NS on ops  
Jul 27 2SAS return from Bornco.  
Aug 1 Peace Treaty ends undeclared 3 year war. Indonesia had lost 570 men, Malaysia and Commonwealth over 100, including Aust.  
20 Aust begin withdrawal from Borneo (Kuching to Malacca).  
Sep 4 Main body 4RAR arrives at Singapore from Bornco.  
Oct - RAF to remain in East Malaysia. All other non-Malaysian units to be withdrawn by end of year.  
Nov - Ann: Malaysians and Indonesians cooperating to destroy communists operating along Sarawak border.  
28 22 Construction Sqn, RAE withdraw from Sabah after 2 1/2 years service.

## 1967

- Sep 17 4RAR in Malaysia will be replaced by 8RAR by November.

## VIETNAM

### 1962

- Aug - Contingent of Aust Army advisers sent to Vietnam for training purposes.

### 1964

- Jun - Advisers committed to active service in Vietnam. Numbers increased progressively to 100.
- Jul 6 Aust Adviser killed.
- Aug - RAAF unit (Caribous) being formed for service in Vietnam.
- Nov 6 RAAF aircraft operating from Cap St Jaques drop flares.

### 1965

- Apr 29 Ann: 1RAR to serve in Vietnam.
- May 14 RAAF Caribou forced down on Hai Yen airstrip under Viet Cong shelling.  
26 Advance party 1RAR arrives Saigon.  
27 HMAS *Sydney* departs with 1RAR (first trip).  
27 Ann: NZ Artillery Bty to serve in Vietnam. 161 Bty of 16 Fd Regt Four 105 mm Pack Howitzers.
- Jun 2 First detachment of 1RAR arrive by air. Stationed Bien Hoa Air Base, 12 miles from Saigon. Joined on 4, 6, 17 Jun by further detachments.  
27 3 Aust killed, 10 wounded in grenade accident.  
30 1RAR attack Viet Cong in War Zone D. 4 Aust WIA.
- Jul 7 Aust pinned down by ambush, later escape. 1 Aust WIA.  
19 Aust, NZ and US troops fight off heavy attack on Bien Hoa. First joint action since NZ arrived previous week.
- Jul 29 Aust patrol call NZ Artillery support Dong Hai. RAAF Hercules flying out wounded.
- Aug 1 Aust, NZ hold off Viet Cong for 3 hours.  
17 Aust scouts, section leaders armed with Armalite Rifles.  
18 Ann: Aust to be increased to Battalion Group by inclusion of 350 specialised support troops, including aircraft from 16 Light Aircraft Squadron.
- Sep 11 HMAS *Sydney* leaves with 350 troops and aircraft of 16 L.A. Sqn (Second trip).  
15 Aust, US, S Viet in large scale search and destroy assault 20 miles N of Saigon (Ben Cat).  
19 Aust clear Viet Cong villages and seize explosives. Call on NZ Artillery to destroy village.



- Oct 6 105 Fd Bty fired first shots at weekend, together with US,NZ Artillery. Ops in Ben Cat area.  
 25 Aust kill 2 Viet Cong, wound 3, in action Ap Tan Dinh. Engineers clear helipad, Guns from 105 Fd Bty lifted in Army helicopters swept area on 23/24. 1 Aust KIA, 1 WIA.
- Nov 8 Ann: Aust Engineers have destroyed strategic point 15 miles NE of Bien Hoa. Aust kill 6, capture 5 Viet Cong.  
 10 Aust and US troops kill 391 Viet Cong. 2 Aust KIA, 6 WIA.
- Nov 24 Aust trap Viet Cong at Duc Hoe, kill 7, with 4 possibles.  
 28 Aust capture 26 Viet Cong. 2 Aust WIA.  
 - Aust Armoured Carriers make fast sortie into village near Duc Hanh, capture 6 Viet Cong.
- Dec 1 To date Aust have rounded up 389 suspected Viet Cong (150 later confirmed). Vo Dat Valley; capture village of Vo Xu.  
 15 NZ Bty has fired 12,000 rounds since arrival.  
 21 1RAR returns to base after 4/5 weeks continuously in field on 2 ops. Killed 18 Viet Cong. captured 177 for loss 1 KIA, 4 WIA.

## 1966

- Jan 3 Ann: Aust have moved into N edge of Mekong Delta for first time, hunting large force trying to seize rice harvest.  
 4 Operations within 12 miles of Cambodian border.  
 10 4 Aust KIA, 18 WIA in Operation Crimp. Destroy Viet Cong HQ for whole Saigon Area.  
 14 10 Aust have been KIA, 32 WIA during this week.  
 15 Aust lifted out by helicopter. Ho Bo Wood (8 K, 30 W.).
- Feb 8 Aust smash major Viet Cong base in War Zone D, (IK,4W.).  
 9 1RAR returns to base after 6 days in War Zone D. (Op Roundhouse.)  
 25 Op Rollingstone. Aust kill 12, wound 2 for no loss.  
 26 US, Aust, NZ. repulse Viet Cong attacking US Bde HQ
- Mar 14 1 Aust KIA, 8 WIA.  
 15 Two RAAF Caribous holed by mortar fire.  
 21 Aust return from Op Silver City.  
 22 9 Aust WIA.  
 26 NZ Ann: another 27 men plus 2 105 mm howitzers to be sent.
- Apr 7 10 Aust WIA in search and destroy mission, which commenced Mar 30 (Op Abilene).  
 18 First NS troops left Sydney by air in Advance Party of 4,500 strong Task Force to replace 1RAR (35 special charter flights to transfer troops).  
 24 HMAS Sydney leaves Sydney with 400 troops of 5RAR (Third trip).
- May 4 5RAR disembark from HMAS Sydney at Vung Tau.  
 24 Op Hardihood begins.  
 26 First National Serviceman KIA.  
 31 100 troops of 6RAR depart from Amberley Air Base.

- Jun 1 SRAR kill 3 Viet Cong in Op Hardihood. NZ Gunners support.  
 3 Viet Cong raid on Vung Tau logistical support group camp  
 7 9 Sqn, RAAF (helicopters) land Vung Tau, flying from HMAS *Sydney* (Fourth trip) to pads prepared by 5 AC Sqn. Join 35 Sqn, RAAF in Vietnam.  
 9 Second Aust KIA, Op Hardihood. 13 Viet Cong killed so far.  
 10 2 Aust KIA, 4 WIA by Viet Cong mortar.  
 16 Ann: Vernon Sturdee nosed into virtually unknown river to provide road building equipment. Armed more heavily than usual.  
 17 4 Aust KIA, 6 WIA, near Vung Tau.  
 25 First 6RAR Op.
- Jul 11 Viet Cong infiltrate Task Force Area, 2 Aust KIA, 5 WIA.  
 21 Op Sydney. 5RAR encircle Viet Cong strongbold.  
 - Op Hobart. 6RAR Op First major contact with Viet Cong. 3 Aust KIA and 19 WIA mostly by mortar fire. Inflict heavy casualties on bugle blowing Viet Cong guerillas. RAAF Iroquois helicopters flew into heart of battle to take out wounded.
- Aug 2 US Artillery Bty added to two Aust, one NZ Bty, in Aust 1st Fd Regt. 18 howitzers fired 8,000 shells in 2 months since becoming operational.  
 10 Aust Task Force allotted responsibility for SW Phuoc Tuy Province.  
 17 22 Aust WIA in mortar attack.  
 18 17 Aust KIA, 1 DOW, 26 WIA. in action in Baris Area. (Battle of Long Tan. 6RAR) 245 Viet Cong KIA. Aust rescued by arrival of Armoured Personnel Carriers. D Coy. 6RAR awarded US Presidential Unit Citation.  
 25 Op Deckhouse. Clean up of area by Aust, US Marines destroying tunnels.
- Sep 21 6RAR kill 7 Viet Cong, wound 4, capture 2, for loss of 1 WIA in Op Vaocluse. Helilifted out to attack difficult mountain stronghold, Nui Dinh.
- Oct 6 Op Canberra. Aust kill 6 Viet Cong in mountain country 10 west of HQ  
 21 Aust patrols scout precipitous jungle area W. of base.  
 30 1,200 Aust operating against Hoa Long village.
- Nov 1 38 Viet Cong taken at Hoa Long.  
 7 Op ar fishing village Phuoc Hoa (5RAR and one Coy, 6RAR).  
 9 Op Hayman. Bn plus operation. Troops helilifted by Chinooks to swamp island (Long San) 12 Viet Cong killed. RAAF Iroquois sinks two Viet Cong sampans.
- Dec 3 Op Ingham ends. (Began Nov 18). 6RAR and elements of 5RAR and APCs, Aust, NZ, US Artillery against D445 Viet Cong Battalion.  
 15 WO K A Wheatley awarded posthumous Victoria Cross for action on 13 Nov 1965.  
 21 Ann: increase in Task Force to 6,000 (Extra 1,700). Also 2 Sqn, RAAF (Canberra Bombers) HMAS *Hobart* and a Naval Diving Team.  
 26 Artillery batteries in barrage against communist troop concentrations.

## 1967

- Jan 30 SRAR patrol returns from 6 day Op, 4 Viet Cong killed, 7 wounded.
- Feb 7 4 Aust KIA, 13 WIA by NZ Artillery fire (defective Plotter).  
 Op Tambourine. 6RAR kill 8 Viet Cong.  
 17 6RAR airborne into battle, 6 hr. fight in rice paddies. RAAF helicopters supply ammunition. 70 Viet Cong killed. 8 Aust KIA, 27 WIA.

- 27 RAAF fly 50 wounded home by Hercules.
- Mar 5 Advance units of 2RAR & 7RAR arrive.  
 7 HMAS *Hobart* leaves for 6 months service.  
 8 NZ to send another 210 men. (Total 360.)  
 8 Aust Spotter Planes (Cessnas) of 161 Recce Flight in daylight attack.  
 9 RAAF Iroquois evacuate S Viet at Xuycn Moc.
- Apr 4 2 Sqn, RAAF to operate from Phan Rang, 150 miles NE of Saigon. (Three RAAF Sqs now in Vietnam, greatest number on Air ops at one time since WWII.)  
 16 Caribous drop 44 gal. petrol drums. Ignited by tracers from RAAF helicopters.  
 16 HMAS *Hobart* to assist US 7th Fleet in Gulf of Tonkin.  
 21 7RAR helicoptered into Task Force base camp Nui Dat from HMAS *Sydney* (5th trip) at entrance to Saigon R.  
 22 HMAS *Hobart* fired on by N Viet coastal batteries.  
 23 RAAF Canberras make first strike of war. 6 planes attack targets 250 miles SE of Phan Rang.
- May - Op Puckapunyal. Canberras combine with Task Force (first Op 7RAR) in op NW of base. Helicoptered in under cover US fighters, NZ Arty.  
 4 Ann: Canberras in precision night bombing raids, support Aust ground troops  
 9 Aust Military HQ Saigon blasted by Viet Cong mine.  
 10 7RAR kill 7 Viet Cong. Op Lismore. Tracker dogs first used.  
 11 The first NZ Infantry arrive Vietnam. 62 men (about half Maoris) advance party of 200 man company.  
 12 HMAS *Hobart* in action bombarding 19m. N. of Port of Dong Hoi.  
 13 HMAS *Hobart* sinks N Viet cargo ship & dmmages another off N Viet.
- Jun 4 6RAR ends Op Bowcn. No contact in Long Tan area.  
 16 HMAS *Sydney* sails (6th trip) with 2RAR Had returned with 5RAR  
 19 HMAS *Hobart* with USS *Allen M Sumner* sink 14 Viet Cong cargo barges and other craft.  
 24 9 Sqn, RAAF helicopters blast Viet Cong storage camp and Sampan supply base Rai River.  
 30 RAAF Caribous drop nontoxic riot control gas on Viet Cong concentrations for first time.
- Jul 5 Ann: 10 mile wire barrier from Nui Dat to coast almost complete. Fort at start garrisoned by NZ company & battery.  
 Op Barbarossa. First fullscale Op by 2RAR No contact.  
 9 101 Bty, 1 Fd Regt, hand over to 4 Fd Regt  
 10 116 Viet Cong killed by Aust ambush Patrol & NZ Artillery.  
 22 Ann: NS comprise 50% of Aust combat troops in Vietnam (5,200 men in 2RAR and 7RAR, 4 Fd Regt, SAS, APC, support with RAAF, RAN about 6,000 men).  
 22 Op Geraldton. 2RAR  
 Op Broken Hill. 7RAR
- Aug 2 Op Coorparoo. 7RAR sweep destroys 14 Viet Cong camps  
 32,000 tons bombs dropped on 750 targets by 2 Sqn, RAAF in first 2 months ops  
 13 Entire task force in Op Paddington, against Viet Cong 274 Regt, 5th Div Phuoc Tuy Province. 2 Aust KIA, 170 Viet Cong killed (est.).  
 Op Ballarat. 6 Aust KIA, 17 WIA.

- 25 Two RAAF Iroquois fight close range gun battle with Viet Cong as Aust patrol is winched out of the jungle.
- 30 Viet Cong guerillas attack AATT HQ with rockets. Dalsi.  
- HMAS *Hobart* in bombardment of Chong Pbu railyards 110 miles S of Hanoi, under shore fire.
- Sep - Op Ainslie. 2RAR
- Oct - Op Kenmore 2RAR and 7RAR heli-lifted to jumping-off point, resupplied by parachute drop for first time.
- 5 46 Naval Airmen leave Sydney for Vietnam. Crew and maintenance for 4 helicopters to serve with US Army. (Also HMAS *Perth*, Naval Diving team.)
- 7 Ann: 3RAR to be sent to increase Task Force to 7,300 (army, 6,000). Also 15 Centurion tanks, with crews (250 officers and men). 8 more helicopters for 9 Sqn, RAAF. Navy skyhawk pilots for ops with USMC. Engineer Construction Unit, Specialists HQ NZ to raise force from 376 to 546 in Nov/Dec.
- 17 Maj P J Badcoe awarded posthumous VC for actions Feb/Apr 1967.
- 18 HMAS *Perth* hit by N Viet gun batteries while firing on target 176 miles N of DMZ. 4 Aust cas.
- 24 HMAS *Perth* scores hits on road, bridge 14 miles NNW Deng Hei
- 26 HMAS *Perth* fires last of 3,500 salvoes, burns out barrels of guns in first month of ops.
- Nov - Op Sante Fe, 2RAR and 7RAR, 15,000 Aust, US, S Viet troops engaged 10 miles NE Nui Dat.
- 10 Phuoc Tuy - ambush. (Aust cas 2 KIA, 6 WIA)  
2 RAN pilots in first action (Op Sante Fe). Intergrated with 135 US Army Assault Helicopter Coy. (Vung Tau). Carried US, S Viet troops to area of ops
- 19 Op Sante Fe completed. Aust kill 38, wound 9, capture 5. Stores captured.
- 21 RAAF Iroquois helicopters rescue Army pilot and observer (Bell helicopter) forced to land in enemy territory.
- 27 Op Forrest to deny rice harvest to Viet Cong. 4 Aust KIA and 17 wounded in battle in jungle. Artillery of 4 Fd Regt hammer Viet Cong escape routes as they attempt to break out of cordon around their camp in heavy rain. Three RAAF Iroquois helicopters of 9 Sqn, RAAF lift wounded Aust out of jungle hills N of Vung Tau, directed by pilot of 161 Independent Recce Flight in Bell Sioux helicopter.
- 27 HMAS *Hobart* to leave for S Vietnam soon.
- 30 HMAS *Sydney* to take troops to S Vietnam in December.
- 30 2 Aust KIA. 10 WIA in two incidents in Phuoc Tuy Province. 11 Viet Cong killed. 7RAR takes enemy base in 2 hour pitched battle.
- Dec 1 Aust infantrymen hit back at Viet Cong after a week of clashes causing 6 Aust KIA, 30 WIA. 4 Aust kill 3 Viet Cong, wound 2.
- 12 2RAR kill 2 viet Cong E. of Nui Dat.
- 12 Advance Party 3RAR arrives in Saigon.
- 16 2 Aust (Trg. Team) KIA in ambush.
- 16 HMAS *Sydney* departs Adelaide with 500 troops (3RAR) (7th trip.)
- 19 2 RAAF helicopters rescue 5 man patrol from heavy fire NE of Nui Dat.
- 22 Aust kill 5 Viet Cong in two separate actions, 1 Aust WIA.
- 27 3RAR arrives S Vietnam to give Task Force three operational battalions.

## 1968

- Jan 7 Op Balaclava — 3RAR on Ops for first time. No contact.
- 13 Three Aust helicopter crews defy exploding ammunition to rescue 6 men from crashed helicopter.
- 14 Aust and New Zealanders kill 11 Viet Cong armed with rocket launchers, machine guns and rifles in bitter fighting east of Saigon (Op Duntroon part of Op Akron 5). (9 killed by V Coy. RNZIR., serving with 2RAR, others by 2RAR)
- 16 1 Fd Sqn, RAE, supporting 2RAR and 7 RAR. destroy Viet Cong base camp (800 yards of tunnels).
- 17 Reinforcements leave aboard HMAS *Sydney* (8th trip).
- 18/19 HMAS *Perth* and USS *Newport News* sink enemy vessels in Bay of Brandon, 135 miles N of DMZ.
- 22 Op Duntroon ends. NZ kill 11 of 14 Viet Cong killed. 2 NZ, 1 Aust WIA. Enemy weapons captured.
- 22 HMAS *Perth* destroys or damages 12 buildings near Dong Hoi and Ham Lanh Bridge.
- 25 Op Coburg begins to prevent Viet Cong massing before 36 hour Lunar New Year truce. NE of Bien Hoa. 2RAR and 7 RAR, A Sqn 3 Cav Regt, 4 Fd Regt, 1st Fd Sqn Planes of 161st I.R. Flight and 9 Sqn, RAAF. At least 24 Viet Cong killed, 10 wounded. C Coy. 2RAR in 16 hour pitched battle with reinforced Viet Cong Company.
- 31 Since lifting of Lunar New Year Truce Aust and New Zealanders have had 7 skirmishes with Viet Cong. Viet Cong attack cities. Feb 1 Aust called to defend Baria, 5m. from Nui Dat, street fighting. 'A Coy. 3RAR and 3 Cav. Regt APC clear casualties. (A Coy., in virtually first action kill 41 enemy.)
- Feb 6 C Coy 7RAR fighting at base camp Bien Hoa province. Op Coburg. D Coy. 7RAR kill 3 Viet Cong. A-tank platoon of 2RAR captures rocket launcher. 4 Fd Regt and US Bty pound mortar position. 18 Viet Cong killed. B Coy. 3RAR engage enemy at Hoa Long. Aust clash with Viet Cong in Saigon (Cholon area).
- 8 Flushed out of Saigon by US and S Viet forces, Viet Cong are being caught by waiting Aust and NZ Forces on Op Coburg. (7 Feb, 35 killed; total, 167 killed)
- 10 Op Coburg (Aust cas 10 KIA, 60 WIA)
- 11 Ann: 7RAR, 106 Fd Bty, RAA relieved by 3RAR, 161 Bty RNZA. (First time in Vietnam war that an Aust Bn relieves another Aust Bn). Carried out by RAAF Iroquois.
- 12 120 men of C Sqn, 1 Armoured Regt and Armoured Squadron Workshops prepare to leave for Vietnam. First Aust armoured force in Vietnam.
- 16 Ann: most of Anzac Bn troops have left the fighting in Bien Hoa. (Op Coburg the Battalion's most successful Op in Vietnam).
- 15 HMAS *Perth* attacks and damages N Viet cargo craft near Dong Hoi.
- 18 Viet Cong unleash second wave offensive, attack Aust forward fire support base. 5 Aust KIA. Aust reply with mortars and artillery fire.
- 20 Ann: 20 Aust KIA, 80 WIA in Op Coburg so far. (Most costly action for Aust in Viet war). (Total 175 KIA, 678 WIA.).
- In Phuoc Tuy, Aust kill 10 Viet Cong and capture 4 in surprise weekend cordon and search of Hoa Long village.
- 22 Ann: Aust capture Sovietbuilt R.P.G.7 Rocket Launcher believed to be first stabilised 2-stage rocket recovered in Vietnam and 60 mm recoil-buffed mortar.

- 23 Ann: RAN helicopter pilot KIA. First Aust pilot of any service, and first RAN member killed in the war.
- 23 2RAR and 7RAR launch cordon search op, into Long Dien, 8 miles SE Nui Dat. Aust move in by APC and Iroquois.
- 25 Aust adviser leads S Viet troops in charge which regains Hue's Imperial Palace from communists.
- 25 15 Centurion tanks arrive in Vung Tau. First Aust tanks to Vietnam. Aust forces in Vietnam now about 8,000.
- 31 Tanks arrive Nui Dat, via US Landing Craft to Baria, then cross country.
- Mar 4 Troops of 2RAR sweeping area S of Long Dien (Op Pinaroo). (1,000 Viet Cong reported, including D445 Viet Cong Bn defeated at Long Tan in Aug 1966.)
- 8 Centurions in action for first time in Op Pinaroo.
- 9 NZ kill 3 Viet Cong in Long Hai Hills. 2RAR engage Viet Cong near Hoa Long.
- 16 Ann: Aust, NZ have killed 345 enemy since beginning of year. 23 Aust, 3 NZ KIA, 136 Aust, 25 NZ WIA.
- 17 Advance Party of 1RAR leaves Sydney by air for Vietnam to relieve 7RAR
- 20 Ann: HMAS *Perth* recently fired 10,000lb shell in ops with US 7th Fleet.
- 22 3RAR kill 4 Viet Cong, take Hill 323, Long Hai Hills.
- 22 HMAS *Hobart* leaves for second tour in Vietnam waters.
- 23 Ann: 3 Aust KIA by mines, Long Hai Hills.
- 31 Op Pinaroo. Viet Cong withdraw, leaving minefields. 40 Viet Cong killed. (Aust cas 5 KIA, 40 WIA)
- Apr 11 Allied offensive. More than million men from 5 nations US, Aust, NZ, Thailand, S Viet in coordinated campaign Op Toan Thang (Complete Victory) to clear 20,000 enemy from 11 provinces in area around Saigon.
- 19 Aust troops ambush and kill 7 Viet Cong NW of Nui Dat.  
HMAS *Hobart* returns to action in S China Sea, S of DNZ
- 23 Op Pegasus. 1RAR in first op of second tour.
- 27 2RAR (Anzac) and 3RAR extend into Bien Hoa Province.
- 30 Aust, NZ kill 11 Viet Cong in 48 hours during Op Complete Victory.
- May 3 Troops from 2RAR (Anzac) kill 5 Viet Cong in ambush NE of Dat Do.
- 5 Four war correspondents (3 Aust) killed in Saigon ambush.
- 13 141 NVA Regt launch 6 hour ground attack against Aust Fire Support Base Coral, 25 miles NW Bien Hoa. Successfully repelled. 52 enemy killed. (Aust cas 11 KIA, 25 WIA. Heaviest single loss of war after Long Tan.)
- 15 Ann: two helicopter pilots (one RAN, one RAAF, in gunships of US 135 Assault Helicopter Coy.) save S Viet Company from being wiped out.
- 16 NVA regulars launch second attack in 48 hours on FSB Coral. (NVA 33 KIA.) (Aust cas 5 KIA, 16 WIA). 1RAR and 3RAR have killed 107 since 12 May.
- Aust cas in Vietnam now over 1,000. (189 KIA and DOW, 828 WIA)
- 16 Peace talks begin in Paris.
- 26 Viet Cong in 2-1/2 hr attack on FSB Balmoral (2-1/2 miles N of FSB Coral). Aust fire from guns of entrenched Centurions and mortars on APCs. (Tanks first kill in Vietnam.) (Aust cas 3 KIA and 10 WIA)
- 28 NVA launch coordinated attack on FSB Coral and FSB Balmoral. NVA beaten back after 4 hour battle with 24 killed and 6 captured. (Aust cas 1 KIA, 6 WIA.)
- 29 2 Aust KIA, 8 WIA in clashes with Viet Cong.
- Jun 6 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) in first clash with Viet Cong (relieves 2RAR/NZ (Anzac)).

- 11 Aust patrol attacks Viet Cong in 'Warburton' Mtns., 8 miles W of Nui Dat, kill 8 Viet Cong.
- 15 Ann: 1RAR move by helicopter NW of Long Binh to relieve American unit after return to Nui Dat from Coral and Balmoral actions.
- 15 Aust in patrol action with NVA troops. 5 enemy killed.
- 17 HMAS *Hobart* damaged by US rocket. (Aust cas 2 KIA, 7 WIA.)
- 17 NZ Company of 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) has clashed with Viet Cong guerillas in mountains N of Nui Dat. Aust destroy Viet Cong camp discovered by C Sqn, 1 Arm Regt, supported by A Sqn, 3 Cav Regt and A Coy, 3RAR.
- 18 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) kill 7 enemy N of Nui Dat in latest phase of Op Complete Victory.
- 24 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) move by air and road to reinforce 1RAR in Bien Hoa Province. Aust Task Force HQ moved from Nui Dat to Long Binh.
- 28 D Coy, 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) contact enemy, causing casualties.
- Jul 8 Op Blue Mountains (Phuoc Tuy). S of Nui Dat, Aust backed by Centurion tanks return to densely jungled foothills of Long Hai Hills.
- 9 Aust have killed 15 Viet Cong in past few days near Nui Dat. In Bien Hoa 3RAR and 4 RAR/NZ (Anzac) continue to sweep enemy infiltration routes N of the Long Binh-Bien Hoa US Military Complex, 18 miles NW of Saigon.
- 15 Aust in Op Albany, following closely on Op Blue Mountains, in jungle Long Green, N of Long Hai.
- 16 Op Albany. 1 Aus: KIA, 4 WIA when APC ran over mine.
- 18 Op Merino starts. 3RAR and 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) flown in by helicopter, engaged in Bien Hoa Province, 4 Viet Cong killed.
- 21 Ann: Aust drive off Viet Cong attack on base, Phuoc Tuy.
- 24 Viet Cong in bunkers 13 miles NW of Nui Dat resist Aust Artillery and ground attack (4RAR/NZ (Anzac)).
- Aug 1 Ann: Op Platypus launched in Phuoc Tuy Province began 29 Jul. Viet Cong base camps discovered, rice stores, weapons, etc.taken.
- 2 Bien Hoa Province. 2 Aust KIA, 5 WIA when APC hits mine.
- 5 3RAR surround heavily defended Viet Cong base camp after sharp clash. Wounded winched out by RAAF helicopter. 1RAR in same area, 30 miles SE of Saigon, skirmished 6 times on 4 Aug, 4 Viet Cong killed in 2 hour battle.
- 8 Ann: 5 Aust KIA, 22 WIA in clashes in Bien Hoa since 01 Aug.
- 13 Ann: Aust and NZ sweeping through swamp and jungle N & W of Nui Dat have killed at least 24 Viet Cong this month.
- 18 Ann: Aust Bn move out to guard Baria, Phuoc Tuy provincial capital.
- 22 Ann: Two Navy helicopter pilots killed in crash.
- 22 Aust, NZ and US field guns have been firing an average of 200 rounds on known enemy bunkers every night for the past week to prevent attack on Baria.
- 22 Aust in battle with Viet Cong company in village of Long Dien following dawn rocket attack. 29 Viet Cong killed. In drenching rain Aust tanks, APC rumble through streets as 1RAR engage in house to house fighting (14 Aust WIA)
- Sep 14 Ann: Two Aust KIA, 6 WIA in Phuoc Tuy when searching Viet Cong Camp at weekend. (4RAR/NZ (Anzac))
- 17 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) supported by Armoured Regt and Artillery kill 18 Viet Cong in scattered action 10 miles from Nui Dat. (Op Hawkesbury, to sweep guerillas from Hat Dieh area).
- 19 HMAS *Perth* to return to Vietnam to relieve HMAS *Hobart*.
- 21 14 Aust accidentally wounded by US jet on strafing run.

- 23 Ann: Aust have discovered new highpowered Soviet rocket in Viet Cong bunker complex. Aust killed 36 Viet Cong in Ops to capture the complex, 30m. SE of Saigon.
- 23 Aust platoon (3RAR) fought 3 hour battle with Viet Cong guerillas, N of Nui Dat believed 6 Viet Cong killed.
- 25 Aust and NZ end most successful Op for 3 months. Multi-Battalion sweep through Viet Cong staging area. 47 enemy killed in 30 small actions.
- Oct 3 Ann: Aust troops sweeping Hat Dich area, 50m. East of Saigon, after combing it in Op Hawkesbury. Backed by NZ gunners.
- 7 Ann: Aust patrol has ambushed enemy ox-cart convoy, killing 12 enemy.
- 10 Ann: Four Aust KIA, ten WIA in clash, (1RAR & 4RAR).
- 19 Ann: Aust Canberra bombers killed 40 enemy in a raid on Pleiku, in Central Highlands. Highest figure for 2 Sqn since it moved to Phan Rang air base on the central coast last year.
- 20 1 Aust KIA, 4 WIA in fierce battle 12 miles NE of Nui Dat, backed by US gunship, NZ Artillery (Op Capital, began 12 Oct) (3RAR) since start. NZ troops have found and occupied enemy base camp.
- 28 HMAS *Sydney* leaves Sydney (12th trip) Proceeds via Melbourne to Adelaide to embark 9RAR (to replace 3RAR).
- Nov 4 Ann: Four Aust accidentally wounded by Aust Artillery Bty.
- 21 HMAS *Sydney* disembarks 9RAR at Vung Tau, embarks 3RAR
- 29 Op Capital. Aust have broken up 274th Viet Cong Regt, reinforced by NVA, killing 46.
- Dec 3 Op Goodwood begins.
- 5 Ann: Aust and NZ forces have killed 51 enemy in 49 day Op Capital (1RAR and 4RAR/NZ, A Sqn, 3 Cav Regt) 10 Aust KIA, 15 WIA.
- 12 9RAR exchange fire with enemy for first time. Kill one no Aust cas.
- 15 Ann: increasing contact with small enemy groups in Bien Hoa area. (Op Goodwood.)
- 18 3 Aust KIA, 18 WIA since 11 Dec.
- 19 1 Aust KIA, 12 WIA, (1 KIA, 7 WIA in mine explosion) in 2 separate actions.
- 26 Ann: 1 Aust KIA, 6 WIA. (Op Goodwood on border of Phuoc Tuy and Bien Hoa provinces). (Total Aust cas: 4 KIA, 36 WIA.)

## 1969

- Jan 3 RAN Iroquois helicopter crashes NE of Saigon. (4th member of naval Helicopter Flight to be killed.)
- 4 Ann: that there are signs that Aust Task Force is splitting up the Viet Cong main force in Phuoc Tuy (247 Regt, D455 Regional Battalion) and NVA regulars. Contacts but no large scale action since Oct.
- 5 1000 ton Aust Army landing-ship *Clive Steel* hit by rocket and smallarms fire in Mekong Delta region.
- 21 Ann: Viet Cong 122 mm rockets hit Vung Tau Air Base.
- 21 Ann: ATF has destroyed equivalent of more than half a Bn of Viet Cong in past 6 weeks in 4 Nation. Aust directed Operation Goodwood (launched 3 Dec). (171 enemy KIA; 13 Aust KIA, 33 WIA in past 3 weeks.)
- 27 Guerillas attack Phan Rang Airbase with satchel charges. No Aust Canberras reported damaged.



- 31 5RAR leaves on HMAS *Sydney* for 2nd Tour, to relieve 1RAR
- Feb 2 Two RAN pilots crash land helicopter gunship (one of 14 flying in US troops in air-borne assault) within 20 yds. of Viet Cong bunkers in Delta Province of Vinh Long. Picked up by another helicopter pilot under heavy fire.
- 4 Cooks, clerks and storemen (adv party of 105 Fd Bty) act as scratch gun crew destroy Viet Cong supply party near Nui Dat. (105 Fd Bty replaces 102 Fd Bty.)
- 11 C Sqn 1st Armoured Regt returns, replaced by B Sqn which will take over the 18 52-ton Centurion tanks which have proved successful in the dry season although limited by rice paddies in the wet.
- 16 4 hour truce to mark Tet Lunar New Year but Viet Cong open fire on Aust in Phuoc Tuy.
- 17 Op Federal begins.
- 20 Op Goodwood ends after 11 weeks. 250 guerillas killed, Aust cas. 25 KIA 110 WIA (1RAR, 4RAR/NZ (Anzac) and 9RAR, 12 Fd Regt. C and B Sqns 1 Armoured Regt, 3 Cav. Regt, 1 Fd Sqn, S Viet and US troops).
- 23 Guerillas hit Saigon and over 100 other centres with rocket and mortar attacks incl ATF HQ Nui Dat, Vung Tau, RAAF Base, Bearcat Base (RAN Helicopter unit), Baris (Aust Civilian Surgical team). Pattern similar to Tet offensive of Jan 1968.
- 31 1RAR returns.
- Mar 4 Ann: Aust in more than 32 clashes in Op Federal.
- 17 Ann: Aust. fighting N. Viet Regulars, Long Binh.
- 20 Ann: HMAS *Brisbane* leaves for service off Vietnam (replaces Perth).
- 24 4 RAR/NZ (Anzac) relieved by 9RAR in field in Op Federal.
- 28 Ann: Since mid-1965, 13 NZ KIA, 88 WIA in Vietnam compared to 17 KIA, 80 WIA in Korea. Strength of 550 is only one quarter of total which served in Korea).
- Apr 2 Ann: HMAS *Perth* departs 7th fleet.
- 3 Ann: Aust have killed 59 Viet Cong in Op Federal since 17 Feb. (5 Aust KIA, 54 WIA.)
- 7 Ann: Aust operate outside tactical area of responsibility.
- 8 Op Overlander. 3 Aust APCs ambush 20 Viet Cong killing 6 and wounding 5.
- 10 Aust kill 4 Viet Cong in Op Overlander including Tax Collector with 30,000 piastres. New Command Post being built at Nui Dat by 17 Construction Sqn.
- 11 RAN pilot lands helicopter safely in clearing after engine failure, saving 10 Viet soldiers and 3 US crew.
- 14 Ann: HMAS *Hobart* to receive US Navy Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service while engaged in combat ops in Vietnam Nov-Sep 1967.
- 16 Op Overlander 45 Viet Cong killed, 32 wounded; Aust casualties 5 KIA, 30 WIA.
- 16 HMAS *Brisbane*, the 3rd Aust warship allotted to Vietnam. 5 inch guns hit Viet Cong positions in N areas of S Vietnam.
- 16 Op Surfside starts. (5RAR & 9RAR.)
- 24 Ann: RAAF flying helicopter gunships in Phuoc Tuy (9 Sqn)
- May 1 4RAR ends Op Stafford. 17 Viet Cong killed; 7 Aust & NZ WIA.
- 5 HMAS *Sydney* (14th voyage) departs with 6RAR to relieve 4RAR One NZ coy to return, one to stay further 6 months.
- 8 5RAR have killed 7 Viet Cong in Op Twickenham (started May 2).
- 9 Ann: RAN Iroquois helicopter damaged when mine exploded less than 10 yards from the landing point. Lifted back to base by a Chinook helicopter.
- 10 Ann: 2 Sqn, RAAF dropped its 40,000th bomb this week.

- 10 Ann: 10 Army Tracker Dogs prevented by quarantine regulations from returning to Aust.
- 12 Op Reynella. Aust cas reported.
- 15 Aust move to Bien Hoc to protect American Long Binh Base after sweeping Nui Thi Vai hills, 3 m. West of Nui Dat. (Op Roadside).
- 21 Ann: Aust have apparently routed Viet Cong main force units from Phuoc Tuy Province. During Tet offensive only one town was shelled and ground probe intercepted. Aust raided HQ 84th Rear Service Group, Viet Cong Supply System and overran HQ 274 Regt and 7 Military Region.
- 27 Aust fight dusk battle with about 20 Viet Cong in rubber plantation, 8 m. NE of Nui Dat.
- 29 First Viet Cong rocket attack at Nui Dat since base established 3 yrs. ago. (Previously mortar attacks in Aug 1966, Sep 1969)
- Jun 6 First RAAF Iroquois helicopter shot down in the war (by ground fire). 2 Coys (5RAR) enter plantation after 60 to 70 heavily armed Viet Cong. RAAF helicopter gunships pour rocket and m.g. fire into Communist positions.
- 8 Aust fight N. Viets near Binh Ba. ending biggest action since May 1968. RAAF heligunships assist.
- 10 Ann: 78 enemy killed at Binh Ba. Aust rebuilding town.
- 16 Aust casualties at Dat Do (supply pt. for Viet Cong).
- 20 Aust (6RAR) kill 22 enemy in ambush near rubber plantation.
- 25 PM of S Vietnam congratulates the 8,000 Aust troops who have served have killed 2,608 guerrillas and captured 55 since Jun 2, 1965. (Also civil aid given.)
- Jul 1 Ann: HMAS *Perth* awarded US Navy Unit Commendation for service in Vietnam from 9 Sep 1967 5 to April 1968.
- 8 12 Viet Cong mortar bombs hit Aust fire support base Thrust. Aust 105 mms. reply.
- 11 Phan Rang. 2 Sqn, RAAF presented with US Presidential Unit Citation 27 years after it was awarded in 1942.
- 16 RAAF helicopter makes emergency landing after being hit by enemy fire while marking a target for a US fighter strike.
- 21 Aust clearing minefield planted in 1967 to help prevent Viet Cong infiltration from the Long Hai Hills. In Apr 1968 need for minefield lapsed and removal began. (In last 12 months 20 Aust KIA, 174 w. by mines.)
- 30 B52 strike, 8 Engine jets, flying 6 miles high hit Long Hai Hills (directed from Aust fire support base Thrust.)
- Aug 4 Aust & US Engineers throw pontoon bridge across Song River next to bridge blown up by Viet Cong. Viet Cong attack Baria for first time since Feb
- 8 RAAF helicopter dashes through monsoon to hospital with wounded Viet Cong.
- 22 Ann: Victoria Cross to W02 R Simpson DCM for rescuing wounded.
- 23 5RAR engaged in one of heaviest Aust contacts in Vietnam for many weeks in bunker lines believed to be base for 274 Viet Cong Regt
- 25 Aust have dug up 112 M16 mines replanted by viet Cong in jungle war. Dat Do.
- Sep 4 Ann: Aust (5RAR) have k. 46 Viet Cong in Bien Hoa and Phuoc Tuy in 4 week operation.
- 28 Ann: Victoria Cross to W02 Keith Payne. Led 50 soldiers to safety in lone rescue Op on May 24.
- RAN Clearance Diving Team 3 awarded US Meritorious Unit Commendation. From Feb 1967 were for 6 month attached to US Navy as explosive ordnance disposal team.

- Oct 1 HMAS *Brisbane* relieved by HMAS *Vendetta* after 6 m. service, 3 periods on the gunline and 1 period on station with aircraft carriers of 7th Fleet.
- 3 HMAS *Vendetta*, the first Austbuilt warship to go into action in Vietnam, in naval gunfire support against enemy positions.
- 19 NZ Co of 6RAR/NZ assault base camp 10 miles NE of HQ
- 28 Ann: RAAF Iroquois crash. 4 crew safe.
- Nov 1 Ann: 15 former enemy graduate as scouts with Aust. 5RAR start Op Kings Cross in Hat Dieh area.
- 10 Ann: Aust. captured documents on Nov 4 ordering attacks on Nov 14,15 in support of 3 day antiwar protests in US
- 28 8RAR arrive at Vung Tau on HMAS *Sydney* (to replace 9RAR) Also three Pilatus Porter Aircraft landed.
- Dec 3 Pilatus Porter crashes, shot down by ground fire, 2 crew killed.
- 6 RAN pilot wounded pressing a gunship attack on enemy positions, in Vietnam.
- 7 APC s sink 2 Viet Cong sampans with m.g. fire.
- 8 Aust. (6RAR) k. 10 Viet Cong in 7 actions in Phuoc Tuy, Bien Hoa in past 24 hrs. Op Marsden.
- 11 Supply ship *Jeparit* commissioned as ship of RAN
- 12 9RAR returns on HMAS *Sydney*.
- 17 Ann: 6RAR/NZ(Anzac) has found 2 large supply and weapon caches and a hospital complex.

## 1970

- Jan 1 Op Marsden completed by 6RAR/NZ (Anzac); one month in mist shrouded May Tao mountains, 25 m NW of Nui Dat.
- 3 Mortar attack on Aust fortified position, the Horseshoe
- 25 5RAR in Op Bondi, May Tao mountains.
- Feb 4 Ann: Matilda Force (44 armoured vehicles and men) sweep through 3 provinces, supported by 6RAR
- 12 RAAF gunships blast Viet Cong rocket positions to enable US helicopters to rescue Aust pinned down.
- 15 Aust in night battle in Long Hai Mountains. Enemy flee.
- 16 Patrol of RAAF Airfield Defence guards ambush Viet Cong and N. Viet sapper probe, Phan Rang, killing 2.
- 18 Aust troops supported by tanks and air strikes battle units of a Viet Cong battalion in Long Hai Hills in heaviest fighting since last Jun. APC towed by Centurion, carrying mortar bombs, exploded after being hit by rocket propelled grenades. Aust supported by HMAS *Vendetta* off coast. RAAF Canberras and helicopter gunships pound the area occupied by D445 and a local battalion. (Op Hamersley).
- 28 9 Aust KIA, 30 WIA in 3 incidents in Long Hai Hills. (Black Saturday 2nd highest Aust casualties in a single day in Vietnam). 2 mine explosions kill 9, wound 16 (8RAR). Rocket-propelled grenades wound 14. (6RAR).
- Mar 6 2 Aust KIA, 6 WIA by enemy mine. Dead and wounded winched into RAAF & US helicopters hovering over jungle.
- 16 HMAS *Hobart* (3rd tour) leaves Sydney to replace HMAS *Vendetta*.
- 30 4 RAAF crewmen of Caribou escape as plane carrying aviation fuel hit in mortar attack at That Son, 6 miles from Cambodian border. (First plane put out of action of 7 with 35 Sqn, RAAF; longest serving RAAF unit in Vietnam).

- Apr 3 Ann: 7RAR in first op of 2nd tour.  
 9 Ann: Aust advisers leading battalion-size strike force of Montagnard tribesmen to beat back NVA from Green Beret Camp (one of 14 Special Forces Camps along the Cambodian-Laotian border) of Dak Seang, 290 miles NE of Saigon. 1 Aust adviser KIA and 2 WIA in 6 day action.  
 9 Aust & NZ kill 4 Viet Cong, wound 5 near Nui Dat.  
 11 S Viet Special Force Unit led by 9 Aust advisers has broken through to Dak Seang after 10 days savage fighting.  
 14 Aust kill 7 Viet Cong escaping from Hoa Long (8RAR).  
 16 NZ kill 5 Viet Cong in jungle ambush, a few miles east of Dak To. 123 man Whisky Coy, 6RAR/NZ.  
 22 PM Announces first withdrawal of Aust combat troops from Vietnam (8RAR, 750 combat troops, 150 support to be withdrawn in Nov will not be replaced, leaving 1,100 Army commitment.)  
 22 Ann: 6RAR/NZ, 7RAR and 8RAR in Op Concrete.
- May 4 Aust platoon, outnumbered 3 to 1, fights off 2 companies of Viet Cong at Dat Do.  
 14 Aust kill 7 Viet Cong. 8RAR ambush 15 guerillas approaching Hoa Long.  
 21 7RAR infantrymen search bunker system taken the previous day, 5 miles from Nui Dat. Supported by tanks, APCs, troops were led to bunkers by an Army Sioux helicopter pilot. The Aust entered the bunkers after 2 assaults.  
 29 2 Aust and 1 NZ KIA, 4 WIA in mine blast 8 miles west of Nui Dat. 2 RAR/NZ first op.
- Jun 5 12 members of 104 Signal Sqn hold off 20 Viet Cong in a clash 3 miles east of Nui Dat. 7RAR sweep found no indication of casualties, but artillery and RAAF gunships called in.  
 22 Aust kill 2, wound 2 Viet Cong in ambush SE Phuoc Tuy. 4 Aust WIA in big allied drive. Helicopter winches wounded 100 ft into the air. Several incidents involving Aust casualties caused by Aust fire or mines.
- Jul 3 Ann: Army statement that 41 Aust accidenetly killed and 238 wounded in Vietnam in the past 4 years.  
 3 RAAF helicopter crashes and is destroyed 11 miles N of Nui Dat.  
 12 5 Aust (7RAR) charge 6 Viet Cong in a clearing kill 4, wound 2 before being attacked by large group of enemy. 8RAR has killed 7 N Viets. on N border of Phuoc Tuy in past week.  
 21 NZ artillery shells Aust platoon by mistake; 2 KIA, 4 WIA.
- Aug 11 Aust kill 19 Viet Cong, capture 6 in ambush, Hoa Long.  
 29 13 Aust WIA when APC detonates enemy mine in Phuoc Tuy Province (6 flown home in Medevac flight from RAAF Base).
- Sep 6 Viet Cong D445 Bn has rejoined fighting in Phuoc Tuy Province.  
 20 Ann: Aust with tanks, APCs in 4th week of an operation, destroy crops grown by Viet Cong, destroy bunkers, capture ammunition.  
 30 AATTV receives US Meritorious Unit Commendation.
- Oct 11 4 NZ accidentally WIA by own troops in thick bamboo.
- Nov 1 8RAR sail on HMAS *Sydney* for home after 11 months duty. Ferried from Nui Dat by Chinook helicopter. First major Aust reduction in Viet commitment.  
 4 Ann: RAAF Canberra jet missing in Vietnam with 2 crew (first lost since Sqn started ops 2 1/2 years ago. RAAF has lost 2 helicopters and a Caribou transport).

- Dec 16 Ann: Aust (2RAR) kill 9 Viet Cong in ambush in far N Phuoc Tuy. Viet Cong respond with rocket grenades and AK 47 rifles. Aust part of force protecting RAE rebuilding stretches of Highway 2, the main supply route through Phuoc Tuy Province.
- 30 7RAR overruns Viet Cong bunker complex 12 miles E. of Nui Dat.
- 31 Aust (7RAR) kill 21 Viet Cong in biggest ambush of the year. Fight lasted 2.5 hrs. Increased activity in Dec since return of D445.

## 1971

- Jan 26 NZ withdraws SAS unit, leaving Howitzer Bty and Infantry Company on combat duty.
- 27 Ann: RAAF Hercules transport, delivering supplies to Cambodian Army at Phnom Penh Airfield, damaged in Viet Cong raid. Feb 15 HMAS *Sydney* sails with 3RAR to relieve 7RAR
- Feb 17 Ann: by PM that Aust was not asked to help S Viets and US in Laos operation.
- 18 Ann: RAAF Canberra operating with 750 lb. bombs against N. Viets, Khe Sanh, bombing position located by US Bronco pilot, and supported by Cobra gunships and Cayuse light observation helicopter.
- 20 Ann: Federal Govt. has decided to withdraw RAAF Canberra Bomber Sqdn (250 men), Engineering units, Tank Sqdn and support units (1,000 in total) but maintaining 2 battalions in Vietnam. No cuts in civil action or Military Advisers. (Will leave 5,500 men in Vietnam.)
- March 2 Newly arrived 3RAR in clash, supported by RAAF helicopter gunship and artillery fire.
- 14 RAAF Canberra crashes 14 miles from Laotian border on lone bombing mission. Shot down by Surface-to-Air Missile; first time N. Viets had been known to use S.A.M.s below the D.M.Z.
- 18 NZ decides to withdraw Artillery Bty.
- 20 RAAF helicopter gunship pilot killed by enemy ground fire supporting 3RAR close to enemy bunkers N of Xuan Moc, E Phuoc Tuy.
- 30 Ann: by PM that 1000 men are to be withdrawn from war. (Peak 8,000 in 1968-70.) 650 men, incl. Centurion tank Sqdn, 45 Navy men serving with US Assault Helicopter Sqdn, 6 Navy Divers, 2 Canberra Bomber Sqdn, some Caribous, etc., from May, over 46 months.
- 31 Major clash in east Phuoc Tuy (2RAR) 2 KIA, 7 WIA most serious casualties this year. 2 helicopters forced down. Both recovered by US Chinook Recovery Helicopter.
- Apr 8 Perth returns after 3rd 6 month deployment in Viet waters. Fired 9,658 rounds.
- 23 Aust, NZ to provide Military Training Detachment in place of combat troops Aust setting up large Military Training centre at Nui Dat.
- May 3 HMAS *Sydney* disembarks 4RAR and embarks 2RAR.
- 13 RAN Diving team returns. Had destroyed more than 600 items of explosive in 6 months tour.
- Jun 5 Strong enemy force caught in well prepared bunker system by 3RAR & 4RAR.
- 7 3 Aust KIA, 13 WIA in most extensive op for 12 months.
- 9 Ann: RAAF Iroquois helicopter shot down, killing 2 crew.
- 12/13 7 Aust casualties from Viet Cong satchel charge which blew up an APC

- 16 RAN helicopter flight returns after nearly 4 years in Vietnam with US 135 Assault Helicopter Sqn in Mekong Delta.
- 21 Ann: 12 Viet Cong killed and 2 captured in most successful Aust action for 6 months. (A Sqn 3 Cav. Regt) Since early Jun on a clearing drive in jungle and overgrown rubber plantation on borders Phuoc Tuy and Long Khanh.
- 23 Ann: that by Aug it is expected Vietnamese Battalions trained by Aust at Nui Dat will be ready to go into action.
- 25 5 Aust WIA against Viet Cong, rescued by Centurion Tanks (4RAR, C Sqn, 1 Armoured Regt)
- Jul 29 Ann: Federal cabinet sets tentative date for all Aust combat troops to be home as Feb 1972.
- Aug 22 HMAS *Brisbane* in heavy bombardment of N Viet positions along DMZ with USS *Berkely* and *Shelton* and 20 US B52s to discourage regrouping and to cut enemy supply route.
- NZ PM Ann: 264 NZ troops would be withdrawn by end of year.
- Sep 9 Ann: 2 Sqn, RAAF receive S Viet Unit Citation, the Gallantry Cross with Palm. 8RAR receive S Viet Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation.
- 13 Ann: HMAS *Brisbane* on way home. Ends RAN's 4 years of operational service in Vietnam (*Hobart, Perth*, each 3 times, *Brisbane* twice, *Vendetta* once).
- 16 Ann: 600 of 3RAR to arrive home next week. Nui Dat Base being progressively handed over to S Viets. HMAS *Sydney, Jeparit* and Army vessel *John Monash* to bring home troops and equipment. Air transport by RAAF Hercules and chartered 707s, 9 Sqn to return in Dec, 35 early next year.
- 21 5 Aust KIA, 6 WIA in fierce battle; preemptive strike to restrict enemy harassment on withdrawal. N Viet 33 Regt attacks patrol of 4RAR with mortars.
- 27 S Viet Bn expected to cover 4RAR which is now protecting men of 3RAR as they prepare to return in Oct
- Oct 6 3RAR withdrawn aboard HMAS *Sydney*. 16 Aust Task Force HQ moved Vung Tau from Nui Dat, 3 miles away, in road convoys and by helicopter, without incident.
- Nov 7 Aust combat role in Vietnam War ended today when 1,100 men of 4RAR withdrew from Nui Dat (Estimated that 40,000 Aust have occupied the Base). Aust colours lowered at Nui Dat at 6 pm and Stb. Viet flag raised.
- 9 Ann: 415 Aust Killed in armed combat since 1962, 2,344 Wounded.
- Dec 9 Ann: 150 Aust will stay in S Vietnam to train troops after completion of withdrawal early next year.

## 1972

- Jan 5 Last US serviceman of 280,000 under Rest and Recreation scheme since Oct 1967 returns to Vietnam.
- Feb 26 4 Caribous land at Richmond Air Base ending 7 1/2 years ops in Vietnam.
- Mar 2 Ann: Major lift of Aust troops and equip from Vietnam under way. HMAS *Sydney* departs Vung Tau. 150 strong Aust Army Assistance (Advisory) group will remain in Vietnam.

- 7 Last Army pilots leave Vietnam after more than 6 years. 161 (Indep) Recce Flight flew 72,000 hrs, 3 pilots KIA, 8 WIA, 6 aircraft destroyed by enemy fire, 30 damaged.
- 14 Ann: 30 Aust Instructors and Advisers, now training S Viet and Cambodian troops, will remain in Vietnam.
- April 4 Ann: HMAS *Hobart* to go to US for new guns (had fired 40,000 shells in 3 tours more than any Aust ship in W.W.II).
- 25 Ann: AATT had served in all of S Vietnam's 44 Provinces and had trained thousands of S Viet troops
- May 3 Of 150 Aust in Vietnam, 20 are at HQ Saigon, 100 are at Van Kiep (near Nui Dat) training S Viets, 30 working with US training Cambodians near Long Hai.
- 8 Van Kiep camp attacked by enemy mortar fire. (Aust caus 1 WIA)
- Jun 1 Aust's Vietnam commitment to Mar 1973 cost \$A465 million
- Sep 2 Ann: NZ participation in Vietnam dates from 1964 with 1 Engr. unit; followed in 1965 by Artillery Bty. At height of commitment, Nov 1969, NZ had 600 troops operating with Aust in Phuoc Tuy. 2 NZ teams of Military Advisers, totalling 55 men, are still working in Vietnam, one at Chau Doc Province, 170 miles SW of Saigon, the other at Dong Ba Thin, 300 miles N of Saigon.
- Dec 12 Ann: Aust Military commitment will finish by end of month. Withdrawal of 130 Aust Army Assistance Group. (26 members of the Assistance Group from Cambodian Training duties withdrawn earlier.) A few Aust servicemen will stay in S Viet to provide guards and escorts for the Aust Embassy, transferring to the Embassy Staff.
- 12 NZ Defence Minister Ann:ounces withdrawal of all remaining NZ troops from S Viet (50 men).
- 18 Last Aust leaving Vietnam.
- 19 C130 Hercules from Tan Son Nhut Airbase takes about 60 Aust soldiers to Butterworth for return to Aust, closing Aust involvement in the Vietnam War.
- 28 Aust stops all defence aid to S Vietnam.
- 29 Aust army to be maintained at nine battalions for the time being. With NS abolished, last conscripts will complete service by early 1974. 1RAR, 2RAR and 4RAR Townsville; 3RAR Woodside; 5RAR and 7RAR Holdsworth; 8RAR and 9RAR Enoggera; 6RAR Singapore.

## 1973

- Jan 24 Ceasefire announced in Vietnam.
- Feb 15 Ann: AATTV awarded Gallantry Cross with Palm by S Viet. Unit was first to be sent, last to be withdrawn.

# The Gulf War

## 1990

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| Jul | 24 | Iraq sends troops to Kuwait border   |
| Aug | 2  | Iraq invades Kuwait. UN demands withdrawal   |
|     | 6  | UN security council imposes sanctions on Iraq  |
|     | 8  | Iraq annexes Kuwait  |
|     | 10 | Aust PM commits 2 frigates and a supply vessel to assist naval force imposing economic sanctions   |
|     | 13 | HMAS <i>Darwin</i> , <i>Adelaide</i> depart Sydney for the Gulf.   |
|     | 14 | HMAS <i>Success</i> departs Sydney for the Gulf, making a 600 man force to serve on Gulf blockade line.  |
|     | 22 | The ships depart Fremantle.  |
|     | 25 | UN Security Council authorises use of force to enforce sanctions.  |
| Sep | 4  | HMAS <i>Darwin</i> and <i>Adelaide</i> begin duties of identifying and warning ships attempting to break UN blockade.  |
|     | 6  | RAN ships in first intercept — a Maltese tanker  |
|     | 15 | HMAS <i>Darwin</i> and USS frigate <i>Brewton</i> fire warning shots before Aust and US parties board Iraqi tanker <i>Al Fao</i> in Gulf of Oman. HMAS <i>Adelaide</i> and a British destroyer join.   |
|     | 17 | Aust Defence Force medical personnel leave to serve on US hospital ship.   |
| Oct | 8  | HMAS <i>Adelaide</i> fires warning shot at cargo vessel. The vessel stopped and was searched by Royal Marines.   |
|     | 15 | HMAS <i>Darwin</i> and two US frigates intercept Iraqi tanker. US Marines conduct search.  |
|     | 25 | Ann: Destroyer HMAS <i>Brisbane</i> and frigate HMAS <i>Sydney</i> to relieve HMAS <i>Adelaide</i> and <i>Darwin</i> . Replenishment ship HMAS <i>Success</i> to remain on station until HMAS <i>Westralia</i> arrives in late January 1991. <i>Success</i> and <i>Westralia</i> armament complement by Army RBS-70 low-level air defence missile system from 16 Air Defence Regiment, Adelaide.           |
| Nov | 12 | HMAS <i>Brisbane</i> and <i>Sydney</i> depart Sydney.  |
|     | 29 | UN Resolution gives Iraq until 15 Jan to withdraw from Kuwait.   |
|     | 30 | Iraq rejects UN ultimatum.   |
| Dec | 4  | Ann: Aust PM states no Aust ground troops or aircraft will be sent to Gulf.  |
|     | -  | Ann: NZ to send two Hercules aircraft and a medical unit.  |
|     | 14 | HMAS <i>Darwin</i> and <i>Adelaide</i> arrive in Darwin. (Arrive Sydney 21 Dec). During sanction enforcing stage UN forces boarded 500 ships, 10 after warning shots were fired (involving on 5 occasions the RAN due to its location in the area most likely to encounter inbound shipping). In the RAN's second deployment, HMAS <i>Brisbane</i> and <i>Sydney</i> authorised to move into Persian Gulf. |
|     | 26 | HMAS <i>Sydney</i> intercepts <i>Ibn Khaldoon</i> , 11,000 ton Iraqi ship in N Arabian Sea. Boarded by US Navy team. Diverted from Basra to another port.  |
|     | 27 | Tanker, <i>Ain Zalat</i> , 35,000 tons, stopped and boarded by Aust, US and UK personnel.  |



## 1991

- Jan 9 HMAS *Westralia* sails from Geelong with some female sailors and some Army personnel. HMAS *Brisbane* and *Sydney* serving with *Midway* carrier group in air defence role.
- 14 Two additional Aust surgical teams leave to join USNS *Comfort*. (Total of 40 Defence personnel deployed in 4 surgical teams, representing each service, permanent and reserve.)
- 15 US carriers moving into position near Iraq - USS *Midway* and *Ranger* in N Arabian Sea, USS *America*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, *Sargota* and *John F Kennedy* to Red Sea. Aust ships committed to war.
- 16 HMAS *Westralia* joins UN fleet.
- NZ Army medical teams to leave for Gulf.
- 17 Day 1. Bombs blast Baghdad 18 hours after expiration of UN deadline. 7000 sorties in first 5 days.
- 18 884 Aust in Gulf. HMAS *Brisbane*, *Sydney* and *Success* with *Midway* carrier group.
- 26 Ann: 23 divers to join naval task force to counter mine threat in Arabian sea. (CTD3)
- Feb 24 Land offensive starts. US, UK and South Arabian troops push deep into Kuwait.
- 28 Iraq officially accepts all UN Resolutions and orders its troops to stop cease fire.
- Mar 22 HMAS *Brisbane* and *Sydney* leave gulf area, (arrives Sydney 22 Apr), relieved by HMAS *Darwin*, HMAS *Westralia* to remain until May.
- Apr 25 150 Aust sailors and soldiers still serving in Gulf commemorate Anzac Day.

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

AATT	Australia Army Training Team	Fd Bty	Field Battery
AC	Airfield Construction	Fd Sqn	Field Squadron
Ann	Ann.:	Fd Tp	Field Troop
APC	Armoured Personnel Carrier	Inf	Infantry
ATC	Armoured Troop Carrier	KIA	Killed in Action
ATF	Australia Task Force	LA	Light Aircraft
Bde	Brigade	LAA	Light AntiAircraft
Bn	Battalion	mg	machine-gun
Brit	British	NS	National Service(man)
Div	Division	Op(s)	Operation(s)
DMZ	Demilitarized zone.	ROK	Republic of Korea
DOW	Died of Wounds	Recce	Reconnaissance
F/Bomber	Fighter/Bomber	SAS	Special Air Service

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ISSN 0048-8930

Price \$5.00