

**5RAR**  
**EXTRACTS FROM COMMANDERS DIARY AND OPERATIONS LOGS**  
**MAR –MAY 1966**

References:

- A. AWM95 7/5/1 5RAR 9 Mar-12 May 66  
 B. AWM95 7/5/2 5RAR 20 Apr-31 May 66

Date	Content
9 Mar	0900 hrs. CO (Lt Col Warr) attended conference at 1TF. Unit warned for service in South Vietnam as part of 1ATF. Operation codenamed 'HARDIHOOD'.
11 Mar	5RAR departed aero paddock by caribou ac for Ex BEN TIGER and Ex IRON LADY to be held in Putty trg area.
24 Mar	Bn returned to Gallipoli Barracks at conclusion of Ex IRON LADY
7 Apr	Bn less 2IC, AAdjt & IO commence pre-embarkation leave
18 Apr	Advance Party returns from leave
19 Apr	Bn returns from pre-embarkation leave
19 Apr	2015 hrs. Advance Party commanded by Maj J.F.Miller departs Gallipoli Barracks for South Vietnam
20 Apr	5RAR Advance Party u/c Maj J.Miller arrives Bien Hoa
20 Apr	Bn Parade and Beating of Retreat. Reviewed by Minister for the Army, Mr J.M.Fraser
21 Apr	Bn marches through Sydney. Salute taken by Sir Roden Cutler VC, KCMG, CBE
22 Apr	C Coy(-) and Bn transport and freight depart in HMAS Sydney
28 Apr	CO party and 8 Pl C Coy depart Richmond
29 Apr	1130h. CO 5RAR, LT Col J.Warr arrives Saigon and assumed command of 5RAR tps in South Vietnam. Departs for Bien Hoa. 36 members of C Coy (8 Pl) and elms of BHQ accompanied CO, but flew to Vung Tau by C123.
1 May	Spt Coy & Admin Coy arrive Vung Tau
4 May	OC Spt Coy (Maj O.M.Carroll) participated in Op DEXTER with 2/503 <sup>rd</sup> Bn, 173 Abn Bde. Ceased 6 May
4 May	1500h. HMAS Sydney arrives Vung Tau with 130 5RAR pers, mainly C Coy
12 May	Last 5RAR flight departs (Flight 10)
13 May	114 members arrive from AS to complete Bn concentration
14-15 May	Hel trg by 68 Avn Coy (US)-Ex PIN FEATHER.
16 May	Bn sports competition
17 May	Coy trg & vehicle ambush trg
18-20 May	Practice of clearing ops on Vung Tau Peninsular-Ex PIN FEATHER 2
19 May	Lt Col Warr and Brig Jackson visit 173 Abn Bde on Op HARDIHOOD in area vic Nui Dat.
20 May	Offrs dining-in night at Pacific Hotel. Members of 68 Avn Coy (US) invited as guests.
21 May	BC & FO's 105 Fd Bty arrive
22 May	Signals Ex for Coy/Pl Comds –Ex VEILED SPEECH
23 May	Orders for Op HARDIHOOD issued after Bn church service conducted by Padres Williams & Bennett.
24 May	5RAR deploys on Op HARDIHOOD
24 May	241400h. 1 <sup>st</sup> 5RAR contact. Contact Report c/s 32. A. 241400h. B. 441 686. C. 1, possibly 2. D. Local. F. East
24 May	5RAR to HQ 1ATF. Summary of activities as at 241930Z. Fly in complete at 1127. Commenced planned movement at 1200 hr. Contacts made as follows. One. 1334 by c/s4. cleared dummy booby trap. Two. 1540 by c/s3. 1 or 2 en fired upon by lead elements. No result. Three. 1600 by c/s3. further two en sighted. No result. Four. 1600 by c/s1. 1 en sighted, fled. No result. Five. 1630 by c/s1. en cache containing 4 drums rice &

	some fruit discovered. Destroyed. Six. 1812 by c/s1. 1 en with auto wpn fired at lead elm. This contact continued and resulted in clash occurring between elm of c/s1 & c/s2. One member of c/s2 wounded & later died. Further report to follow. Seven. 1905 by c/s3. 3 en sighted. No result. Eight. 1900 by c/s2. one member injured during building of helipad this loc. To be evacuated 25 May 66.
24 May	2152h. C Coy to BHQ. Explosions on bearing 2000 mils, 200 yds, believe H&I from friendly
24 May	2226h. BHQ to Bde. Please ensure no further unrequested H&I fire is put into my area without ref to this HQ. Fire received approx 2150 was uncomfortable.

## 5RAR OPERATIONAL DOCUMENTS

(Issued at Vung Tau prior to deployment on Op HARDIHOOD)

### Trg Directive 2/66 dated 2 May 66

Aim: to finalize training of 5RAR for operations. Directive details training to commence two days after arrival of each draft at Vung Tau. Coordinated by Lt R.G.Thompson. Covers hel trg, clearing ops, APC trg, M16, M72, M79 trg and live firing, voice procedure trg, vehicle counter ambush drills, SA trg, house clearing. Many new procedures resulted from experience of 1RAR gained by advance party. (13 page hand written document)

**Operation Order 1 (OpO 1)** Mission: 5RAR is to clear the Nui Hoa Sup/Nui Vung Mai area of VC & VC caches 12-13 May. (This was a practice search & destroy operation)

### OpO 2-Ex PIN FEATHER

Mission: 5RAR is to practice the securing of an LZ and subsequent extraction during the period 14-17 May.

Departure LZ south of ROK R&R Centre 291430 to LZ Park1 at 334493. (Some dates for this ex changed due to operational priorities of 68 Avn Coy in support of 173 Abn Bde)

### OpO 3-Ex PIN FEATHER 2 (dated 17 May 66)

Mission: 5RAR is to practice clearing operations on the Vung Tau Peninsular 18-20 May

### Ex VEILED SPEECH

Aim: To practice offrs in the current SOI's & SOP's (22 May). This Ex aimed to overcome differences in Aust & US voice procedure prior to deployment.

### OpO 4 (Op HARDIHOOD) (issued at Vung Tau 22 May 66)

Mission: 5RAR is to destroy the en in the TAOR allotted as a preliminary to the estb of 1ATF in the area.

Execution/Gen outline (Annex P):

- (1) Depart Vung Tau Snakepit commencing 240630H by hel for LZ Hudson arriving 240700H,
- (2) Clear the AO in the following priority:
  - (a.) A Coy: Area 1 then Area 5
  - (b.) B Coy: Area 4 then Area 7
  - (c.) C Coy: Area 2 then Area 6
  - (d.) D Coy: Area 3 then Area 9

Coord Instr: (extracts)

Timings: (Regrettably Annex A, the detailed timings and outline of events was not in the Comds Diary. However notes from C Coy orders show timings on 24 May as Reveille 0400, Breakfast 0445, Parade 0530, Depart Beach Rd 0610, Lift off from Snakepit (Vung Tau airfield) 0703, H Hr 0718.

Order of fly in: A Coy, C Coy & CO Tac Party, B Coy, D Coy. 770 tps were airlifted on thirty UH-1D ac (Four lifts of 30 ac, each chalk of 6 men). A Coy & C Coy each carried 130 x 81mm mor bombs.

### Intelligence Estimate No 1-Phuoc Tuy Province (dated 21 May 66)

Attached to OpO 4 and written by Capt D.Willcox, the initial IO 5RAR