

Operation Lyre Bird

1 August — 4 September 1968

This was a land-clearing operation carried out by engineers of 17 Construction Squadron, protected by W Company and elements of B Company with gun and mortar support.

A troop of APCs from A Squadron was deployed with the companies and provided protection and transport for infantry troops protecting the bulldozers.

The area cleared was between the Nui Thai Vais and Nui Dinh in AO Warburton.

Initially, W Company deployed along Route 15 in APCs with the engineers and the Australian Land Clearing Team. Elements of B Company were deployed in the area on August 4 and came under command of OC W Company, Major P. G. Hotop.

Two fire support bases were used during the operation, Hague and Hokonui.

The enemy reacted quite vigorously to this operation, causing severe damage to two bulldozers by RPG fire and to one APC by mines, and the land clearing teams were subjected to considerable harassment during the first few days.

For the remainder of the operation there was minor contact only with the enemy.

The operation lasted five weeks and in that time a strip of land 13,500 metres by 200 metres was cleared, an excellent result considering much of the work was carried out in heavy rain, reducing the area to deep mud and slush.

Remember....?

Fire in bulldozer extinguished by burying the dozer.

Working in the wet.

Charlie waves to Kiwi (Maori wearing sweatband).

Kiwi waves back. Kiwi shoots Charlie.

Interminable visitors.

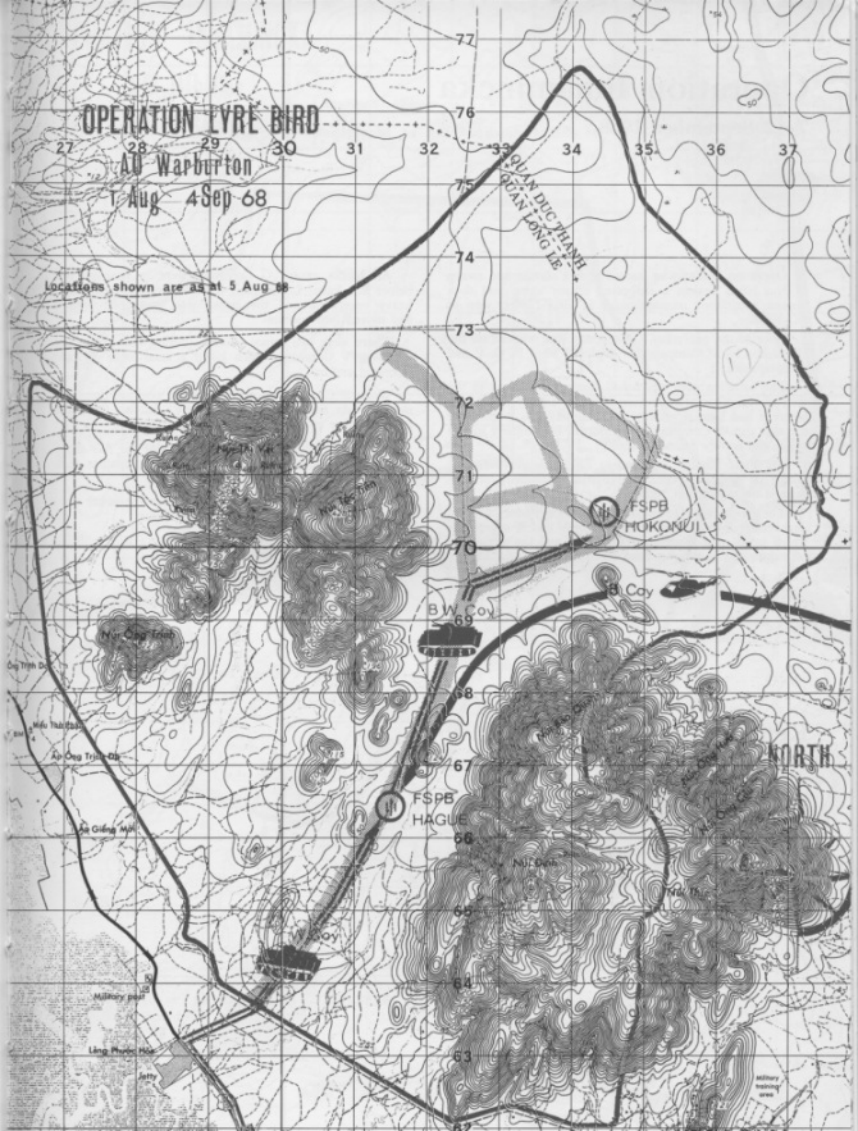
RESULTS — Own troops: One killed, six wounded.
Enemy: Four killed, one wounded.

OPERATION LYRE BIRD

AD Wapburton

1 Aug 4 Sep 68

Locations shown are as at 5 Aug 68



QUAN DUC THANH
QUAN LONG LE

FSPB
HOKONUL

B W Coy

B Coy

FSPB
HAGUE

NORTH

Military post

Army

Military training area