



# PRONTO IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1962 - 1972

By Denis Hare OAM BEM



# This book is dedicated to those who served with the Royal Australian Corps of Signals in South Vietnam

## Signals Roll of Honour

Signalman B. A. Logan	145 Sig Sqn, KIA, 28 March 1967
Corporal D. J. Donnelly	104 Sig Sqn, AK, 9 August 1967
Signalman A. H. Young	104 Sig Sqn, KIA, 16 May 1968
Signalman D. E. Abraham	104 Sig Sqn, KIA, 29 Sept 1968
Warrant Officer Class Two M. W. T. Gill, MiD	AATTV, KIA, 6 May 1969
Signalman S. T. Moore	110 Sig Sqn, Died, 25 Aug 1970
Signalman D. A. B. Wallis	110 Sig Sqn, Died, 17 March 1972



Lest We Forget

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Prepared from old notes, old memories and old Army records, for the enjoyment  
of past and future communicators and their families  
by Denis Hare OAM BEM

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The base material for this Web based book was from an old document draft 'Royal Australian Corps of Signals Corps History - The South Vietnam Campaign 1962 - 1972' which was attached to the GOC's Exercise Hindsight 1971, exercise papers. Gerry Lawrence prepared the draft. Thank you Gerry for the foresight because without the document, this Web based book would not have been possible.

- Front Page** Photo of Geoffrey Mogan operating an AN/GRC-106 HF Radio in 1968 overlaying the deployment to a FSPB base with an AN/TRC-24 Antenna on the skyline in 1968. - Photo 1 Geoffrey Mogan - Photo 2, Norm Munro.
- Chapter 1** Photos 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 Internet Source - Photo 1.6 Denis Hare - Photo 1.7 John Buxton.
- Chapter 2** Photos 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 Rod Preddice - Photos 2.8 and 2.9 Internet Source.
- Chapter 3** Photos 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 Brian Stevens - Photo 3.2 Internet Source.
- Chapter 4** Photo 4.2 and 4.21 Nick Quigley - Photos 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.8 and 4.10 Internet Source - Photos 4.5, 4.6 and 4.9 Reg Dando - Photos 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19 and 4.20 Ken Mackenzie
- Chapter 5** **Part 1** Photo 5-1.1 Roy Dean - Photos 5-1.3, 5-1.4, 5-1.5, 5-1.11, 5-1.12 and 5-1.13 From 'The Unclassified History of 547 Signal Troop in South Vietnam' - Photo 5-1.7 Denis Hare - Photos 5-1.6 and 5-1.9 Bob Hartley - Photo 5-1.2 and 5-1.8 Internet Source - Photo 5-1.10 John Peters Photo 5-1.11 Ken Mackenzie.  
**Part 2** Photos 5-2.1 and 5-2.2 Internet Source - Photos 5-2.3 and 5-2.5 John Mounsey - Photos 5-2.4, 5-2.6 and 5-2.7 Creagh Bramley.  
**Part 3** Photo 5-3.1 Gerry Lawrence - Photo 5-3-2 AWM FOR/66/0711/VN - Photo 5-3-3 Dennis Wynne - Photo 5-3-4 John Sahariv - Photo 5-3-5 to 9 Internet Source. Document 5-3.D1 AWM AWM95-6/1/11 (103 Sig Sqn)  
**Part 4** Photo 5-4.1 AWM P01011.004 - Map 5-4 Internet Source - Photo 5-4.2 AWM P02636.022 - Photo 5-4.3 AATTV Website - Photo 5-4.4 AWM CUN/72/0018/VN - Photo 5-4.5 AWM LES/69/0620/VN - Photo 5-4.6 AWM WAR/70/0301/VN - Photo 5-4.7 Internet Source - 5-4.8 AATTV Website.
- Chapter 6** Photos 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 Ian Willoughby - Photo 6.5 Denis Hare - Photos 6.6, 6.7 and 6.8 Norm Munro Photos 6.9, 6.10, 6.11 and 6.12 Robert Parkyns
- Chapter 7** Photo 7.1 Tony Roberts - Photo 7.4 Robert Parkyns - Photos 7.5, 7.8 and 7.9 Denis Hare Photos 7.2, 7.3 and 7.7 Ken Mackenzie - Photo 7.7 Geoffrey Mogan Photos 7.6, 7.10, 7.11 and 7.12 Malcolm Ferguson.
- Chapter 8** Photo 8.1 Denis Hare - Photo 8.2 Graeme Clare - Photos 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5 Tony Roberts - Photo 8.6 Trevor Hopper Photos 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 Ken Mackenzie - Photo 8.13 Garry Swalling - Photo 8.14 Internet Source.
- Chapter 9** Photos 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 Ken Mackenzie - Photo 9.5 is an overlay of two photos both from Tony Roberts Photo 9.6 Peter Cunningham - Photo 9.7 David Winch.
- Diagrams** Denis Hare (All)

Corrections or additional information, including photographs and other material can be passed to:

**Address:** PO Box 115, Glass House Mountains, Queensland, 4518, Australia  
**Email:** [pronto@au104.org](mailto:pronto@au104.org)  
**Web Site URL:** <http://pronto.au104.org>





## PREFACE

*Communications have always been an important factor in war - sometimes the decisive one. When the great potential of mobility can be exploited by optimum communications, the products are those which commanders through the ages have always sought - flexibility, economy of force, surprise, and the ability to concentrate, deploy, regroup or disperse rapidly.*

*In Vietnam, probably for the first time in history, communications were able to match in dimension and efficiency the great advances in mobility. The helicopter, allied with the more traditional means of tracked vehicles, aircraft, small ships and boats, made possible the application of concepts which were not new in principle but which previously could never be more than partially implemented. These concepts extended into every field of activity - tactical, logistic and administrative. But primarily they depended for their success on communications, because without them the many complex activities which had to proceed simultaneously and in co-ordination could not have been controlled. Command in any military sphere does not automatically confer the ability to control; communications alone can confer that.*

**Major General S. C. Graham, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.**  
**8<sup>th</sup> June 1977**

**(Brigadier Graham commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force in 1967)**





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**AUSTRALIAN ARMY ASSISTANCE GROUP VIETNAM - SIGNAL  
DETACHMENT**

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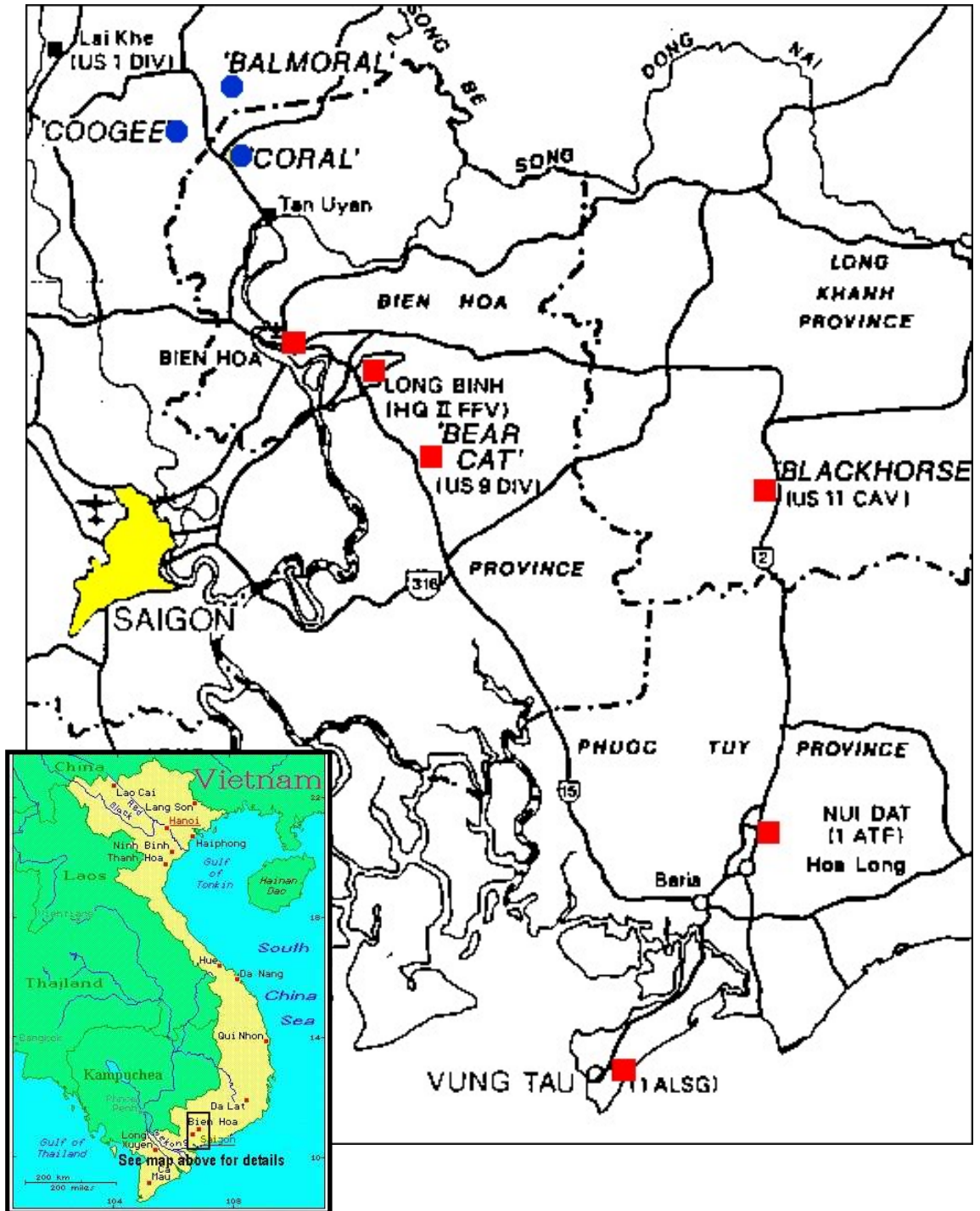
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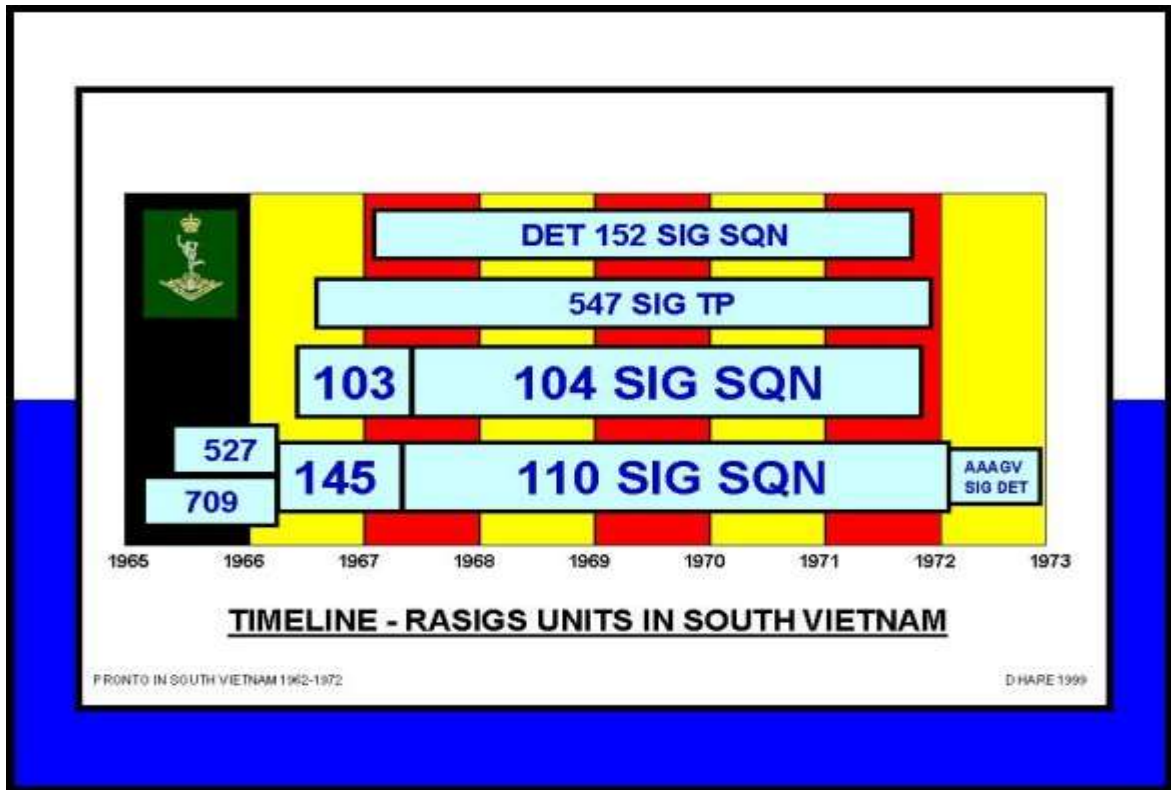


### 1 ATF AREA OF OPERATIONS (MAP)





## OVERVIEW OF RASIGS UNITS DEPLOYED TO SOUTH VIETNAM



Timeline - RASIGS Units in South Vietnam

### Role Summary

- 709 Signal Troop - Forward and Rear Signals for AAFV**  
(Authorized Strength = 50 - September 1965)
- 527 Signal Troop - Forward and Rear Signals for AAFV (additional manpower)**  
(Authorized Strength = 28 - September 1965)
- 547 Signal Troop - Electronic Warfare Support for 1 ATF**  
(Authorized Strength = 36 - June 1968)
- 103 Signal Squadron - Task Force Signals for 1 ATF**  
(Authorized Strength = 124 - June 1966)
- 104 Signal Squadron - Task Force Signals for 1 ATF (replaced 103 Sig Sqn)**  
(Authorized Strength = 146 - June 1968)
- 110 Signal Squadron - Force Signals for AFV (replaced 145 Sig Sqn)**  
(Authorized Strength = 243 - June 1968)
- 145 Signal Squadron - Force Signals for AFV**  
(Authorized Strength = 173 - June 1966)
- Detachment 152 Signal Squadron - Signals for SAS Sqn's, 1 ATF**  
(Authorized Strength = 16 - June 1968)
- AAAGV Signal Detachment - Rear Signals for AAAGV**  
(Authorized Strength = 12 to 15)

**Note:** RASIGS personnel also deployed with HQAFV, HQ1ATF, HQ1ALSG, AATTV, AAAGV, 1 Aust Civil Affairs Unit, 32 Small Ship Squadron and other Units. Members on detachment from 127 Sig Sqn are either detail as part of a RASigs South Vietnam Unit or HQAFV.

