



AUSTRALIAN ARMY



MUSEUM OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

(Newsletter produced by the Military Engineering Heritage Company)

*Journey with our
'Sappers'*

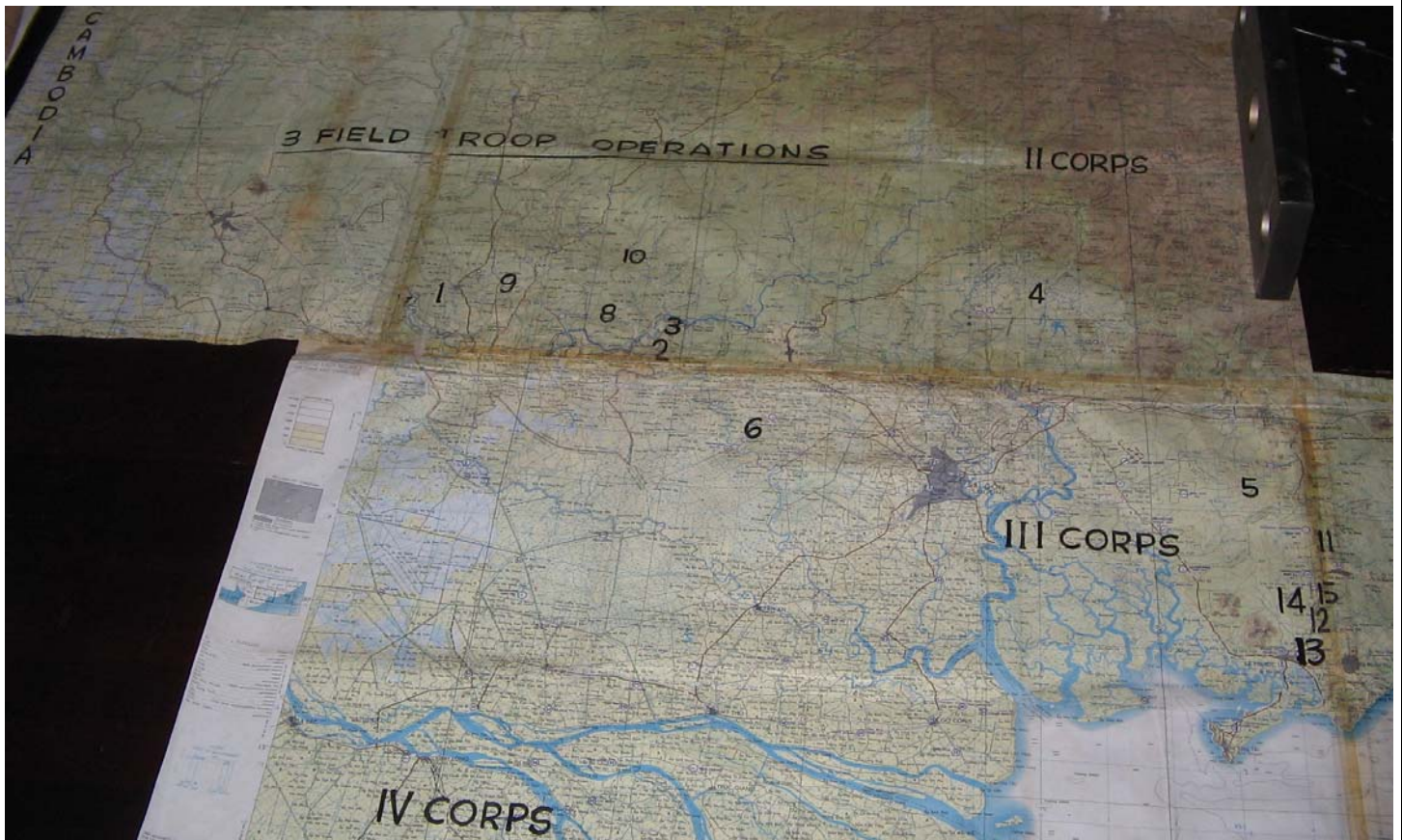
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"Mapping the past – RAE in SVN"

Hello to all, here we are for our first newsletter for 2010! We'll endeavour to keep you abreast of what's happening around the AAMME again this year. Late last year I was fortunate enough to catch Paul Cousin's in his domain and he was working on restoring a map that has its information originating from operations in SVN. The map is one item of many documents donated by Sandy Macgregor.

3 FIELD TROOP OPERATIONS



Sandy has graciously passed over some maps and a time line chart that was produced in 1966; after his return to Australia and while he was posted to the SME. The purpose was for a training aid and they were part of the training that was developed at the time for Sappers prior to deployment in SVN.

The idea was to show the growth of RAE splinter teams and the use of engineer resources while supporting the Infantry. Engineers were first deployed to Battalion HQ, it was soon realised that it was more efficient to attach them at Company level and even down at Platoon level. Whilst in the platoon; the engineers were often deployed in front of the forward scout, essentially this was their protection. The sapper could keep looking down for items of interest and the scout could concentrate on forward observation.

This was a new concept for Engineers to be scattered in very small groups (2 engineers in a team). It took a little time for development and efficiency. 3 FD TP documented their experiences and many documents were produced as a result of that development.

Many thanks to Paul (our BP man – i.e. quiet achiever) for explaining the background to this project.

To all the Engineers and other soldiers, at home and deployed abroad; take care and stay safe.