

What We Did – Svy Units based in PNG

Contributors: Percy Long (PL); Noel Sproles (NS); Alex Cairney (AC); Charlie Watson (CW) Chris Dahlberg (CD) Peter Jensen (PJ)

YEAR	UNIT	OPERATION/ PROJECT	DURATION	LOCATION	NATURE OF WORK UNDERTAKEN	PERSONS TAKING PART	OTHER INFORMATION
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1963 PL	N Comd Fd Svy Unit, mbrs det to HQ TPNG Comd	New Guinea	18 Nov – 20 Dec	South of Vanimo	Navigation control, plot patrol course; gather topo data; obtain baro heights	Lt GA Gee Patrol Commander; WO2 Percy Long,	Patrol comprised 23 members of B Coy 1 PIR
1964							
1965 NS	HQ TPNG Comd	No name	On going	TPNG – Port Moresby	Rifle range and training area surveys in PNG Transfer of data from patrol officer reports to 1:250 000 mapping 1965 – 66	Capt Noel Sproles, Sgt Pat Strunks, Spr Dave (Yogi Bear) Thompson (Carto)	
1965 NS EUA JL	Det AHQ Svy Regt – Topo Sqn		6 months – Jul-Nov	TPNG Main base Mt Hagen, Fwd bases Ambunti, Lake Kopiago, Telefomin	1:100,000 mapping of NG highlands and Fly River delta. Hor con by aerodist. Ver con by airborne barometric altimetry	OC Maj Ed Anderson, 2IC Maj Peter Whitstone RE, Lts John Cattell, McNeil QM, WO1 John Harrison, WO2s Ron Newman, Len Davies, Robert Jones, Harry Wright, Sgts Don Cocker, Daryl Hocking, Bill	Air support: 2x Helicopter Utilities RW acft (pilots John Arthurst, Peter Hurst). 2x Piper Aztec FW acft from Crowley Airways at Lae (pilot Laurie

						Harvey, Gordon Ullinger, Brian Rogers, Geoff Haynes, Cpls Wally Mooney, Wayne Gillies, Andrew Warwick, Graeme Beasley, Bob Bartlett, Theo Mulder, Don Taylor, Sprs John Black, Bill Van Malenstein, John Leworthy, Dexter Camps, Ian Donaldson, Mick Soltis, Jeff Savy, Alex Cairney, Gordon Santo, John Waight, Chris Dahlberg, Bob Turnbull, Dave Wicker, Steve Wood, Zippy Wales, Dick Small, Grant Small, Lindsay Saunders, Tony Burston, Andy Covington, Sig Peter Donaldson Signals Corps Helicopter Utilities pilot – John Arthurson Other Unsure about these people being there - Jim Bowden, Jock Kay, Jim Otte, ,	Crowley)
1966 NS	HQ TPNG Comd	No name	On going	TPNG – Port Moresby	Rifle range and training area surveys in PNG Transfer of data from patrol officer reports to 1:250 000 mapping 1965 – 66	Capt Noel Sproles, Sgt Pat Strunks, Spr Dave (Yogi Bear) Thompson	
1967 NS	HQ TPNG Comd	No name	On going	TPNG – Port Moresby	Rifle range and training area surveys in PNG	Capt Noel Sproles, Sgt Pat Strunks, Spr Dave (Yogi Bear) Thompson	
1968							
1969							
1970 CD	D Svy AHQ	Beach Surveys	1970 through 1971	PNG based at Manus Island	Recording of beach landing sites of PNG coastline for civil defence	Capt OIC James Bounds Capt Charlie Watson, Sgts Chris Dahlberg, Jock Kay & others	RA Svy members were hosted by HMAS Madang, a RAN Attack Class patrol boat with gun removed and that if painted white

							could pass as a millionaire's yacht. The RA Svy pers would join the Madang for 4 mth stretches while the Aus crewed navy ship was based at Manus Island.
1971							
1972 AC TA	8 Fd Svy Sqn OC Maj Alex Laing		Jan	PNG: Sqn HQ at Popondetta	Unit established	Maj OC Alex Laing Tp Offr Lt John Winzar; SSM SSgt Alex Cairney; SQMS SSgt Pat Cox; Ord Rm Sgt Tony Dipede. Svy Pers: Sgt John Scharber, Cpls Bogden (Pinky) Denoga, Kim O'Halloran, Greg Knight, Bob McHenry, Sprs Terrance J Wicker, Tim Allenson, Don Rooke, Michael Davey, Heinz Knips, Keith Wilkinson, Rick Downie, Kim Brunt Ted VanGinneken. b Dave Kadaatz, Maurice Anderson (AACC), Sandy Savos (NS storeman until demise of NS)	Sqn formed at Popondetta Jan 1972 Only 5 MQ avail
1972 AC	do		Jan	do	Reconnaissance of Highlands	SSgt Cairney, Sgt Scharber	
1972 AC	do		Feb/Mar		Heighting control Ramu, Goroka 1:250,000 areas for 1:100,000 mapping & targeting existing control for F24 photography	SSgt Cairney, Sgt Scharber, Cpl McHenry, Spr Wilkinson. Army Avn RW Mar-Jul: 2Lt T Wesley Smith RW Jun-Nov: 2Lt P Peelgraine	
1972 AC			Apr/May		Heighting Kwikela 1:250,000	Cpl Denoga, Cpl O'Halloran, Sprs Tim Allanson, Spr Don Rooke. Army Avn Capt R Neville 2Lt B Gleeson	
1972 AC			May-Jun		Control Svy, Heighting Madang area	Lt John Winzar, SSgt Alex Cairney, Cpls Peter Tangey,	FW Mar-Jul (Porter) 2Lt T Bell

						John Hunter.	
1972 AC					Background job: Lev trav Cape Killerton, Oro Bay, thru Popondetta to Kokoda –estb PMs every 3 Km		FW Jun-Nov 2LT W Taylor
1973 AC	8 Fd Svy Sqn OC Maj Alex Laing	PNG Mapping	Feb	Madang	Connect to and fix Bagabag Island	WO1 Alex Cairney, Sgt Brian Firns, Cpls Peter Tangey, PJ Moore, Bob Mason, John Hunter; Spr D Williams; Attached WO1 Sam Chambers.	
1973 AC	8 Fd Svy Sqn OC Maj Alex Laing	PNG Mapping	Mar - Apr	Lae/Kainantu	Vertical control of Huon/Markham/ Kainantu by helicopter barometric heighting	WO1 Alex Cairney; Sgts Knight; Moore; Williams; TJ Wicker; Brian Firns.	9 Sqn Iriquois used – an overkill for barometric heighting Full det of 9 Sqn incl a Maj GLO; a total of 40 RAAF living in 'HOTEL' accn on an imprest account to support 5 Survey personnel living in army barracks 20 km from the 'Melanesian' hotel.
1974							
1975 PJ	8 Fd Svy Sqn Det per	Beach Surveys 1975	Mar - Apr	TPNG – D,Entrecasteau Islands	Beach Survey	Sgt Peter Jensen	8 Fd Svy Sqn per attached to Beach Survey operations for topo survey support.
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