

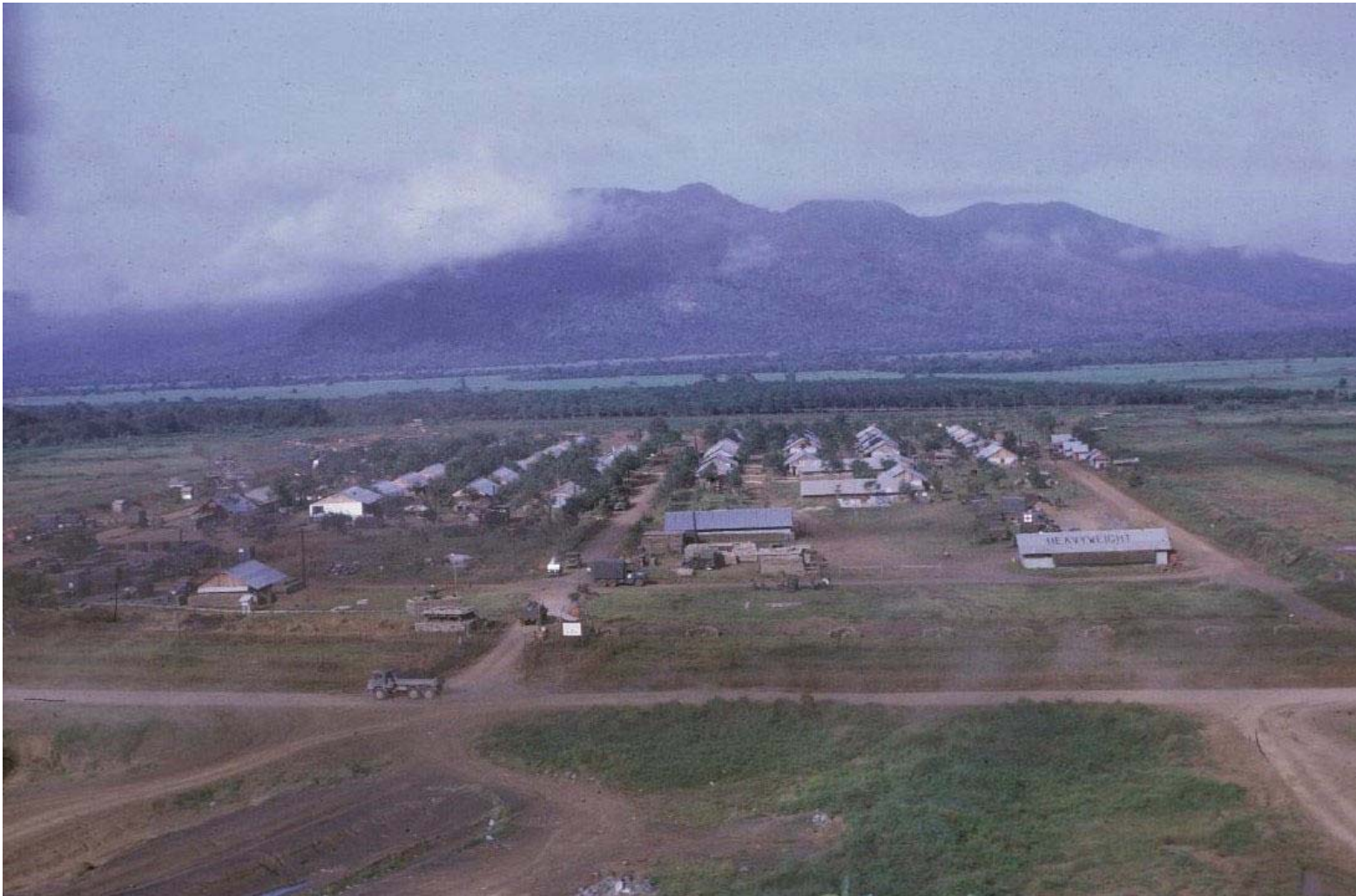
This is a dialog between me and Bob Billiards who was with the Aussie 131 DLB at Nui Dat. It came from a question posed by someone not part of the 1/83rd who asked me if call sign "Heavyweight" pertained to the 1/83rd. That person also sent some photos that obviously were of some Aussies, so I sent them to our Aussie contingent and Bob started his reply with the first comment here.

I can't remember "Heavyweight" being on the room of the hut and it is not on the front gate sign but that was its call sign at Arty. Tac.

Bob

"Heavyweight" was our call sign and was printed on the roof of our Motor Pool, see it in this picture of Nui Dat in July 1967.

Bill



That is a relief as I always thought there was Heavyweight somewhere on the compound. I thought it was on the sign at the front gate but when I looked it wasn't. You can just see our LP at the very top left of the photo sitting on top of the guard post.

Bob

Always good to have something to confirm memories, isn't it? Okay, another question for you Bob. I did look again at the photo and can see your LP on top of Guard Post # 6. Looking farther west are woods, in fact we used to set up our LP out in those woods after we did a perimeter sweep when we did day and night patrols for our first 4 months or so at Nui Dat. If you look on the photo beyond the woods, it looks like a body of water, do you know if that is so? We never ventured that far west.

Also, wasn't there a bypass road out that way as well?

Attached is a photo of the sign at our front gate. One of our Survey Sgt's made the sign, he was a pretty good artist and did many of the signs we had.



Bill

It does look like water, but then I can't remember there being any there. I never walked out more than 50 metres beyond the bypass road. I think it is areas where there is no rubber. I remember going out in that area in a chopper to do some survey work in 1968 (after 1/83rd moved to the DMZ) and we landed in an unwooded area somewhere in the vicinity of that original photo that you sent.

I have a photo of 1ATF, but for some reason I missed the 1/83rd compound and you can see the bypass road that the Engineers built in 1967. I think it also bypassed Hoa Long as when I first was there (Sept 67) we used to go through Hoa Long and later that year we used the bypass road.



Bob

I have often heard of a bypass road over the past several years but never remember having seen one. Quite often I either drove or was part of convoys to both Baria and Vung Tau and we always drove through Hoa Long.

I came home in Nov 67 and must have driven those routes close to coming home. So, do you think the engineers built the bypass road after you got there in Sept 67?

I take it that is Luscombe Field in the top, left of the photo you sent? So, did this bypass road go from Hoa Long and out again onto Hwy 2 after the Task Force but before Luscombe Field?

Always interesting to review these things Bob as memories certainly do change (fog over, maybe) over the years.

Bill

The bypass road wasn't complete when I was there in September and when we went to Baria on the laundry run, we went through Hoa Long, which it bypassed, so maybe completed after you left. We then went north to the end of Luscombe field then out onto that road and all of the supply trucks can in that way. It was put there to stop the locals passing through the base.

It joined back on the highway just after Hoa Long south and then just north of the 1ATF base.

Bob

Thanks, Bob, for all that, clears up some things for me.

Bill