

# C COMPANY 6 RAR - THE 'A to Z' OF OUR WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM

## A is for Alfa

- **Australian Army; Australian Field Post Office** (our mail address was AFPO 4); **Admin Coy; APC; AWL; AO: Ambush; ARVN;** Colt **AR15; M16 Armalite; AK 47; A Coy; Assault Pioneers; AAB83; ARA**
- **Action** the ready state of your personal weapon (magazine on – safety catch on - weapon cocked)
- **Ammo Belt; Arc of fire; AD** accidental discharge of weapon, also unauthorised discharge; **"All the way with LBJ"** – famously uttered by Prime Minister Harold Holt in October 1966; **AFVN** (American Armed Forces Radio)

## B is for Bravo

- **Bum Fluff; Battalion Band; Boots GP; Ba Me Ba** or Bier 33 – produced locally. Better than Budweiser;
- **Baggy Arse** – a private soldier; an endearing term and a badge of honour; **Bread Fruit; Boondocks; B 707**
- **Bait Layers** – our company cooks; **Brew** gear; **Bubble & Squeak; BHQ; B Coy; Bastard Wire; Batman**
- **Barracks; Barrier Minefield; Bookoo** – pidgin English for the French word 'Beaucoup' meaning 'many';
- **Boom-Boom** – also bookoo boom-boom; **Bars; Bar Girls; Back Beach; Beachcomber; Ba Ria; Binh Ba;**
- **Blind** – an unexploded bomb, grenade, mine or artillery shell; **Blowfly** (hygiene dutyman); **Blood Group**
- **Boozer** (wet canteen); **Back Blast; Booby Trap; radio Batteries; Back Pack; Bum Pack; B52; Bird Dog**

## C is for Charlie

- **Charlie Company** – the best company in 6 RAR (well, we think so!); **Call Sign 3; Platoons C/S 31, 32 & 33**
- **C Rations** – Ham & Lima Beans; Turkey Loaf; Beans and Wieners; Spaghetti & Meatballs; Pecan Roll; Pound Cake; Grape Jam; and a ready source of cigarettes; **Crapper; Compass bearing; Count paces** (not easy)
- **Conscription; C123; C130; Charge** – written up for a breach of military discipline on form A4; **Charge happy** – someone who proffers charges as a first resort; **CP** (Command Post); **Contact; Chicom; Chinook**
- **Camel Cigarettes and Chesterfield** too; **Claymore mine** – FRONT towards enemy; **Click/Klick** (one km);
- **Crutch rot** – a painful, weeping fungal infection; **C of E; CSM; Civvy Street; Concertina Wire; Concerts**
- **Cheap Charlie** ("you no buy me Saigon tea"); **Chieu Hoi** program (amnesty for defectors); DHC-4 **Caribou**
- **Cyclo** – a tricycle taxi peddled by a man at the back with passengers at the front. Cyclo races were good sport!
- **Curfew** – broken at your peril!; **choi oi** (Viet exclamation); **Cache** (rice, weapons etc.); **Casevac; Chopper**

## D is for Delta

- **D445 Battalion** – we got to know them very well; **dung lai** – Halt; **dua tay len** – Put up your hands;
- **di-di** and **di-di-mau** – words used to scatter hawkers, beggars, pests and such like; On the **Double;**
- **Drop Short** – by artillery shells or mortar rounds, often with catastrophic results; **Duty First; Dart Board**
- **DUST OFF** – An American acronym ('Dedicated Untiring Service To Our Fighting Force') given to a medical evacuation helicopter. They were always there when we needed them; **Dry Season; Dirt; Dust; lay Doggo**
- **Dixie Bashing** – washing up the pots and pans; **Dekko** (take a look); **DF** (defensive arty/mortar fire); **DMZ**
- **Dog tags** (also ID Tags) - who still has theirs?; **D Coy; Dat Do; Durrie; Duck board; Dhobi; Dear John**

## E is for Echo

- **Enoggera; Emu Bob; Eating Irons; Entrenching Tool; Ease Springs; Everyman; Eagle Farm (LZ);**

## F is for Foxtrot

- **Family**, far away in Australia; **Field punishment** (for some); **FAC; F4 Phantom; Fart Sack/Farter; Fifty Cal; Fire & Movement; Fire Fight; Field Dressing; FUP;** the **Funny Country;** the **Flags; Free Postage**

## G is for Golf

- **Grenade** (M26 HE; M28 Smoke; M34 WP, M79 Grenade Launcher); **Giggle Hat** worn to your style; **Grunt Goffa; Grand Hotel; Gun Group** to the right or high ground; **GPMG M60; Great coats on, great coats off!;**

## H is for (Hotel)

- 36 US Evacuation **Hospital; Hepatitis Rolls; Hexamine/Hexy/ Hexy Stove; HCM Sandals; Hurry Up** and wait; **Homer** – having wounds or illness requiring evacuation to Australia; **Huey; C 130 Hercules;**
- **Hootchie** – the house you built out of nylon and string; **Hootchie Cord; Hip-hole; Hot Box; Harbour;**
- **Housewife** – your army issue sewing kit; **Horse and Cart** (taking the reins in Vung Tau); **Hoa Long; Horseshoe; Hygiene Wallah** – everyone took his turn at 'sanitising' the dunny; energy sapping **Heat and Humidity;** (Harassing & Interdiction) **H & I fire; HMAS Sydney; Ho Chi Minh; Hotel time** (time zone);
- **H Hour; Helmet** (to sit on or piss in); 105 mm **Howitzer;** All of these **start with H**

## I is for India

- **Infantry; Interpreter; Incoming; Instant** (safety catch off); **Immediate Action** – weapon fires, weapon stops – **First IA** - safety catch on, magazine off, cock, lock, look in – clear the stoppage, cock, continue firing;

## J is for Juliett

- **Jungle – the deep 'J'; Jungle Penetrator** (helicopter use to penetrate jungle canopy); **Juicy Fruit chewy;**
- **Jack man** – "I'm all right, Jack"!; **Jumping Jack** (M16) **Mines;** bookoo **Jeeps; Jokes and Jokers;**
- **Jungle Training Centre** Canungra; HMAS **Jeparit; Jerry Can; Jungle Greens; June 1966 to June 1967**

## K is for Kilo

- **Kapooka; Killing Ground; Kiwis** (FO Party); **KIA; Kit Bag; Kool** menthol cigs; **Kip** (when/where you could)

## L is for Lima

- **L1A1 SLR; Lambretta; Lance Jack; LOCSTAT** (where we are); **Lewie** (Lieutenant); **LZ; Lantana; Laughs Long Phuoc; Long Tan; Long Green; Line Alpha; Lucky Strikes; LPs, EPs & 45s; Laundry Number**

**M is for Mike**

- **Mama-San** – never to be crossed (nor double crossed); **Military Discipline; Monsoon Drains;**
- **Micky Mouse Watch** – Officer only issue; **Mail** from home; **Mum's Fruit Cake; Mates;**
- **MPC** – military payment certificate (in lieu of American (greenback) currency); **MP** (Military Police); **MFC;**
- **Munga bandit** – a voraciously hungry soldier; **Munga/Mukarn** (food); **Machete; Marry Up** (groups)
- **M1 carbine** – WW2 vintage US short barrel rifle and **M1 Garand** a semi automatic US rifle of the same era
- **Medic** (good man to have around); **MEDCAP** Medical Civic Action Program; **Medevac; Mortars; Mess Tins**

**N is for November**

- **Nasho; Napalm; NCO; Night Harbour; Nog; Noggy; Noggy Squat; Needles; Next of Kin; Nui Dat; NVA; No names, no pack drill;** Prime Minister **Nguyen Cao Ky** (narrowly escaped a 6 RAR mortar blast)

**O is for Oscar**

- **O Group or Orders Group** - SMEAC (Situation; Mission; Execution (Grouping & Tasks); Admin/Log; Command and Sig);
- **OMC** – 9mm Owen Machine Carbine (Owen Gun); **OPD** (Other Protestant Denominations);
- **Other Ranks; Olive drab** (green paint); **OC; Officer Commanding** - Thumper; **Overhead Protection**
- **OPDEM** – Operational Demand for urgently needed stores and equipment eg. ammunition; weapon parts

**P is for Papa**

- **Paludrine** (anti-malarial tablet taken daily); One **Pipper** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant; **Platoon; Pit; Psyops**
- Fighting **Patrol; Clearing Patrol; Ambush Patrol; Standing Patrol; Reconnaissance Patrol**
- **Piastre** also Dong (South Vietnam unit of currency); **Pontoon; Poker; 100 P Alley;**
- **Picquet** (two hours on/four hours off); **Puff the Magic Dragon; Punch a Postie; PF** (Popular Forces)
- **Potable Water; Paddy Fields; Paddy Bunds; Phuoc Tuy Province; Padre; Prisoners of War**
- **Piss-a-phone; piss can; piss up; full of piss; pissed; piss pot; piss-n-wind; pissed off; piss off;**
- AN **PRC-25 Radio Set; PT; PX; PUO** (pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin); 10 **Stone** ringing wet;

**Q is for Quebec**

- **QANTAS; Quartermaster and Q-ees; Quick Reaction Force; Quagmire** in the wet season; **Queue up;**

**R is for Romeo**

- **RAR; R & R** (Singapore, Bangkok, Taipei, Hong Kong); **R & C** (Vung Tau); **Re-sup; Re-org; Rotor Wash; RV** (Rendezvous); **RC; RPG; RSM; RP** (Regimental Police); **RTU** (Return to Unit); **RTA** (Return to Australia); **Regs** (Regular soldiers); **PX Ration Card; Reel to Reel Tape Recorder;** Transistor **Radio; Royal Cola;**
- In the **Rubber; Radio Australia; Radar Hill; Ronny Raff** (RAAF); **Reo; Round Eye** (especially female)

**S is for Sierra**

- **Saigon Tea** ("You no buy me"); **South China Sea; Soui Da Bang River; Shell Scrape; Scrub-bash;**
- **Search & Destroy; Cordon & Search; Schlitz (beer)** – one per man - per day – perhaps; **Salute**
- **Septics/Septic Tanks; SEATO; Shell Dressing; Shrapnel; Sortie; Stand To; Stand down; Stand Up**
- **Sweat rag; Saddle Up – Move Out; Field Signals; Saigon Guard; Sand Bags; Star Picket;**
- **Sioux LOH** c/s Possum; **SLR; SMG; SOS** (Save Our Sons movement); **Skippy Badge; Sunray** (CO/OC);
- **Smoke** ("I see yellow smoke"); **Smoko** ("smoke 'em if you've got 'em"); 155 mm **Self Propelled Gun**
- **Snake Pit** (Sergeants Mess); **Support Coy; airdropped Surrender Leaflets;** one up the **Spout**
- **Section; Support Section; Standing Patrol; Starched Greens; Stick books;** your first **Seiko watch**

**T is for Tango**

- **Tail End Charlie; TAOR** (tactical area of operations); **Tet; Toggle Rope; TsOET** (tests of elementary training); **Tailor Mades; Tropical Downpour; Tax Free Pay; Thunder Box; Tunnel Rat; Troppo; Tents**

**U is for Uniform**

- **Uc-Dai-Loi; UH-1** (Iroquois); **Uncle Ho; Up Country; Uniforms; Ulu** (ooloo); **Unders & Overs**

**V is for Victor**

- **VC; Viet Cong; Victor Charlie; Vui Tui; VB; Vung Tau; Vungers; Vaccinations; Virgin soldier;**

**W is for Whiskey**

- **Wakey Wakey** hands off snakey;
- **Warries; Watch your front!; Weapon Pit; WIA; Wet,** always wet; **Weary,** always weary.
- **Wiangaree State Forest; Wait-a-while; Welts and Bruises; Wound; Wheelbarrow** (name);
- **White Mice; Wallaby Airlines; Weight** carried; **Whizz-bangs; Waterproof** your smokes;
- **WHAM** (winning hearts and minds program); ; **Welcome home; Wives/Girlfriends;** General **Westmoreland**
- **White phosphorus; Wide-eyed; Waterside Workers** (strike); **Wallop a Wharfie;**
- **Whitfields Ointment** (to smear on crutch rot); **Winston Cigarettes; Water Buffalo; Wet Dream**
- **Water Purification Tablets; Warburtons** (Nui Dinh and Nui Thi Vai hills); **Webbing; Wet Canteen;**

**X is for X-Ray**

- **Xin Loi** (pronounced Sin-Loi (sorry about that!)); **Xuyen Moc; Excelled; Explosion; Experience;**

**Y is for Yankee**

- **Yarmas** (Shoalwater Bay, Wiangaree State Forest, Leavers Plateau, Nui Dinhs); **Yonks; Yanks; and Yarpers**

**Z is for Zulu**

- **Zap; Zapped; Zero** (your weapon); **Zero Hour; Zippo; Zero Alpha** (Battalion CP Callsign )