

Ld Pt, "E" co, 1st Bn, 35th Inf

Field diary

DATE 30 Oct 62

FROM Ban Nong Hin

THRU  

TO Dan Sing Khan (Border Police Station + road)

ROAD RECONNAISSANCE REPORT NR 1 Type vehicle(s) utilized 2½

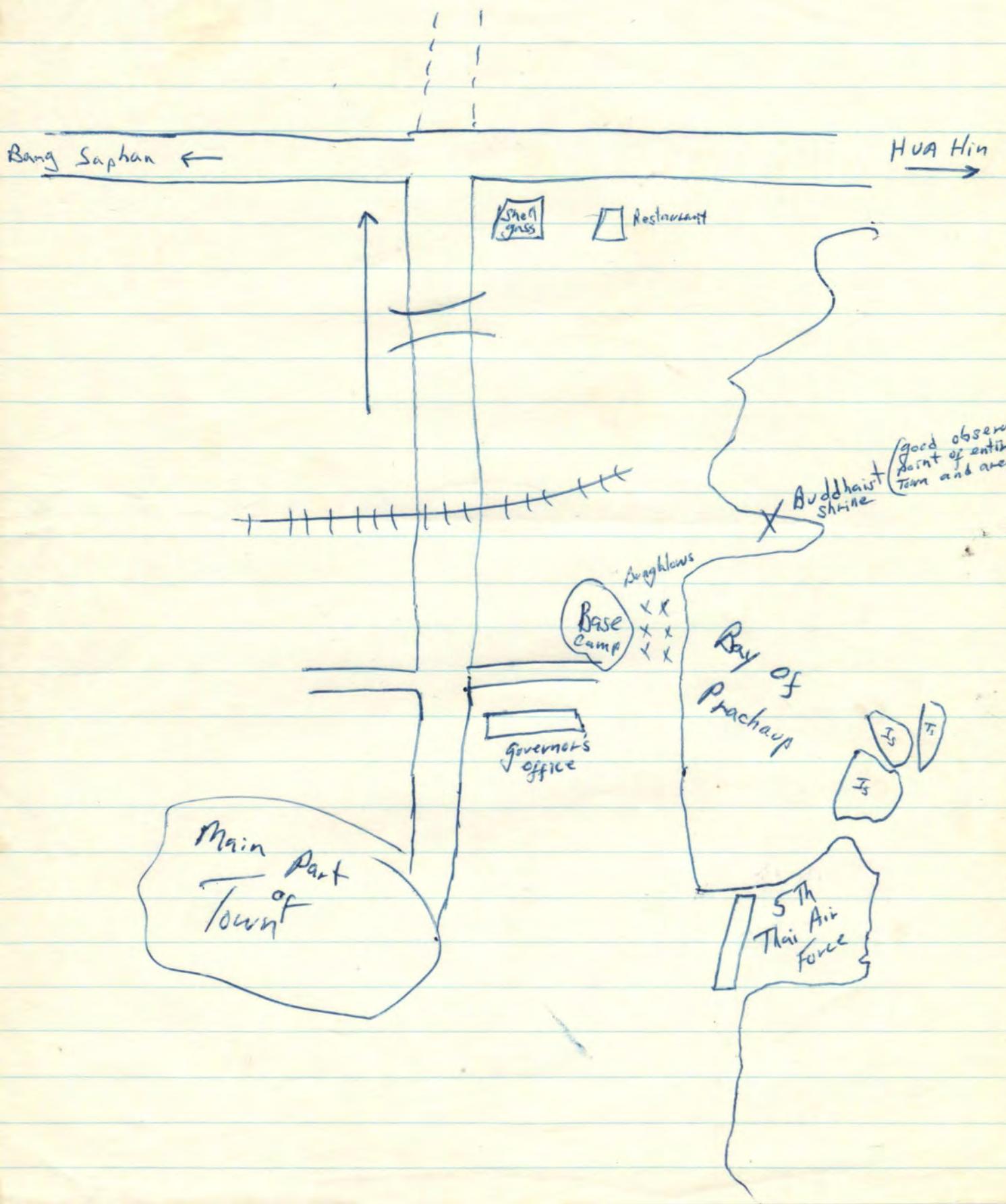
MAP: AMS L509, Sheet NC 47-3 Date of reconnaissance 16 Oct 62

Time required: From 0930 to 1045 Distance traveled: 4.5 miles

1. Highway Number(s)   Grid Coords: From 9673 to 8871
2. Type of road base sand, dirt Thickness N/A Condition Fair
3. Type of surface material none Thickness N/A Condition N/A
4. Shoulder material none Width of shoulders N/A
5. Average width of road 12' Narrowest width of road 12'
6. Curves: (Sharp, moderate, few) Moderate Grades: (Steep, gentle, none) none
7. General road surface conditions (Ex, good, fair, poor) fair
8. Existance of pot-holes and "washboard areas" (some, many, few) many
9. Locations of wash-outs (give grid coordinates) none
10. Flooded areas (give grid coordinates) none
11. Depth (in inches) and area (in square feet) of flooded areas N/A
12. Average verticle clearance N/A Minimum vertical clearance N/A
13. Average horizontal clearance 12' Minimum horizontal clearance 12'
14. Average height of crown from edge of road N/A
15. Location and extent of off-road parking areas None until Dan Sing Khan
16. Locations of nearby gravel pits, quarries, timber stands, or saw mills.  
None (Some road in area used for charcoal processing)
17. Locations of possible bivouac sites None until Dan Sing Khan
18. Location of water points Dan Sing Khan
19. Other see attachments (No bridges)

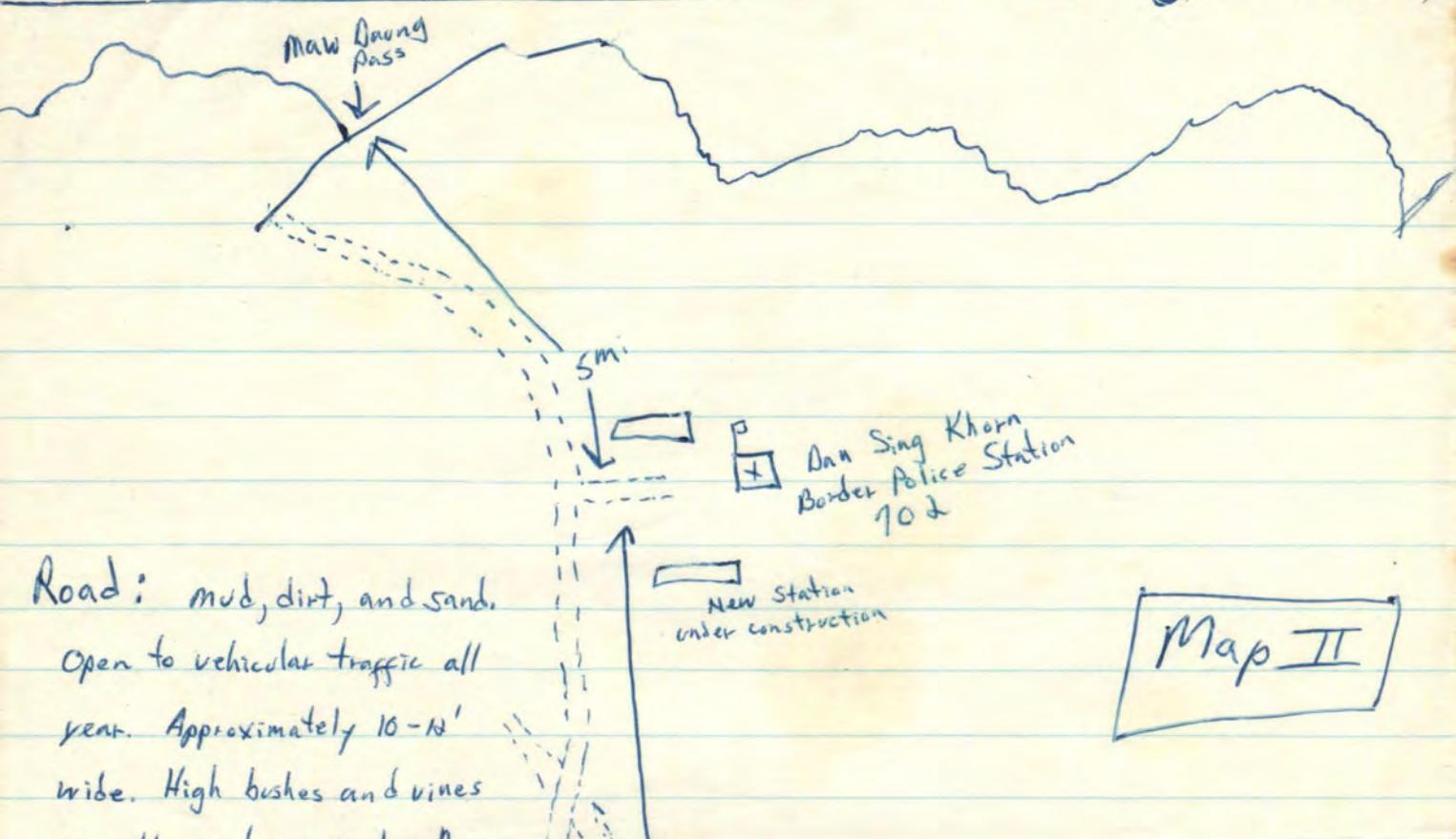
# Prachuap Khiri Khan

## Map I



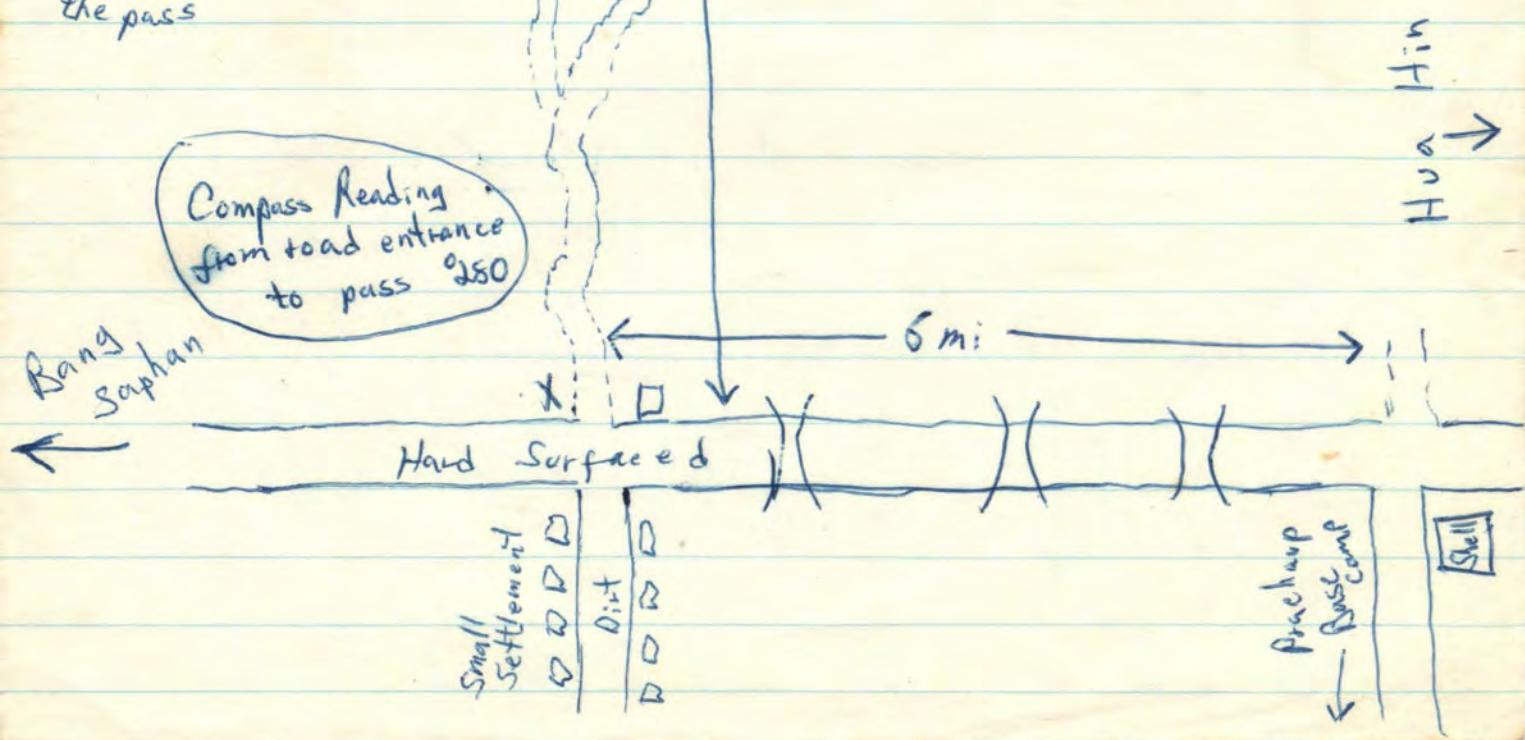
# Dan Sing Khorn + Maw Daung Pass

Thanoung  
(nearest Burmese  
Town - 20 km)



Road: mud, dirt, and sand. Open to vehicular traffic all year. Approximately 10-12' wide. High bushes and vines line the entire route. Many bypasses on route but all turn back on main route which is the only route to the pass

Map II



# Reconnaissance Report #1

30 Oct 62

Organization: Lt Fielding, and 25 ~~men~~<sup>EM</sup> mounted  
~~in one~~ ~~2½~~ ton truck with trailer.  
Total includes driver and one artillery  
attachment.

Dates: 15 to 17 Oct 62

Mission: <sup>Conduct</sup> ~~The patrol mission was to make~~  
~~a road, bridge, terrain, and intel-~~  
~~ligence reconnaissance of the area~~  
~~around Border Police Station #1702~~  
~~located at Non Sing Khor approximately~~  
~~9 kilometers west of Ban Nang Hin on~~  
~~the main road between Bang~~  
~~Saphan and Prachup Khiri Khan~~

Synopsis: The patrol left Kanchanaburi at 0800 hrs 15 Oct 62. After talk with the governor at Rat Buri it proceeded on to Prachup arriving there at 1800 hrs 15 Oct 62. The patrol spent

the night in front of the government office at Prachoup. This location became the base camp for the next 3 days of operations.

On Tuesday 16 Oct 62 at 1000 hrs, myself and 10 other members of the patrol proceeded to Border Police Station #702 located at Dan Sing Khorn. We returned to base camp at 1215 hrs 16 Oct 62.

The remainder of 16 Oct and 17 Oct was spent in reconnaissance of the base camp area. On 18 Oct the patrol left camp and proceeded to commence a secondary mission.

Military data: The road from Ban Nang Hin to Dan Sing Khorn is ~~only~~ wheel tracks through jungle growth. The ground does not rise in this distance but begins to do so shortly after the police station (this area could not be recovered because of the border mine destruction). The

recovered (M)  
R  
P

3. <sup>however</sup> ~~passes~~ <sup>have</sup> <sup>now</sup> <sup>already</sup> road twists and turns and there are many <sup>by-passes</sup> of mud holes. Short cuts appear to take off in a different direction but information gathered at the police station confirm that only one road leads to Now Dung Pase.

Thick vegetation ~~and~~ including heavy vines covered the ~~st.~~ Some mud holes were quite deep but proved no impossible obstacle. Observation along the route was limited to 5 to 10 yards. The route would make an excellent ambush point for the most part - the entire route was dry. There were no bridges, streams, or rice paddies observed.

The vegetation would prove no obstacle to tanks. Officials at the police station informed me that any type of traffic could make it to the Burma border and beyond at any time of the year. Much of the foliage in the small types of trees used in charcoal production.

Very few houses are located

along the route until the vicinity of the Police Station. About 15 buildings are there including 4 at the station plus a new one under construction. About 30 uniformed personnel were observed.

<sup>Can be seen</sup>  
Now Dang Pass (called Hin Kong by the Thais) is clearly observable from the station. It is located about five miles ~~and~~ to the south. The area is covered by periodic patrols. There are no permanent guards at the border itself. Apparently there are shelter built in the area ~~and~~ patrols and the patrols move from one to another. Artillery could be brought up to the station area to cover the pass. It could also be left on the hard surfaced road between Bang Saphan and Peacock Hiri Khan. This area could also be covered by ~~the~~ naval bombardment from the Gulf of Siam.

It is very doubtful that enemy armor penetration could be stopped once the pass was breached by organic battle group weapons. The area is too flat, dry, and concealed. The hills

around New Daung Pass pose no obstacle to foot movement. They are heavily vegetated and offer great opportunity for concealed movement. A large force would be necessary to prevent penetration. In case of an outbreak of hostilities engineer forces could probably secure the pass before being observed.

Water appears to be scarce in the immediate road vicinity although wells are in operation at Daung Thom. Bivouac sites are limited to the station area and one large clearing along the route. The foliage would provide excellent concealment for troops and/or vehicles.

Apparently the road to the border continues well into Burma. The nearest town (probably in terms of road transportation) is Thanonsri.

Supply and evacuation could be effected by hard surfaced road, sea, railway (paralleling the road) and air from the Prokhorov air base

John F. Fielding

2d Lt, "E" Co, 1st BC, 35th Inf

Patrol: Lt Fielding - Road Recon. Rat Buri to Chambury

Date: 18 Oct. 1962

Name: Mr. Chan Sombulgal

Age: 45 (approx)

Position: Governor

Address: Governor's office  
Rat Buri

Remarks:

Governor Sombulgal speaks English fluently. He is easy going, has a good sense of humor and a quick wit. He knows a lot about the United States most likely due to the fact his daughter spent two years studying at the University of Columbus (Ohio). It is also possible that he has relatives in the area where his daughter went to school. She is now teaching at a school in Rat Buri. The governor brought out a folder which apparently contained a complete summary of our activities in his district. He also produced a letter for delivery to Chambury officials instructing them to provide quarters for the patrol members. From all indication he runs a well disciplined and efficient organization. He seemed very eager to do as much.

(over)

E# 131200

as he could for us. The governor also informed me that two Peace Corps members have come to his district. One is a nurse in the local hospital and the other is a teacher of physical education. The latter will spend his time traveling from school to school teaching American games etc. He seemed very pleased and proud that they had come.

John F. Fielding  
44, "E" Co, 1st BG, 35th Inf.

Dossier #2

Patrol: Lt. Fielding - Road Recon. Rat Buri to Chambang

Date: 18 Oct 1962

Name: Mr Sotit Pomsook

Age: 23 (approx)

Position: Clerk in Governor's office.

Address: Provincial Interior Office  
Rat Buri

Remarks:

Mr. Sotit Pomsook speaks poor to fair English. He appears to be the Governor's private secretary. He is extremely friendly and eager to learn about America and the United States. He does not seem very well informed about local affairs. For example, the distances he gave me to the town of Chambang and the border Police stations 704 were far from accurate. Like no other official encountered on the patrol he had never visited these points in the district and the information he possessed was at best secondhand. In my opinion a very poor source of information.

John F. Fielding  
1st Lt, "E" Co, 1st Bn, 35th Inf.

Dossier #3

Patrol: Lt Fielding - Kanyanabni to Prachuab

Date: 15 Oct 1962

Name: Mr. Kasem Turapan

Age: 45-50 (approx)

Position: Governor's Deputy

Address: Governor's Office  
Rat Buri

Remarks:

Mr. Kasem Turapan speaks fairly good English. He seems to have a ready grasp of the affairs of the district. He is friendly and eager to help. In our brief talk he extended the aid of his office in obtaining anything we needed. Personally he is very colorless individual, apparently content to rubber stamp the actions of his superiors.

John F. Fielding  
Sgt, "E" Co, 1st Bn, 35th Inf

Dossier #4

Patrol: Lt. Fielding - Road recce. Prachab to Dansingkhan

Date: 16 Oct 1962

Name: Major Sgt. Thong

Age: 30 (approx)

Position: CO of Dan Singkhan Border Police Station # 702

Address: Border Police Station #702

Dan Singkhan

Remarks:

Major Sgt. Thong does not speak English in the least. When the patrol arrived we found him working in a field with his men. He seemed pleased we had come and wanted to take us to the border. He eagerly showed us his station. When asked how many men were stationed there he replied ten. Observation confirmed that it was at least platoon sized. This may have been due to the language barrier. His station contained new M-16s about a dozen in sight. He informed us that the road to Maw Daeng Pan (Called Hinkong by Thais in area) is open the year round. There is no <sup>permanent post as</sup> post ~~post~~ such established on the border but the area is periodically patrolled. When asked to pose for a ~~photo~~ <sup>picture</sup> he was very excited and insisted on putting on

Dossier #5

Patrol: H Fielding - Rat Buri to Chambung - Road Recon.

Date: 18-19 Oct 1962

Name: Nai Boonne Kusonsongkraow

Age: ~~52~~ 52

Position: Nai Amper (local official)

Address: Post Office Building  
Chambung

Remarks:

The Nai Amper Boonne Kusonsongkraow does not speak English nor does any of his staff. The only way we were able to get across was by means of a translator from a local school (Dossier #6) and the government letter. The Amper was not outwardly friendly but was courteous and seemed <sup>seemingly</sup> ~~and seemed~~ <sup>more</sup> anxious to carry out the directions of the government letter rather than extend hospitality on his own. He seemed poorly informed on our presence. One of his questions was on the purpose of U.S. Forces in Thailand. He wanted to know who sent in to his district and why we were there. From later conversation with the translator I found out he was about to be moved to a position in Rat Buri within a week. The translator

stressed that he was a "very old  
man" giving his age as 52.

(large hand) went into 2nd 1909  
John F. Freeling : 225.00 A.  
Sgt, "E" Co, 1st Bn, 35th Inf.

Dossier # 6

Patrol: Lt. Fielding - Rat Buri to Chambung - Road Recon

Date: 18-19 Oct 1962

Name: Mr. Preecha Jiemtuanwongse

Position: Dean of Boys

Age: 30 (approx)

Address: Chambung Village Institute  
Chambung

Remarks:

Mr. Preecha Jiemtuanwongse speaks fluent English. He studied for two years in the United States at Sul Ross Teacher's College in Alpine, Texas. He has an acute knowledge of the United States and World Affairs. He is one of twenty-six teachers comprising the staff of Chambung Village Institute a Thai government school for teacher training. He is married and lives wife on the grounds of the school. A daughter attends a local boarding school in another town. He was genuinely sincere and friendly. He made room for the entire patrol in one of the dorms (300 student total ages 12-21) considering it a fortunate break for his charges to have English speaking soldiers visit them. He invited me to his home and also treated us at the local restaurant. He went out of his way to aid us. In case of a need for a English translator

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in future operations I feel he would be glad to cooperate in any way. His sound knowledge of the defensive position of Thailand in South East Asia would make him a valuable liaison official. He seems to be the leader of his fellow teachers, perhaps due to the fact he studied in the United States which seem to be the ambition of his fellow teacher. He has a sound geographical knowledge of the Chomthong area and has personally visited the border police stations and beyond.

John F. Fielding  
1/4 "E" Co, 1st B.G, 35th Reg.

Dossier #7

Patrol: 4 Fielding - Rat Buri to Chomlung - Road Recon

Date: 18-19 Oct 1962

Names: Mr Sayoomporn Rittipont

Mr Oran Rojhiran

Mr Martin Pewon

Ages: 25-30 (approx.)

Positions: Teacher and administration Chomlung Village Institute

Address: Chomlung Village Institute

Remarks: All of the above speak very good English. Mr. Oran Rojhiran studied one year (plus?) in New York at Plattsburgh State Teacher College and speaks excellent English. Mr. Sayoomporn Rittipont is the director of curriculum planning and guarded his about town and to the post office cover 2 kilometers from the school. Mr. Martin Pewon teacher math. All seemed friendly and eager to help. The time factor prevented a more complete run down on these. They seemed eager to answer any question asked of them.

John F. Freiling  
2pt "E" Co, 1st BG, 35th Inf

ROAD RECONNAISANCE NO 53

FROM: Kanchanaburi No 5850

TO: Three Pagodas Pass

Map Ref: AMS L-509, Sheet ND 47-2, 6  
Date of Recon: 5-16 October 1962

DISTANCE TRAVELED:

Train:	40 miles
Rice boat:	150 miles
Elephant and foot:	100 miles

UNIT:

C Co E, 1st BG, 35th Inf

MISSION:

Recon the Kwai river valley to within five (5) miles of the Burma border marked by the Three Pagodas Pass.

SUMMARY:

Fifteen select volunteers with one interpreter and four guides composed the personnel make-up of the patrol. Four carbines, eight M1's, and two .45 caliber pistols with basic load for each weapon, comprised the patrol's armament. We boarded the train in Kanchanaburi at 1100 hours, 5 October 1962, and traveled to Sai Yek, No 1759, the end of the track, arriving at approximately 1600 hours the same day. In three and one half days we reached the first village of any significant size. Blisters and pack sores were the major problem during this phase. Also, several stops were required to prevent heat exhaustion. We spent one day and two nights in the village of Thom Pak Phom. I deemed it necessary to stay that long to permit blisters to heal, and maintainance of personal gear and weapons to be accomplished. While we were there we were told that there were four river crossings enroute to the next town of Sanclot Buri, "All too swift and wide to cross according to the district officer. Considering the condition of the men's feet and footgear and the risk inherent in swift river crossings, I elected to secure river transportation if possible. The morning of the tenth we left Thom Pak Phom by rice boat and arrived in Sanclot Buri the following afternoon. We were taken to the Border Police Station to pick up rations and then taken to the American mission. Reverend Paul S. Dodge provided food and shelter for us and secured three elephants to carry supplies for the remainder of the patrol. We left Sanclot Buri the following morning and proceeded on foot to the completion of our mission. Returned to the mission the next day and attended to our maintainance requirements. The morning of the fourteenth the patrol left Sanclot Buri, again by boat, and arrived at 2230 hours in Thom Pak Phom. We proceeded by boat down river to Kanchanaburi, and arrived at 2200 hours, 16 October 1962.

## ROAD RECONNAISSANCE NO 53 (CONT)

### MILITARY ASPECTS OF TERRAIN:

The Kwai river valley varies in width from approximately 50 kilometers to less than 10 at it's narrowest. The length of the valley from Kanchanaburi to the three pagodas pass is approximately 130 miles.

Throughout the length and breadth of the valley, jungle undergrowth prevails. There are very few areas suitable for mortar emplacements or artillery weapons and these areas are widely scattered. The high ground along both sides of the valley is extremely rugged and largely unsuitable for large caliber weapons emplacements.

The roads and trails are impassable to wheeled vehicles during the rainy season. It is doubtful that heavy tracked vehicles could travel in this area during the rainy season.

The Kwai river could offer the most suitable route of approach to an invading enemy. The swift current and light defenses would facilitate a deep penetration before a suitable defense could be established.

Land warfare in this area would of necessity be confined to small unit, guerilla type, operations employing a maximum of booby trap devices and ambush tactics.

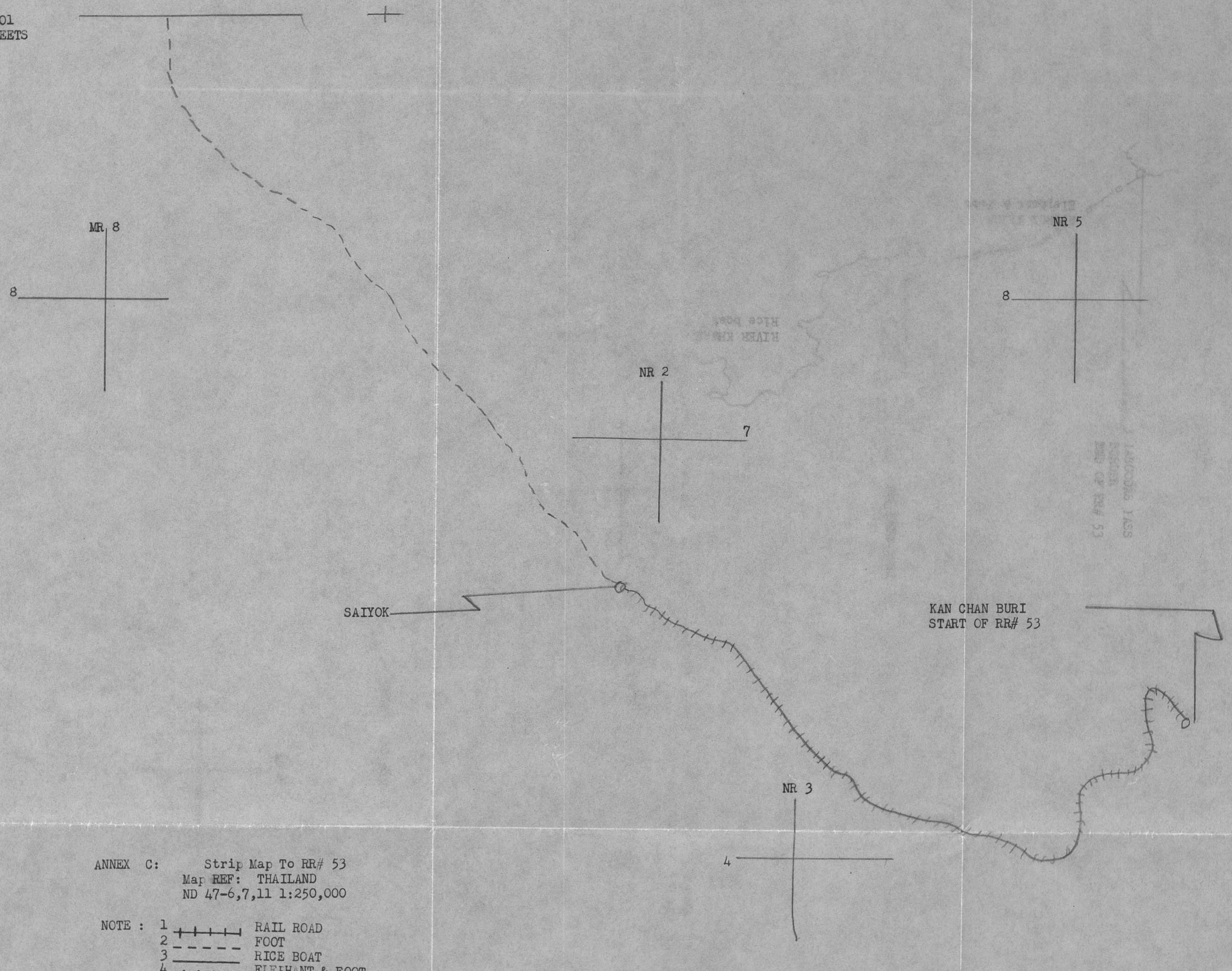
### RESUPPLY:

Aerial resupply would be very difficult due to the jungle growth which often obscures the trails for several miles. Resupply would best be accomplished by utilizing the river and tributaries.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. New load carrying gear should be utilized - the back pack on the TA-21 adds too much heat.
2. Optimum in footwear would be combat boots with lug soles; combat boots keep the feet drier for a greater length of time.
3. Little or no "C" rations should be carried on extended patrols - the added weight is unnecessary in view of the fact that food is abundant in the jungle.
4. Use of elephants should be kept to a minimum. They are extremely slow and require undue attention; cost \$ 5.00 per and carry maximum load of 220 lb.
5. Two guides should be maximum number for any size patrol. Four have great difficulty uniting on a decision of routes.

*Monte T. Sloan*  
MONTE T SLOAN  
2d Lt, Infantry



3 TASSGODAS PASS  
BORDER  
END OF RR# 53

APPROX ALIGN  
Elephant & foot

SONG KHLA BURI

RIVER KWAE  
Rice boat

MS 6

5

THONG PHAPHUM

MS 8

2

Foot

SHEET NO. 2

MS/0