

18 Oct 62

Reconnaissance Report #2

Organization: Lt Jarrell & 26 men patrol mounted in one $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck. Includes medic & driver. No other attachments.

Dates: Left base camp 9800 15 Oct 62 & returned 19 Oct at 1645.

Destination: Patrols destination was Border Police station 705, located 12 kilometers west of Ban Sapan Yai, and surrounding area.

Mission: Primary mission was to investigate routes & access from Burma to Thailand in this region. Secondary missions were to gain any military information from the border police, locate all officials & english speaking persons in the area, investigate resources & routes of supply, landing areas & bivouac sites, and terrain & vegetation information.

Synopsis: Patrol went to Prachab the 1st night Oct. Arrived border police station 705 at 1100 Tuesday, 16 Oct. I talked to

Maj. Sgt. Somehi who is in charge. The only maps he had of the area were compiled in 1915. Maj. Sgt. Somehi speaks very little English.

At 1230 I gave an operations order to 2 patrol leaders. They were given specific areas, restrictions, & missions. (See adjoining sketch) They departed the area at 1440, and returned between 1500 & 1730 the following day.

Following the patrol action, I made several calls to surrounding villages, including Ban Sapan Yai, Ban ~~Trok~~^{Trok}, & Ban Yat.

Spent night in Hia Hin Thursday & returned Friday.

Military Data:

From highway west ground rises & mountains begin along border. There are many streams in the area & during wet season are impassable.

From the border police station 705 to the border is 12 miles. The entire area is very heavily populated with bamboo & large trees, vines & shrubs. Movement thru the jungle off the trails is at best extremely difficult. Only 2 trails of any value were found leading to the border. (see sketch)

Water in wet season is abundant. In dry season,

water may be obtained from wells near the ocean.

There was evidence of game in the area. Many monkeys & elephants were sighted, as were fresh tiger tracks.

The principal industry is lumber, coconuts, bananas, fishing & farming. Very few rice paddies in the area.

~~The~~ Vehicles of any type ~~can~~ ^{can} travel to station 705, but from there on only jeeps & small trucks can make it further toward the border. The road stops at Ban Tei, & a foot trail continues on to Burma. The road from the highway to Ban Sapan Yai (see inclosure) is very poor & takes a long time to travel it. However, it will take any vehicle up to a light tank.

In Ban Sapan Yai, there is one family who is quite wealthy. They operate a ~~flour~~ ^{saw} mill among other things. The son's name is Nihorn PRACHUABMOH. The father is quite elderly, & the son handles most of the business now. The family is quite influential, & entertain many dignitaries & officials from Bangkok & other provinces.

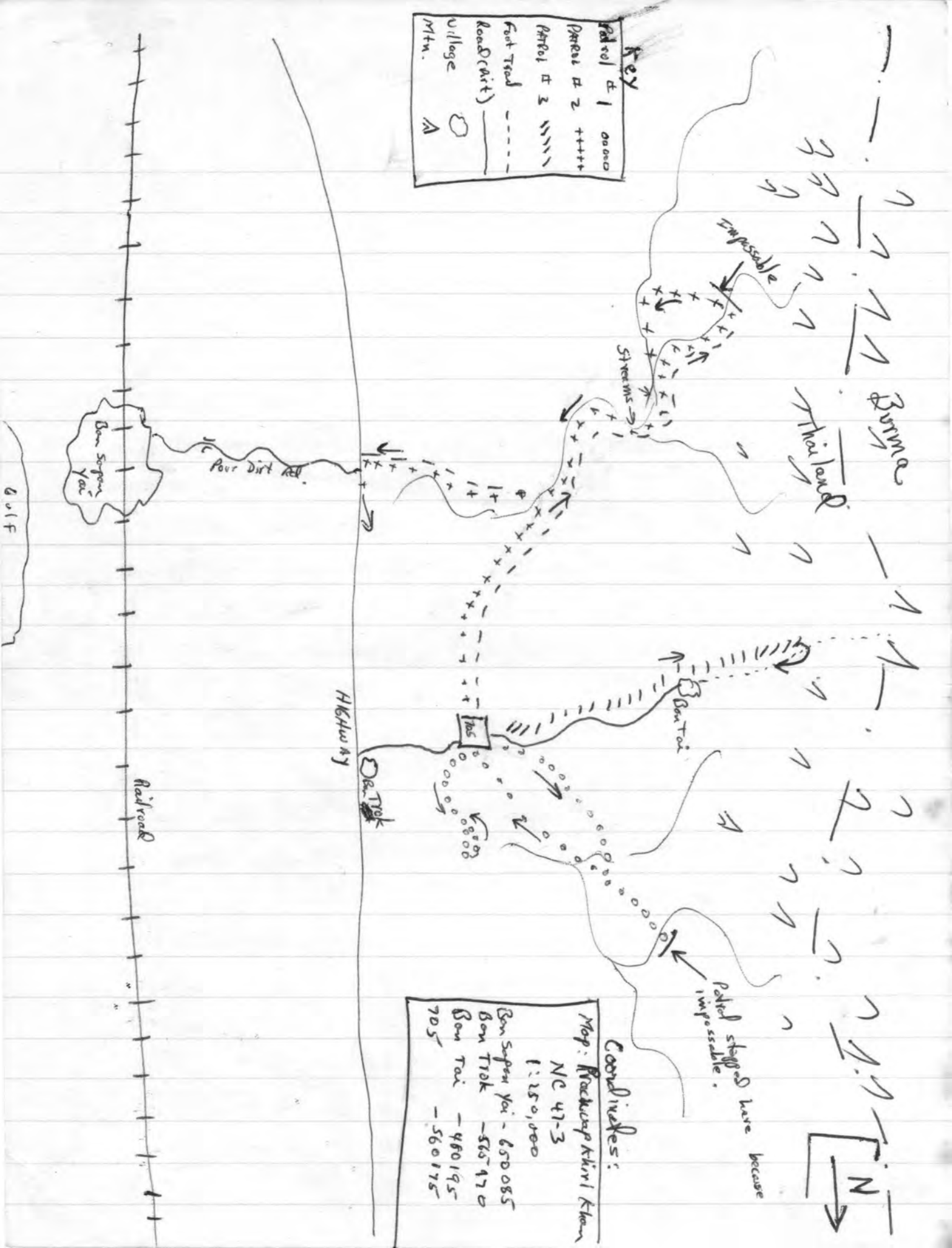
Nihorn is a graduate of the University of Maryland & Oxford College in England.

Speaks ~~a~~ very good English. He is greatly interested in world affairs, & especially U.S. policy. He seems to be very critical of our policy in & with Cambodia, Cuba, & also the Mississippi riots. In any operations or actions in this area, it would be advisable to contact Nikorn first & then the local officials.

As the railroad runs thru Ban Sapon Yai, there are good supply channels.

There are no suitable areas for landing strips, unless there was quite a bit of work. The terrain does not lend itself to armor or Art pieces except "off the highway" parking areas, etc., and along the beach front.

Border Police station 705 has 36 men assigned, 25 of whom were present. They are equipped with new M-1 rifles, carbines, 45's, grease guns (new), one 30 cal M6 and one 60 mm mortar. They have very little ammo, & have not been able to fire the M-1's. Each man receives 80 rds / year & this must be their basic load. They have commo with the other border police stations to the North & the Hqs. located in Kanchanaburi. (CW) They have no organic transportation.



DATE

18 Oct 62

FROM

Lt Jarrell

THRU

TO

ROAD RECONNAISSANCE REPORT NR

2

Type vehicle(s) utilized

1/4 ton

MAP: AMS L509, Sheet

None

Date of reconnaissance

18 Oct 62

Time required: From

Highway

to

Ban Sapan Yai - 1 (one) hr.

Distance traveled:

9.5 Kilometers

1. Highway Number(s) ? Grid Coords: From Unknown to —
2. Type of road base Dirt Thickness 4" Condition @ good
3. Type of surface material Dirt Thickness — Condition good
4. Shoulder material None Width of shoulders —
5. Average width of road 15' Narrowest width of road 10'
6. Curves: (Sharp, moderate, few) M Grades: (Steep, gentle, none) None
7. General road surface conditions (Ex, good, fair, poor) Poor
8. Existence of pot-holes and "washboard areas" (some, many, few) Many pot-holes
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 none
12. Average vertical clearance NA Minimum vertical clearance NA
13. Average horizontal clearance NA Minimum horizontal clearance NA
14. Average height of crown from edge of road NA
15. Location and extent of off-road parking areas utilize cut trail to side of road - coconut plantation
16. Locations of nearby gravel pits, quarries, timber stands, or saw mills.
Saw mill in Ban Sapan Yai - timber stands close
17. Locations of possible bivouac sites None
18. Location of water points None
19. Other —

Bridge Report #1 to Road Report #2

2 (two) forty foot bridges on the road. Both bridges are capable of supporting any organic vehicle. They will not support tanks or heavy art. in my opinion. I did not have the time to check out the construction. But both bridges can be easily bypassed except during the peak of the rainy season or under flood conditions.

Approx coordinates, using NC 47-3, are:

1st bridge - 610 ¹³⁰ ~~170~~
2nd bridge - 640/100

DOSSIER

DATE: Lt Jones Road Reconnaissance North of Bo Phloi

Date: 9 Oct 1962

Name: M. L. SINWAT KASENISARIT

Position: Mining engineer at Government Mining camp

Age: 28 approximately

North of Bo Phloi (Cm Kim?)

Marital status: Bachelor

Remarks:

address: TECH Division

Royal Dept. of Mines

Bangkok, Thailand

He spoke fair English and said he had studied English for 15 years. His family lived in Bangkok and he had attended a University in Bangkok.

He had been stationed at the mining camp for 6 months and went to Bangkok about once a month. He was very friendly and allowed the patrol to stay in some of the mining camp personnel quarters. He also helped repair one of our trucks by having his crew make the necessary part in a machine shop at the camp. The mining camp had a small machine shop - a saw mill and a 120V generator. They had radio communications with Bangkok.

DOSSIER



Patrol: Lt. Jones' Road Reconnaissance from BAN PONG
date 17 OCT 1962 TO KRA BURI

NAME: Chuen Thongsiri

Position: District Master of Kraburi (Ranong Province)

AGE: over 50 years

Marital status: Unknown

Remarks: Mr. Thongsiri does not speak English but was very friendly and attempted to help or assist the patrol in any way possible. He bought dinner and soft drinks for the patrol of 22 men and ~~offered~~ offered to put the patrol up for the night in a government building. He also asked several times if there was any way he could help us while we were in the town of Kraburi. He was also impressed by Lt. Jones' moustache and said that it made a good first impression.

Map sheet - Mobilgas map of Thailand

DOSSIER

PATROL: Lt. Jones' Road Reconnaissance from Ban Pong to Kraburi

Date 17 Oct. 1962

Name: Wang Chaiyachana

Position: Assistant of Customs-master Kraburi

age: 38 years

Marital status: bachelor

Remarks: Does not speak Burmese. Stated that he did not like Kraburi and because of this dislike he drinks everyday. He worked on the Malayan border and said that the Malaysians he came in ~~connect~~ contact with spoke English. He speaks broken but understandable English and can write English also. He stated that most of the customs traffic was from Burma to Thailand and that the people living on the Burmese side of the ^(BORDER) river were Thai. He was very friendly toward the patrol and said that we were the first Americans to ever stop in Kraburi. He had worked in Bangkok prior to working in Kraburi and that he would be stationed in Kraburi for 3 years.

Map sheet - Mobil gas map of Thailand

DOSSIER

PATROL Lt. Farrell's patrol to Bo Phloi

DATE 6 Oct 1962

Name Partee Hengvittaya

Position Student or teacher at the school at Nong ~~Kha~~ KATHUM
South of Bo Phloi

Age From 18 - 25

Martial Status unknown.

Remarks Speaks broken English which is hard to understand. He was very friendly toward our 7 man patrol. He arranged for us to stay at the town school and provided pillows and mats to sleep on. We were also given hot coffee tea and a meal upon arriving in the village mainly due to his help.

address Partee Hengvittaya

School Nonggatsoom Teacher 1961
(Nong Kathum)

Bo Phloi, Kanchanaburi

DOSSIER

PATROL Lt. Jarnell's patrol to Bo Phloi
 Date 6 Oct 1962
 Name Nakorn Nakarumpa
 Position / age student or teacher at the school at Nong Kathum
 South of Bo Phloi
 18-25
 Marital status unknown

Remarks: Speaks broken English which is hard to understand. He was very friendly toward our 7 man patrol. He helped arranged for us a place to stay along with bedding in the village school. He helped provide a meal for us in the village.

address: Nakorn Nakarumpa
 School Nongkatoom Teacher 1961
 (Nong Kathum)

Bo Phloi, Kanchanaburi

He also warned us to keep all our equipment in the room with us as there were thieves in the area

ROUTE 1
LT SMITH

PATROL REPORT

Unit: 1st PLT, C Co, 1st B Co, 35th INF

DATE: 13-15 Nov 1962

Map: BAN NA MU MON $\frac{479}{FB9}$ AND Amphoe DAN SAI $\frac{479}{FB5}$

Mission: RECONNAISSANCE OF TERRAIN AND TRAIL FROM DAN SAI (COORD 285115) TO BAN NA PHUNG (COORD 178256)

Route: Out- Point of departure DAN SAI proceeded on trail northwest to BAN NAM THAENG (COORD 266128), BAN NONG WAI (COORD 197196), BAN NA MAK (COORD 175225) TO BAN NA PHUNG.

Back- SAME AS ROUTE OUT.

Terrain: Very Mountainous with thick underbrush AND TALL TREES. STREAMS IN LOW VALLEYS. Movement VERY DIFFICULT AND SLOW. Key Terrain Features ARE HILL 807 (COORD 237158) which there is good observation TO THE EAST FOR A COUPLE OF miles. HILL 824 (COORD 189192) with good observation TO THE NORTHWEST FOR A COUPLE OF mile. (SEE SKETCH MAP)

Trail: Trail is very good FOR FOOT movement ONLY FROM DAN SAI TO BAN NONG WAI. FROM BAN NONG WAI IN DRY SEASON TRAIL CAN BE TRAVELED by

ONE AT BAN NA PHUNG the other AT BAN NA MAKHA.
No bypass AT NA PHUNG, THERE IS ONE AT NA MAKHA
Trail would be difficult TO TRAVEL ON IN
WET SEASON. OTHER SMALL OR PATHS RUNNING
THROUGHOUT AREA.

CONTACT: PEOPLE IN VILLAGES BECAME VERY FRIENDLY AFTER
TALKING TO THEM A LITTLE WHILE. AT FIRST THEY
DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE US. VILLAGE CHIEF
WAS CONTACTED IN BAN NA PHUNG. HE PROVIDED
US WITH FRUIT & FOOD PLUS AN ELEPHANT
TO HELP CARRY SOME OF OUR EQUIPMENT BACK
ON. THE ONLY OTHER AMERICAN TO BE IN
THAT AREA WAS A MAAG ADVISER ABOUT A
YEAR AGO. VILLAGE CHIEF SAID A NEW AIRFIELD
JUST ACROSS THE BORDER INTO LAOS HAD BEEN
CONSTRUCTED BUT DIDN'T KNOW EXACT LOCATION.

MAP CORRECTIONS: TRAIL DOES NOT RUN THROUGH BAN
NONG SIM, IT RUNS NORTH OF HILL 807. VILLAGE
OF BAN NONG WAI LOCATED AT COORD 197197. BAN
NONG WAI NUN NOT LOCATED.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

PATROL WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL TRAVELING IN EARLY
AND LATE HOURS OF THE DAY TO AVOID THE
HEAT. RECOMMEND FOOT PATROLS IN THIS AREA
CARRY VERY LIGHT PACKS.

Sketch Map

Map sheet: BAN NA MU MON
AMPHOE DAN SAI

SCALE: 1/50,000

