

IROQUOIS FLY IN FAREWELL

Three of the eight Iroquois helicopters of No 9 Sqn pictured (below) over Sydney during their farewell flight over the city. Thousands of Sydney people saw the helicopters fly in perfect formation as they made sweeps over the harbour, the city area, and Eastern Suburbs and North Shore.

ON THE WARPATH



Three Iroquois in the formation of eight pictured over Sydney during their formation flight.

The formation was led by Sqn Ldr L. O. Hindley, the acting CO of No 9 Sqn, who will be flight commander of the squadron in Vietnam.

The helicopters returned to Richmond that day, and flew on to the deck of the troop carrier HMAS "Sydney" at Garden Island the following morning. HMAS "Sydney" sailed for Vietnam on May 25 with the helicopters and a small party of RAAF groundcrew aboard.

Before leaving their base at RAAF Fairbairn, Canberra, pilots and groundcrews were farewellled by the Air Officer Commanding Operational Command, AVM C. T. Hannah, CB, CBE, and the Officer Commanding Fairbairn, Gp Capt A. Garrison, OBE.

The Iroquois flew in formation over Fairbairn and Canberra in a farewell flight before leaving for Richmond.

The Commanding Officer of No 9 Sqn, Wg Cdr Ray Scott, AFC, had left previously for Vietnam aboard a chartered civil aircraft with an advance party of Australian troops. Aboard the same aircraft was the Commander, Australian Force, Vietnam, Maj-Gen K. Mackay.

NO 5 ACS TEAM FOR VIETNAM

A detachment of No 5 Airfield Construction Squadron, RAAF, has arrived in Vietnam. The detachment's task is to construct and improve airfield and domestic facilities to be used by the RAAF Component.

The Minister for Air, Mr Peter Howson, said today that the detachment consists of specialist airfield construction personnel of No 5 ACS, who will be augmented by local civilian labour recruited from the area.

In charge of the detachment is one of the RAAF construction squadron's most experienced members, W/O Peter Davern, who was awarded an MBE for his work with No 5 ACS when it built the extensions to the airstrip at Darwin in 1959.

Facilities to be constructed by the detachment will include a hangar, tarmac area and helicopter pads for the Iroquois helicopters of No 9 Sqn, RAAF, now on its way to Vietnam.

Other works will include improvements in the domestic area used by the NCOs and airmen of the RAAF Component, situated in a nearby township. These include an improved water supply and enlarged messing facilities.

The hangar for No 9 Sqn has been taken from a wartime NSW airfield. It was recently dismantled and has been sent by ship to Vietnam.

"HUON TIGER"

RAAF Canberra bombers from Amberley flew to Port Moresby this month to take part in operational exercises in Papua, New Guinea.

They were supported by a mobile base unit and a Hercules transport from Richmond.

It is a Bellman steel hangar, measuring 100 ft. by 100 ft. Technical workshops and store-rooms will be added to the hangar in the form of annexes.

No 5 ACS detachment is self-contained with equipment, and their accompanying supplies will include all that will be needed to complete the job, from concrete mixing plants to boxes of nails.

VIETNAM MEDAL

Her Majesty the Queen has signified her approval to the award of a special medal for service in Vietnam, and to the design of a ribbon for the medal.

The approval follows a joint approach by the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Harold Holt, and the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt Hon Keith Holyoake, to Her Majesty for a medal which would recognize service by Australian and New Zealand servicemen in Vietnam.

In consultation with New Zealand, the ribbon has been designed to incorporate the colours traditionally symbolic of the three Services and also red and yellow, which are the national colours of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. Supplies of the ribbon are on their way to Vietnam and will be issued shortly. The award will represent a recog-



Pictured are the eight pilots who will operate the RAAF's No 9 Sqn in Vietnam. Left to right: Flt Lt R. Cooke, Flt Lt K. Munday, Flt Lt P. Middleton, Sqn Ldr L. Hindley, Flt Lt W. Shepherd, Flt Lt C. Dohle, Flt Lt D. Champion and Flt Lt B. Lane.

Below: Wg Cdr Ray Scott (right) follows Maj-Gen Mackay up the aircraft steps to board the chartered aircraft at Richmond.



nition of the excellent service Australian and New Zealand Forces have given in the cause of freedom and the resistance to Communist aggression in South Vietnam.

To qualify for the medal, it will be necessary for a serviceman to have been attached to a unit posted to South Vietnam for at least one day or, in the case of aircrew, to have flown one sortie over Vietnam. The medal will be available to members of the armed forces, and also to accredited members of philanthropic organizations who wear the prescribed uniform. In all cases, the relevant service must be on or after May 29, 1964.

The Government of New Zealand is being consulted on a design for the medal for submission to Her Majesty for approval. As with all medals awarded by the Queen, the obverse will bear an effigy of Her Majesty. The reverse will carry a suitable theme to mark the nature of the award.