

"When no adverse effects had been noticed after three days spraying, the operators were permitted to remove eye-shields, then to remove the nose and mouth respirators which were very hot to wear and soon filled with sweat."

"On the 8th December, 1967, the operators reported to the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) exhibiting symptoms of breakdown of mucous membrane, nose bleeds, ulceration of lips and conjunctivitis."

Australian forces also used AGENT ORANGE sprayed from an Iriquois helicopter to defoliate the perimeter of the NUI DAT base, according to an RAAF pilot who flew these missions. The RAAF also used AGENT ORANGE AND BLUE to deny the enemy rice crops during operation "FOREST".

In addition to MALATHION, Australian forces also used the insecticide DIELDRIN. A pamphlet published in 1959 lists the following symptoms of DIELDRIN poisoning: abnormal sweating; loss of appetite; frontal headaches; dizziness; blurred vision; nausea; insomnia; nightmares; personality changes such as irritability; involuntary muscular twitches; blackouts and convulsions.

WHERE WAS AGENT ORANGE USED IN VIETNAM AND HOW DID AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS COME IN CONTACT WITH THE CHEMICAL?

Apart from the perimeter spraying by helicopter at NUI DAT and the herbicide and pesticide operations already mentioned, several areas in PHUOC TUY Province and adjacent areas were heavily sprayed. An area in northern PHUOC TUY province known as the HAT DICH zone was sprayed many times, and Australian forces were involved in many operations in the HAT DICH. In southern PHUOC TUY, areas around the LONG HAI mountains, the areas outside DAT DO and the HORSESHOE Fire Support Base were also sprayed with various defoliants. American/Thai bases such as BEARCAT on the PHUOC TUY/BIEN HOA border area were sprayed with defoliants for a distance of 100-200 metres from the perimeter as a matter of policy. These are all areas where Australian forces conducted operations.

The most heavily defoliated area near PHUOC TUY was mangrove swamp/waterway known as the RUNG SAT Special Zone. According to a United States National Academy of Science investigation report, "approximately 57 per cent of the RUNG SAT area was sprayed with herbicide between 1965 and 1970."