**The Bristols of 41 Squadron RNZAF in Vietnam**

**‘You Call – We Haul’**

41 Squadron was based at RAF Changi in Singapore and flew B170 Bristol Freighters in and out of Changi to many South East Asian destinations. These included support for New Zealand’s operations in Vietnam with regular in-country and round trips in support of the NZ Army at Nui Dat (via Luscombe and Vung Tau), the NZ Surgical Team through Qui Nhon, the Services Medical Team at Bong Son (via LZ English) and diplomatic activities through Saigon. 41 Squadron Bristols also landed at many other locations.

Over the ten year period from April 1965 till the last Bristol flew out of Vietnam on 21 April 1975, 41 Squadron landed 1843 times in Vietnam with a peak of 384 landings in 1971. These landing record 20 different locations. Table 1 below shows the number of landings for each year. Table 2 shows the locations and number of landings at each location.

This research was undertaken in June 2015 by Doug (Scotty) Wingfield, 80344 RNZAF that served as an LAC Aircraft Engine Fitter on 41 Squadron from March 1967 to Dec 1968 and who flew in an around Vietnam as Supernumerary Crew. Doug lives in Christchurch NZ. The figures above have been sourced from the *41 Squadron Unit Histories\*\** at Archives New Zealand, National Office Wellington, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Table 1**. |  | **Table 2.** |  |
| **Year** | **Landings** |  | **Location** | **Landings** |
| 1965 | 8 |  | Saigon (Tan Son Nhut) | **970** |
| 1966 | 51 |  | Qui Nhon | **358** |
| 1967 | 166 |  | Nui Dat (Luscombe) | **154** |
| 1968 | 215 |  | Bong Son (English) | **105** |
| 1969 | 317 |  | Vung Tau | **80** |
| 1970 | 313 |  | Can Tho (An Thoi) | **56** |
| 1971 | 384 |  | Phu Cat | **32** |
| 1972 | 191 |  | Cam Ranh Bay | **26** |
| 1973 | 83 |  | Binh Thuy | **25** |
| 1974 | 68 |  | Nha Trang | **14** |
| 1975 | 47 |  | Phu Quoc Island | **9** |
|   | **1843** |  | Pleiku | **4** |
|  |  |  | Da Nang | **2** |
|  |  |  | Song Be | **2** |
|  |  |  | Vinh Long\* | **1** |
|  |  |  | Hue (Phu Bai) | **1** |
|  |  |  | An Khe | **1** |
|  |  |  | Ban Me Thuot\* | **1** |
|  |  |  | Dalat | **1** |
|  |  |  | Bien Hoa | **1** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agency | Series | Accession | Box/Item | Years | Item ID |
| ABFK | 7232 | W4718 | 6 | 1964 - 1966 | R16095844 |
| ABFK | 7232 | W4718 | 6 | 1967 - 1969 | R16095845 |
| ABFK | 7232 | W4718 | 7 | 1970 – 1972 | R16095846 |
| ABFK | 7232 | W4718 | 4 | 1973 - 1975 | R16095847 |

\*Landings at the two locations, Vinh Long and Ban Me Thuot were sourced from ABFK, W4266, 11/2/23; as cited in *New Zealand’s Vietnam War*, Ian McGibbon (2010) see endnote 5 for Chapter 17: Air Operations. Page 639.

\*\*This research is a work in progress and is now being extended to include any additional landings that are recorded in *Air Crew Flight Logs* but are not recorded in the Squadron’s Unit Histories, there are a small number. The aim of this research is to provide a comprehensive and authenticated list of all recorded landings and locations in Vietnam by 41 Squadron. NB. If you were on 41 Squadron and completed an *Air Crew Flight Log* would you please take the time to check the locations that you landed at in Vietnam against the locations shown above in Table 2. Please send any additions or comments to Scotty Wingfield via his page on the vietnamwar.govt.nz site, Thanks.