ABC CONCERT PARTY A HIT

A capacity audience of Australian Task Force soldiers in Vietnam yesterday wildly applauded the largest Army entertainment group which has left Australia since World War Two.

More than 1,000 combat troops from all units based at Nui Dat, sat around a specially constructed stage to watch the ABC dance band and accompanying artists perform.

The stars included well-known television personalities Lorrae Desmond and Dinah Lee, young Sydney dancer Jacqueline De Paul, and the compere - comedian, Bobby Donavan.

In searing heat the singers and dancers performed for more than two hours, continually acknowledging the wild applause with encores.

Soldiers took up every vantage point possible, some climbing trees, others balancing on crane jibs, while two signalmen who were stringing up new telephone cables sat at the top of their recently-constructed pole for the duration.

The twelve-piece band, conducted by Jim Gussey, followed a specially scored musical programme which three of Australia's leading musical arrangers had prepared.

They mixed Herb Alpert treatment with traditional dixieland and powerhouse numbers.

The entertainers used the recently donated RSL Amenities Hut as a dressing room while the band sat under the comparatively well-shaded verandah at the front of the building during the performance.

Hundreds of camera shutters clicked when the female performers walked among the soldiers during their acts.

The band performed twice at the Task Force before flying on to other centres where Australian troops are serving, but will return to the Task Force to entertain again later.

List: A
Further information:

CANBERRA: Major Allan S. Hinds (65-4061) (49-6050)
OTHER STATES: ADPR AT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

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