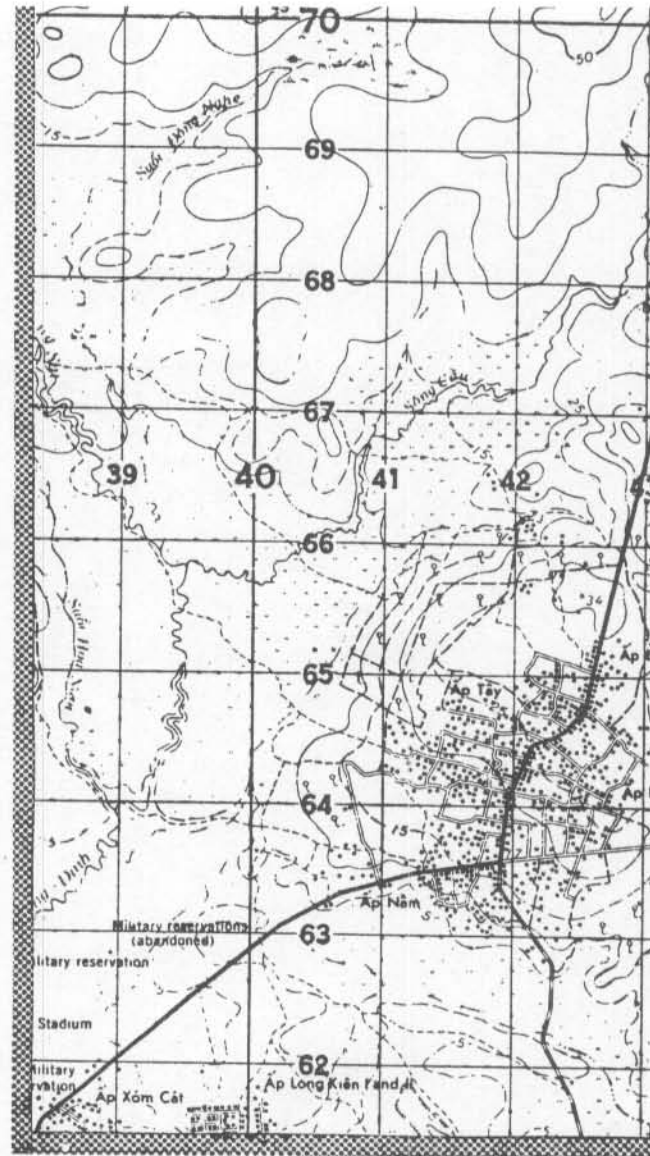
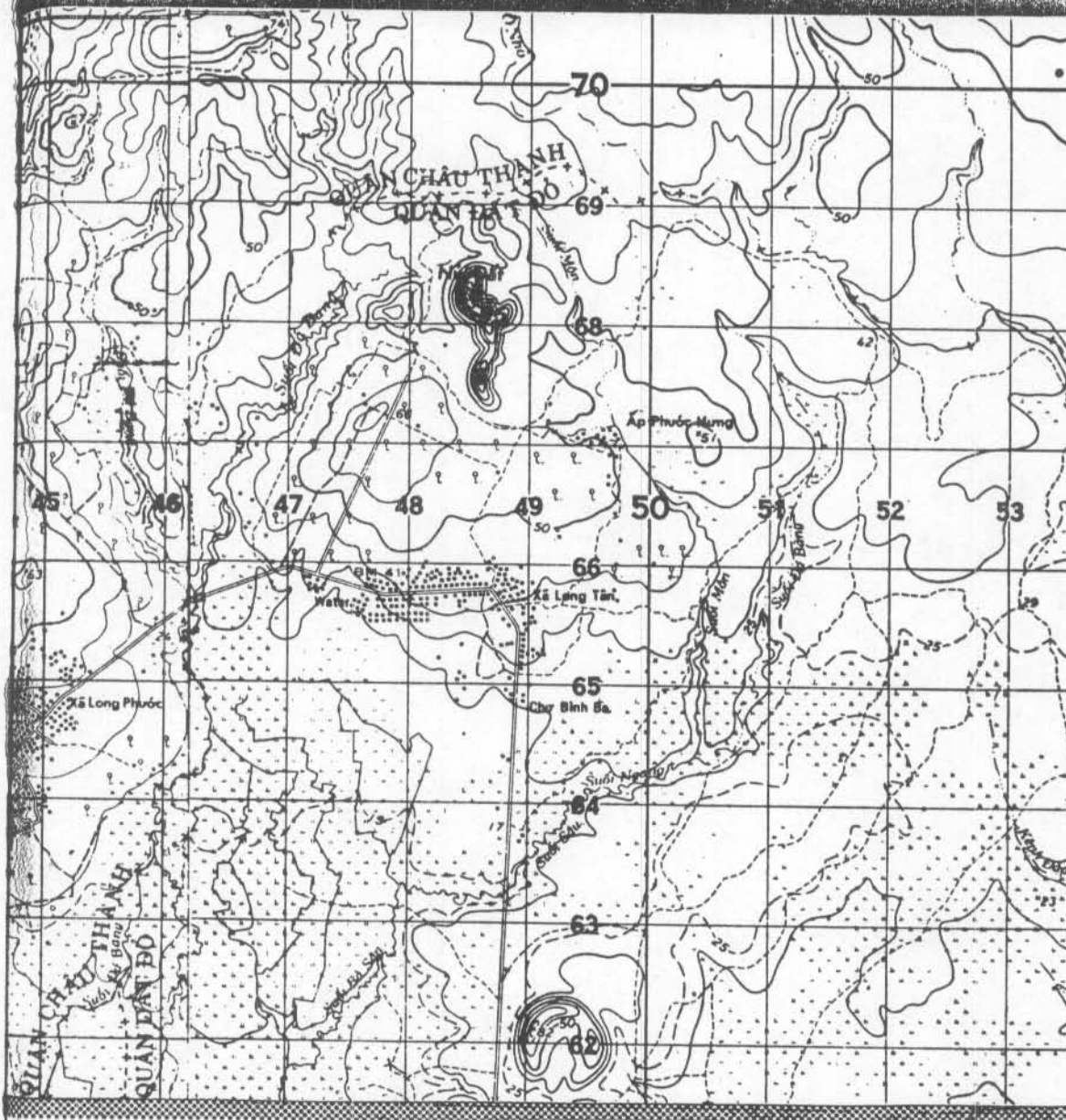


*A record of the
battle of Long Tan
from Task Force
HQ log.*



*Citation
for a
Rifle Company*



In August 1966, in South Vietnam, an Australian rifle company on a routine patrol ran into an enemy force of about two battalions. What followed has come to be known as the Battle of Long Tan. Officially codenamed Operation Smithfield, this was the heaviest engagement which Australian Forces have had with the Viet Cong since our military presence began in Vietnam. The following account is an outline of the operation and events surrounding it, as recorded in the HQ 1st Australian Force log.

by Lt Col R.R. Hannigan

Intelligence

a. 8 August: A police agent reported 300 VC dressed in greens with crew served weapons were in the vicinity of YS487687 on 1 August. (On 1 August D/6 RAR had patrolled within 200 metres of this grid reference and it was thought that the report could have been referring to Own Troops).

- b. On 11 August: An aircraft reported sighting approximately 150 civilians moving south from Xa Long Tan.
- c. 11 August: An agent reported a VC battalion at YS485670 and a VC company at each YS490650 and YS488625. (Reports of VC battalions at various locations were quite common at this time).
- d. 11 August: Contact was made by a 6 RAR patrol with a VC section at YS4767.
- e. 12 August: A VC company was reported moving south from YS4767.
- f. 13 August: Radio interference was received by a Sioux (H13) aircraft flying over Xa Long Tan. The glide path indicator in the aircraft indicated that the transmissions were emanating from the southern base of the Nui Dat feature.
- g. 17 August: From 0243 hours to 0305 hours the enemy shelled and mortared 1st ATF base area. Suppression and interdiction missions were fired between 0250 hours and 0410 hours.

With the exception of the enemy mortar and artillery attack on 17 August there was little in these events which differed significantly from previous indications of enemy activity in this or other parts of the Task Force area of operations. 6 RAR patrol activity in the area north, south, and east of Nui Dat feature YS4868, disclosed no unusual activity. There were, however other indications of increasing enemy interest further to the east which resulted in attention being directed towards this area. The area east of Long Tan was believed to be one of the base areas of the VC Provincial Mobile battalion D445 and it was in this area, bounded by the 65 and 59 Northings and the 49 and 54 Eastings, that 6 RAR had fought an estimated two companies of D445 during operation Hobart, between 24 and 29 July 1966.

The battle was fought in a five year old rubber plantation, containing mostly clean rubber, but with some undergrowth in places. The D/6 RAR area was on a gradual slope; the final position was a reverse slope position facing south east. Outside the rubber plantation the area varied between open padi and thick scrubby timber with almost impenetrable spiky bamboo thickets in many places.

NOTE: * This should not be confused with the Task Force base area of the same name. Nui Dat, meaning small hill in Vietnamese, is a fairly common-place name.

Events took place during a heavy monsoonal rain storm which reduced visibility to thirty metres or less.

The original D/6 RAR mission was to search for and destroy the enemy force which mortared and shelled 1 ATF base area on 17 August.

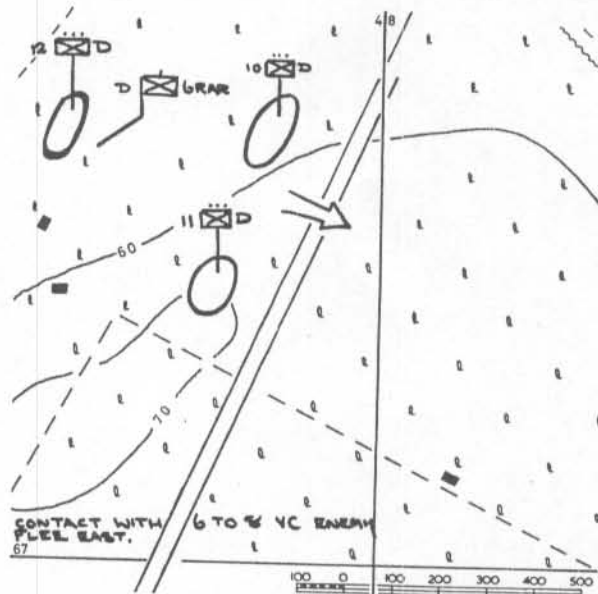
Subsequently the 6 RAR mission was to determine the direction of the enemy withdrawal, to follow him up within the limitations of artillery range, and to destroy any elements remaining within this area.

On 18 August 1966 6 RAR was carrying out a company size patrolling operation in the TAOR. B/6 RAR was operating north of Xa Long Tan; A/6 RAR had returned to base location at 1539 hours after a three day company patrol to the north, NE, and west of Nui Dat YS4868. B/6 RAR, which had located the sites from which the 82mm mortars and the 75mm RCLs had shelled and mortared the 1 ATF base area on 17 August, had followed trails leading away from the area until they faded out. They were returning to base when the D/6 RAR contact was made. C/6 RAR was defending the D/6 RAR base and providing one platoon under comd 1 APC Sqn as Task Force Ready Reaction Force.

Sequence of Events in Chronological Order

181530 hours: D/6 RAR, strength 108, moving east from YS475675 with two platoons up; 10 Platoon LEFT - 11 Platoon RIGHT, with Company HQ and 12 Platoon CENTRE REAR. The company covered a frontage of 400 metres and a similar distance in depth.

181540 hours: D/6 RAR contacted 6 to 8 enemy at YS478673, possibly wounded one, thought to be a Local Force Guerillas, remainder fled east. Report of this reached HQ 1 ATF at 181607 hours.



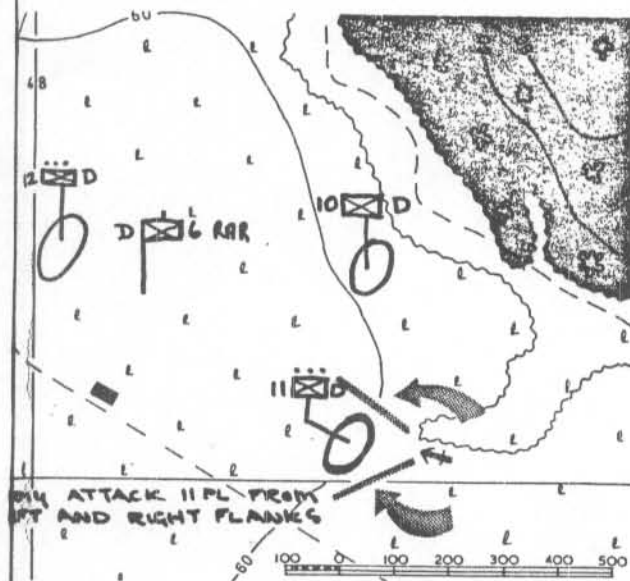
181542 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS482668.

181555 hours: D/6 RAR captured one AK carbine at YS478673.
(one body discovered later).

1600 hours:

- a. B/6 RAR ordered to stop at YS458665.
- b. 11 Platoon D/6 RAR reported movement and noise from vicinity of house at YS481672. House was cleared without incident.

1608 hours: 11 Platoon D/6 RAR contacted an estimated platoon located at YS487674. Artillery fire requested on YS487674. Subsequently 11 Platoon reported more enemy and that casualties were being sustained. Enemy was attacking simultaneously from left and right flanks. Coy Comd D/6 RAR ordered 11 Platoon to withdraw.



1616 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS487674.

1626 hours: D/6 RAR re-assessed the enemy force at company size. D Coy HQ and 12 Platoon continued to move forward as firing increased and reached YS480674, where they came under fire from rounds passing over 11 Platoon. Approximately twenty 82mm mortar rounds fell on right flank of Coy HQ area. 12 Platoon and Coy HQ immediately moved NE out of the mortared area to YS482674.

1630 hours:

- a. A/6 RAR, just returned from a three day patrol, warned for movement. B/6 RAR ordered to move towards D/6 RAR.
- b. Artillery fired mission on YS490672.

1637 hours: Report from 6 RAR confirmed estimate of enemy forces as at least company strength.

1638 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS485660.

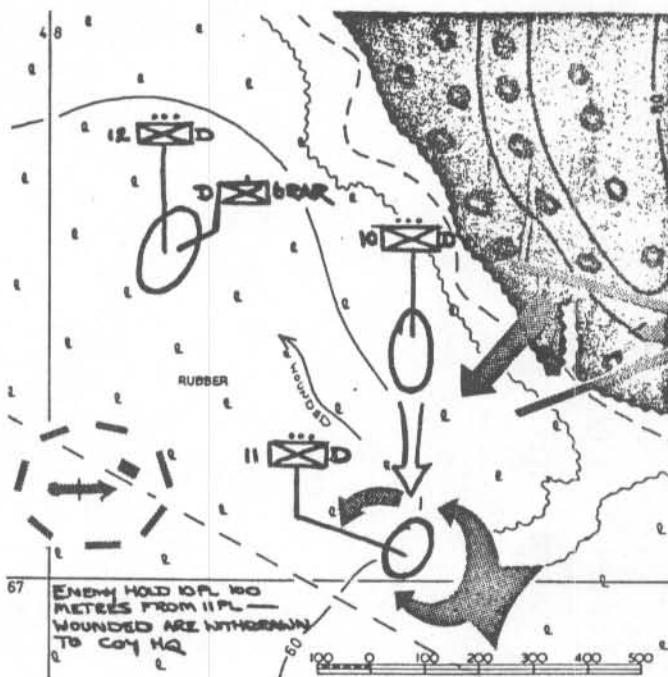
1640 hours: 1 APC Sqn placed at 15 minutes notice to lift one rifle company 6 RAR to scene of contact.

1650 hours: Action discussed over telephone between commander 1 ATF and CO 6 RAR. Decision made by commander for A/6 RAR mounted in troop of 1 APC Sqn to reinforce D/6 RAR. CO 6 RAR was to move to scene of action and take command there.

1650 hours: Coy Comd D/6 RAR reported to 6 RAR as follows: 11 Platoon had reported that they were almost surrounded, were suffering heavy casualties, were almost out of ammunition and unable to withdraw. Artillery fire continued to support them, with the FO talking to the Platoon Sergeant after the platoon commander had been killed. Artillery fire was most effective and caused considerable disruption to the enemy. 10 Platoon, not under fire, were ordered to attack

from the north. 10 Platoon were observed advancing, then a large volume of fire broke out in their area and radio contact was lost. 11 Platoon then lost communications also after reporting that VC were all around them. Strike aircraft requested by HQ 1 ATF for immediate air alert over D/6 RAR. Enemy force now estimated at least a battalion.

181655 hours: 12 Platoon and D Coy HQ moved forward to get closer to 11 Platoon to assist in their withdrawal. 12 Platoon moved SE, followed by D Coy HQ. After being out of radio contact, 10 Platoon communications were restored when Coy HQ second operator reached them with a set. 10 Platoon stated that they had taken casualties and were under attack from the high ground to the north at YS484675. 10 Platoon had approached to within 100 metres of 11 Platoon before being stopped, initially by small arms and mortar fire and subsequently by infantry assaults. 10 Platoon were ordered to withdraw. Wounded were arriving at D Coy HQ.



D/6 RAR came under fire from 60mm mortar.

APCs to lift one company and CO's party ordered to move to 6 RAR as soon as possible.

Aircap reported airborne for contact area.

181700 hours:

- a. D/6 RAR requested ammunition to be dropped to them through the rubber trees.
- b. 12 Platoon had moved to the SE. Impossible to move D Coy HQ because of 10 Platoon wounded. 10 Platoon then reached D Coy HQ.
- c. 12 Platoon reached position at YS483673, about 150 metres behind 11 Platoon, but came under heavy fire and were subsequently attacked from the area of the house at YS481672 and from the NE.
- d. Artillery fired mission on YS487669.

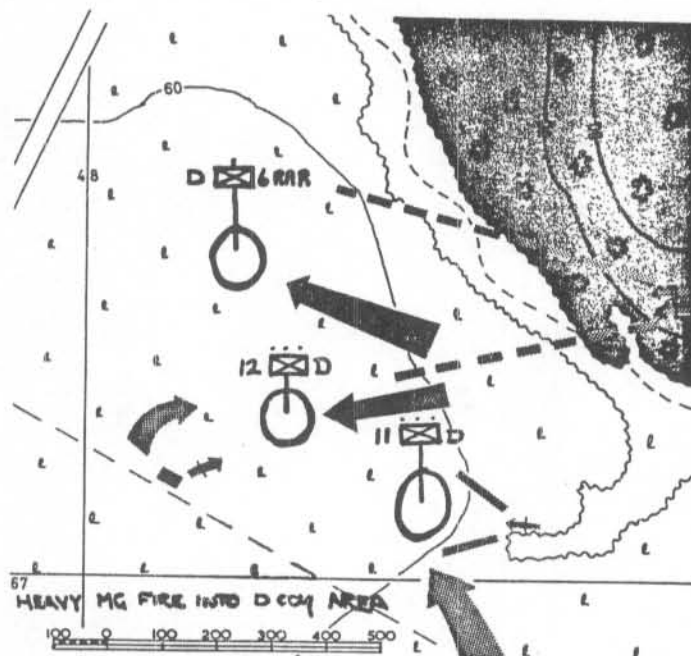
181702 hours: 6 RAR requested airstrike on YS487669 to YS487672.

181705 hours:

- a. 3 Tp 1 APC Sqn moved to 6 RAR.

- b. Enemy attacked the D Coy position from the east. Coy HQ engaged enemy in area of YS480673. HMG and MMG fire was received into the company area from YS485674.

181707 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS480678.



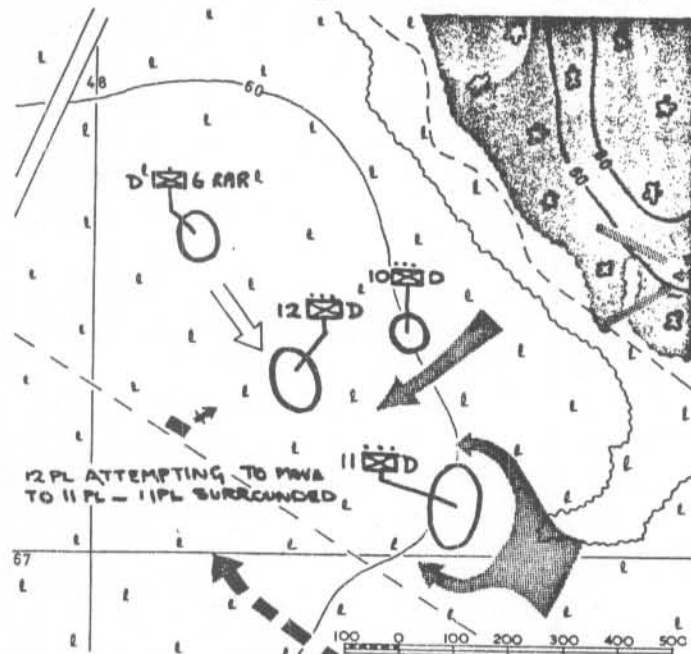
181710 hours:

- a. 6 RAR requested target for airstrike. Mortar location at YS488661. Napalm requested. Bombs required on YS487669 and YS487672.

- b. D/6 RAR reported enemy dug in on feature 200 metres to their front.

181715 hours: D/6 RAR reported 11 Platoon appeared to be surrounded. 12 Platoon still attempting to reach 11 Platoon but at present pinned down.

181724 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS481674.



181726 hours: TF artillery fired regimental mission on YS486678.

181728 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS481669.



181730 hours: A/6 RAR ordered to move as soon as possible.

181735 hours: D/6 RAR reported all platoons and company headquarters were under attack from the east and south.

181736 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS485669.

181740 hours:

- a. Aircraft unable to strike primary target due to low cloud and heavy monsoonal rain. Aircraft diverted and ordered to drop bombs and napalm on northern end of Nui Dat YS4868.

- b. D/6 RAR advised that they would attempt to withdraw 11 Platoon, covered by 12 Platoon.

181745 hours:

- a. Artillery engaged YS477668 with regimental mission. Bty A, 2/35 Arty engaged mortar location.
- b. D/6 RAR being engaged by small arms fire at close range.
- c. A/6 RAR departed 6 RAR base area in APCs of 3 Tp 1 APC Sqn.

181752 hours: Artillery net reported company of VC moving towards D Coy HQ.

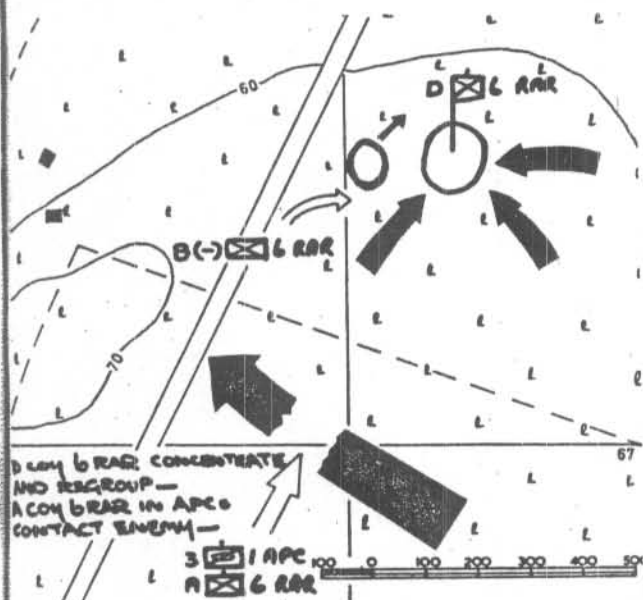
181755 hours: Comd 1 ATF directed 5 RAR to:

- a. Take over perimeter defence of 6 RAR base area.
- b. Send one platoon to 1 APC Sqn base area.
- c. Provide one company on standby at one hour's notice to move.

181800 hours: 9 Sqn RAAF commenced drop of ammunition to D Coy Headquarters through small clearing indicated by coloured smoke.

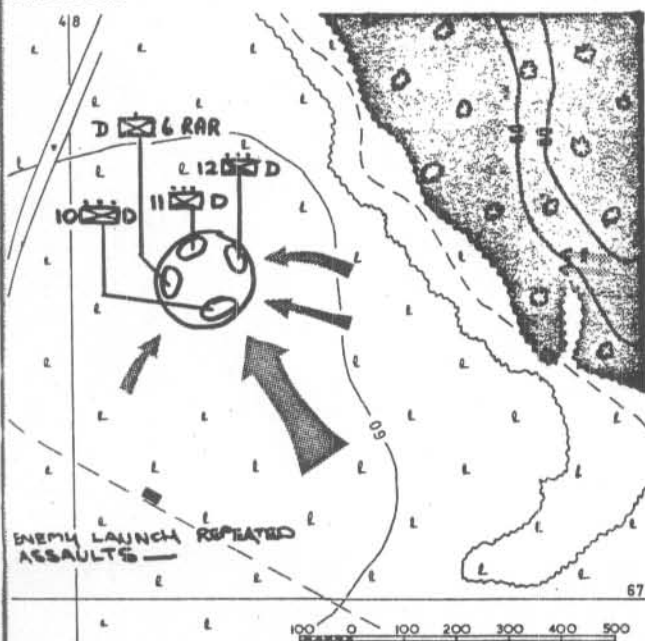
181810 hours:

- D/6 RAR now concentrated with the exception of 15 missing from 11 Platoon. VC appeared to have broken contact.
- Artillery net reported that FO stated that VC appeared to have broken off attack.
- Ammunition resupply completed.
- A/6 RAR moving in APCs reported contact at YS476667. Enemy withdrew east.



181820 hours: D/6 RAR reported enemy appeared to be regrouping for another attack. D/6 RAR under heavy machine gun fire mainly from the east and SE.

181820 to 181910 hours: Enemy launched repeated assaults, mainly from the SE, but also from the east, NE and south.



181832 hours: Artillery regimental mission fired at YS482671.

181837 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS485654.

181850 hours: A/6 RAR mounted in 3 Tp 1 APC Sqn contacted an estimated three companies of enemy at YS 478670. Enemy were moving to the west with apparent intention of attacking rear of D/6 RAR. Assault by APCs caused heavy casualties amongst enemy who broke contact and withdrew east.

181858 hours: Artillery fired mission YS484675.

181900 hours: B/6 RAR arrived in the vicinity of D/6 RAR location and deployed to cover west approach.

181910 hours: CO 6 RAR and party with A/6 RAR mounted in 1 APC Sqn arrived in location with D/6 RAR. A/6 RAR secured area east of D/6 RAR. CO 6 RAR assumed command.

181915 hours:

- Reorganization commenced.
- Artillery fired mission on YS493671.

181926 hours: Artillery engaged YS493671, VC withdrawal route.

181926 hours: Artillery ammunition state: 105 Fd Bty RAA 2400 rounds, 103 Fd Bty RAA 1300 rounds, 161 Fd Bty RNZA 1800 rounds, Bty A.2/35 Arty 1640 rounds (four guns in action). Requirement: 500 rounds for each 103 Fd Bty RAA and 105 Fd Bty RAA.

181935 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS493671.

181937 hours: Airstrike on YS503678.

181937 hours: Airstrike on YS506707.

181937 hours: Airstrike on YS503678.

182041 hours: Airstrike on YS497664.

182116 hours: Artillery fired mission on YS510662 and YS493671.

182045 hours: US Army Aviation Liaison Officer advised that Chinook (RW) aircraft resupply of artillery ammunition due to arrive at gun positions in one hour. 5 RAR ordered to patrol to west of landing zone and HQ Coy 1 ATF warned to provide work party.

182050 hours: 6 RAR advised CO having just completed conference with company commanders was reasonably sure that heavy casualties had been inflicted on VC, that he proposed to withdraw D/6 RAR with dead and wounded in APCs through A/6 RAR to a landing zone. After DUSTOFF evacuation was complete the force would close in to perimeter for the night. In radio conference, Comd 1 ATF agreed with CO 6 RAR that it was not possible to secure D/6 RAR battleground or to attempt to locate 16 missing soldiers of D/6 RAR before first light. It was still raining heavily and completely dark in the rubber plantation.

182052 hours: Airstrike on YS495670.

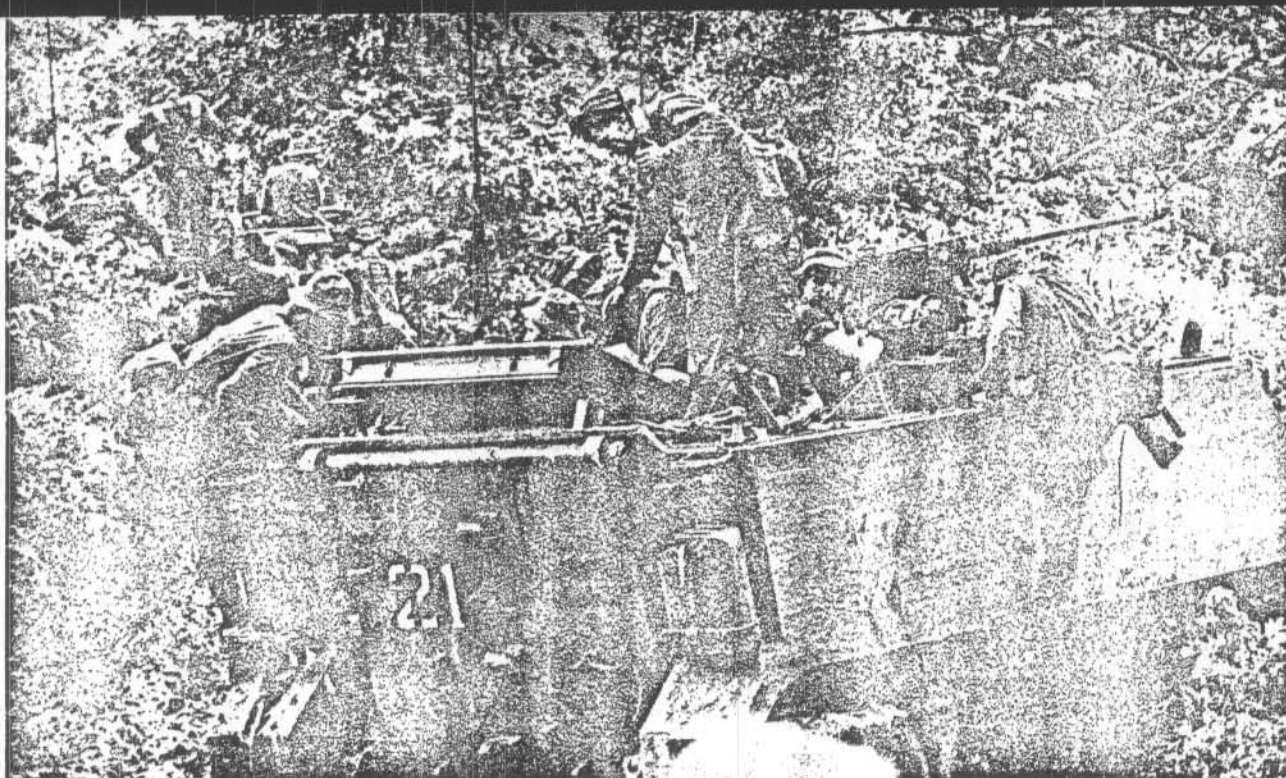
182100 hours: 6 RAR advised that DUSTOFF was required in approximately one hour. APCs from 3 Tp 1 APC Sqn would form hollow square around landing zone and illuminate by showing internal lights from open hatches. Details of casualties - 4 KIA, 8 litter cases, 6 walking wounded, 16 missing. Other details required for DUSTOFF to follow. Details of casualty evacuation coordinated with DUSTOFF 2 Fd Amb, RAAF Ops and 6 RAR.

182217 hours: Airstrike on YS493675.

182241 hours: Airstrike on YS497675.

182251 hours: Airstrike on YS513662.

182304 hours: Airstrike on YS513677.



182330 hours: Airstrike on YS519679.

182343 hours: Airstrike on YS510678.

182400 hours:

- a. Artillery sitrep advised that 2639 rounds of 105mm ammunition and 155 rounds of 155mm ammunition had been expended between 180001 and 182400 hours.
- b. Commander 1 ATF issued following orders:
6 RAR Bn HQ and associated sub-units with C/6 RAR move to battle area in APCs as soon as possible after first light 19 August (18 APCs including two mortar APCs report 6 RAR base area at 190630 hours). D/5 RAR to move from base by helicopter to forward landing zone at first light and come under command 6 RAR on arrival in forward area. LZ and debussing point for APCs to be advised by 6 RAR.

190030 hours: 6 RAR reported that the DUSTOFF was in progress. Other elements of battalion were moving to marry up at the landing zone at YS472674.

190045 hours: US Army Aviation reported that Chinook RW aircraft received approximately six rounds including two tracer rounds from 500 metres west of Inter-Provincial Route 2 at approximately YS431682. Also reported an explosion in this area.

190036 hours: Airstrike on YS489690.

190050 hours: Last casualty evacuation departed landing zone without incident. Total of seven sorties flown, one sortie by US DUSTOFF six sorties by RAAF.

190054 hours: Airstrike on YS497664.

190320 hours: Resupply of gun ammunition completed.

190410 hours: 6 RAR advised LZ at YS462675 as suitable for landing D/5 RAR, at.

190655 hours: 6 RAR Bn HQ, C/6 RAR, one sect mor pl 6 RAR and 2 Tp 1 APC Sqn departed from 6 RAR base to area of operation.

190700 hours: D/5 RAR lifted by US airmobile company to landing zone at YS462675 and came under command 6 RAR.

190730 hours: CO 6 RAR issued verbal orders.

190735 hours: Commander 1 ATF visited 6 RAR.

190750 hours: Airstrike on suspected VC location. Deserted village YS489659.

190815 hours: FAC reported that a secondary explosion had occurred and that intense black smoke was coming from area of airstrike at YS489659. Thought to be an oil or gas installation.

190845 hours: Airstrike on YS517667.

190845 hours: 6 RAR advanced to scene of contact. D/6 RAR and D/5 RAR were mounted in APCs, followed by A/6 RAR, B/6 RAR, 6 RAR Bn HQ and C/6 RAR on foot.

190900 to 191100 hours: Initial clearance was made of battle area. Two of 6 RAR wounded and thirteen dead recovered and evacuated by US DUSTOFF and RAAF Iroquois. Two enemy wounded recovered and evacuated.

191000 hours: Commander 1 ATF returned to HQ 1 ATF and advised sitrep as follows to HQ AFV:

"SITREP. Contact yesterday was with one to two battalions. All enemy dressed in greens with full web equipment. Weapons used by enemy were 82mm mortars from two separate base plates, one to east, one to south, a large number of 50 and 30 cal MGs, M79 grenade launchers. 57 and 75mm RCL. Enemy carrying large quantities of ammunition heavily engaged us for approximately 3½ hours. Consider we inflicted very heavy casualties on enemy. This is being checked out this morning. At 190706H D/5 RAR was airlifted out to LZ YS462675. C Coy 6 RAR plus remainder of HQ moved out by APCs this morning arriving 0830H.

Future plans - 6 RAR to conduct search operations in three phases. Phase 1. D/5 RAR and D/6 RAR with 1 APC Sqn (31 APCs) advance from LZ YS473674 to area of yesterday's battle, vicinity YS483674. A/6 RAR to follow APCs force on foot. D/6 RAR to search battle area. D/6 RAR and C/6 RAR to remain area LZ. Phase 2. D/5 RAR with APCs continue sweep east to the end of the rubber

at YS496668 to YS494664, then continue sweep west back to LZ moving to south of track from YS494664 and YS486673. B/6 RAR in reserve for both phases to remain in location with Bn HQ".

191045 hours: Preliminary interrogation of the captured wounded enemy revealed that he was North Vietnamese.

191100 hours: A/6 RAR, D/5 RAR mounted in APCs conducted sweep to east.

191105 hours: 6 RAR SITREP:

"Enemy. 113 enemy dead and two wounded recovered. Collection continues. Possibility that they are North Vietnamese. Own troops. 2 casualties recovered and evacuated. 13 dead recovered which accounts for all missing in action. LOCSTAT 6 RAR YS480672. Will commence Phase 2 as approved by commander 1 ATF in ten minutes".

Interrogation of two captured wounded enemy confirmed that they were North Vietnamese from 45 Regt which had two battalions in the area, namely 2 Bn and 3 Bn.

191130 hours: 6 RAR reported extensive trench systems located at YS489666 with over 100 trenches. It appears that they were dug for protection, rather than for defence. Some dead bodies, weapons and equipment were found.

191210 hours: D/5 RAR found a trail leading almost due east from YS490665. Assessed as being the main enemy withdrawal route.

191215 hours: 6 RAR reported as follows:

"Enemy. Body count difficult to assess at this stage. Bodies been sighted as far east as YS487667. Approximately 40 weapons have been recovered, including four LMGs, one 60mm mortar, one .50 calibre MG, and three RLs of unknown origin. All tracks from area lead east. Own sit. A/6 RAR and D/5 RAR located at YS489669. Remainder at YS483674."

191220 hours: 6 RAR located a trail leading NE from YS496667 requested approval to search trail. Commander 1 ATF approved movement along trail for no further than 1000 metres.

191315 hours: D/5 RAR sweeping enemy withdrawal route to east from YS498665 to limit of 1000 metres.

191503 hours: Airstrike conducted at YS498700.

191505 hours: Commander 1 ATF visited 6 RAR.

191540 hours: D/5 RAR had followed trail from YS498665 to YS503667 without contact.

191650 hours: Airstrike was conducted on suspected camp of 45 Regt NVA at YS510662, armament 1000 pound bombs, direction of fly in from south to north nearest troops 1500 metres west.

191700 hours: C/6 RAR had patrolled to area YS487674 after discovering a track running generally north with a blood trail, some captured discarded enemy equipment recovered. Subsequently one wounded VC captured.

191800 hours: A/6 RAR mounted in APCs arrived at battalion headquarters area YS485672 after completing sweep of area generally YS5064-YS4965-YS4765.

6 RAR and the elements under command continued their search for another two days. But apart from some scattered food and ammunition caches, found the next day, and a recently occupied camp containing fourteen freshly dug graves, discovered the day after, they had no further contact with the enemy. Op Smithfield was brought to a close at 211730 hours when 6 RAR returned to the Task Force base area, however the search did not terminate at this point. A Corps sized Operation codenamed Toledo was already under way to keep up the pressure on the enemy.



The Reaction

The following extracts are from some of the messages received:

"Our forces in their latest engagement have acquitted themselves in the best Australian Tradition. Please tell them that Australia is proud of them. I have publicly expressed my sympathy to the bereaved. My sympathy goes also to the wounded. I send them best wishes for speedy recovery".

Signed: Harold Holt
Prime Minister

"Your troops have won a spectacular victory over the enemy. Aggressiveness, quick reaction, good use of fire power, and old fashioned Australian courage have produced outstanding results. Congratulations".

Signed: W.C. Westmoreland
General
Commander USMACV

"Please pass on to the 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, my heartiest congratulations for the outstanding results obtained during Operation Smithfield. The large number of enemy killed as compared to the light casualties on the Australians is indicative of the professionalism of your Task Force. I especially want to congratulate D Company for its outstanding performance during this operation".

Signed: Seaman
Commanding General
II FFV

"I wish to express the gratitude of the people and the armed Forces of Vietnam for the successful performance of the men of the Australian Task Force during Operation Smithfield. Their action demonstrated to our enemies and to the world the professional competence of your troops and their determination to help our nation



in the preservation of its freedom. We share the pride of your people in the accomplishments of your brave soldiers! We also share the grief of the families of those who lost their lives in this action and other actions. We hope for the speedy and satisfactory recovery of those who suffered wounds.

Signed: Goa Van Vien
General
Chief of Staff RVNAF

Communist Reports

The communists, by comparison, issued the following statements on the result of the battle:

At 1749 GMT on 27 August 1966 Radio Hanoi reported "The Australian Mercenaries, who are no less husky and beefy than their allies, the US aggressors, have proved as good fresh targets for the South Vietnam Liberation Fighters. According to LPA (Liberation Press Agency) in two days ending 18 August, the LAF (Liberation Armed Forces) wiped out 500 Australian mercenaries in Baria Province.

On 18 August, in the coastal province of Baria east of Saigon, the LAF wiped out almost completely one battalion of Australian mercenaries in an ambush in Long Tan village. At 1500 hours that day, an Australian mercenary battalion and a column of armoured cars fell into an ambush. Within the first few minutes the LAF fiercely attacked the enemy and made short work of two companies, set fire to three M113 armoured cars, and drove the remnants into a corner of the battlefield. The LAF then concentrated their fire on them and heavily decimated the remaining company. The LAF also shot down one of the US aircraft which went to the rescue of the battered Australians.

According to first reports, in this battle the LAF put out of action 400 Australian mercenaries, thus annihilating two full sized companies, heavily decimated another, set afire three M113 armoured cars, downed one US jet fighter and captured a large quantity of arms and munitions.

The day before, 17 August, the LAF in the same province wiped out 100 Australian mercenaries.

For these victories the South Vietnamese IAF Command has decided to award a Liberation Military Exploit Order Third Class to the victorious units".

At 1419 GMT on 28 August Radio Peking International Service in English reported:

"More than 500 Australian satellite troops, including two whole companies, were wiped out by the South Vietnam Liberation Army in Baria Province on 17 and 18 August when it launched fierce attacks on an Australian Battalion and an armoured car column, reported the South Vietnam Liberation Press Agency. In an attack on an Australian base in Nui Dat on 17 August, the Liberation Army in Baria Province wiped out more than 100 Australian troops, in the afternoon the following day, the Liberation army knocked out a number of Australian troops which fell into an ambush in Long Tan Hamlet. Then the Liberation Forces concentrated their fire on the rest of the enemy and wiped out more than four hundred Australian Satellite Troops. Two companies were completely wiped out and another company was heavily battered. Three M113 armoured cars were destroyed. The Command of the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces has recently decided to award this victorious unit with the Liberation Exploit Order Third Class".

Analysis

Many factors contributed to the success of this operation, of these the salient ones appear to be:

- a. *Sound tactical deployment of D/6 RAR prior to and during the contact.* Had they been less well dispersed it is likely that all of them would have been engulfed in the early contacts.
- b. *Calmness and control.* Despite the overwhelming odds against them D Coy never surrendered the initiative. While in 11 Platoon small arms fire was controlled and accurate, 10 and 12 Platoons constantly manoeuvred in attempts to assist them.
- c. *Courage in holding firm in the face of a fiercely attacking enemy.* Any attempt to beat an over hasty withdrawal would almost certainly have ended in disaster.
- d. *Effectiveness of the artillery fire support.* Fire control by the FO and his party was superb under the worst possible weather conditions.
- e. *Initiative and dash on the part of the APCs conveying A/6 RAR to the scene of the operation.* The APC troop commander, when he felt he might have difficulty reaching the beleaguered D Coy in time, ordered his vehicles into extended line, and with headlights on and machine guns blazing, he tore through the encircling enemy force.
- f. *Steadiness of UH-1B pilots in ammunition resupply.*

There are numerous accounts of individual heroism in the operation which have not been included in this account which has attempted to view the events with an academic objectivity, the results, however, speak for themselves and anyone who has ever taken part in military operations knows that no matter how sound the tactics you do not achieve results such as these without outstanding acts on the part of many individuals.

For its performance in the operation as a sub-unit D Company 6 RAR was awarded the United States Presidential Citation.

