

Operation Kosciusko

15-20 June 1968

This was the battalion's final acclimatisation operation prior to taking part in task force operations.

For a long time intelligence had known the area between the Nui Dinh and Nui Thai Vais was a staging and re-training area for the VC.

The battalion's task was to carry out a reconnaissance in force in the area, destroying all enemy and enemy assets.

The battalion plan was for B Company, in APCs, to secure the area for a fire support base (Thornton). C, D and W companies would then fly in and move to their respective AOs on foot. Battalion headquarters was to occupy the top of Nui Nghe and 104 Field Battery was to occupy Thornton.

Owing to terrain and other difficulties B Company did not reach the area of the fire support base in time and it was decided to air assault C Company in to secure the area for the fly-in of D and W companies. B Company was to join them as soon as possible.

W Company moved to the foot of the Nui Dinh and D Company moved into the valley between the Nui Dinh and the Nui Thai Vais. B Company finally reached Thornton and C Company moved to the north-east of the Nui Thai Vais.

C Company was first in contact and killed two VC. W Company met stiff opposition from caretaker groups, but managed to reach the installations being guarded. Assault pioneers destroyed bunkers and camp areas, including a battalion sized camp found by C Company.

D Company was unlucky. Patrols covered a tremendous amount of ground, but saw and contacted nothing.

C Company moved back to the fire support base for extraction, while W and D companies moved to a point near Route 15 for the move back to Nui Dat by road.

Extraction of the battalion was completed on June 20 and it was now considered the battalion was ready for task force operations.

Remember....?

OC C Coy standing in the middle of an enemy camp: "It's like standing in the middle of Piccadilly Circus. There are streets going everywhere."

Pte Morgan, C Company, on being asked how he had come to shoot the VC replied: "Oh, I was just wandering along like they taught us, you know, pretty switched off."

First heavy rain and the trials and tribulations of learning to sleep in the wet.

D Company's haul for the whole operation — one rusty 1942 bayonet.

Tactical headquarters flying into an unsecured pad on top of Nui Nghe as assault pioneers struggled up the side to make the summit.

RESULTS — Own troops: One wounded.
Enemy: Two killed, one wounded.

OPERATION KOSCIUSKO

AO Thredbo

15 20 Jun 68⁷⁴

Locations shown are as at 15 Jun 68
Redeployment to Ngi Dat 20 Jun 68

