

# Operation Toan Thang II (Final Victory)

23 June—18 July 1968

The enemy was expected to try to attack the area of Long Binh-Bien Hoa for the mid-year offensive of 1968. It was decided to use elements of 1st Australian Task Force to dominate the rocket belt to the north-east, including areas adjacent to the Dong Nai River, protecting the huge air and storage bases from rocket attack from that direction.

4RAR/NZ(Anzac)Bn deployed by air from Nui Dat on 23 June 1968 to a position on the left flank of 1RAR. B, W and D companies moved into areas of operation north of the river, while C Company, battalion headquarters and

104 Field Battery occupied FSPB Concord, which had been established south of the river by elements of the 199th US Light Infantry Brigade. B Battery, 2/35th US Artillery was also deployed in the fire support base.

The battalion's aim was to dominate a belt about 11,000 metres from Long Binh and Bien Hoa, which, because of the range of enemy rockets, would be a suitable site for launching the projectiles. Intensive patrolling would deny the enemy use of this vital belt.

Each company patrolled its own AO and C Company patrolled locally around the fire support base. Boat patrols were carried out on the Dong Nai River and APC-borne operations were conducted by the fire support base company.

During the operation V Company relieved C Company in Concord. The second New Zealand company was operating with the battalion for the first time. V Company later changed places with W Company, W Company going to the fire support base and V Company to an AO north of the river.

There were only six contacts in over three weeks, four involving D Company and the other two involving V and B companies.

The battalion suffered its first Australian soldier killed in action on this operation (Pte Barnett, 12 Platoon, D Company).

Resupply of the forward companies was carried out very successfully by air from a forward echelon situated at Long Binh.

The battalion saw Spooky at work for the first time and a light fire team (Playboy 17) supported a D Company contact.

During the latter part of the operation D Company redeployed to the north-east for three days and was supported by a section of 102 Field Battery, direct support battery to 1RAR.

The operation finished on July 18 and the battalion was heli-lifted to FSPB Chestnut for Operation Merino. This move was the unit's first using Chinooks.

The operation was successful in that no rockets were fired at Long Binh or Bien Hoa from the battalion's AO.

## Remember....?

Last time Australian soldiers were seen in US Army clothing.

B Company's 600-metre kill. The M60 IS effective at this range.

OC D Company and the CO's grandstand view of a fire fight.

The Possum pilot trying to kill a VC by throwing smoke grenades at him.

US soldiers photographing Australian soldiers as they stood to at Concord.

Spec 4 Deschler and his radar set which picked up a group of Charlie carrying "a long cylindrical thing, probably a mortar."

A new type of 105mm round known as a rat.

Extra-curricular activities by our allies at the garbage dump and the effectiveness of the 106mm telescopic sight at keeping an eye on things.

Boat patrols at night on the Song Dong Nai.

Moving by Chinooks was easy.

Clearing patrols in APCs.

18,000 Allied soldiers in our AO.

Ventilation pipes into the CP and the use to which they were put.

Digging command posts (assault pioneers).

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

# OPERATION TOAN THANG 2

AO Birdsville 23 Jun - 18 Jul 68



NO FIRE ZONE  
0600 - 1800

CONCORD

CONCORD

D Coy

1 ATF

Location shown here as at 23 Jun 68

Redeployment to PSPB Chestnut 18 Jul 68

NORTH



QUANG THON TRUONG  
1:50,000  
1:50,000