

TERRITORIAL
FORCES
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KINGSGROVE

AO

OTAGO

JW
TC

AO
PADDING-
TON

PHUOC LE (BARIA)

DAT DO



*Cpl Trevor "Blue" Neal with
Lt Gen M. F. Brogan at
FSB Maureen.*



*Guests of 274 VC Regt.
(Lt Simon Willis, Pte "Mac" McGrath,
Sgt Gary Lea and Sgt Woods).*

HERMIT PARK sprawled over the north-eastern sector of Phuoc Tuy astride both sides of Route 2 and included most of Areas of Operation, Birdsville and Picton. A drawn out but fruitful operation in which every sub-unit was involved in some action, and, through sheer determination, the enemy was out-foxed repeatedly.

Initially the battalion was involved in contacts against members of 274 VC Regiment and Sub Region 4. Our 1 Troop carried out an effective ambush of approximately twenty-five members of Sub Region 4 on 21/22 June, accounting for thirteen VC killed in action, four prisoners of war and one Hoi Chanh, this being the first of two successful APC ambushes during the operation.

On 25/26 June, V Company's contact, west of the Cu Bi Rubber and the subsequent assault with C Squadron's tanks on a bunker system occupied by C2 Company, 274 Regiment was our first practical demonstration of just how effective those mechanical monsters are in a bunker assault. The attack pre-empted a serious threat to Route 2 in the Duc Thanh Area.

C and D Companies tasked against Chau Duc Units, destroyed a number of occupied, bunkered camps in the Chau Pha Valley. One extensive and extremely well constructed tunnel, in excess of twelve hundred feet, with up to twelve feet of overhead protection and five feet in height, was demolished by the sappers and assault pioneers.

V, B and C Companies finally moved in on the Regimental Headquarters of 274 VC Regiment along the Suoi Quit, capturing a number of bunker systems and three valuable Chinese radio sets amongst other equipment. This action caused a rapid withdrawal of the Headquarters to the north, leaving 1 Battalion, 274 Regiment for us to deal with.

*Results: Own Troops — 1 KIA NZ
8 WIA (4 NZ —
4 C Squadron)
Enemy — 37 KIA
5 POWs
1 HOI CHANH*



*The gunners
(Gnrs Hague, Bowerman, Dargavel, Jones
and Feraro).*

*. at FSB Debbie.
(Gnrs Howard and Cahill).*

