

On 14th December 1966, the 3rd Battalion was occupying an outpost position in the vicinity of Tam Ky, in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam, Warrant Officer Clark together with two United States Army Advisers occupied a bunker within the outpost.

At 0100 hours, the outpost was attacked by a Viet Cong force approximately 100 strong, who successfully penetrated the position. Using grenades and explosive charges the Viet Cong disrupted the main defensive position, including destruction of the adviser's and the Vietnamese Battalion Commander's bunkers. They directly threatened the two 105 mm howitzers in situ. They were repulsed only after approximately three hours fighting and after friendly artillery had been called onto the position.

Warrant Officer Clark personally engaged a number of Viet Cong with his rifle and personally protected one of the 105 howitzers with his fire, saving it from being blown up, despite counter enemy action by grenades and small arms fire. Throughout the defensive artillery fire on the outpost, he maintained his position in the open and continued to engage the enemy. Later he found and assisted the seriously wounded battalion senior adviser. He returned to his then burning bunker to gain materials to make the patient comfortable. He retrieved a wireless set and a box of grenades from the burning bunker, notwithstanding the obvious danger to his person. The only adviser remaining in fit condition, Warrant Officer Clark then proceeded to help the Battalion commander reorganise the position and mop up, whilst secondary explosions from stacked artillery ammunition on the position occurred intermittently. At 0630 hours Warrant Officer Clark worked at clearing a helicopter landing zone on the position involving movement of heated suspect grenades and 105 artillery ammunition, so that casualties could be evacuated quickly. In doing so he saved the lives of a number of badly wounded soldiers who may otherwise have died. In the action, 55 Viet Cong were killed whilst 78 Vietnamese were killed and wounded and two U.S. Advisors wounded.

Throughout the action Warrant Officer Clark exhibited a calm and deliberate manner, continued correctly to evaluate the situation and personally thwarted the enemy in their endeavours, especially against one artillery piece which he doubtless saved from destruction. His actions contributed positively to the defence of the position, to the repulse of the enemy and to saving friendly lives. His personal bravery was sustained in the face of a resolute enemy and extreme danger from exploding shells, and grenades over a four to five hour period. His personal bravery, professionalism and devotion to duty in this action were outstanding and were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service reflecting great credit on himself, the Advisory effort and the Australian Regular Army.

1410219 Sergeant (Temporary Warrant Officer Class II) James STEPHENS, Royal Australian Army Service Corps.

1410219 Warrant Officer Class II James STEPHENS, Royal Australian Army Service Corps, re-enlisted in the Australian Regular Army Special Reserve in 1956. Following a series of Corps postings, he volunteered for service in South Vietnam and in April 1966 joined the Australian Army Training team, being posted as assistant advisor to the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, 2nd Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

On 6th November 1966, 1st Battalion was engaged in a clearing operation in Quang Tin Province and Warrant Officer Stephens accompanied the battalion. The battalion was the main assault force for an attack by 5th Regiment. At approximately 1615 hours as the assault progressed, the battalion was counter attacked from both left and right flanks by an estimated Viet Cong Company employing small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and recoilless rifle fire. It was halted by fire from the objective area, and began to break and fall back. The command group, with which Warrant Officer Stephens was located, became exposed on one flank.

Exposing himself to heavy hostile fire Warrant Officer Stephens by using drive, determination and outstanding individual example of disregard for personal danger formed a defence with the troops around him, and then formed a covering force and directed effective fire on to the enemy. By so doing he was directly responsible for minimising friendly casualties, and his achievement allowed some semblance of orderly movement to the rear by the

remaining troops to take place. Forced to withdraw, he was again outstanding in his endeavours to reform and reorganise the battalion into a defence posture, even though it was still under heavy fire. He maintained a calm and professional demeanor throughout this phase and was largely responsible for the Unit remaining a viable force, available for further employment later in the operation.

Warrant Officer Stephens showed outstanding courage, professionalism and devotion to duty with complete disregard for his personal safety, throughout the entire engagement. His personal bravery was an inspiration to the Vietnamese and was beyond the normal call of duty. His conduct on the 6th November 1966, was in keeping with the highest traditions of Military Service and brought great credit to himself and the Australian Regular Army.

15437 Corporal (Temporary Sergeant) Emanuel Lejorio Antonio TONNA, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Sergeant Tonna has been a Special Air Service patrol commander in South Vietnam since June 1966. During this period he has led his patrols on numerous occasions deep into Viet Cong dominated territory. Of these patrols, six culminated in clashes with the enemy resulting in four enemy killed in action, two wounded and one captured. Sergeant Tonna has also been the subject of a friendly air strike.

All Sergeant Tonna's patrols have been extremely successful and his reporting of enemy activity has been accurate and detailed. His coolness under fire, his quiet determination and his thoroughness have made him an outstanding patrol commander and a fine example to the whole of the Squadron. His overall approach to hazardous patrolling is in the finest tradition of the Special Air Service Regiment and the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

214031 Corporal Robin William JONES, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

On the 17th February 1967, Sixth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment engaged an enemy force near Lang Phuoc Hai, in Phuoc Tuy Province, in the Republic of South Vietnam. Corporal Robin William Jones was a Section Commander in B Company.

In the middle of the afternoon B Company assaulted a defensive position manned by a well-trained, well-led Viet-Cong force equipped with heavy machine guns, mortars and recoilless rifles. During the assault, heavy fire was directed at the company from both flanks and the left flank became pinned down. Corporal Jones' section carried out an immediate assault on the right flank and engaged the enemy at close range with grenades and small arms fire, and inflicted heavy casualties on them. At this stage three previously unlocated enemy machine guns opened fire causing severe casualties to the section. Corporal Jones displayed excellent leadership and skill in directing covering fire, and re-organising his section under the intense fire which included mortars, claymore mines and grenades.

With every man in his section killed or wounded Corporal Jones' actions contributed greatly to restoring the security of the right flank of the company and resisting the enemy counter-thrusts which developed.

Throughout the action Corporal Jones demonstrated leadership, personal courage and devotion to duty of an exemplary nature.

4717624 Private Peter FRASER, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

On 17th October 1966, during Operation Quenbeyan in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, the Anti-Tank Platoon Fifth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, was directed to clear a Viet Cong ambush. During the clearing a section commander was mortally wounded by a sniper and fell in an exposed position. Heavy enemy fire prevented movement of any members of the section. Private Fraser, the stretcher bearer attached to the Anti-Tank Platoon, was told by the platoon commander not to go forward to the casualty until the area had been cleared. Private Fraser however crawled forward under fire, reached the casualty and dressed the wound. Whilst Private Fraser was with the casualty a sniper concentrated his fire on Private Fraser and with the fire falling only inches from him, Private Fraser continued to assist the casualty.

The Platoon Commander then arranged for covering fire to be given by the remainder of the platoon