

bombardment. It was evident that the superior strength of the enemy would overrun the position and the decision to break out to the rear was taken. Warrant Officer Stoker was wounded by shrapnel during this attack but disregarding this, he took charge of the situation, organised and directed an orderly withdrawal and by his example, encouragement and professional ability, prevented a probable rout. He regrouped the remaining Vietnamese troops into fighting squads and directed their movement to a point some 3,000 metres to the rear. Approximately 100 only men remained but with these, he organised a new defensive perimeter. This was attacked at 1200 hours and the defenders commenced to break. Warrant Officer Stoker rallied them again and his coolness under fire, personal influence and control was such as to impel them to stand and fight effectively so that eventually the position was held and the attack repulsed with heavy casualties to the enemy.

In the series of attacks on the 8th and 9th December enemy casualties were estimated at 720 whilst 1st Battalion suffered some 500 casualties.

By his coolness and exemplary conduct under enemy fire, in the face of three consecutive enemy attacks in some twenty-four hours, Warrant Officer Stoker prevented the defeat of the Vietnamese Unit to which he was advisor, was instrumental in saving the lives of friendly soldiers including United States Army Advisors and finally brought about the defeat of a numerically superior enemy force. The determination, professional competence and personal bravery which he displayed throughout the 8th and 9th December was outstanding and in the highest traditions of the Australian Military Forces.

#### Military Medal

54593 Private Walter BRUNALLI, Royal Australian Infantry Corps

Private W. Brunalli enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1962. He saw service in Malaya during 1963-64 and accompanied First Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment to Vietnam in June 1965.

During operation "Rolling Stone", East of Ben Cat, Private Brunalli was acting as Section Commander of 10 section, 4 Platoon, "B" Company. On the night of 3rd February 1966, he was commanding a standing patrol of 6 men forward of his company locality to give early warning of enemy attack, and to destroy any enemy within his capability.

At 0215 hours, a three battalion enemy attack was launched against HQ 1 United States Brigade located 500 metres away. Caught in cross-fire between enemy and friendly forces, Private Brunalli was wounded twice but retained his position. Shortly afterwards a three man Viet Cong patrol approached but was dispersed at 25 yards range, with one Viet Cong killed. Brunalli then adjusted his patrol's position, and at 0400 hours a further 15 Viet Cong approached. These were surprised again at close quarters, a platoon commander and three others killed, two seriously wounded and later captured, the remainder fleeing. Ordered now to return to his company, Brunalli detected a group of Viet Cong following him. He organized a quick ambush, killing the leading Viet Cong at a distance of 5 feet and dispersing the rest. A daylight patrol recovered 6 dead and two wounded Viet Cong, 7 weapons and a quantity of ammunition and important documents.

Private Brunalli carried out his mission in an outstanding manner against considerable odds. His aggressive and firm leadership, his outstanding tactical handling of his patrol and his cool conduct, although wounded himself, were an inspiration to his men and in the highest traditions of the Australian Army.

#### Mention-in-Despatches

Captain Bevan John SMITH (11509) Australian Staff Corps.

42352 Warrant Officer Class II (temporary) Thomas Dudley PHILLIPS, Royal Australian Armoured Corps (Posthumous).

20th December 1966.

#### COMMANDS AND STAFF

##### REGULAR ARMY

Col. J. R. ROWLAND, M.B.E., M.C. (68903), late R.A., retires on retired pay, 16th Dec. 1966.

The undermentioned Cols. to be Brigs. on the dates shown:

F. H. FRANKCOM, C.B.E. (68894), late R.A.E.C., 26th Apr. 1965.

H. THOMAS, O.B.E. (72233), late R.A.E.C., 18th Jan. 1966.

H. H. EVANS (66675) late R.A.E.C., 15th Apr. 1966.

(Substituted for the notifs. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 22nd Nov. 1966.)

Lt.-Col. R. V. PARKER, M.B.E. (156354), from R.A.E.C., to be Col., 5th Aug. 1966. (Substituted for the notifn. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 22nd Nov. 1966.)

Lt.-Col. T. J. H. DAVIES (173345) from R.A.E.C., to be Col., 6th Aug. 1966. (Substituted for the notifn. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 22nd Nov. 1966.)

##### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Brig. A. G. P. LEAHY, C.B.E. (40397), late R.E., having attained the age limit for liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 19th Dec. 1966.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Col. J. G. CHRISTOPHER, T.D. (41920), late R. Signals (T.A.) having attained the age limit for liability to recall, retires from the T.A., 18th Dec. 1966.

#### HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

##### L.G.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Capt. The Hon. R. A. HEAD (453484) retires receiving a gratuity, 16th Dec. 1966.

##### R.H.G.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. The Lord FERMOY (467554) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

#### ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

##### Q.D.G.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. M. J. RICHARDS (467623) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

Lt. J. I. FLANAGAN (465760) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### 3 D.G.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. L. S. P. le SUBUR (467588) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### 5 Innis D.G.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. W. J. COURAGE (467610) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

Lt. R. E. C. COWDY (467544) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### Q.O.H.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. C. CLARKE (471781) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### 9/12 L.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. M. R. LOWE (467593) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### Limited Serv. Reg. Commn.

Lt. Maurice Peter SLINGO, M.B.E. (479916) from Short Serv. Commn., R.A.C., to be 2nd Lt., 30th Sept. 1966, with seniority 1st Sept. 1961. To be Lt., 30th Sept. 1966, with seniority 1st Sept. 1963.

##### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Maj. J. A. M. CRITCHLEY-SALMONSON (65964) having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### 10 H.

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. R. L. PERRY (467609) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### 11 H

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. M. A. VILLIERS (467642) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.

##### 13/18 H

##### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. R. J. W. FRENCH-BLAKE (467556) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1966.