

to blow up a 150 foot concrete tower which the enemy had been using as an observation post equipped with radio. Again the highly hazardous mission was completed with outstanding success and was typical of similar operations which he has led personally.

Major Murphy, throughout his service in Vietnam, has by personal example, leadership, courage and sound planning inspired his squadron to achieve outstanding success.

2nd Lieutenant John Douglas McALONEY (38050)
Australian Staff Corps.

On 18th October 1966, during Operation Quenbeyan in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, Second Lieutenant John Douglas McAloney commanding the Assault Pioneer Platoon of Fifth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, was given the difficult task of clearing booby traps from a rocky, thickly jungled, cave riddled spur. The area was the scene of a bitter engagement between other elements of Fifth Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, and the Viet Cong on the preceding day during which the enemy had withdrawn deeper into the protection of the booby trapped caves. The clearance of the booby traps was to precede a detailed search of the caves. After positioning covering groups, Second Lieutenant McAloney, alone, entered the first cave entrance to commence delousing the booby traps. At this time, a Viet Cong sniper fired from another concealed cave entrance mortally wounding one of the Assault Pioneer sentries. With complete disregard for his own safety, Second Lieutenant McAloney moved from the shelter of the cave out to the wounded man and dragged him to a more secure area. After arranging for the evacuation of the casualty, Second Lieutenant McAloney, alone, again approached the suspect cave and personally tossed gas grenades into both the front entrance and possible exits. As the gas and subsequent firing of M79 grenades into the cave still failed to dislodge the occupants, preparations were made to employ flame throwers. Firstly Second Lieutenant McAloney again moved out alone under covering fire to recover the weapon of the wounded man. This was lying in the line of fire for the proposed flame attack. Whilst doing this he was wounded in the right temple but persevered and retrieved the weapon. He then gathered a flame thrower team of two men and personally led them in a frontal flame assault on the caves area, burning out each entrance in turn. The personal courage and leadership shown by this officer throughout the three and one half hour period of the action was of the highest order. His determination to close with and destroy an experienced and concealed enemy; in extremely difficult terrain was an inspiration to all ranks.

2nd Lieutenant Michael Gunther Joseph DEAK (216701), Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

On 17th October 1966, during Operation Quenbeyan in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, Battalion Headquarters of Fifth Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment was held up by Viet Cong in a natural ambush position on a steep mountain track. The Anti-Tank Platoon commanded by Second Lieutenant Deak was directed to clear the area. The enemy were located in natural fire positions on both sides of a deep re-entrant with a gradient of one in two. One section of the platoon covered by the remainder swept up the re-entrant but the Section Commander was mortally wounded and the remainder pinned down by fire.

Second Lieutenant Deak re-deployed the remainder of his platoon and under fire directed additional covering fire on to the objective from another company 800 metres away. He then successfully directed the fire of armed helicopters on to the enemy positions and then led his platoon back into the re-entrant and cleared the enemy position without loss.

At all times during the three and one quarter hours engagement, Second Lieutenant Deak showed complete disregard for his own safety even when it became apparent that the enemy were concentrating their fire on leaders. The calm and competent manner of Second Lieutenant Deak was a major factor in steadying his platoon under fire in a difficult situation. The success in clearing the Viet Cong ambush position was due in the main to the fine example of leadership and courage set by Second Lieutenant Deak.

2nd Lieutenant Dennis Claude RAINER (54624), Australian Staff Corps.

On 21st October 1966 Second Lieutenant Rainer was in command of 10 Platoon D Company on a routine search and destroy patrol in the Nui Thi Vai hills of Phuoc Tuy Province South Vietnam.

His platoon was searching a foot track, when the forward elements came upon a small rice cache and then a suspected enemy sentry post. Shortly afterwards, he saw a complex of three huts, set in an extremely rocky and steep re-entrant. He deployed a section in a wide sweep to the right and led two sections astride the main track. All members had to move carefully through bamboo panjis which surrounded the area. He could hear voices and smell food and fires. At this stage he had no idea of what was in the village; however he crawled forward with his two sections, to within 15 feet of the largest hut.

The right hand fire support section opened fire. Immediately, approximately ten to twelve enemy fled out of the large hut. They ran into the fire of the assault section and when the firing ceased, the platoon had killed ten enemy. Approximately four enemy fled away from the fire and escaped to the East. No casualties were sustained in his own platoon.

The success of the contact highlighted the degree of professional proficiency that Rainer has attained with his platoon. His platoon strength was only slightly larger than the number of the enemy; however quite fearlessly he deployed his men in what proved to be a perfect ambush.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

38317 Trooper (Temporary Corporal) John Alexander CARTER, Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

At approximately 1800 hours 18th August 1966 Corporal John Carter was the Crew Commander of an armoured personnel carrier of 3 Troop First Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron. This troop had been given the task of carrying a relieving force of Infantry to assist D Company 6 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment which was in heavy contact with a brigade sized enemy force. Orders were for the carrier troop to advance with two sections forward. Weather conditions at the time were extremely difficult due to a severe rain storm.

When contact was made with the enemy, Corporal Carter's vehicle was engaged by fire from a 57 millimetre recoilless rifle, machine gun and small arms fire. The projectile from the 57 recoilless rifle missed his vehicle and exploded against a rubber tree. Corporal Carter returned the fire using his 50 calibre machine gun. The gun jammed. He then grasped the driver's Owen Machine Carbine and without hesitation leapt on to the top of his vehicle and returned fire killing the 57 millimetre recoilless rifle team a fraction after another 57 millimetre recoilless rifle round had been fired. This round exploded and dazed the crew and passengers. Corporal Carter still undeterred continued to fire killing five other enemy.

By his actions Corporal Carter also drew additional fire on to himself enabling the other vehicles of the troop to advance.

Through the action which was fought at very close range, Corporal Carter showed outstanding courage, initiative and determination. His actions were an inspiration to all his comrades and contributed greatly to the success of the assault by the relief force, the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, and, immediately afterwards, the relief of D Company 6 Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Military Medal

16181 Sergeant (Temporary Warrant Officer Class II) Brian Donald CLARK, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Warrant Officer Brian Donald Clark, Royal Australian Infantry, enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 13th June 1961 and since that date he has served with 3rd and 7th Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment.

In 1964 and 1965, he was engaged on operational duties in Borneo, Malaysia. Warrant Officer Clark volunteered for service in Vietnam and, on 19th September 1966, joined the Australian Army Training Team. He was posted as an adviser to 3rd Battalion, 6th Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam.