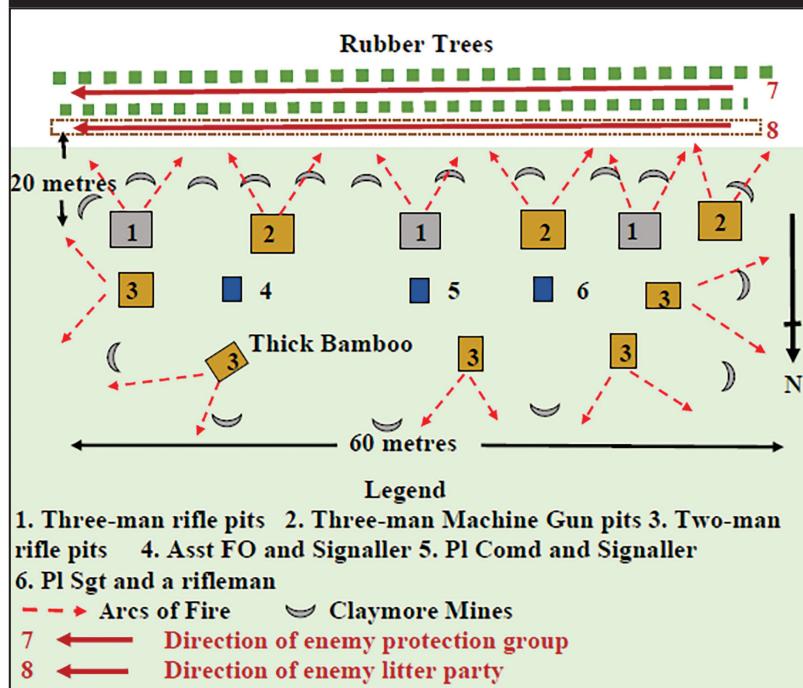


Map 49



The Platoon Commander waited until the main group entered the killing ground and then initiated the ambush with claymore and then small arms. The enemy were routed with fleeing survivors being engaged with pre-arranged mortar fire. Over 20 enemy were killed with many more being wounded. The enemy group was later confirmed as elements of the *1st Battalion 274 VC Regiment* who were travelling to the *K76A Hospital* located in the May Tao base area, and which was later found by 6RAR/NZ in December 1969 (see Operation Marsden). The ambush by 10 Platoon was to be the most effectively planned and executed ambush for the whole of the tour by 6RAR/NZ.

Operation Lavarack concluded on 30 June and was considered an outstanding success. That was due to both the training and leadership of the rifle companies, and the efficient control of the operation at the Battalion Command Post, led by the Operations Officer (Maj LD Johnson).

Several hundred enemy had been killed or wounded, mostly from Main Force units. Major elements of both 33NVA and 274 VC Regiments had deployed into AO Vincent early in the operation and after the battering they received, including at Binh Ba, were forced out of the Province; a testament to the battle skills and tenacity of the 6RAR/NZ Rifle Companies. The Battalion had suffered three men killed (One Australian and two New Zealand) and thirty wounded.



The A Company boozer post Operation Lavarack. Left to right: WO2 JK Myles (checking the safety pin on a can of VB), Maj PL Belt and the Battalion 2iC Maj NA Wallace. (Courtesy of Norm Brown and Rob Laurent)

Left: A diagram showing the highly successful ambush executed by 10 Platoon on 20 June 1969.



Cpl KR Fox, Pte P Zisis and (rear) Pte GR Massie, on an A Company patrol.



Cpl RD Brown, with a prisoner captured by D Company during the contact on 5 June 1969.