

LONG TAN

Memories, Myths and Reality





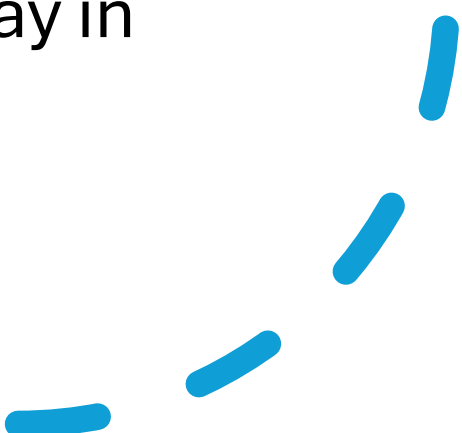
Asking AI

What is the
significance
of Long Tan?

‘The Battle of Long Tan ... marked a significant Australian military victory. Despite being heavily outnumbered, **108 ANZAC soldiers held off over 2,000 Viet Cong** ...inflicting many casualties and ultimately forcing the enemy to withdraw.

The battle symbolizes courage, resilience, and comradeship, and is commemorated annually as Vietnam Veterans’ Day in Australia.’

Source: **Chat GPT**



Long Phuoc

‘We hated this job in that we virtually moved people at gunpoint from their extensive teak homes, reluctant as they were, before providing security for the engineers to demolish and burn the village ...This was our first operation, and we did not enjoy the experience at all.’

Graham Gordon (National Service Private – 6RAR)

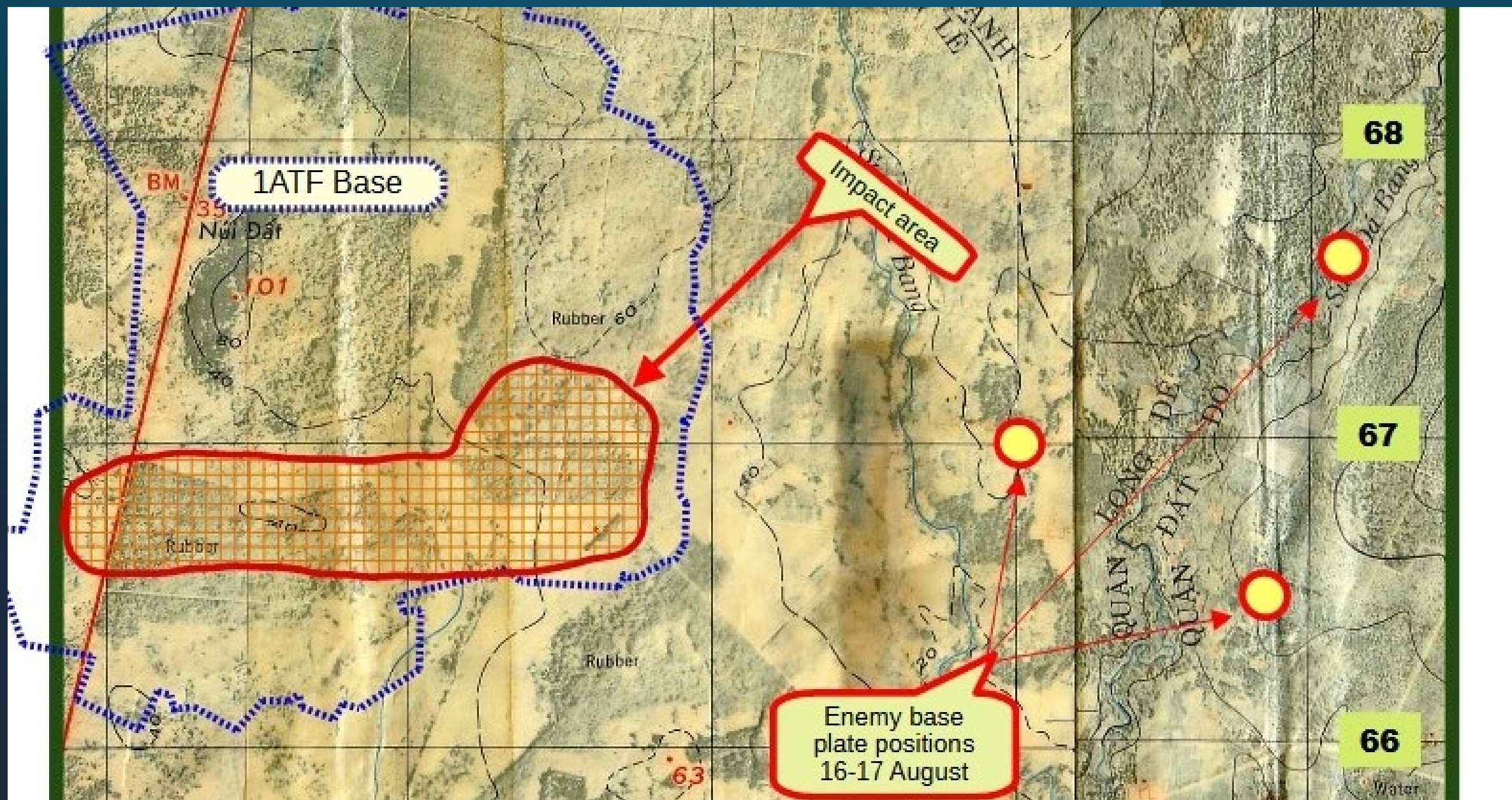




0200 hrs 17 August

Over 100 rounds of rocket,
mortar and artillery hit the
Base







A Casualty - **Phillip Norris**

Called up for National Service in 1965

Married his 17-year-old girlfriend –
just before going to Vietnam in May 66

Wounded 17 August 66

Spent his life in Rozelle Mental Hospital

Died 3 August 2010

Not on Wall of Remembrance

early warning patrol

26

68

Security
position

275 Rear HQ

Suối Đá Bàng

66

Rubber

Indirect firing
positions

275 HQ

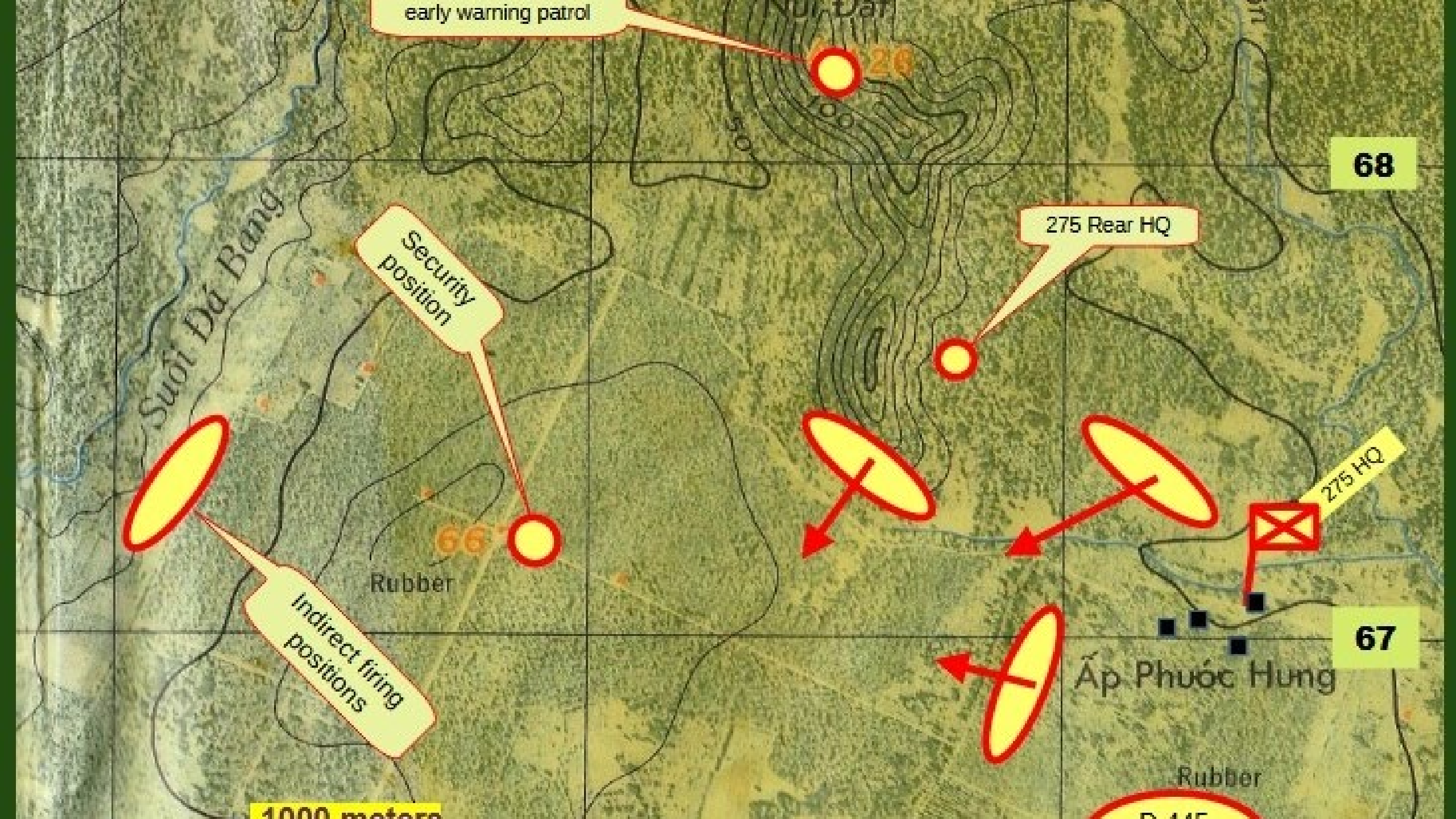
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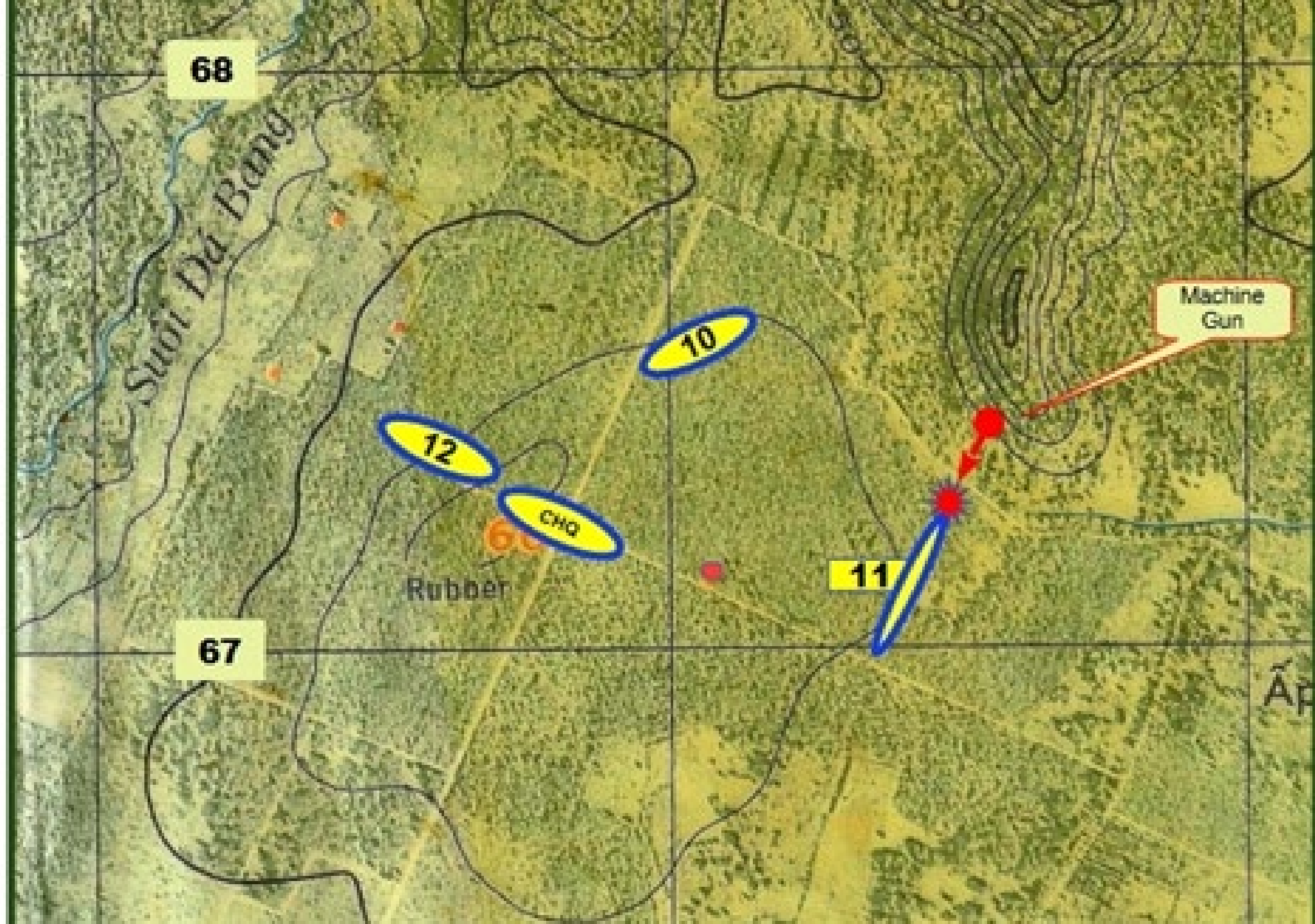
Ấp Phước Hưng

Rubber

1000 meters

D 415







6 Section,
11 platoon

Some survived longer than others, but the only two survivors of the ambush were:

Lance Corporal John Robbins and Private Jim Richmond - both of whom were wounded.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05655.017



Jim Richmond



Doug Salveron
Brisbane (21)



David Mitchell
Brisbane (21)



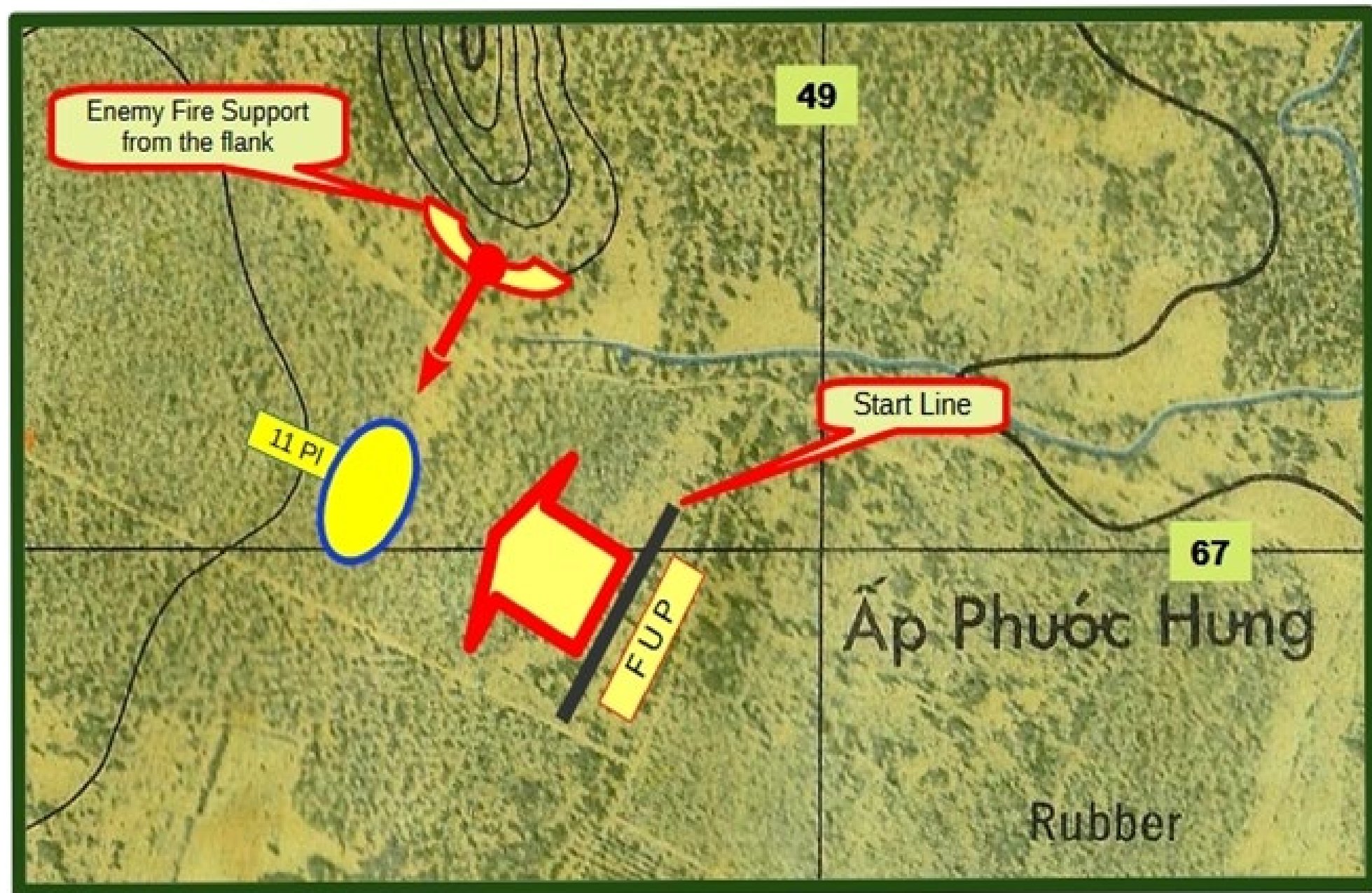
Frank Topp
Helidon (19)



David Thomas
Bendigo (21)



Glenn Drabble
Brisbane (21)

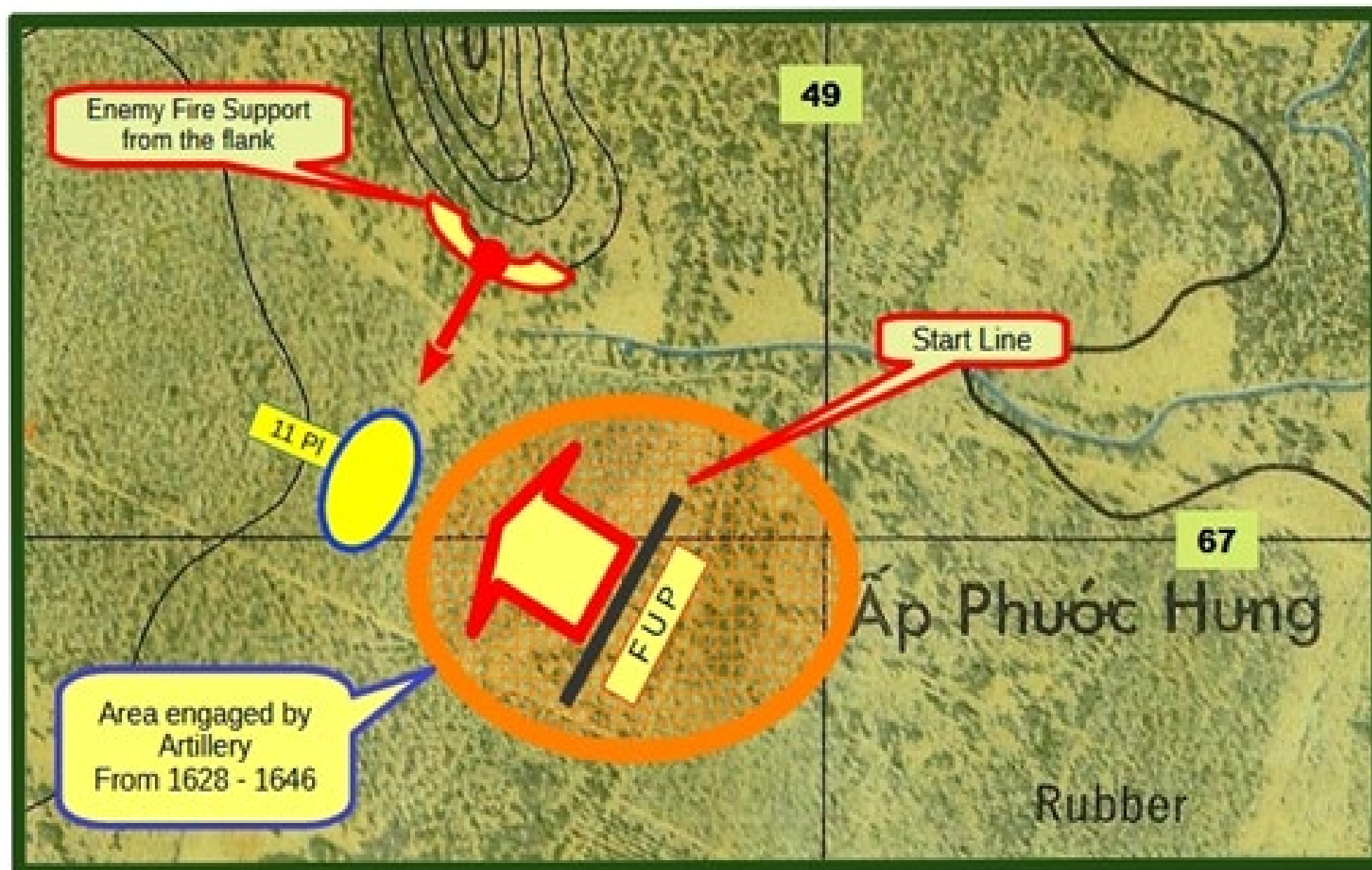


Napoleon once famously said:

‘God is on the side with the best artillery’.

Certainly, at Long Tan that was the case.





What happened next?

- Survivors are pinned down and 2Lt Sharp killed
- Attempted airstrike aborted
- Attempts by other platoons to rescue all fail, then on dark, the order given is:

‘Every man for himself’

Vic Grice (Pl Sig)

Shot and killed the
instant that he tried to
stand up





Barrie Mellor

Helped by
Barry
Magnusson



Ernie Grant (20)

Killed during the
withdrawal - whilst
bravely attempting to
help John Robbins



John Robbins:

'I am eternally grateful to Ernie Grant for trying to help me.

He epitomised the spirit of mateship which we hear so much about.

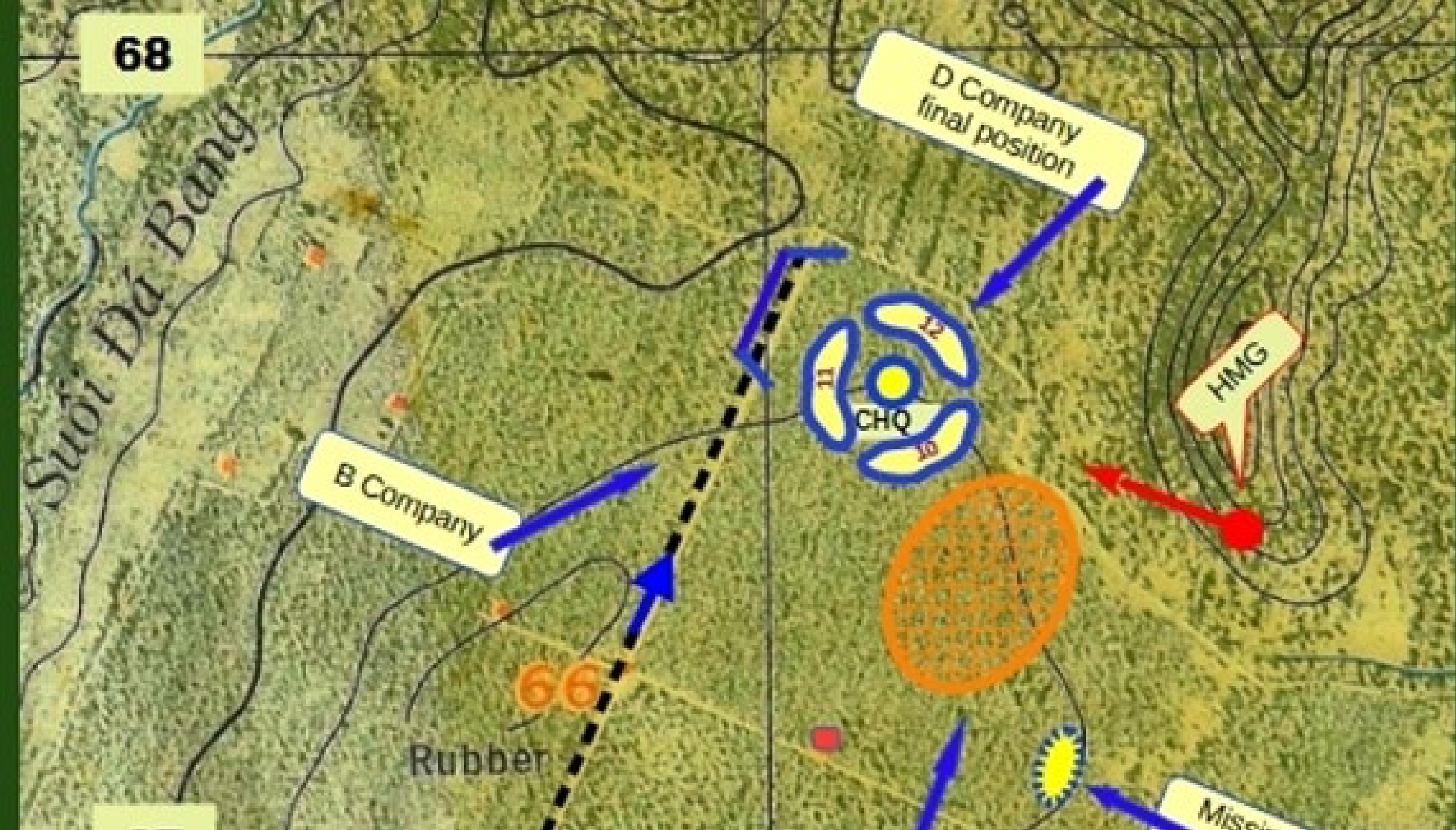
Granty could have kept on running and been safe – he was uninjured.

But he stopped to help me.

It was an amazingly unselfish act.'







The Reality
of Long Tan:

Vic Grice and
Gordon Sharp

As found
the next day





Mt Gravatt Cemetery

- Ken Gant (4 Section)
 - David Mitchell
 - Doug Salveron
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