

338 Sailors Bay Rd  
Northbridge 2063

13 November 07

Dear Don,

I am writing to set out the results of my enquiries of the employment of the D+E Platoon during the period you and your colleagues served in that organisation.

The D+E Platoon as you are aware was part of the establishment of HQ 1 ATF and had a role to protect the Task Force HQ and undertake duties as directed.

From time to time the Platoon was used to carry soldiers who, for whatever reason had not completed a tour of duty with their parent unit and were awaiting re-posting. Such soldiers were supernumeraries to the Platoon's establishment

All were experienced and Trained  
Soldiers.

This was normal practice. As the  
Platoon would have been overstrength  
because of this practice at the time you  
were in the Platoon, I understand the  
additional men came to be referred to  
informally as the "2<sup>nd</sup> D.F. Platoon". I have  
no recollection of this nor does any  
other Operations Major. Whatever, I do not  
believe there was any such official  
designation at that time.

Notwithstanding, the additional  
D.F. elements were used in operations  
against the enemy as you would expect  
and knew.

I would have to say that such  
operations were routine and in no way  
special.

The group who were informally  
termed the "2<sup>nd</sup> D.F. Platoon" did

conducted themselves with distinction  
 when used with a Cavalry Troop (the  
 Madun ten were to be "assault troops")  
 in the Xuyen Moc area in late May 1969.  
 This was, to their credit, a most successful  
 operation under the Cavalry Command,   
 Captain Crosssmith. I understand he  
 was recognised for his command in this  
 action.

Both Veterans Affairs and Australia War  
 Memorial are aware of this letter.

Sincerely,  
 Pearson

(Major General C.M.I. PEARSON  
 AO, DSO, OBE, MC (R))