

RE: CORPORAL IAN BROWN, PROVOST CORPS

Extract from Page 252 To Long Tan The Australian Army and the Vietnam War 1950-1966, Ian McNeill.

"On the late afternoon of 21st June the civil affairs officer on task force headquarters, Captain Bob Rooney, received a call from the district headquarters at Hoa Long requesting a medical civil action (medcap) team. (85). An eleven-year-old girl was reported to have cut herself with a knife while husking corn with her sister. As the team was making ready to depart from the base, a Provost Land Rover skidded into the area. It was driven by Corporal Bill Collins, Provost Corps, in a state of nervous tension. Lolling in the passenger seat was Corporal Ian Brown, also Provost Corps, shot twice, once through the head. One hour earlier the two had delivered a Viet Cong suspect to the sector headquarters at Ba Ria. At 6.00p.m. on the way back, in the northern hamlet of Hoa Long which was known to contain a high proportion of Viet Cong, a crowd of about 60 people, mostly women, had gathered on the road. The vehicle was forced to proceed slowly around the congestion. Then someone shouted and the crowd dropped to the ground except for four armed men who commenced firing. Collins accelerated forward but not before his passenger was hit.

Delaying to treat the driver, the medcap team with Rooney eventually arrived in Hoa Long village. The girl was dead. This was no accident. She had been disembowelled by a deep cut from her breastbone to her lower stomach, and second cut across her stomach. The mother and her daughters lived in the southern part of the village, regarded as pro government. Her husband was an ARVN soldier. Although told by her persecutors not to talk, the mother stated that the Viet Cong had mutilated her daughter, as they wanted to lure a medcap team into ambush. The women who had blocked the road had done so from fright. Captain Mike Wells at sector headquarters confirmed that he had received reports that the Viet Cong wanted to commit an act of reprisal against the medcap teams who might win the villagers' confidence. The teams did not back off, but continued their work uninterrupted in Hoa Long as in other villages. The task force arranged a Buddhist funeral for the girl."

Extract from the Task Force Operations Log:

639	211015H	Provost		1 MP (Cpl BROWN) shot by burst of automatic fire from crowd of 20 people in southern part of HOA LONG village (*) KIA
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Reads: 21st June 6:15pm - 1 Military Police, Corporal BROWN, shot by burst of automatic fire from crowd of 20 people in northern part of HOA LONG village.
One Killed in Action.

The following is Brownie's record from the Nominal Roll of those who served in South Vietnam.

Veteran Search Result

Name: BROWN, Ian Robert
Service No: 54157
Service: Army
Date Of Birth: 11/03/1940
Date of Death: 21/06/1966
Official Commemoration: WA - Karrakatta Cemetery
Commemoration Position: Roman Catholic - KA - 796
Rank: Corporal
Place Of Birth: South Perth WA AUSTRALIA
Corps: Royal Australian Army Provost Corps
National Service: No
[view the Certificate](#)
[Official Commemoration](#)
[provide feedback for this Service Record](#)
[permission for use of service badge for commemorative purposes](#)

Summary of Unit Name(s)	Start Date	End Date
Section, 1st Divisional Provost Company	22/04/1966	21/06/1966