



THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Army Number: 3791616
Substantive Rank: Private
Christian Names: Francis John
Surname: ARCHER
Honour or Award: Mentioned in Dispatches

Private Francis Archer, a National Serviceman, began his military service on 12th July, 1967. He arrived in South Vietnam on 2nd April 1968 and joined 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on the 30th April, 1968 as a Rifleman with C Company.

“ On the 22nd September, 1968, Private Archer was part of a fourteen man patrol during Operation Crown. At approximately 1120 hours, one member of the patrol was wounded. While the patrol were searching for a clearing from which the casualty could be evacuated, they were contacted by twenty Viet Cong. In the initial exchange of fire the forward scout was wounded.

The enemy then commenced to encircle the patrol. To reach the forward scout, Private Archer had to expose himself to accurate small arms fire. He administered first aid to the wounded man and then assisted him under heavy enemy fire to the patrol's defensive position.

Contact with the enemy continued for nearly two hours. During this time, Private Archer proceeded calmly to treat both wounded, making them comfortable and quietly reassuring them whilst waiting for aeromedical evacuation. When the patrol forced the enemy to withdraw, Private Archer supervised the carriage of the wounded to a clearing and continued to care for them until evacuation was effected.

His complete disregard for his own safety and his devotion to his wounded comrades inspired other members of the patrol. Private Archer's coolness under fire and his prompt treatment of the wounded reflects great credit upon himself, his Battalion and the Australian Army.”

