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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers to approve the undermentioned awards in recognition of Gallant and Distinguished Services in Vietnam:

Distinguished Service Order

Colonel Francis Philip SERONG, O.B.E. (3102), Australian Staff Corps.

Colonel Serong graduated from the Royal Military College in December 1937, and has served continuously since that date.

In July 1962, in response to an invitation from the Government of South Vietnam an Australian Army Training Team was sent from Australia to assist in training Vietnamese in jungle warfare, village defence and related activities. Colonel Serong was chosen as the Commander of the Team.

Subsequently, when the role of the Team was widened to permit members to accompany the Vietnamese forces, by the very nature of the conflict our members became involved in operations which called for a high standard of courage, skill and leadership. Casualties have been sustained by our forces.

Colonel Serong's outstanding courage and devotion to duty has set an example which has been an inspiration to all those who come in contact with him. He has at all times maintained close personal touch with members serving on outstations and during these visits has, on occasions, become involved in clashes in which his courage and leadership have contributed significantly to the success of operations.

In the 2½ years as Commander, he has maintained the high tradition of the Australian Army and has brought honour to his country as its representative. He is held in the highest regard by the United States and Vietnamese Authorities. Colonel Serong is to relinquish the appointment in February 1965.

Military Cross

Captain Arthur Barry PETERSEN (13668), Royal Australian Infantry.

Captain Petersen graduated from the Officer Cadet School at Portsea on the 17th December 1954. Since his graduation, Captain Petersen has served as a platoon commander with National Service Trainees and as a platoon commander with the First Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. Captain Petersen's service with the First Battalion Royal Australian Regiment included three years service in Malaya from 1959 to 1961. Captain Petersen was a company second-in-command with the First Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka until his assignment to the

Australian Army Training Team Vietnam in August 1963.

Captain Petersen's assignment as a member of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, involves advice on the administration, training and operational employment of Montagnard personnel in Darlac province. He was so occupied when the Montagnard Revolt of September 1964 broke out.

During this revolt, in which several thousand heavily armed Montagnard soldiers were deployed against the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot, Captain Petersen was required to prepare for the initial contact with the rebel 'ribesmen'. On the afternoon of the 20th September 1964, the first day of the revolt, he conducted a small party of intermediaries to the hamlet of Boun Enou. This involved passing through a prepared ambush. Having detected this, he dismounted from his vehicle, located the ambush commander, and persuaded him to permit the party's onward movement. He was then required to approach the rebel stronghold and obtain admittance for the party. This he did, in gathering darkness and under conditions of extreme sensitivity involving a high degree of personal risk. Having gained admittance, by his own powers of persuasion he brought together the local leaders for talks with the intermediaries.

The talks were successful, and paved the way for the eventual peaceful return of the Montagnard personnel to their proper duties. This most fortunate outcome is substantially attributable to the personal influence of Captain Petersen, and to the high degree of courage displayed by him in effecting the necessary contacts.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

3975 Warrant Officer Class I George Ernest CHINN, Royal Australian Infantry.

Warrant Officer Class I George Ernest Chinn served with both the Australian Military Forces and the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II. At the conclusion of the war he continued his service as an infantry soldier in the 22nd Battalion and the Royal Australian Regiment. He was an instructor at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, from 1952 to 1960 when he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Special Air Service Company, Royal Australian Infantry. In April 1964 Warrant Officer Chinn joined the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam and was posted as an advisor at the Dong Da National Training Centre in Thua Thien Province.

While temporarily detached from the Training Centre he accompanied the 32nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion during operation LAM SON 115 near Lavang from the 18th to 28th April 1964.