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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ARMY DEPARTMENT

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

To be dated 23rd November 1967

Distinguished Service Order

Lieutenant-Colonel John Arnold WARR (3487),
Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Warr was commissioned into the Australian Army in 1947. Since that time he has either served with the Royal Australian Regiment or held staff appointments in Australia or abroad.

When the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment was formed, Lieutenant-Colonel Warr was Second in Command until 1st September 1965, when he was appointed Commanding Officer and the unit was warned for movement overseas. As Commanding Officer he was responsible for the training and welding together of both regular soldiers and national servicemen into an efficient combat unit in a short period of time.

During a year's service in Vietnam, the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, was in almost continual contact with the enemy whilst executing offensive patrol tasks, search and destroy missions, and cordon and search operations. The techniques for these latter operations were developed so successfully by Lieutenant-Colonel Warr that they have been accepted as standard procedures in the 1st Australian Task Force.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warr was responsible for the planning and execution in detail which is so necessary for successful operations by a battalion group in air mobile operations. His thorough preparation and orders, his sound tactical knowledge, his calmness and leadership under fire was largely responsible for the accomplishments of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in Vietnam.

Military Cross

Lieutenant Michael Geneste LANGLEY (61680),
Royal Australian Artillery.

Lieutenant Michael Langley, having previously served as an officer in the Royal Artillery, was commissioned into the Royal Australian Artillery on 28th June 1965, as a member of 1st Field Regiment.

On 21st February 1967, Lieutenant Langley was the forward observer with B Company, 5th Battalion, The

Royal Australian Regiment, during Operation Remark. Near the village of Long My, at 1411 hours, the company headquarters group became caught in an enemy minefield and at least two mines were detonated. The whole of the command element of the company was included in the casualties, of whom nine died and a further twenty were wounded.

Placing his own party of men in a safe place, Lieutenant Langley immediately moved forward into the minefield. With complete disregard for his own safety, he rendered first aid to the injured and arranged their subsequent evacuation by helicopter. He then took command of the remnants of the company, organised the local defence of their position and successfully maintained morale and fighting spirit. He remained in command of B Company until 1107 hours on the following day when the company was able to rejoin battalion headquarters.

Lieutenant Langley, by his immediate action was able to steady the survivors at a critical moment and prevent further casualties occurring. His complete disregard for his own safety and his care for the wounded soldiers displayed a standard of calmness and bravery that reflects great credit upon himself, his Regiment, and the Australian Regular Army.

Military Medal

214838 Corporal Lionel Charles RENDALLS, Royal
Australian Engineers.

Corporal Lionel Charles Rendalls enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on the 16th August 1962, and was allotted to the Royal Australian Engineers. After serving as an instructor at 1st Recruit Training Battalion he joined 1st Field Squadron in May 1963, served with the unit in Borneo and rejoined the Squadron in South Vietnam in September 1966.

On the 17th October 1966, during Operation Queanbeyan, he was in charge of an engineer combat team in support of an infantry company. The company, whilst moving into a village area, suffered seven casualties from booby traps.

Corporal Rendalls moved to the head of the company, and covered by only one scout to his rear, proceeded to clear forward. During the next two hours, working alone, he located and neutralised seventeen booby traps including a type previously unknown.

Corporal Rendalls, during this clearance operation, displayed considerable skill and unquestioned bravery. His efforts permitted the infantry to continue their operation without further casualties, and the calm manner in which he performed this arduous task reflects great credit upon himself and his squadron.