

ground while bullets fell within inches of his head. Finally he worked himself into a position 10 metres from an enemy machine gun post that was causing casualties to our troops. Disregarding his own safety he leapt to his feet, charged the post, killed the enemy machine gunner and captured the gun. Immediately he engaged other enemy and by hand signals directed the fire of his section onto the enemy position.

Shortly afterwards Private Downward was wounded by a hand grenade which exploded by his side. Disregarding the wound he continued to engage individual enemy with fire. Eventually it became necessary to order him to make his way rearward for medical evacuation. This he reluctantly did dragging and carrying a wounded comrade with him.

Private Downward's courage, coolness under fire and consideration for the wounded, together with total disregard for his own safety displayed a standard of bravery that is an inspiration to others and is in the best traditions of the Service.

Military Medal

26479 Warrant Officer Class II (temporary Warrant Officer Class I) Raymond Ernest DUMMETT, B.E.M., Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Warrant Officer Class I Raymond Ernest Dummett enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 7th July 1952. He was posted to the Royal Australian Regiment and had operational service with the 2nd Battalion in Malaya. He has had previous service with the Australian Imperial Force in World War II where he served in New Guinea with the 2/3 Australian Infantry Battalion. He volunteered for service in South Vietnam and was posted to the Australian Army Training Team arriving on 1st April 1967. He was posted as a Regional-Forces/Popular Forces Adviser to Trieu Phong District in the province of Quang-Tri.

At 02.30 hours on 12th August 1967 the District H.Q. was attacked by the Viet Cong under an intense barrage of rocket launcher fire. W.O. I Dummett from his position in the 81 mm. mortar pit kept up a continuous barrage of defensive fire and illumination around the perimeter defences, for approximately two and a half hours. He did this with the assistance of only one Vietnamese soldier. The mortar pit was in an extremely exposed position and even in the face of Viet-Cong moving around inside the defences blowing up bunkers, intense rocket fire from the enemy forces outside the position, the mortar was kept in action covering the likely approaches of a follow-up enemy ground force. The consistency and accuracy of this fire undoubtedly deterred the enemy from reinforcing their initial assault squad and allowed the defenders to deal with those in the defensive position. After the attack finished W.O. I Dummett was the first adviser to move around, checking wounded and reorganising the defences. His calm attitude and bearing did a great deal towards restoring the morale and fighting efficiency of the very tired and dazed Vietnamese troops. He also very quickly co-ordinated the arrival of medical evacuation helicopters and arranged for the wounded to be moved out.

Throughout this action the distinguished conduct and coolness under fire of W.O. I Dummett was an inspiration to all. His professional skill with the mortar undoubtedly saved the position from further penetration by enemy ground forces.

Military Medal

2782200 Sapper Neil Kenneth INNES, Royal Australian Engineers.

Sapper Neil Kenneth Innes was enlisted in the Australian Army as a National Serviceman on the 29th September 1965 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Engineers. He joined 1st Field Squadron in South Vietnam on the 7th September 1966.

On the 2nd May 1967 during Operation LEETON, Sapper Innes was in the 1st Troop forward operational base, at a feature known as the Horseshoe. At approximately 11.50 hours Sapper Innes heard an explosion in the vicinity of a minefield approximately 70 metres to the south of his own location. He immediately ran to the edge of the minefield where he saw two American Gunners lying wounded on the ground. One soldier was unconscious just outside the minefield, the other was lying in the minefield and was writhing on the ground approximately six inches from another mine.

Sapper Innes entered the minefield, held the wounded soldier firmly to prevent his movement and quietly reassured him to lie still. He then marked a

clear lane into the minefield to allow medical aid to come forward.

Sapper Innes, by his immediate and courageous action, prevented the detonation of a second mine and his swift marking of a safe lane made possible the quick evacuation of the wounded. His complete disregard for his own safety displayed a high standard of bravery that reflects great credit upon himself and his Squadron.

Military Medal

213959 Sergeant (temporary Warrant Officer Class II) Bruce Michael PROSPER, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Warrant Officer Class II Bruce Michael Prosper enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 10th April 1961. He was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and served with the Royal Australian Regiment until his posting to the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam on 20th September 1966. He was allotted for duty to Mobile Guerilla Task Force 768, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and commanded a platoon of indigenous troops.

On 19th April 1967 Task Force 768 became heavily engaged with a North Vietnamese Army Infantry Company. W.O. II Prosper's platoon was the first unit engaged and started to take casualties as the enemy advanced. W.O. II Prosper rallied his platoon and led them into the heart of the attacking enemy force and stopped their forward movement. His platoon stayed in position under intense small arms fire until a platoon commanded by Warrant Officer John Maxwell Stone could move up on his left flank to block a flanking movement the enemy was making. This platoon blocked the flanking movement and then W.O. II Stone was killed; they started to falter through lack of command, when W.O. II Prosper who was watching, moved towards them with complete disregard for his personal safety and rallied them. He continued to move between both platoons in the ensuing fire fight until command was restored in the other platoon. Due to his actions with his own platoon in stopping the initial attack, and later, holding both platoons together, the remainder of Task Force 768 was able to mount an attack which forced the enemy to break contact after suffering heavy casualties.

W.O. II Prosper's bravery under fire, determined and gallant leadership prevented the enemy from achieving their mission. His outstanding aggressiveness and personal leadership reflect great credit on himself and the Australian Regular Army.

Mentions-in-Despatches

Major Peter Colin SMEATON (3850), Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Major Ivor Ronald John HODGKINSON, M.B.E. (57026), Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Major Peter Douglas MUDD (235065), Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

Major Nicholas Hugh MARSHALL (235116), Royal Australian Artillery.

Captain (temporary Major) Michael Edgar BURGE (17044), Royal Australian Artillery.

22900 Warrant Officer Class II John William ROUGHLEY, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

22684 Warrant Officer Class II Brian Malcolm HUGHSON, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

33691 Staff Sergeant (temporary Warrant Officer Class II) Frederick Arthur George CALLANDER, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

3854 Sergeant William O'DONNELL, Australian Army Catering Corps.

53965 Corporal (provisional Sergeant) Arthur John SHEARMAN, Royal Australian Army Service Corps.

14924 Corporal (temporary Sergeant) Henry Ernest GOLDEN, Royal Australian Engineers.

17670 Corporal Paul Francis BURSTALL, Royal Australian Army Service Corps.

29232 Lance Corporal Ray Albert PRATT, Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

2781632 Private David Mark BUCKWALTER, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

27th February 1968.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve of the promotion to the rank of Field Marshal of General Sir Archibald James Halkett CASSELS, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant Corps of Royal Military Police, 29th Feb. 1968.