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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ARMY DEPARTMENT

16th April 1968.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

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 4th April 1968.)

Distinguished Flying Cross

Major Lawrence Gerald DOYLE (25621), Royal Australian Artillery.

Major Lawrence Doyle was commissioned into the Australian Regular Army in 1952, and posted to England for flying experience for two years in 1956. Except for one period when he instructed at the Jungle Training Centre, Major Doyle has been engaged in Army flying or Army/Air matters as a staff officer since that time.

In July, 1966 Major Doyle took command of 161st (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight in Vietnam. This Flight consisted of both light aircraft and helicopters used extensively for low level reconnaissance, medical evacuation, artillery spotting and liaison duties for the 1st Australian Task Force. At all times he demonstrated determination and skill giving inspired leadership to his unit.

As Commander of the Flight Major Doyle had to plan and administer both the operational flying and the maintenance of the aircraft. Due to his efforts the unit gave superb support to the Task Force and through his skill in the air and his experience he organised the operational techniques which were so successfully used by the Flight during their missions.

Major Doyle participated in a large number of the more hazardous missions flown by the Flight, in which his aircraft came under fire from enemy small arms and automatic weapons and by example set standards for his pilots to emulate.

By his boundless enthusiasm and tireless drive, his flying ability and qualities of inspiration, coupled with his high personal sense of duty and courage in the face of the enemy, Major Doyle led his Flight in a manner which has brought credit to his Corps and the Australian Army.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Captain (temporary) James Douglas CAMPBELL (18548), Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Captain James Douglas Campbell enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 30th December 1953. He was commissioned as an Army Pilot on 18th May 1962 and subsequently qualified as a helicopter instructor. He joined 161st (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight in Vietnam on 8th September 1966 and commanded the Flight's helicopters.

During his tour of duty Captain Campbell flew over nine hundred hours and by his personal example and guidance dramatically improved the effectiveness of the intimate aviation support given by his helicopters.

As the flying instructor in his unit he effectively maintained the flying standards of his pilots and the low accident rate within the unit reflects great credit on his instructional skill. He regularly flew all types of missions assigned to his helicopters and flew in weather conditions which would normally have debarred flying operations but for the urgency of the mission.

Many of the missions were extremely hazardous and his aircraft came under direct small arms fire from the Viet Cong, but on all occasions he completed the allotted task. By his personal example he set a standard of leadership, determination and bravery in the air which was an inspiration to his pilots.

On 21st February 1967, during Operation Renmark an armoured personnel carrier was blown up in a minefield. The crew and passengers became casualties. Troops dismounted from the following armoured personnel carrier and moved forward to assist the wounded. They were also wounded by a Viet Cong claymore mine which had been sited and timed to destroy the rescue party. After the second mine explosion there were thirty-two members trapped in the minefield.

At great personal risk Captain Campbell flew a medical officer to the scene of the mine explosions, and landed in the minefield knowing full well that he and his helicopter could be destroyed by a mine explosion triggered by the helicopter skids or the down blast of the rotors. He chose to do this so that by quick evacuation the lives of the more seriously wounded might be saved.