

National Order of the Republic of Vietnam (5th Class)

Kenneth Charles Fenton

30202. Lieutenant Colonel
Royal NZ Engineers
Headquarters NZ V Force

Date of Award: 25 July 1970

CITATION

Lieutenant Colonel KENNETH CHARLES FENTON has distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service to the Republic of Vietnam in its fight against communist aggression during the period from **July 25, 1968 to July 30, 1970.**

During these two years he exercised National Command, his primary responsibility was the efficiency, morale and overall administration of New Zealand Vietnam Force. In addition, as the senior New Zealand officer in country, he was responsible for maintaining New Zealand national interests in many other areas such as educational and medical programs in Vietnam.

Although primarily involved in the coordination of New Zealand effort with Australian Forces in Phuoc Tuy province and United States Forces in Binh Dinh province, he also sponsored the attachment of New Zealand personnel to allied formations in other provinces, following these activities first hand by personal visits.

Lieutenant Colonel FENTON ably met the challenge of these responsibilities. Through his outstanding professional knowledge, and personal command supervision of his units in the field, he earned for himself and New Zealand Force Vietnam the respect and admiration of all Free World associates.

Despite the administrative burden, he sought to maintain close contact with his subunits, to encourage troops in the field in their efforts against communist forces, and to obtain first hand knowledge of the needs of New Zealand infantry and artillery soldiers.

Although frequently exposed in terrain favourable to VC attack and on occasions narrowly averting VC ambush in the above provinces, he continued to inspect personally battle situations in contested areas.

In sum, by dedication and example, Lieutenant Colonel FENTON maintained the highest standards over his concerned areas of responsibility and in doing so exemplified the best traditions of the New Zealand Army and its officer corps.

THIS AWARD WAS MADE CONCURRENTLY WITH THE CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM WITHIN THE SAME CITATION