

Military Cross (MC)

Anthony Gordon Howell

39042. Lieutenant.
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment
Victor Two Company

NZ Gazette Number 65 dated 17 October 1968

CITATION

Lieutenant Howell graduated into the New Zealand Army from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea on the 13th June, 1964 and was posted to the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. He served with the 1st Battalion of that Regiment in Malaysia and Borneo from February 1965 to November 1967, and arrived in South Vietnam **on 12th November 1967** as platoon commander of 4 Platoon, Victor Two Company.

During Operation Duntroon on the 13th January 1968¹, 4 Platoon was given the task of ambushing a track which was being used by the Viet Cong. Lieutenant Howell so carefully sited this ambush, that, when an enemy platoon moved along the track at 2030 hours, the whole of the enemy lead elements were caught in the ambush. As soon as the ambush had been sprung, Lt Howell led his reserve section forward to deal with the remaining enemy, but his party was pinned down by enemy fire. Lieutenant Howell crawled forward by himself until coming within range of two enemy soldiers, he was able to kill them both with grenades. Eight enemy were killed in this contact and ten weapons captured.

On the 7th February 1968² during Operation Coburg in Bien Hoa Province, Victor Two Company was attacked by a large enemy force. Lieutenant Howell's platoon was occupying a perimeter defensive position which was attacked by the enemy. At 0630 hours Lieutenant Howell received a report that his forward section could hear a large number of enemy approaching their position. He moved forward and waited until he was sure his defensive fire would be most effective. The ensuing enemy assault, which lasted for one hour, was mainly directed against 4 Platoon and Lieutenant Howell, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved about his platoon coolly and efficiently directing the fire of his men. The enemy were forced to withdraw leaving seven dead on the platoon perimeter and the signs of many more casualties.

During these operations, 4 Platoon was responsible for killing nineteen enemy without suffering a single casualty. Much of the success which the platoon achieved is due to the personal efforts of Lieutenant Howell. His skill, coolness and outstanding courage under fire have shown a high degree of leadership which brings credit to himself, his company and the ANZAC Battalion.

¹ 13-1-68 Nil casualties

² 7/2/68 Nil casualties

