

**British Empire Medal (BEM)
Thomas Hippolite Rangī**

213087. Staff Sergeant.
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment.
Whiskey Two Company

CITATION – Number not yet found. (QB Honours 1970)

Staff Sergeant Rangī served in the Royal New Zealand Air Force from May 1946 until April 1955. He enlisted in the NZ Army Regular Force on 4th September 1957. He served in Malaya from 1960 to 1961 as an Infantryman, followed this with a period as an instructor at the Outward Bound School before returning to Malaysia for further service in 1965 to 1966. For sixteen months of his second tour in Malaysia Staff Sergeant Rangī was attached to the Jungle Warfare School where he was concerned with the training of British, Australian, New Zealand and Ghurkha battalions for service in Borneo.

Staff Sergeant Rangī was posted to Vietnam **in November 1968** with Whisky Two Company, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. Staff Sergeant Rangī was the Company Quartermaster Sergeant for eighteen months, twelve of which he spent on active service in Vietnam. Because of the nature of operations in this country Staff Sergeant Rangī's duties were many and various: the command of soldiers remaining in the base; the supervision and maintenance of the company lines; and the resupply of the company in the field. As the senior rank in base, Staff Sergeant Rangī had to represent his company commander on many occasions.

Staff Sergeant Rangī is a diligent and conscientious non-commissioned officer with the highest personal standards. He carried out all his duties cheerfully and without fuss, and everything he undertook was marked by competence and efficiency. His subordinates worked willingly for him throughout his tour and his tact, quiet determination and unfailing courtesy were a source of admiration by his superior officers.

In an unassuming way Staff Sergeant Rangī, in three tours of duty in the Far East, has set a standard of performance of duty for all to emulate. He has won the admiration and respect of all with whom he works and his outstanding example, zeal and dedication has brought great credit to the New Zealand Army overseas.

Additional Notes to the Citation¹

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In the Queen's Birthday Honours List of June 1970, the CQMS of Whisky Two Company, SSgt TH Rangī, was awarded the British Empire medal (BEM) for his outstanding service with Whisky Company. During his tour, SSgt Rangī exercised command of the Whisky Company Rear Details and maintained supply to Whisky Company drawing a comment from the CO of the NZ Component that the standards that Rangī set in his Q Store, the general state of his company lines and the efficiency of his company resupply reflected great credit to him.

SSgt Rangī has been a stalwart of the RNZIR. He had joined the RNZAF as a 17 year old, and then enlisted into the New Zealand K (Korea) Force, followed by service in the Regular Force during which time he served in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam, finally retiring in 1980 after 34 years of service.

¹ "We too were ANZAC's" – Regimental History for 6RAR (ANZAC) Bn. Lt Col Brian Avery, page 167.