

**Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star  
Tasman Alexander Graham**

41737 Lance Bombardier  
Royal NZ Artillery  
161 Battery

Date of Award: 21 August 1966

*There was no citation presented at the time of award. Brigadier Harry Honnor CBE, MVO, (Rtd) the 161 Battery Commander at the time advised NZDF on 25 September 2008 that the circumstances for this award were:*

“Following the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, the South Vietnamese Regional Commander approached Brigadier Johnson as the 1st Australian Task Force Commander and asked if he could present Cross of Gallantry awards to the men of D Company, 6th Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR) and to representatives of the Task Force supporting units that had delivered such excellent and critical support.

Brigadier Johnson agreed to the awards to the men of D Company, 6RAR and to the supporting unit representatives on the basis that the recipient of each Gallantry Cross had to be a junior NCO or soldier who was directly involved in the action and had delivered outstanding service at the time.

Lance Bombardier Graham was selected as the 161 Battery representative due to the outstanding leadership and example that he delivered on the gun line in 161 Battery that afternoon. Each of the guns on the line fired over 180 rounds in just over two hours with every man available breaking open ammunition to keep up this intense rate of fire. This included the Commander V Force (Lieutenant Colonel R. Smith) who was visiting the unit at the time”.

*The notes for this citation are supported by the Royal New Zealand Artillery Regimental History “The Gunner”, pp.416 and 417.*

**Biographical Note:**

Lance Bombardier Graham arrived in South Vietnam on 16 February 1966 and was posted to 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery. He returned to New Zealand 26 February 1967.

He returned to South Vietnam for a second tour of duty in 161 Battery as a Survey Sergeant on 2 August 1968 and returned to New Zealand on 27 February 1969.