

**United States Bronze Star with V Device**

**Bruce Meldrum**

30650. Captain  
Royal NZ Armoured Corps  
Attached 11 Armoured Cavalry Regiment  
(US Army)

Date of Award: 9 December 1966

**CITATION<sup>2</sup>**

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device is awarded to: Captain Bruce Meldrum, New Zealand Army for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force.

Captain Meldrum distinguished himself by heroic action on **5 December 1966**, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Captain Meldrum was on a liaison visit to the Third Squadron, Eleventh Armoured Cavalry Regiment to evaluate armour operations in Vietnam. In order to gain first hand knowledge, Captain Meldrum volunteered to ride in the troop Commander's M113 ACAV during a one day search and destroy operation in Northern Phuoc Tuy Province.

At approximately 0730 hours, I Troop was attacked by an estimated reinforced Company of Viet Cong Regulars from well fortified bunker positions. So intense was the initial volley of fire that friendly forces suffered immediate casualties and many more were threatened, including the ground commander.

Through a valiant and determined effort, Captain Meldrum realizing the precarious position of the Troop, fearlessly seized an M-60 machine gun on the side of the ACAV and began laying down tenacious protective fire. So effectively did Captain Meldrum fire on the Viet Cong position that he was successful in neutralizing a hostile section of fire. Captain Meldrum assiduously remained at the machine gun despite heavy and intense hostile fire on his position.

By his aggressiveness, determination, and concern for his fellow soldier, he serves as an inspiration to those around him.

This display of personal bravery is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on him, his unit and the New Zealand Army

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<sup>2</sup> This is from a 'Proposed citation' delivered to the HQ V Force in December 1966, NZV/C/4/2/G dated 29 December 1966 signed by Lt Col R H Smith as Comdr HQ NZ V Force.