

**Military Medal (MM)
Graeme Douglas Peat**

975847. Private.
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment
Whisky Two Company

NZ Gazette Number 20 dated 2 April 1970

CITATION

Private Peat enlisted in the Regular Army in May 1968. After a period of training in New Zealand he was posted to 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment as an assault pioneer.

In November 1968 he was posted with Whisky Two Company to the Republic of Vietnam.

On the 23rd July 1969¹ Pte Peat was the assault pioneer member of a ten-man patrol from Whisky Two Company engaged in pacification operations. At 1610 hours a mine was detonated killing the section commander instantly and wounding five others including Pte Peat. Despite his serious wounds, Pte Peat immediately took charge and started to clear the area around the wounded so that they could be treated and the surviving members of the patrol could move about. He next cleared a helicopter landing pad and a safe lane to it for the evacuation of the wounded.

Throughout it was evident that Pte Peat was in great pain. He refused medical aid and insisted that it be directed to his wounded fellows. He resisted all attempts made to relieve him of his mine clearing tasks and insisted that as the patrol pioneer he continue with them. On learning that a ground relief party was approaching Pte Peat then cleared a safe lane for it. By this time Pte Peat was near collapse and he handed over his equipment to a pioneer in the relief party.

Because of his actions Pte Peat hastened the treatment and evacuation of his wounded fellows. He undoubtedly saved their lives and those of the remaining members of the patrol. His leadership, courage and determination for nearly two hours in this dangerous situation were the more marked because of his own serious wounds. He endangered his own life by refusing medical aid and by persisting with his duties.

Pte Peat's conduct was exemplary and an outstanding example of devotion to duty.

¹ 23/7/69 Cpl Radford JW, KIA; Pte Hawthorne RA, DOW; Pte Hollows TN, DOW; Pte Harrison J, WIA; Pte McKenzie EJ, WIA; Pte Peat GD, WIA.

Additional Notes to the Citation
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Whisky Two Company continued its support for the pacification program in Dat Do and along Route 4, until by 20 July, it had begun to dominate its operating area. The VC attempted to disrupt the firm control being exercised by Whisky Company.

On the 23rd July 1969², a ten man patrol commanded by Cpl J W Radford was moving around the outskirts of the hamlet Ap Lo Gom when it was involved in a mine incident. The mine had been placed in a site selected by Whisky Company for an ambush and its detonation resulted in three Kiwis, Cpl JW Radford; Pte TN Hollows; and Pte A Hawthorne being killed and three more being wounded: Pte's GW Peat; J Harrison and EJ McKenzie.

Pte Peat was an assault pioneer attached to the patrol.

In spite of great pain from his wounds he had immediately taken on the task of clearing an area around the wounded. He refused medical treatment and cleared a safe lane to a helicopter landing point in order that the other wounded men could be treated and swiftly evacuated.

The mine explosion was heard at FSPB Thrust and a party led by CSM Support Company (WO2 R Godfrey) and Sgt A McLean of the Aslt Pnr Platoon moved in APC's to assist the Dustoff helicopter to land and was in the process of clearing a safe lane for the relief party.

The wounded men were loaded into the helicopter and only then did Sgt McLean notice that Pte Peat looked very pale and was staggering. He was immediately treated and evacuated.

For his unselfish placement of the needs of others in front of his own safety and for his personal bravery, Pte Peat was awarded the Military Medal (MM)

² "We too were ANZAC's" – Regimental History for 6RAR (ANZAC) Bn. Lt Col Brian Avery, page 134.