

**Military Cross (MC)
Harry Russell**

31084. Captain.
Royal NZ Armoured Corps
HQ NZ V Force – attached
11 Armoured Cavalry Regiment
(US Army)

NZ Gazette Number 17 dated 27 March 1969

CITATION

In late January 1969, Captain Russell was temporarily attached as an observer to B Troop, 3/4 Cavalry Regiment, 25th United States Infantry Division. **On 2nd February 1969**, near Go Dau Hau, Captain Russell displayed considerable gallantry in the face of a strong and well positioned enemy. His example, outstanding coolness and disregard for personal safety inspired B Troop to fight aggressively in a deteriorating situation.

B Troop, mounted in armoured personnel carriers, was moved to reinforce C Troop, which had made contact with an estimated enemy regiment preparing to attack the town of Go Dau Hau. Advancing in line at last light, B Troop was engaged at short range by intense rocket and automatic weapons fire, resulting in twelve casualties and three carriers disabled. Two carriers on either side of the command carrier in which Captain Russell was riding caught fire. Captain Russell immediately took control of an unmanned machine gun and engaged emplacements and bunkers. Other guns being inoperative, Captain Russell's prompt and resolute actions stabilized the situation and permitted the casualties to be evacuated.

When a replacement machine gunner became available, Captain Russell leapt from the carrier and ran through heavy close range enemy fire and ammunition exploding in a nearby burning armoured personnel carrier to rescue and give first aid to a seriously wounded soldier. Captain Russell's prompt action in going to the aid of the soldier undoubtedly contributed greatly to the saving of his life.

Later, after B Troop withdrew to its night defensive perimeter, Captain Russell continued to exhibit complete calmness and initiative of a high order. Under fire, he organised the evacuation of further casualties and personally assisted in the loading of wounded into helicopters.

Captain Russell's repeated acts of gallantry over a five hour period on 2nd February 1969, contributed notably to the successful outcome of an important battle fought under difficult conditions. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on himself and the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps.