

Mention in Despatches (m.i.d.)

Julian Ballance

42875. Second Lieutenant.
Royal NZ Armoured Corps
Att 3 Cav Regt, RAAC

NZ Gazette Number 56 dated 17 September 1970

Citation

Second Lieutenant Ballance graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, on 7th June 1968 and was allotted to the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps. He was attached to B Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment in South Vietnam **on 10th May 1969.**

On the 5th August 1969¹, Second Lieutenant Ballance was in command of an ambush of six armoured personnel carriers on the coast near the Nui Tam Bo hills. At approximately 2030 hours an enemy armed party approached his position. As the enemy had stopped just on the edge of the killing ground he decided to initiate the ambush.

As soon as the claymores fired he gave orders for the three armoured personnel carriers, including his own to charge down the beach into the enemy. The enemy party was so surprised by this quick action that a total of 15 were killed out of a party of 25.

In this and other engagements against the enemy Second Lieutenant Ballance displayed above average leadership qualities. In his duties as a troop officer he always produced excellent results. His efforts over a period of twelve months are a credit to him and a fine example to all.

¹ Nil casualties