

**British Empire Medal (BEM)
James Michael Benyon**

802262. Sergeant.
Royal NZ Army Medical Corps.
Attached 161 Battery RNZA

NZ Gazette Number 39 dated 22 June 1967 (*QB June 1967*)

CITATION

Sergeant Benyon enlisted in the New Zealand Army in 1959. He served in the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps in New Zealand until posted for service with the New Zealand Infantry Battalion in Malaysia in 1961. Sergeant Benyon served as Unit Regimental Aid Post Sergeant in Malaysia until his return to New Zealand in November 1963.

In July 1965 he was again posted for service overseas, this time in Vietnam with 161st Battery Royal New Zealand Artillery, in the appointment of Battery Nursing Orderly.

On arrival in South Vietnam Sergeant Benyon was responsible for coordinating medical services with United States facilities in order that adequate medical cover could be established for 161st Battery to meet the extreme health hazards anticipated in the theatre. The very low sickness rate experienced during the Battery's tour of duty can be largely attributed to Sergeant Benyon's efficient and never ending efforts in arranging the initial cover and subsequent supervision.

In addition to his normal daily duties Sergeant Benyon has borne the main responsibility for arranging a New Zealand contribution to local civic aid programmes in both Bien Hoa and Baria. In these duties he has given unsparingly of his time and has treated some 5,000 patients, most of them children, who otherwise would have had no medical facilities available to them.

Through his professional ability, quiet efficiency and unstinted concern for the welfare of others, Sergeant Benyon has gained the confidence of all members of 161st Battery and the admiration of all other officers and men who have been associated with him. His outstanding work in this theatre has undoubtedly done much to enhance the reputation of New Zealand in the eyes of the Allied Forces and the South Vietnamese people.

His willingness to accept responsibilities beyond the call of normal duty and the efficient performance of his duties have served as an excellent example to all and reflected great credit to himself and to the New Zealand Army as a whole.