

British Empire Medal (BEM)

John Donald Desmond

675217. Warrant Officer Second Class.
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment
Headquarters, NZ V Force

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

CITATION

Warrant Officer Desmond enlisted into the New Zealand Army in 1952 as a clerk. Following a period of basic training he qualified as an infantry instructor and was posted to the New Zealand Special Air Service Squadron. He served with this unit until 1957 when he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and posted to Headquarters New Zealand Division as a clerk. He saw active service in Malaysia with the Special Air Service Squadron in 1955 and again with the New Zealand Infantry Battalion from 1961 to 1963. On return to New Zealand he was posted as a Recruiting Non-commissioned Officer and Assistant Instructor at the School of Army Administration.

On 11 June 1965 he was again posted to active service in the appointment of Chief Clerk Headquarters New Zealand V Force, Saigon.

During his service in Vietnam Warrant Officer Desmond has diligently carried out his duties as Chief Clerk with a degree of skill, efficiency and dispatch rarely seen in his contemporaries. He rapidly established his office, trained and integrated his junior staff and established excellent support with the staffs of other nations.

In December 1965 due to the death of the Paymaster he immediately took over this appointment together with that of Imprestee. Through force of circumstances he has continued to hold these additional appointments and has carried them out with skill and exactitude.

The scope of his activities in these tasks has required a wide-ranging knowledge, a keen mind and a great capacity to remember detail. By cheerfully working unusually long hours under trying conditions Warrant Officer Desmond has displayed all these attributes and attained for him a very high reputation with all segments of this complex organisation.

Warrant Officer Desmond's professional competence, loyalty and untiring dedication to duty have reflected great credit upon himself, New Zealand V Force and the New Zealand Army as a whole.