

Military Medal (MM)

Roland Joseph Horopapera

37568. Corporal.
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment
Victor Five Company

NZ Gazette Number 38 dated 27 May 1971

CITATION

Corporal Roland Joseph Horopapera enlisted in the New Zealand Regular Army on 22nd January 1957, and was posted to the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

He was posted to Victor Company in December 1969 and arrived with Victor Five Company in South Vietnam in **May 1970**.

On 18th June 1970¹, during Operation “Cung Chung” Corporal Horopapera was a section leader on a patrol with 2 Platoon, Victor Five Company, 2nd Royal Australian Regiment/New Zealand (ANZAC) Battalion. At approximately 0750 hours, the platoon discovered an enemy bunker system and received heavy fire, resulting in a number of casualties. Corporal Horopapera calmly deployed his section and returned fire to enable the wounded to move to the rear. Enemy fire put Cpl Horopapera’s machine gun team out of action and wounded three other members of his section. Corporal Horopapera moved around his section, in the face of intense enemy fire, ensuring his men had adequate cover and at the same time assisting with the wounded.

One badly wounded soldier was located to one side of the section position. An enemy machine gun was firing continuously between the wounded man and the remainder of the section. Corporal Horopapera observed this, and gauging the enemy fire crawled through it to assist the wounded man. Exposed to enemy fire he then attempted to crawl with the wounded soldier to safety, desisting only when the pain became too great for the injured man to be moved further. He remained with the wounded soldier until the platoon medical orderly arrived. Throughout the action Corporal Horopapera continued to control his section and direct their fire until ordered to withdraw.

Corporal Horopapera, by his unselfish act in protecting the wounded was an inspiration to his section and the whole platoon. His complete disregard for his own safety and his care of the wounded soldier displayed a standard of calmness and bravery that reflects credit upon himself, his Regiment and the New Zealand Army.

[Note to citation: See also citation for Pte Day.]

¹ 18/6/70 Pte Jones LC, KIA; LCpl Fisk CR, KIA; LCpl Avery NT, WIA; LCpl Batty PW, WIA; Pte Burgess JO, WIA; Pte McRae JD, WIA; Pte Tohu KW, WIA.

