

**Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star
Alec Manu Lee**



354556. Corporal
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment
Victor Six Company

Date of Award: 1 December 1971

CITATION

No formal citation has been found yet. The award was made for service in Victor Six Company primarily for his gallantry on 25 June 1971. Corporal Lee had served previously in Victor Three and returned to Vietnam on his second tour of duty as a Section Commander.

His Officer Commanding in 1971, Major B.R.H. Monks, advised NZDF in October 2008 that this award was for gallantry on and around 25 June 1971. Major Monks was also awarded a Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star for his actions on 25 June 1971. Lance Corporal John Leonard Adams, one of Corporal Lee's subordinates, received a Military Medal for his actions on 25 June 1971.¹

Major Monks has stated that a citation was read out at Corporal Lee's award ceremony by the Vietnamese presenting officer. Unfortunately, despite intensive searches, a copy has not been found yet.

The Military Medal citation for Lance Corporal John Leonard Adams in part reads:

On 25 June 1971, in Phuoc Tuy Province, Lance Corporal Adams' platoon, supported by tanks and armoured personnel carriers, attacked a heavily defended bunker system occupied by 1st Battalion, 274 [NVA] Regiment. A tank close to Lance Corporal Adams was struck by enemy rocket fire causing all three members of the crew to become casualties.

Displaying outstanding initiative, Lance Corporal Adams led a party to extract the wounded from the crippled tank and despite intense and accurate enemy fire which was being directed at him, he mounted the tank to give further guidance to his men and encouragement to the wounded. Lance Corporal Adams then arranged the evacuation of the wounded by helicopter.

Lance Corporal Adams' initiative, courage and leadership contributed significantly to the outcome of the battle and undoubtedly saved the life of at least one member of the tank crew.

His actions since this occasion have been of the same high standard and reflect great credit upon himself, his Regiment and the New Zealand Army.

¹ New Zealand Gazette, No. 29 dated 29 March 1972.

Note: Cpl Lee's Cross of gallantry award has been approved for acceptance and wear.