

**Member of the Order of British Empire (MBE)**

**John Airth Mace**

34192. Major.

Royal NZ Infantry Regiment

Victor One Company

NZ Gazette Number 65 dated 17 October 1968

**CITATION**

Major John Mace graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon on 13th December, 1953, and was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

In 1966 Major Mace was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment in Malaysia, and in May 1967, after service in Borneo, he was selected to command Victor One Company; the first New Zealand infantry sub-unit to serve in the Republic of South Vietnam.

Major Mace and his company arrived in theatre on 31st May, 1967 and came under the operational control of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment until Victor One Company was relieved on 12th November 1967.

During his tour of duty Major Mace displayed outstanding leadership and administrative ability, and at all times, operated his company with a notable degree of professionalism. His well planned and executed company operations resulted in many enemy casualties. On one occasion during Operation Cairns, on 29th May, 1967, in the area known as the Long Green, Major Mace, while co-ordinating platoon ambushes and conducting a personal reconnaissance of the area, surprised two enemy, and by his prompt action, killed one and wounded the other.

By his personal example, attention to detail and leadership, Major Mace has maintained his company at a high professional standard which brought great credit to the New Zealand Army and earned the admiration of the Australian officers and men with whom he came into contact. His competence and resourcefulness, his professional ability and selflessness are in the highest traditions of the ANZAC spirit.