

**Mention in Despatches (m.i.d.)**

**Russel James Martin**

30739. Captain.  
Royal NZ Artillery  
161 Battery

NZ Gazette Number 65 dated 17 October 1968

**Citation**

Captain Martin graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in December, 1964 and was posted to the Royal New Zealand Artillery. **In March 1967** he joined 161 Field Battery in Vietnam.

Throughout his service in Vietnam Captain Martin, as a forward observer, has displayed personal courage of the highest order. He has supported with fire, skilfully and aggressively applied, the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, The Royal Australian Regiment in close and sometimes fierce actions in which his cool, calm approach assisted materially in ensuring the success of the action.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 1968<sup>1</sup> he was ordered at short notice to join A Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, which was to enter Baria to repel a strong enemy attack. Although the built-up areas of the town prohibited the use of artillery, Captain Martin rendered valuable assistance to the company commander in the control of the mixed force of infantry and armoured personnel carriers.

During an attempt to rescue allied advisors from the Sector Headquarters, which was under attack, the vehicle in which Captain Martin was travelling was hit by enemy rocket-fire. Three of the occupants were killed and Captain Martin's signaller was wounded. Captain Martin himself was shocked badly and his hearing temporarily impaired; he remained at his post, calmly directing the movement of his vehicle assisting with the with control of the battle and giving aid and comfort to the wounded.

His brave conduct was an inspiration to the troops involved in the action and contributed greatly to its success. Captain Martin remained on duty throughout the remainder of the operation despite the discomfort and pain of his injury.

Captain Martin's bravery in the field was in the best traditions of the Royal New Zealand Artillery and his calmness under fire, at all times, and was an inspiration to the supported arms reflecting great credit upon himself, his battery and the New Zealand Army.

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<sup>1</sup> 1/2/68 Gnr Ellwood SW, KIA, Capt Martin RJ WIA; Gnr Tarawa BAY, WIA plus two unknown Australian soldiers KIA.