

**Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)**

**Ronald James Prichard**

601363. Private.  
Royal NZ Army Service Corps  
Victor Two Company

NZ Gazette Number 65 dated 17 October 1968

**CITATION**

Private Ronald Prichard joined the New Zealand Army on the 30th June, 1965, and served in Malaysia and Borneo with the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment from November, 1965, to November, 1967.

On the **12th November, 1967**, Private Prichard arrived in South Vietnam as a medical orderly with 5 Platoon, Victor Two Company to join the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

On the 13th January 1968<sup>1</sup>, during Operation Duntroon, in Phuoc Tuy Province, 5 Platoon ambushed a party of enemy and in the ensuing fire fight; three New Zealand soldiers were wounded. Private Prichard immediately moved forward to an exposed position to administer first aid to his wounded comrades. The area was subject to enemy sniper fire but Private Prichard remained with the wounded, caring for them until they were evacuated by helicopter.

During Operation Coburg, in Bien Hoa Province on the 1st February 1968<sup>2</sup>, 5 Platoon was again in action with an enemy patrol and the forward scout was wounded by small arms fire. The enemy maintained a steady volume of fire but again Private Prichard moved forward to the contact area and, having administered first aid to the wounded man, assisted in his evacuation to a secure area. Pte Hirini H D died before he reached Vung Tau Hospital.

On the 7th February 1968<sup>3</sup> during the same operation, Victor Two Company was subjected to a heavy enemy attack. During the fierce fighting, six soldiers in 5 Platoon were wounded. While the enemy attack was at its peak and the 5 Platoon position was raked with enemy small arms and rocket fire, Private Prichard left his own pit and crawled from weapon pit to weapon pit treating each soldier in turn. When he had treated all the wounded, he crawled back to the most seriously wounded soldier and remained with him until the enemy attack was beaten off.

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<sup>1</sup> 13/1/68 Pte Leat GN, WIA; LCpl Whittaker GM, WIA.

<sup>2</sup> 1/2/68 Pte Hirini HD, KIA.

<sup>3</sup> 7/2/68 LCpl Collins A, WIA; Dvr Heather M, WIA; Cpl Hunter PP, WIA; Pte Niwa RPR, WIA; LCpl Perkins PI, WIA; Pte Pleydell RGW, WIA; Pte Ratima D, WIA; LCpl Tawhara JRS, WIA; Cpl Wilson HO, WIA. (*Check names for 5 Pl*)

Throughout a sustained period of operations, Private Prichard displayed outstanding courage and coolness whilst under enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety he went forward time and time again into areas under enemy fire to treat the wounded and assist in their evacuation. The fact that all were successfully evacuated and survived their wounds can be attributed in no small way to Private Prichard's actions and professional skill. By these actions he has bought great credit to himself, his unit and the ANZAC Battalion.