

**Mention in Despatches (m.i.d.)  
Howard Owen Wilson**

40303. Corporal.  
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment  
Victor Two Company

NZ Gazette Number 65 dated 17 October 1968

**Citation**

Corporal Wilson enlisted in the New Zealand Army on the 4th March, 1963 and was subsequently posted to the 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. He served in Malaysia and Borneo with that battalion from November, 1965 to November, 1967, when he was posted to Victor Two Company for service in South Vietnam where he arrived on **12th November 1967**. He served as a section commander in 5 Platoon, Victor Two Company until March 1968 when he was evacuated as a result of his wounds.

On the 7th February 1968<sup>1</sup>, during Operation Coburg in Bien Hoa Province, Victor Two Company was occupying a defensive position when it was attacked by a large enemy force. Corporal Wilson's section was occupying a portion of the company perimeter which came under heavy automatic and rocket fire. When a group of fifteen enemy attempted to move across the section front Corporal Wilson fired his claymores killing five of the enemy. For the next hour the section continued to receive heavy automatic and rocket fire wounding some members of the section including Corporal Wilson. He was wounded a second time during the attack but refused to leave his position and continued to control and direct the fire of his men, until he finally received a third and more serious wound. Although badly wounded at this stage, Corporal Wilson insisted that the more seriously wounded soldiers be treated before him and refused to be evacuated until the other wounded had been lifted out by helicopter.

Corporal Wilson's personal example and disregard for his own wounds was a great inspiration to the men under his command. His section killed a number of the enemy and wounded many more. Although the section position was hard pressed throughout the attack they fought back with such determination that the enemy were never able to seriously threaten the company position from Corporal Wilson's sector.

By his personal courage, devotion to duty and care of his men while badly wounded Corporal Wilson brought great credit to himself, his unit and the ANZAC Battalion.

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<sup>1</sup> 7/2/68 LCpl Collins A, WIA; Dvr Heather M, WIA; Cpl Hunter PP, WIA; Pte Niwa RF, WIA; LCpl Perkins PI, WIA; Pte Playdell RG, WIA; Pte Ratima D, WIA; LCpl Tawhara JRS, WIA; Cpl Wilson HO, WIA. (*Names to be verified*)