

Military Cross (MC)

Brian Thomas Albert Worsnop

816452. Major.
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment
Victor Two Company

NZ Gazette Number 65 dated 17 October 1968

CITATION

Major Worsnop graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon on the 14th December, 1955 and was posted to the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

After many appointments in Malaysia, Major Worsnop arrived in South Vietnam **on the 12th November, 1967**, as Officer Commanding Victor Two Company and came under command of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (ANZAC) Bn.

On the 10th January 1968, the battalion was ordered on Operation Duntroon and Victor Two Company was allotted the task of left flank protection. After an arduous and difficult approach march Major Worsnop deployed his company in a series of ambush positions on a track complex. So skilfully sited were these positions that on the night of the 13th January 1968¹, an enemy platoon became enmeshed in the trap that Major Worsnop had prepared. In the fierce fight that followed eleven enemy were killed and many individual and crew served weapons were captured without loss of life to the company.

On the 24th January 1968², Victor Two Company was deployed on Operation Coburg and Major Worsnop was again given a flank protection role. In a series of skirmishes with the enemy Victor Two Company killed twelve enemy and captured many weapons.

On the 6th February 1968, Victor Two Company located an enemy camp which had recently been occupied. Major Worsnop made a plan to trap any enemy that might return and deployed his company to meet this eventuality. At 0630 hours on the 7th February 1968³, Victor Two Company was attacked on three sides by an estimated two companies of enemy and was subjected to heavy rocket and machine gun fire. Major Worsnop, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved around the position rallying and encouraging his men and personally joined in the firing to repulse the enemy. During this period he directed artillery fire into the areas of thickest enemy concentration and eventually the enemy

¹ 13/1/68 Pte Leat GN, WIA; LCpl Whittaker GM, WIA

² 28/01/68 Cpl Bassett MJ, WIA, Pte Draper GW, WIA.

³ 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 RG, WIA; Pte Ratima D, WIA; LCpl Tawhara JRS, WIA; Cpl Wilson HO, WIA. Also 8/2/68 Pte Dempsey SK, WIA.

were forced to withdraw after two hours of intense fighting, leaving behind thirteen dead.

It was not until after the action that it was discovered that Major Worsnop had received two enemy bullets through his pack. Major Worsnop by his plan of action, personal bravery and high standard of leadership was directly responsible for inflicting a severe blow on the enemy.

By his cool action, disregard of his own safety and outstanding bravery Major Worsnop lived up to the highest traditions of ANZAC. His actions were a source of admiration to his Australian and New Zealand comrades and brought great credit to himself, the battalion and his country.