AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL

Series number: AWM276
Control symbol: R445/4/30 PART A
DPI: 300

This item is provided for private research purposes only. If you desire to use this material for publication or any other purpose you may only do so with the permission of the copyright holder.

Scan date: 29/06/0016
Reviewed: 03/11/2016

Printed on acid free paper

AWM 276

R445/4/30 pt A.

HONOURS AND AWARDS – GENERAL – COMAFV [COMMANDER, AUSTRALIAN FORCE VIETNAM] COMMENDATIONS

AUSTRALIAN W
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

R445/4/30 PART A

AWM 276

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

HONOURS AND AWARDS – GENERAL – COMAFV
[COMMANDER, AUSTRALIAN FORCE VIETNAM]
COMMENDATIONS

HOLD A7 BRANCH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

445	4.	30

(FILE No.)

SUBJECT: HONOURS & AWARDS

GENERAL.

COMAFV. COMMENDATIONS.

FOLIO No.	REFERRED TO	DATE	CLEARING OFFICERS INITIALS
	SCA	30/6.	
	C of S	30 June	
	DAAG	2/7	
	Despatch	2 Jul	
	DAAG	14 Jul	
	Sec A (MS)	14 Jul	
→	BF SC(MS)	30 Jul	
	DAAG	24 Jan 45	
	Despatch	24 Jan 45	
	PAAG	Jan 45	

FOLIO No.	REFERRED TO	DATE	CLEARING OFFICERS INITIALS

DO NOT HOLD this file when lapses in action may exceed seven (7) days.

ARCHIVAL CATEGORY

(FILE No.)

From : Major-General C. A. E. FRASER, CBE

Headquarters
Australian Force
VIETNAM

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

The manner in which you have been carrying out your duties since arriving in Vietnam has been the subject of favorable comment by your Commanding Officer.

I should like to thank you for the service you have given. Our total Australian contribution to the complex and difficult problems which the South Vietnam has to face, is made up of the individual efforts of a great many good men and women working with a sense of purppose and dedication which provides an example for us all to follow.

3

(FILE No.)

COMAFV

~~Recommendations~~

~~Records Checks~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SECRET

TO BE PASSED BY HAND

ARCHIVAL CATEGORY

.....

.....

.....

(FILE No.)

0-66-012-2632

COMAFV Info Copy.

COMAFV LETTERS OF COMMENDATION.

Ref: Briefing and discussion COMAFV/DAAG on this subject Mar 71 and 11 May 71.

1. The provision for COMAFV letters of commendation was introduced to AFV SOPs in Jul 70. A copy of the SOP is attached.

2. Approximately 100 letters were sent out in Sept/Jan 71. These consisted of letters to:
a. Members who were recommended for honours and awards but did not receive same
b. Members who were nominated directly for commendation letter by their COs.

3. I have received some nominations during the current period, but would anticipate the majority to be submitted at the same time as the H & A proposals later this month. When the next list of H & A is published (probably in the near future) we would normally be required to prepare and despatch letters of commendation to those ~~soldiers~~ members who were nominated for an award but do not receive one. As there is a large amount of work involved in the submissions, and in the preparation of the letters, it would be opportune to decide on this matter as soon as possible.

COMAFV Commendation

3011. Commanding officers may consider other members of their units are deserving of recognition, falling short of an award under the Crown. In such cases, letters of commendation may be awarded. These will take the form of a personal letter from COMAFV to the member concerned. COs should forward recommendations through normal channels to HQ AFV. Recommendations are to be signed personally by commanding officers and are to be supported by simple one paragraph statements outlining the members' commendable performances. Recommendations may be forwarded at any time, however they will normally be actioned in conjunction with Commonwealth Honours and awards.

COMAFV LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

1. Distribution is as follows:

a.	Offrs:	Original	- Member
		Duplicate	- AHQ(MS)
		Friplicate	- CARO
		Quadruplicate	- Head of Corps.
b.	OR:	Original	- Member
		Duplicate	- CARO
		Triplicate	- Head of Corps.

COMAFV LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

1. Letters of commendation are sent to:

~~personnel whose~~

personnel (who are) by a unit or subordinate headquarters

a. ~~Who~~ recommended for an honour or award but who cannot be included on the HQ AFV ~~Honours~~ scale for honours and awards;

~~b. Who recommend~~

b. A letter of commendation only.

2. ~~Recommendations~~ Recommendations for ~~the~~ a letter only are to be made on the same form as those for an honour or award. The purpose of this is to ~~do~~ ensure that units use some discrimination in the selection of personnel, and that they describe ~~what~~ the reason for the recommendation. Since the recommendation goes no further than HQ AFV, there is not the same necessity for absolute accuracy

in the wording of the citation as there is for honours (decorations). However it is essential that all recommendations from either source listed in para 1 be checked with Records Section HQ AFV for accuracy of the soldiers' ranks (arm), initials, spelling of surname, and unit.

3. The layout and wording of the letters is nominally standard, but each Class Command may wish to use a different text. (See specimen letters)

* Sufficient room should be left between the addressee block and the heading to allow Command to insert a salutation. Similarly there should be sufficient room at the end of the text, and the letter should have a 'balanced' presentation.

Two versions of the ~~letter~~ text have been provided; ~~one~~ a. the ~~letter~~ text for ~~the~~ members skill sewing in theatre at the time the letter is signed, the

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	UNIT	LOCATION	SERVING/RTA
12604	WO2	D.H. BURNS	106 Fd Wksps	NUI DAT	
54378	Cpl	B.E. PARKER	A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp	NUI DAT	
38894	L cpl	C.E. JOHNSON	1 SAS Sqn	NUI DAT	
43594	Cpl	G. MACH	1 SAS Sqn	NUI DAT	
37893	Capt	W. SHEPPARD	AATTV	SAIGON	
216493	Capt	B.F. McGURGAN	AATTV	SAIGON	
13765	WO2	D. BURKE	AATTV	SAIGON	
16230	WO2	D.J. POWELL ✓	AATTV	SAIGON	
43309	WO2	O.W. BELL	AATTV	SAIGON	
61161	WO2	R.V. RONEY	AATTV	SAIGON	
51612	WO2	D.A. STRACHAN ✓	AATTV	SAIGON	
210370	WO1	A.M. KENDRICK	A Sqn 1 Armd Regt LAD	NUI DAT	
42657	Sgt	B.F. WILSON	B Sqn 3 Cav Regt	NUI DAT	
43933	Cpl	K.A. PLUMMER	B Sqn 3 Cav Regt	NUI DAT	
44074	Sgt	A.J. FLAHERTY	8 RAR	NUI DAT	
38532	Cpl	A.M. GRINTER	8 RAR	NUI DAT	
1734719	Pte	N.J. STEELE	8 RAR	NUI DAT	
5716398	Pte	L.T. SMITH	8 RAR	NUI DAT	
1734962	Ptw	A.R. FAIRBANKS	8 RAR	NUI DAT	
1732019	Lt	M.R. EDDY	1 SAS Sqn	NUI DAT	
1200583	Cpl	D.E. BUNNEY	1 SAS Sqn	NUI DAT	

235106	Maj	J.J.	MACFARLANE	HQ 1 ALSG	VUNG TAU
213983	WO2	J.M.	CUNNEEN	HQ 1 ALSG	VUNG TAU
29936	S sgt	E.A.	RICH	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
311387	Sgt	A.R.	RANYARD	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
1200126	Sgt	F.	EDWARDS	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
217048	Cpl	A.J.	ROBERTS	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
3795739	Cpl	G.L.	UNDERWOOD	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
52719	WO2	J.G.	FROST	2 AFCU	VUNG TAU
3794644	Cpl	T.I.	BLACK	102 Fd Wksp	VUNG TAU
1733521	Cpl	T.J.	STREAM	102 Fd Wksp	VUNG TAU
1735412	Pte	I.W.	RIECK	102 Fd Wksp	VUNG TAU
41462	WO2	D.J.	MILLARD	AFV Edn Sect	VUNG TAU
35318	WO2	B.F.	McSWEENEY	110 Sig Sqn	VUNG TAU
28983	WO1	K.A.	EVANS	2 AOD	VUNG TAU
216687	Cpl	J.	HEAD	2 AOD	VUNG TAU
36219	WO2	E.J.	CROCKER	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
42269	WO2	J.R.	JAMIESON	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
38224	Sgt	K.R.	WRIGHT	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
217700	Cpl	B.W.	HARRISON	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
1202751	Cpl	F.A.	PERINA	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU
214267	Cpl	J.F.	BAILEY	AFV Pro Unit	VUNG TAU

5402	WO1	A.F.	MELLOWSHIP	1 Aust Fd Hosp	VUNG TAU
17025	Maj	G.T.	TAYLOR	1 Fd Regt RAA	VUNG TAU
2791050	Cpl	J.	PEARCE	5 Coy RAASC	NUI DAT
24168	WO1	S.N.	PENHALIGON	1 Fd Regt RAA	VUNG TAU
38520	Sgt	D.H.	JUCKEL	8 RAR	NUI DAT
311568	Capt	J.E.G.	HORAN	6 RAR	NUI DAT
216175	Lt	L.	MACLEAN	6 RAR	NUI DAT
57064	Capt	M.F.	FAIRHEAD	6 RAR	NUI DAT
17034	Maj	D.	WHITE	102 Fd Wksp	VUNG TAU
219354	Spr	B.J.	MARSHALL	17 Constr Sqn	NUI DAT
1411022	Spr	V.R.	SLOCKIE	17 Constr Sqn	NUI DAT
1803	WO1	H.J.	BOURKE	17 Constr Sqn Wksp	NUI DAT
1735341	Spr	P.	GEISEL	17 Constr Sqn Wksp	NUI DAT
242988	WO2	W.L.	DUNSTAN	AATTV	SAIGON
2410380	WO2	R.G.	CARTER	AATTV	SAIGON
216917	WO2	S.J.	McLAUGHLIN	AATTV	SAIGON
13973	WO2	C.F.	KEIOSKIE	AATTV	SAIGON
13816	WO2	J.D.	MORRISON	2 AFCU	VUNG TAU

AF-W 3121 (Adapted)
Revised Apr, 1969

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

RECOMMENDATION FOR HONOURS OR AWARDS

Army Number 5402

Rank WO 1
(Substantive)

(Temporary) (Honorary)

Given Names (in full) Alfred William

Surname MELLOWSHIP
(Block Letters)

Decorations Held

Corps RAAMC

Unit and Posting 1 Aust Fd Hosp
SM

Date of Birth 15 Nov 22

Date of Enlistment 1 Jul 47

Next of Kin Mrs. A.W. MELLOWSHIP

Relationship Wife

Home or Private Address 18 Pictor St,
INALA QLD.

Recommendation in relation to:—

(i) New Year 19 71 (ii) Operational

(iii) Birthday 19 (iv) Non-operational

Strike out where not applicable.

Recommended by	Honour or Award
(M.A. NAUGHTON) Lt Col CO 1 Aust Fd Hosp Date Nov 70	COMAFV Commendation
Date	
Date	
Date	

To be left blank for approval.

CITATION (to be completed by the initiating officer)

Place Vung Tau, South Vietnam Date 1st November, 1970.

Warrant Officer First Class Alfred William Mellowship assumed the posting of Regimental Sergeant Major 1 Australian Field Hospital on 6th January 1970. During the period of his posting, Warrant Officer Mellowship has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the unit. His loyalty, devotion to duty and understanding of the welfare of young soldiers has been outstanding. His performance of duty has been in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

AF-W 3121 (Adapted)
Revised Apr, 1969

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

RECOMMENDATION FOR HONOURS OR AWARDS

Army Number 5402

Rank WO 1
(Substantive)

(Temporary) (Honorary)

Given Names (in full) Alfred William

Surname MELLOWSHIP
(Block Letters)

Decorations Held

Corps RAAMC

Unit and Posting 1 Aust Fd Hosp
SME

Date of Birth 15 Nov 22

Date of Enlistment 1 Jul 47

Next of Kin Mrs. A.W. MELLOWSHIP

Relationship Wife

Home or Private Address 18 Victor St,
INALA QLD.

Recommendation in relation to:—

(i) New Year 19 71 (ii) Operational

(iii) Birthday 19 xxxxxxxx (iv) Non-operational

Strike out where not applicable.

Recommended by	Honour or Award
(M.A. NAUGHTON) Lt Col CO 1 Aust Fd Hosp Date Nov 70	COMAFV Commendation
Date	
Date	
Date	

To be left blank for approval.

CITATION (to be completed by the initiating officer)

Place Vung Tau, South Vietnam Date 1st November, 1970.

Warrant Officer First Class Alfred William Mellowship assumed the posting of Regimental Sergeant Major 1 Australian Field Hospital on 6th January 1970. During the period of his posting, Warrant Officer Mellowship has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the unit. His loyalty, devotion to duty and understanding of the welfare of young soldiers has been outstanding. His performance of duty has been in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

SECRET

TELEPHONE

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Quote in Reply

R445-1-11

ADDRESS HQ 1 ATF
NUI DAT

7 Oct 70

HQ AFV

COMAFV LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Reference: A. HQ AFV SOP Part 2 Chapter 3 Section 1.

1. A recommendation in duplicate for COMAFV Letter of Commendation is enclosed for 12604 WO2 D.H. Burns, RAEME, 106 Fd Wksps.

2. Please acknowledge receipt on the duplicate of this letter and return to DAAG HQ 1 ATF.

(W.G. HENDERSON)
Brig
Comd

Enclosure: 1. Recommendation (one in duplicate).

Ebony 115

106 Fd Wksp RAEME
AFPO 4 GPO
SYDNEY NSW 2890

30 Sep 70

R445-5-1
HQ
1ATF

COMAFV COMMENDATION
12604 WO2 D.H. BURNS

1. WO2 D.H. Burns is recommended for a COMAFV commendation letter.

2. Warrant Officer Class 2 Donald Henry Burns was posted as Company Sergeant Major of 106th Field Workshop on 12th November 1969. By his drive, enthusiasm and outstanding energy he has maintained the discipline, regimental knowledge, and camp management of the unit at a high standard. He was wounded accidentally by gun shot on 4th May 1970 and spent fourteen days in 1st Australian Field Hospital. His personal determination on discharge from hospital had him working again at full efficiency in a very short time.

A.A. Nolan

(A.A. NOLAN)
Maj
OC

SECRET

TELEPHONE

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Quote in Reply

R445-1-11

ADDRESS HQ 1 ATF
NUI DAT

16 Oct 70

HQ AFV

COMAFV LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Reference: A. HQ AFV SOP Part 2 Chapter 3 Section 1.

1. A recommendation in duplicate for COMAFV Letter of Commendation is enclosed for 54378 Cpl B.E. Parker A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp.

2. Please acknowledge receipt of the duplicate on this letter and return to DAAG HQ 1 ATF.

(W.G. HENDERSON)
Brig
COMD

Enclosure: 1. Recommendation (one in duplicate).

SECRET

Corporal Barry Eley Parker, Royal Australian Survey Corps, joined A Section First Topographical Survey Troop in Vietnam on 8 October 1969 as the Corporal Clerk Administration.

Throughout his tour of duty he has carried out his duties to the full and has required the minimum of supervision. In addition, because of his reliability and his devotion to duty, he has been willing to undertake tasks and responsibilities over and above his normal duties.

Corporal Parker has been one of the most valuable members of this unit and has contributed greatly to the efficiency and the personal welfare of its individual members.

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMENDATION

38894 LANCE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER EDWARD JOHNSON

Lance Corporal JOHNSON has been the second in command of a Special Air Service patrol for the period 18 February 1970 until 30 September 1970. During this period he has always shown such a cheerful disposition and a willingness to achieve all tasks given him or the patrol that his exceptional application has been an inspiration to all Squadron members.

He is a credit to the Special Air Service Regiment and the service as a whole.

Major
Officer Commanding
1st Special Air Service Squadron

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMENDATION

43594 CORPORAL GEORGE MACH

Corporal MACH has been the second in command of a Special Air Service patrol for the period 18 February 1970 until 10 August 1970. During this time he has shown outstanding devotion to duty and has been a tireless member of the patrol, always ensuring that his patrol was properly administered and supported and setting an excellant example in all aspects to his subordinates.

He is a credit to the Special Air Service Regiment and the service as a whole.

Major
Officer Commanding
1st Special Air Service Squadron

CONFIDENTIAL

C I T A T I O N

COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FORCES VIETNAM COMMENDATION

CAPTAIN WALTER SHEPPARD

RA INF AATTV

Captain Sheppard joined the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam (AATTV) on 17 Sep 69 and was initially employed as a battalion senior adviser with the 1st Bn 51st ARVN Regt in I Corps. During his tour of duty with the battalion he was highly respected by both the VN and US forces with whom he came in contact due to his outstanding professional integrity and dedication to the tasks involved. He remained in the posting until 24 Apr 70 when he was redeployed to IV Corps for employment in the early planning of the new concept of the Night Operations Advisory Team (NOAT). He has subsequently been deeply immersed in the intricate detailed planning and practical application of the NOAT system. This has required him to work long hours and at times exercise extreme patience in an endeavour to achieve the aims of the NOAT. His unfailing loyalty to his team members in the NOAT and his high degree of competency in the performance of his tasks has been of paramount importance in the efficient operation of the new techniques used by the NOAT. Captain Sheppard is a credit to himself, the AATTV, and the Australian Army.

J.A. Clark

(J.A. CLARK)
Lt Col
Comd

CITATION

COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FORCES VIETNAM COMMENDATION

CAPTAIN BERNARD FRANCIS McGURGAN

RAE AATTV

Captain McGurgan joined the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) on 25 Mar 70 and has been continuously employed since that date as a battalion senior adviser with 1/51 ARVN Bn. In the early hours of the morning of 11 Jan 70 the battalion to whom Captain McGurgan is attached came under heavy attack which required the active employment of air support. The battle commenced at approximately 0630 hrs and for the next hour and a half, as the battle raged, Captain McGurgan demonstrated courageous and conspicuous gallantry under fire as he calmly and accurately directed massive bombing attacks on the enemy. Due to the heavy forestation it was impossible for the aircraft controller in the air to accurately direct the heavy ordnance in close proximity to the ground troops without assistance from the ground. Captain McGurgan performed this vital and exacting task with outstanding success. He was directly responsible for the accurate position marking of the friendly troops that permitted the supporting aircraft to use sustained machine gun fire to within 15 metres of the friendly troops. In summary Captain McGurgan's actions indicated a show of courage and professionalism of the highest order that bought both credit to his unit and the AATTV.

(J.A. CLARK)
Lt Col
Comd

C I T A T I O N

COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FORCES VIETNAM COMMENDATION

WARRANT OFFICER SECOND CLASS DANIEL BURKE

RA INF AATTV

Warrant Officer Burke joined the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) on 27 Aug 69 and was initially employed as a battalion adviser with the 1st Bn 4th ARVN Regt. His dedication to the tasks involved resulted in Warrant Officer Burke being held in high esteem by both his fellow advisers and Vietnamese counterparts. As a result of his loyality and steadiness the Commander AATTV selected him for the task of administrative warrant officer at AATTV Danang which is the co-ordinating HQ for all movement of both AATTV members and visitors to I Corps Military Region. He has been directly responsible for all travel arrangements, by road and air, for Australians arriving at, or passing through, Danang. This task has required Warrant Officer Burke to deal with a number of civil and service agencies and often required him to work extremely long and late hours. At all times he has been most reliable and has persevered cheerfully despite the many frustrations inherent in his job, thereby gaining the respect of all with whom he has come in contact. Warrant Officer Burke is a credit to himself, the AATTV, and the Australian Army.

(J.A. CLARK)
Lt Col
Comd

C I T A T I O N

COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FORCES VIETNAM COMMENDATION

WARRANT OFFICER SECOND CLASS DAVID THOMAS POWELL

RA INF AATTV

Warrant Officer Powell joined the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) on 29 Oct 69 and has been continuously employed as a battalion adviser with 2nd Bn 1st ARVN Regt I Corps since that date. He has taken part in several important actions particularly in April and May of this year. His steadiness and professional competence in critical situations has made a very real contribution to the successes his battalion has achieved. He has occasionally acted as the battalion Senior Adviser, and has often been the mainstay and guide for officers senior to him but far less capable than himself. He is held in high regard by the Commanding Officer and officers of the battalion which in itself speaks highly of his dedication to his role as an adviser. Warrant Officer Powell by his loyality, maturity and professional dedication to the task, is an outstanding example to the other advisers in the team in the role of adviser. He is a credit to himself, the AATTV, and the Australian Army.

(J.A. CLARK)
Lt Col
Comd

C I T A T I O N

COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FORCES VIETNAM COMMENDATION

WARRANT OFFICER SECOND CLASS OWEN WILLIAM BELL

RAA AATTV

Warrant Officer Bell joined the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam (AATTV) on 27 Aug 69 and was initially deployed as a battalion assistant adviser with 2/2 ARVN Bn in I Corps. He served continuously with the battalion until 7 Jul 70. During his period with the battalion he gained the respect of his fellow advisers and his Vietnamese counterpart as a result of his professional competency and dedication to his role as adviser. He was instrumental in improving the patrol techniques of the battalion in the area in close proximity to the demilitarized zone. In the latter stages of his tour with 2/2 ARVN Bn he was located in various operational areas of responsibility which were regularly subjected to heavy enemy mortar and rocket barrages. By his calm approach and quiet manner he was able to instil an air of confidence in the troops with whom he was working during such attacks. At all times Warrant Officer Bell has proved to be a credit to himself, the AATTV, and the Australian Army.

J A Clark

(J.A. CLARK)
Lt Col
Comd

C I T A T I O N

COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FORCES VIETNAM COMMENDATION

WARRANT OFFICER SECOND CLASS RONALD VICTOR RONEY

RAAMC AATTV

Warrant Officer Roney served in the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) during the period 30 Apr 69 to 30 Apr 70. During his tour he was employed in the exacting task of the medical adviser at the Quang-Tri sector hospital and also performed the secondary duties of administrative warrant officer for AATTV members serving in Quang-Tri Province. He was the only adviser at the hospital and by the application of his detailed professional knowledge he actived a great deal during his tour. He was given full support by the Commander I Corps which is an indication of the acceptance of his advice and capabilities of completing the tasks in hand. During the latter stages of his tour he assisted in the transfer of the province hospital from military to civil control. The efficient transfer of responsibility was achieved as the result of Warrant Officer Roney's efforts. The transfer was completed under the auspices of the Vietnamese Joint Utilization Scheme. His support and assistance to other members of the AATTV was consistant and invaluable to the team. In summary Warrant Officer Roney could be described as an efficient adviser, professional soldier and a valuable "ambassador". He proved to be a credit to himself, the AATTV, and the Australian Army.

J.A. Clark

(J.A. CLARK)
Lt Col
Comd

C I T A T I O N

COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FORCES VIETNAM COMMENDATION
WARRANT OFFICER SECOND CLASS DUNCAN ALFRED STRACHAN
RA INF AATTV

Warrant Officer Strachan joined the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam (AATTV) on 29 Oct 69 and was employed as a battalion adviser with the 1st Bn 2nd ARVN Regt in I Corps. He was wounded in action on the 6 Jan 70 whilst performing the duties of adviser with the battalion. Due to his maturity and extensive background military knowledge derived from service in World War 2, Korea and his more recent operational experience as an adviser he was redeployed to IV Corps on 4 Feb 70 for duty with the Village Defence Advisory Team (VDAT) organization. His quiet and efficient approach to all problems coupled with his background were deciding factors in his success with the VDAT system. With the introduction of the Night Operations Advisory Team (NOAT) he was instrumental in the essential early planning and the subsequent successful deployment of the NOAT. He is a highly respected member of the team due to his complete loyality, maturity, and his dedication to the task in hand. Warrant Officer Strachan is a professional soldier of high repute and by his steadiness and thoughtfulness towards others he is an outstanding example to the more junior members of the army.

(J.A. CLARK)
Lt Col
Comd

IN CONFIDENCE

TELEPHONE

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Quote in Reply
R445/1/1

ADDRESS A Sqn 1 Armd Regt
NUI DAT
24 Jul 70

HQ 1 ATF

COMAFV COMMENDATION - 210370 WO1 A.M. KENDRICK
A SQN SECTION 1 ARMD REGT LAD

1. WO1 Kendrick is the ASM of the A Sqn Section 1 Armd Regt LAD and is responsible for, technical advice on all aspects of repair, maintenance and recovery of all equipments in use by A Sqn 1 Armd Regt, tasking of tradesmen, supply of spares to field elements in conjunction with the OC LAD, administration and discipline of the LAD.

2. WO1 Kendrick has, by his personal example and efforts, achieved the highest possible standard. This has been achieved by his personal dedication, long hours of work, detailed knowledge of the major fighting equipments and a calm and pleasant demeanour.

3. His efforts have enabled A Sqn to meet operational commitments on time and, in addition he has retained a high level of morale and well being within the LAD. His example is a credit to himself, his unit, his Corps and the Australian Army.

(J.A.N. CHIPMAN)
MAJ
OC

IN CONFIDENCE)

R445-1-1

B Sqn 3 Cav Regt
NUI DAT

14 Jul 70

HQ 1 ATF

COMAFV LETTER OF COMMENDATION
42657 SGT B F WILSON RAAC

1. Sgt WILSON has served with B SQUADRON 3 CAVALRY REGIMENT since 1 Oct 69. He has filled the positions of Command Post Sergeant and Orderly Room Sergeant. He took up the latter appointment at very short notice when his predecessor was severely injured in a mine incident.

2. In both appointments Sgt WILSON has acquitted himself in a most creditable manner and has produced a very good result. He has consistently worked long hours. In the latter appointment his diligence was the subject of favourable comment during an Army Audit inspection.

3. His dedication to the task makes him a worthy recipient of the commendation in question.

(M.J. COATES)
Maj
OC

R445-1-1

B Sqn 3 Cav Regt
NUI DAT

14 Jul 70

HQ 1 ATF

COMAFV LETTER OF COMMENDATION
43933 CPL K A PLUMMER RAEME

1. During his eighteen months service in SOUTH VIETNAM Cpl PLUMMER has been employed as a Cpl Vehicle Mechanic and Crew Commander of a Carrier Fitter M113A1 on operational duties.

2. His duties have included Crew Commander's duties, inspection and repair of M113A1 Carriers APC to keep them battleworthy on operations, this being carried out often in isolated areas with minimum facilities whilst at the same time being responsible for numerous recovery duties.

3. During Operation NAPIER 3 Troop B SQN 3 CAV REGT was initially hampered by mechanical breakdowns which restricted its operational readiness. It was largely due to the excellent efforts of Cpl PLUMMER with his ability to quickly assess each problem and rectify it that the troop was made fully roadworthy in the least possible time. His dedication to the task and happy attitude was an inspiration to the whole troop.

(H.J. COATES)
Maj
OC

IN CONFIDENCE

44074 SERGEANT A.J.FLAHERTY

Sergeant FLAHERTY is employed as the Sergeant Cook with C Company, 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, and carries out his catering duties in an above average manner. In addition, Sergeant FLAHERTY, has participated on active patrolling as an infantry soldier on many occasions. His willingness and energetic participation in all aspects of work has been an example, gaining him the sincere respect of every member of his company.

(K.J. O'NEILL)
Lieutenant Colnel
Commanding Officer

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

38352 CORPORAL A.M. GRINTER

During the period from November 1969 to July 1970, Corporal Grinter was employed as a Regimental Signaller attached to B Company, 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Throughout that period he maintained effective communications, at times under difficult operational situations including heavy enemy contacts, mine incidents, DUSTOFF and close air support. On numerous occasions, due to unreliable communications, Corporal Grinter was requested to operate as a relay station on the Battalion Command Net, a demanding task which necessitates long hours of duty and accuracy of transmission. Corporal Grinter, at all times, carried out his duties in an exemplary manner.

(K.J. O'NEILL)
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

1734719 PRIVATE N.J.STEELE

Private STEELE is employed as a machine gunner in B Company, 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. In February 1970, during an operation conducted in the LONG HAI HILLS, Private STEELE's platoon came under heavy RPG and small arms fire from an enemy position. Although an RPG round exploded close to Private STEELE, this did not deter him from deploying his machine gun and directing sustained, accurate fire into the enemy position, killing one enemy and wounding another. During a later operation near XUYEN MOC, whilst moving from a Landing Zone, Private STEELE, on his own initiative, engaged a squad of enemy. His accurate fire inflicted casualties and dispersed the enemy who could have undoubtedly caused casualties to the platoon and damage to helicopters.

(K.J.O'NEILL)
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

5716398 PRIVATE L.T.SMITH

Private SMITH is employed as a rifleman in B Company, 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. In February 1970 during an operation in the LONG HAI HILLS, Private SMITH's platoon contacted an estimated company of enemy. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private SMITH moved forward to the contact area and with skilful use of his M79, disrupted the enemy action which enabled the platoon to gain the initiative and inflict casualties on the enemy. During a later operation near XUYEN MOC the lead scout of a patrol, of which Private SMITH was a member, was wounded by enemy fire. Private SMITH crawled forward under fire and neutralised the enemy with fire from his M79 thus enabling the extraction of the wounded member.

(K.J.O'NEILL)
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

1734962 PRIVATE A.R. FAIRBANKS

Private FAIRBANKS is employed as a machine gunner in B Company 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. On the 26th February 1970, during an operation conducted in the LONG HAI HILLS, his platoon came under heavy RPG and small arms fire from an enemy bunker system. Private FAIRBANKS, by quickly deploying his machine gun forward of the platoon and initiating continuous, accurate fire, enabled the platoon to gain the initiative which resulted in heavy casualties being inflicted on the enemy. Again during the same operation, Private FAIRBANKS' quick action in initiating claymore mines in an ambush killed three Vietcong who were about to fire RPGs into the ambush position. During a more recent operation near BINH BA, Private FAIRBANKS killed two Vietcong who were approaching his patrol position.

(K.J. O'NEILL)
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

IN CONFIDENCE

IN CONFIDENCE

COMMENDATION

1732019 LIEUTENANT MICHAEL ROSS EDDY

1 SPECIAL AIR SERVICE SQUADRON

1732019 Lieutenant Michael Ross Eddy has served as the Operations Officer of the Special Air Service Squadron since 15th October 1969. During the period his devotion to long hours of duty and the meticulous detail with which he organized over three hundred SAS patrols has helped considerably towards the success of those patrols and were a credit to himself and the Service.

18 July 1970

Major
Officer Commanding
1 Special Air Service Squadron

IN CONFIDENCE

COMMENDATION

1200583 CORPORAL DARRYL EDWARD BUNNEY

1 SPECIAL AIR SERVICE SQUADRON

Corporal Darryl Edward Bunney has served as an Operator Radio and Cipher Clerk from 11th September 1969. During this period his outstanding perseverance and attention to detail has ensured that communications between SAS patrols and the Squadron Headquarters have been of the highest order. He is a credit to his unit and the Service.

18 July 1970

Major
Officer Commanding
1 Special Air Service Squadron

IN CONFIDENCE

COMAFV COMMENDATION

235106 Major James John MACFARLANE

Headquarters, 1st Australian Logistic Support Group

Major Macfarlane filled the appointment of DAQMG (Operations) on the Headquarters of the 1st Australian Logistic Support Group for a period of eight months. During this time he displayed ~~great~~ drive, initiative and efficiency to a degree that would not normally be expected of an officer of his seniority. His duties required him to work closely with United States officers who, without exception, held him in very high regard.

(M.B. SIMKIN)
Colonel
Comd 1 ALSG

COMAFV COMMENDATION

213983 WO2 John Malcolm CUNNEEN

Headquarters, 1st Australian Logistic Support Group

Warrant Officer Cunneen served as Chief Clerk, Headquarters 1 ALSG, from 4th March, 1969 to 25 February, 1970. During this time he performed his assigned duties in an exemplary manner. In addition to his assigned duties, he undertook many tasks aimed at improving the morale of his fellow soldiers. The most notable of these tasks was the preparation and production of a daily news sheet for distribution throughout 1 ALSG. The news detail provided and the humorous anecdotes included, made the news sheet a focal point of interest within the formation. He also participated in the administration of sport and regimental institutions on a voluntary basis. Overall, Warrant Officer Cunneen, through a consistently good performance, established himself as a very competent warrant officer and did much to retain the morale of his fellow soldiers at a high level.

(M.B. SIMKIN)
Colonel
Comd 1 ALSG

COMAFV COMMENDATION

29936 S sgt E.A. RICH

Australian Force Vietnam Provost Unit

S sgt Rich has been serving as Quartermaster Sergeant with AFV Pro Unit since 17th December, 1969. He was the first Quartermaster Sergeant posted into the unit, and since his arrival has displayed outstanding qualities of honesty and tenacity of purpose in bringing the unit Q Store and Q Account up to a high standard. He has had considerable amounts of surplus and expensive equipment returned to Ordnance for re-issue to other units. He has personally worked hard and long to obtain very pleasing and improved technical inspection reports on equipment. In addition, S sgt Rich has volunteered to carry out Military Police patrols in the City of Vung Tau on many nights outside his normal rostered duty. His bearing and mature judgement in the city have considerably assisted in maintaining good relationships between military police and troops on leave.

(R.K. GORMAN)
Major OC
AFV Pro Unit

COMAFV COMMENDATION

311387 Sgt A.R. RANYARD

Australian Force Vietnam Provost Unit

Sgt Ranyard worked as Orderly Room Sergeant with AFV Pro Unit for twelve months until his return to Australia on 9th April, 1970. During this period he worked tirelessly to raise the standard of orderly room procedures in the unit. He introduced many new ideas to streamline work and was extremely conscientious in the submission of returns, and caring for the soldiers' rights in regard to R and R, leave and pay matters. He did much for the morale of the unit. In his own time he helped prepare the unit monthly newsletter and was the mainstay in organising two very successful musical evenings in the unit to which large numbers of guests were invited. He was a most loyal and conscientious chief clerk while serving with AFV Pro Unit

(R.K. GORMAN)
Major
OC AFV Pro Unit

COMAFV COMMENDATION

1200126 Sgt F. EDWARDS

Australian Force Vietnam Provost Unit

Sgt Edwards served with AFV Pro Unit on investigation duties from July 1969 to July 1970. During this period he worked tirelessly on a large number of involved and difficult investigations, many of which were brought to a successful conclusion by the recovery of property and the apprehension of wrong doers. His tact and liaison with United States and Vietnamese criminal investigation branches were of the highest order and resulted in very close bonds being forged on the working level with their investigators. In a recent case when confronted with a soldier who was armed with a loaded rifle and was threatening to shoot two investigators, including Sgt Edwards, he displayed coolness and quick thinking in disarming the soldier before he was able to fire the rifle.

(R.K. GORMAN)
Major
OC AFV Pro Unit

COMAFV COMMENDATION

217048 Cpl A.J. ROBERTS

Australian Force Vietnam Provost Unit

Cpl Roberts has been serving with AFV Pro Unit since 28 January 1970. He originally completed a full tour in South Vietnam with 2 SAS Sqn in 1968. Cpl Roberts has been working with the SIB on anti-vice duties continually for the past six months. Under Capt Ramsey's direction he has instituted and supervised a careful programme of checking of the many hundreds of establishments in the city of Vung Tau that cater for servicemen. Following the large scale withdrawal of American Military Policemen, the burden of checking has fallen completely on Cpl Roberts' shoulders. This NCO works consistently all day and for most evenings in his own time in an endeavour to help servicemen while on leave in the City of Vung Tau. His tact, co-operation and help with American and Vietnamese Military Policemen and Vietnamese civil policemen, have been of the highest order.

(R.K. GORMAN)
Major
OC AFV Pro Unit

COMAFV COMMENDATION

3795739 Cpl G.L. UNDERWOOD

Australian Force Vietnam Provost Unit

Cpl Underwood has been serving as orderly room corporal with AFV Pro Unit since January 1970. During this period he has performed his duties in an outstanding and zealous manner. He always displays a good humour and a keen desire to help unit members with their personal problems concerning mail, leave etc, thus assisting in maintaining high morale in the unit. He is the Captain/Coach of the AFV Pro Unit B Grade Volleyball team and has been most successful in maintaining a high standard of good play and sportsmanship with the result that the team is now in the finals of the current 1 ALSG Volleyball competition. Cpl Underwood carries out his military police duties at night in the City of Vung Tau, after working all day in the orderly room, in an exceptional and understanding manner. This young national serviceman is a credit to the Army and to the RAA Pro Corps.

(R.K. GORMAN)
Major
OC AFV Pro Unit

AMM 276