

Member of the Order of British Empire (MBE)

Donal Richard Kenning

31351. Major.
Royal NZ Artillery
161 Battery

NZ Gazette Number 38 dated 23 June 1966

CITATION

Since the arrival in South Vietnam of 161 Field Battery **on 15th July 1965**, commanded by Major Donal Richard Kenning, the unit has spent most of its time as the Direct Support Battery for First Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

During this period Major Kenning has directed a great deal of personal effort and ability towards attaining a very close and harmonious working relationship between the two units. Resulting from this and the proven efficiency of 161 Battery, the Australian infantrymen have complete and unqualified confidence in and respect for their New Zealand gunner associates.

Major Kenning has accompanied the First Battalion on seven operations against the Viet Cong. He has proved to be an outstanding gunner adviser to the Infantry Battalion Commanding Officer. He has shown intelligent anticipation, an unusual understanding of infantry problems and artillery requirements relating to these, and a marked degree of technical proficiency in producing accurate fire whenever and wherever required.

Throughout these operations he has proved to be completely calm under fire, disregarding personal safety in the interests of maintaining effective artillery support.

Through Major Kenning's unflagging personal efforts an outstanding, highly successful and efficient working relationship has been established between Australian infantrymen of First Battalion and New Zealand gunners of 161 Battery. Major Kenning's devotion to duty both in and out of operations and his skill, coolness and courage during operations have brought great credit to his unit and to New Zealand

Signed

Lt. Col.
CO 1 RAR

'Notes to citation by Commander V Force, Vietnam'

Major Donal Richard Kenning, RNZA, graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon on 12 Dec 1950. On 1 Jun 51 he was seconded to K Force and served in 16 Fd. Regt, RNZA on RHQ and as a Tp Comd until his return to NZ in Jan 1953. Since that time he has held numerous staff appointments in New Zealand

and attended the Long Gunnery Staff Course, Larkhill from Jan 1960 to Mar 1961.

On 31 May 1965 Maj Kenning was appointed as the first Battery Commander for 161 Bty, RNZA posted for duty in South Vietnam. After organising and training the Battery in New Zealand he arrived in South Vietnam on 15 Jul 1965.

As a result of Maj Kenning's professional skills, his untiring effort and outstanding leadership under often trying conditions, 161 Battery rapidly assimilated new skills and techniques which have enabled it to operate with distinction in close cooperation with Australian and United States forces.

R H Smith OBE
Lieutenant Colonel
Commander, HQ NZ V FORCE
Saigon
Republic of South Vietnam

[See also awards from Republic of South Vietnam for: Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and from USA for: US Air Medal]