

United States Legion of Merit (Officer)

Robertson Harvey Smith

30221. Lieutenant Colonel
NZ Army
Headquarters, NZ V Force

Date of Award: 1969

CITATION

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 20, 1942, has awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) to

COLONEL ROBERTSON H. SMITH
NEW ZEALAND ARMY

for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

Colonel Robertson H. Smith, New Zealand Army, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service in operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period August 1966 to August 1968, while serving as Commander, New Zealand Army Force, Vietnam.

Under the superior leadership of Colonel Smith, a large increase in the size of the New Zealand Force, Vietnam was accomplished smoothly and rapidly. As a result of Colonel Smith's sound judgement and superior leadership the increased combat forces of the New Zealand Army quickly assumed a combat operational posture.

Through his diligent personal effort and close cooperation with the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam and Free World Military Assistance Office staffs, he aided materially in the renegotiation and subsequent completion of the revised Military Working Arrangement between Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam and the New Zealand Government. Colonel Smith developed a close rapport and excellent personal working relationships with his Free World counterparts, which facilitated the accomplishment of the New Zealand Force mission.

Colonel Smith's accomplishments were in keeping with the highest tradition of the New Zealand Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Government of New Zealand.