

British Empire Medal (BEM)

John Thomas Bennett

36687. Warrant Officer Second Class.
Royal NZ Engineers
198 Works Section

NZ Gazette Number 37 dated 25 June 1970 (*QB Honours June 1970*)

CITATION

Temporary Warrant Officer Bennett served with the Royal New Zealand Air Force from 1942 until 1945. He enlisted in the New Zealand Regular Force on 15 September 1952 with the rank of Sapper and was posted to Southern District Construction Troop as a Carpenter. He progressed through the ranks and as a Sergeant and Staff Sergeant was Foreman on various works projects in Southern Military District. During this period he also carried out training with 2nd Works Section Royal New Zealand Engineers as a Foreman of Works Construction.

In November 1967 he was posted to the Logistic Support Element of New Zealand V Force in South Vietnam for three months where as Foreman of Works he was responsible for the construction of base facilities. By his drive, energy and understanding he was responsible for the early and successful completion of a major construction task.

Warrant Officer Bennett was again posted to South Vietnam **in December 1969** and attached to Detachment 198 Works Section Royal Australian Engineers where as Assistant Clerk of Works he was able to devote his wide experience to the maintenance of Australian and New Zealand base facilities.

During his service he has displayed the qualities required of a career soldier. His loyalty, drive and initiative during his period in South Vietnam and latterly as Construction Supervisor have produced an excellent works organisation within Southern District Construction Troop. He has worked long hours to improve his knowledge of construction and to ensure the smooth functioning of projects.

Although a married man with children he cheerfully undertook to return to South Vietnam for a second tour of unaccompanied duty, which is typical of his sense of duty and responsibility.

Warrant Officer Bennett has served his country well and has brought credit both on himself and the Royal New Zealand Engineers.