

Mention in Despatches (m.i.d.)

Kevin Patrick Murphy

30710. Captain.
Royal NZ Artillery
161 Battery

NZ Gazette Number 5 dated 1 February 1968

Citation

Captain Murphy entered Royal Military College; Duntroon in January 1959 and on his graduation in December 1962 was commissioned as a Lieutenant. He served with the National Service Training Unit, Waiouru until November 1963 when he was posted to 16 Field Regiment as a Section Commander. Subsequently he assumed the appointment of Quartermaster.

In June 1965 Captain Murphy was posted to 161 Battery which departed for service in Vietnam in July 1965. He held successively the appointments of Section Commander and Gun Position Officer. At present he is serving as an Observation Post Officer in this Battery.

On the 25th July 1966¹, Captain Murphy was acting as the Artillery Observation Officer with 'B' Company 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment on a Battalion search and destroy operation in the Phuoc Tuy Province of South Vietnam near Long Tan. At approximately 1400 hrs 'B' Coy was engaged with small arms fire, automatic and mortar by an estimated Viet Cong Company attacking the 'B' Company area through dense bamboo and jungle cover.

Early in the attack a mortar round landed near Captain Murphy, wounding him in the head and two of his FOO party. Although wounded and still under fire Captain Murphy remained at his position and calmly continued to request and direct artillery fire onto the attacking Viet Cong. This artillery fire inflicted heavy casualties on the Viet Cong and was largely instrumental in breaking up their attack, causing them to break contact and withdraw. Captain Murphy remained with 'B' Company and continued on the operation for a further four days.

Throughout the operation Captain Murphy displayed qualities of courage and calmness under fire of the highest order. His gallantry and devotion to duty served as an outstanding example to all troops in the area.

¹ 25/7/66 Capt Murphy KP, WIA; Gnr Edwards RG, WIA, LBdr Collins PP, WIA.