

Officer of the Order of British Empire (OBE)

Robertson Harvey Smith

30221. Colonel.

NZ Army

Headquarters, NZ V Force

NZ Gazette Number 37 dated 25 June 1970

CITATION

Colonel Smith graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon on 12 December 1944 and was appointed to a Regular Commission in the Royal New Zealand Artillery in the rank of Lieutenant. He served as an Artillery Instructor in New Zealand until 1946 when he was posted for duty with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan.

Returning to New Zealand in 1948 Colonel Smith was appointed Adjutant of 15th Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment RNZA. In 1951 he relinquished this appointment and was posted as the New Zealand Instructor at the Royal Military College Duntroon. This appointment was followed by attendance at a Long Gunnery Staff Course in the United Kingdom from October 1954 to December 1955. On returning to New Zealand Colonel Smith was appointed Chief Instructor of the School of Artillery. In 1957 he became Brigade Major Royal Artillery until appointed Staff officer Artillery at Army Headquarters in 1959.

From 1961 to 1963 Colonel Smith served with the New Zealand Infantry Battalion in Malaysia as a Company Commander. On his return to New Zealand he held various administrative appointments until appointed Commandant Papakura Camp in 1964.

Colonel Smith attended the United States Armed Forces Staff College in 1966 and **in August 1966** was appointed Commander New Zealand V Force in Saigon.

During his tour in South Vietnam, New Zealand V Force grew from an Artillery Battery until eventually a large element of New Zealand's overseas Army was under his command there. The variety and tempo of tasks he was called to undertake would have taxed the abilities of most officers under normal conditions. Colonel Smith by friendly liaison with United States, Australian and Vietnamese officers and officials, and the well-earned loyalty of New Zealand servicemen in Vietnam, successfully coped with his task in the stimulating environment of Saigon and Vietnam for two years until August 1968. To a large extent it was Colonel Smith's efficient, cheerful and enthusiastic dedication to duty which kept New Zealand V Force operating so successfully. His outstanding service in Vietnam brought credit to the New Zealand Army, and New Zealand as a whole.

The Vietnam List – NZ in Vietnam 1964-75

[See also award from USA for: Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer).]