

Text of Citation for award of Military Cross
to Major Edward A Chitham

Major Edward Chitham was commissioned on 10th December 1958. After a number of regimental and training appointments he was posted to 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 15th January 1968 as Officer Commanding B Company. He arrived in South Vietnam on 20th November 1968.

Since arriving in South Vietnam, Major Chitham has commanded his company with great distinction in a number of very successful operations against the enemy.

During January and early February 1969, B Company was operating in an area where there were several enemy camps and supply routes. By his skilful handling of his command Major Chitham captured the camps and forced the enemy to withdraw, leaving behind large quantities of arms, ammunition and supplies, including three 82 millimetre mortars and the medical supplies for a field hospital. His aggressive action throughout the period resulted in at least 35 enemy casualties, including four captured.

At 0420 hours on 23th February 1969, in response to a call for assistance from the Chief of Phuoc Thy Province, Major Chitham led his company against a large enemy force which was attacking a compound manned by local forces in the province capital, Baria. This speedy and well-coordinated counter attack surprised and routed the enemy completely, inflicting several casualties without loss to B Company. The enemy left behind all the weapons that they had captured from the compound, as well as many of their own weapons.

In these and other operations, Major Chitham's calm and resolute handling of his company together with his initiative and aggression have been major factors in the successes attending B Company's actions. His outstanding leadership has been an inspiration to all and has won the respect of both South Vietnamese and Australian forces.