

Text of Citation for award of Military Medal
to Private Douglas J. Cromb

Private Douglas Cromb enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement (National Service) on 7th February, 1968. On the completion of his recruit training at 2nd Recruit Training Battalion he was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry. He was posted on 16th April, 1968 to 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and arrived in South Vietnam with the battalion on 20th November, 1968.

On 5th January, 1969, Private Cromb was forward scout of the leading section of 10 Platoon, D Company, 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. At 1220 hours he sighted, engaged and wounded an enemy soldier. The platoon was immediately engaged by rocket and automatic fire from well-camouflaged bunkers and Private Cromb was caught in an area with very limited cover.

Over a period of nearly three hours, he engaged the enemy with his rifle and grenade launcher, drawing rocket and automatic small arms fire on his position. His actions covered the successful evacuation of six of his comrades who had been wounded in the contact and the deployment of 11 Platoon which moved to a flank to support 10 Platoon. Only after the casualties had been safely withdrawn and 11 Platoon was in its position did Private Cromb draw back from his exposed position to relative safety with the remainder of his platoon.

Private Cromb's alertness in detecting the enemy and his subsequent engagement of the enemy in their well-prepared bunkers, without regard for his own personal safety, undoubtedly saved his platoon from sustaining further casualties and assisted 11 Platoon to deploy to a position from which the enemy could be engaged. The outstanding bravery that he displayed throughout the action reflects the greatest credit on himself and accords with the highest standards of the Australian Army.