

Text Citation for award of Military Medal
to Lance Corporal Trevor R. Whitton

Lance Corporal Trevor Whitton enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 24th July, 1967 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry. He was posted to 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 2nd February, 1968 and arrived in South Vietnam with the battalion on 20th November, 1968.

On 24th January, 1969, Lance Corporal Whitton was commanding the leading section of 12 Platoon, D Company, 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment when the platoon came upon a well-concealed and occupied enemy camp. The enemy opened fire at a range of 15 metres with claymores, rockets and automatic small arms fire. The forward scout was wounded in the first exchange of fire and was unable to withdraw despite the covering fire provided by the second scout and other members of the section.

Lance Corporal Whitton ordered his machine gun group and second scout to give covering fire and moved to the forward scout. He was unable to drag the wounded scout to safety but as the scout was able to crawl despite his wounds, he remained in the exposed forward position and covered the slow movement of the forward scout to safety. Only when the wounded man was back with the remainder of the section did Lance Corporal Whitton withdraw.

He then continued to direct the fire of his section against the enemy until he was ordered to withdraw. His command and control of the section, despite sustained enemy fire, was so competent and effective that the withdrawal was carried out without further casualties.

Throughout the action, Lance Corporal Whitton displayed the highest degree of leadership and personal courage. His bravery in covering the withdrawal of the wounded man, whilst continually exposed to hostile fire, reflected great credit on himself and the Australian Army