

Text of Citation for award of Mentioned-in-Despatches  
to Major Lawrence J. Lewis

Major Lawrence Lewis was commissioned on 13th December, 1952, and after a number of regimental and instructional appointments was posted to 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 2nd December 1967 as Officer Commanding C Company. He arrived in South Vietnam on 5th November 1968.

Since arriving in South Vietnam, Major Lewis has commanded his company with distinction. He has conducted successful operations against the enemy and effectively trained and worked with a unit of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

During February and March, 1969 Major Lewis conducted many well-planned ambushes which resulted in the elimination of at least twenty enemy and the wounding of several more. On 14th February, C Company located an occupied bunker system. By the judicious handling of his command and the bold use of fire support, he inflicted at least four casualties on the enemy and forced them to withdraw, abandoning equipment and documents.

On 24th February, 1969, C Company located an enemy occupied rocket and mortar base location from which the enemy could fire on the United States military installation at Long Binh.. Major Lewis deployed his company and aggressively assaulted the enemy position. He drove the enemy out of the area and forced them to leave behind large quantities of rockets and mortar bombs.

During May, June and July, 1969, Major Lewis was responsible for retraining a Vietnamese battalion. He spread elements of his company throughout the Vietnamese battalion to buildup teamwork, friendship and mutual respect. The results he achieved by his careful planning, tact and leadership were outstanding - consequently the efficiency in combat of this Vietnamese battalion has improved enormously.

On every occasion Major Lewis has always displayed cool and resolute leadership of the highest order. His conduct of operations and his thoroughness in every task he undertakes, reflects great credit on himself and the Australian Army.