

Text of Citation for award of Mentioned-in-Despatches
to Major William McDonald

Major William McDonald was commissioned on 9th December, 1959. After a number of regimental and training appointments he was posted to 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 12th December, 1967 as Officer Commanding D Company: He arrived in South Vietnam on 20th November, 1968

During his service in South Vietnam, Major McDonald has commanded D Company and subsequently A Company with distinction. He has been aggressive in all contacts with the enemy and inflicted many casualties. He has forced the enemy to abandon caches and camps containing large quantities of arms, ammunition, supplies and documents.

In August 1969, his company was ordered to prevent the enemy using approaches to villages in the southern portion of Phuoc Tuy Province. The area was infested with enemy laid mines. Throughout this hazardous operation, he handled the resources under his command so competently that he was able to achieve the task, and, at the same time, locate all the mines laid by the enemy in his area of responsibility without sustaining any casualties to his force.

On 26th October, 1969, one of his platoons was engaged by enemy occupying a base camp. Major McDonald immediately moved his company to assault the camp from a flank. He used artillery and air fire support skillfully to cover his deployment and by vigorous action fought his way to within three metres of the leading enemy bunkers. At this time it was recognised that the enemy strength was approximately a battalion. He was determined to get a foothold on the camp when one supporting aircraft was shot down by enemy ground fire, and all fire support for his assault was forced to stop while the aircraft was located and the crew rescued. Major McDonald consolidated his position on the edge of the camp and forced the larger enemy force to withdraw. The personal leadership he displayed was outstanding.

The success attending these and other operations has been due in large measure to Major McDonald's highly professional and resolute handling of his command. His outstanding leadership has won the greatest respect of all who served with him.