



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
6 July 2022

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following awards:

COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

Australian Army

Major Alan MULL

For acts of gallantry in action following capture by the Imperial Japanese Army on 15 February 1942 until his execution as a result of an escape attempt on 10 March 1943.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC)

Australian Army

Colonel John Howard KEMP AM (Retd)

For distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations of 1st Field Squadron Group Vietnam between 1 November 1967 and 12 November 1968.

By His Excellency's command

Paul Singer MVO

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

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Australian Army

Major Alan MULL

For acts of gallantry in action following capture by the Imperial Japanese Army on 15 February 1942 until his execution as a result of an escape attempt on 10 March 1943.

Major Alan Mull of Headquarters Australian 8th Division, Australian Army Service Corps became a prisoner of war when the allied force surrendered Singapore to the Imperial Japanese Army on 15 February 1942. On 12 February 1943, Major Mull and two other Australian prisoners of war escaped from 14 Kilo Camp at Thetkaw, Burma. After about nine days one of the escape party fell ill and was recaptured. Major Mull and the other man reached approximately 100 miles to the north where they were caught by Burmese police on the Salween River. On 10 March 1943, Major Mull was shot and killed resisting recapture.

AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC)

Australian Army

Colonel John Howard KEMP AM (Retd)

For distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations of 1st Field Squadron Group Vietnam between 1 November 1967 and 12 November 1968.

Colonel John Kemp graduated from the Royal Military College in December 1957 and has served in regional and engineering staff appointments in Australia. He arrived in South Vietnam in November 1967 and was appointed to command 1st Field Squadron.

From the time of his arrival, Colonel Kemp and his unit participated in every major action fought by the 1st Australian Task Force. During these actions, Colonel Kemp was responsible for the planning and direction of many hazardous engineering tasks, including the breaching of mine fields and the destruction of enemy fortifications and tunnel systems. In addition, Colonel Kemp successfully planned and supervised extensive land clearing operations within the task force area of responsibility.

At all times, Colonel Kemp displayed a high standard of engineering ability and considerable drive in the management of many tasks undertaken by his unit. On many occasions, he exposed himself to danger during reconnaissance and supervision of these engineering tasks.

By his able leadership and outstanding example of devotion to duty, Colonel Kemp instilled into his unit a high morale and a fine attitude of service.

Colonel Kemp's leadership, devotion to duty and professional ability reflect great credit upon himself and the Australian Army.