



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
19 July 2023

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

MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

Australian Army

Major (then Lieutenant) Mark Augustine MOLONEY (Retd)

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as the platoon commander 8 Platoon, Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment at Bien Hoa Province on 7 February 1968.

By His Excellency's command

Paul Singer MVO

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

Australian Army

Major (then Lieutenant) Mark Augustine MOLONEY (Retd)

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as the platoon commander 8 Platoon, Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment at Bien Hoa Province on 7 February 1968.

On 7 February 1968 the forward elements of (then) Lieutenant Moloney's platoon observed five enemy in the vicinity of a camp. He deployed his platoon and engaged the enemy. The platoon immediately came under heavy small arms fire from three machine guns. It soon became evident that he had engaged a numerically superior force in a well-fortified position.

He continued with his attack and destroyed one bunker before being forced to take cover. To aid in the withdrawal of his platoon, he directed artillery, mortars and airstrikes onto the enemy positions. He remained in location giving covering fire until his platoon was clear of the heavy small arms fire.

In the subsequent company level attack, he was the lead platoon and once again his platoon came under concentrated machine gun and rifle fire causing four casualties. He evacuated his casualties and continued to lead the attack on the well defended position.

As the attack started to stall he ran forward, throwing two grenades into the enemy bunkers only to see them bounce off harmlessly. He once again whilst under fire, collected a number of M72 Anti-Tank rockets from members of his platoon and attempted to silence the bunkers. When this failed, he again crawled forward with a M79 grenade launcher and was finally able to silence the enemy machine gun allowing the attack to continue and the Company to regain the initiative.

Throughout the day he displayed individual gallantry and inspirational leadership against well defended and heavily armed enemy. He personally led assaults against four more bunkers and, although wounded by enemy rocket fragmentation, he refused to be evacuated. With complete disregard for his own safety and well-being, he continued to gallantly lead his platoon whilst under heavy and accurate fire.

His gallant actions whilst under fire were instrumental in destroying the bunker complex, routing the enemy and preventing further Australian casualties. His actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.