



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
18 July 2023

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

MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

Australian Army

Mr (then Sapper) Murray Clarke WALKER

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances in Vietnam on 18 February and 22 March 1968.

By His Excellency's command

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Singer'.

Paul Singer MVO

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

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Mr (then Sapper) Murray Walker enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement (National Service) on 19 April 1967, and was allotted to the Royal Australian Engineers. He joined 1st Field Squadron on his arrival in South Vietnam on 27 November 1967.

On the night of 17 February 1968, during Operation COBURG, Mr Walker was a member of a standing patrol guarding an approach 400 metres out from the Australian fire support base. During the night the base was heavily attacked resulting in seven of the ten men in the patrol being killed or wounded, including the patrol commander by a mortar round. The patrol radio was destroyed so no contact could be made with the base. He took command and realised that two men were badly wounded and in urgent need of medical help. He then returned to the base knowing full well that he ran the risk of being taken for one of the assaulting enemy force or come into contact with the enemy who were attacking the base. When he came within 100 metres of the base he called out for permission to enter, but was repeatedly fired upon by friendly forces in the base who were unaware there were men outside the wire. Despite the hazards involved he successfully managed to enter the base and led a party back in the dark to bring in the casualties.

On 22 March 1968 during Operation PINNAROO, Mr Walker was attached to the 7th Platoon, C Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, when the Platoon suffered several casualties as a result of a mine explosion. He immediately started clearing a narrow path to the wounded men. An infantry soldier was following very closely behind him to give covering fire when he trod on a mine, was killed, and also wounding two other men behind him. He was thrown forward onto a fallen tree by the blast. The clothing and equipment of one of the casualties caught fire which threatened to ignite the ammunition and explosives he was carrying. Without thought for his own safety he made his way to the casualty. Using a fire extinguisher lowered from a helicopter and water from his water bottles, he extinguished the blaze. He then worked on mine clearing for a further four hours to enable the platoon to return to base without further casualties.

In these actions Mr Walker's courage and dedication to duty bought great credit to himself, his unit and the Corp of Royal Australian Engineers.