



Government House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

2 September 2024

## Gallantry Decorations

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following Gallantry Decorations:

### MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

#### **Warrant Officer Class Two Ronald James SWANTON**

For gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 13 November 1965 during a battle in the Tra Bong valley of Vietnam as an assistant advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

#### **Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Arthur WHEATLEY VC**

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 28 May and 18 August 1965 as an advisor and assistant advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

### COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

#### **Warrant Officer John William KINDER**

For acts of gallantry in action while a prisoner of war in British North Borneo during World War Two.

By Her Excellency's command

#### **Gerard Martin PSM**

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

## **MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)**

### **Warrant Officer Class Two Ronald James SWANTON**

For gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 13 November 1965 during a battle in the Tra Bong valley of Vietnam as an assistant advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

During an intense battle with the enemy in the Tra Bong valley of Vietnam, Warrant Officer Swanton demonstrated gallantry in exposing himself to enemy fire on 13 November 1965 to save a Vietnamese Civil Irregular Defense Group soldier during a battle. As a result of his courageous decision to expose himself to hostile fire in an effort to save a wounded soldier, he lost his life. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

### **Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Arthur WHEATLEY VC**

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 28 May and 18 August 1965 as an advisor and assistant advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

On 28 May 1965 during an intense battle with the enemy in the Qang Tri Province of Vietnam, Warrant Officer Wheatley demonstrated gallantry in exposing himself to enemy fire in order to save a civilian child sheltering with the Command Post. Warrant Officer Wheatley again demonstrated gallantry on 18 August 1965 when he led a charge up a slope in pursuit of the enemy whilst under attack. As a result of his courageous pursuit of the enemy, his Battalion was able to continue its assault and successfully routed the enemy at the site. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

## **COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY**

### **Warrant Officer John William KINDER**

For acts of gallantry in action while a prisoner of war in British North Borneo during World War Two.

Warrant Officer Kinder's gallantry, leadership and courage under extreme conditions enhanced and likely saved the lives of many prisoners of war in British North Borneo during World War Two. Despite the brutality of the guards, and the very real risk of injury or death to himself, Warrant Officer Kinder continually defended and advocated for his men. Surviving the 'Sandakan death march' and helping his fellow prisoners to reach Ranua, Warrant Officer Kinder died in the camp from diseases on 10 June 1945. The acts of gallantry in action displayed by Warrant Officer Kinder are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.