

AWARD OF A MENTION-IN- DESPACHESFOR216372 SERGEANT GARY JOHN CHAD

Sergeant Gary Chad enlisted in the Australian Army on 22nd April 1965, and was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. He joined the 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in March 1970, and arrived in South Vietnam for service with the Battalion on 1st May 1971.

On 29th July 1971, in Phuoc Tuy Province, Sergeant Chad's platoon made contact with the 1st Battalion, 274 Regiment, in a heavily defended bunker system. The leading elements of the platoon, including the platoon commander, were pinned down in a deep re-entrant by a heavy volume of machine gun fire, rocket propelled grenades and directional mines.

Sergeant Chad immediately deployed the remainder of the platoon and directed fire onto the enemy positions. He then moved forward into an exposed position to engage the enemy with rifle grenades and in doing so, was wounded. Despite his wound he continued to direct his fire with such accuracy that the forward elements of the platoon were able to withdraw with only light casualties.

When his platoon commander had safely rejoined the mainbody and commenced to redeploy the platoon, Sergeant Chad assisted by skilfully directing artillery fire to within 50 metres of the platoon, thereby preventing an enemy counter attack.

Sergeant Chad's aggressiveness, quick reactions and professional skill undoubtedly saved many lives and regained the initiative. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army.

