

THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY DECORATION (N.Z.G.D.)

Logan Charles CUDBY (J92445) **Squadron Leader, Royal New Zealand Air Force**

Date of action: June – September 1999

Date of award: 5 June 2000

Citation

Squadron Leader Cudby, between June and September 1999, served with the United Nations Mission to East Timor (UNAMET). Initially, he was posted to the Liquica region. In two separate incidents, unarmed United Nations' convoys led by Squadron Leader Cudby came under sustained fire from militia forces. On both occasions, he successfully negotiated for the convoys to continue to their destinations. By September, all remaining United Nations staff with a large number of refugees were confined to the UNAMET compound in Dili. Unarmed patrols were being sent out to monitor the situation, as well as bring back supplies from a warehouse near the port, several kilometres from the compound. Squadron Leader Cudby willingly organised and led a number of these patrols. They were subjected to considerable intimidation by rampant bands of militia and sometimes fired upon. One such patrol to the wharf area was stopped by militia, weapons were pointed at the heads of United Nations staff and rounds fired above them. Displaying considerable courage, tact and presence of mind, Squadron Leader Cudby was able to negotiate the safe return of the patrol to the UNAMET compound. His actions over a three-month period in an atmosphere of almost constant danger provided an excellent example and role model to other United Nations personnel.