

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

David John DUNCAN **Sergeant, Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps**

Date of action: 4 August 2012

Date of award: 3 December 2015

Citation

On 4 August 2012, KIWI Company of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team were tasked with assisting a unit of the Afghan National Directorate of Security near the village of Baghak. Shortly after midday nine of the company's vehicles, spread out over 400 metres on a narrow road, came under heavy small arms fire from concealed insurgent positions on the high ground on both sides of the road. Sergeant David Duncan was in command of a Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) that was part of a separate three-vehicle patrol positioned to the south of the vehicles which had come under attack.

As the battle with the insurgent forces intensified and KIWI Company sustained a number of casualties, the three patrol vehicles moved north to assist. Approaching the contact site, the lead vehicle of Sergeant Duncan's patrol came under heavy fire from high ground to the north-east and west of their position. As the lead vehicle came to a halt, Sergeant Duncan noticed a New Zealand soldier lying on the road in front of it exposed to insurgent fire. Unable to get past the lead vehicle due to the narrow road, he manoeuvred his LAV behind it approximately 20 metres from the casualty. He dismounted his vehicle and ran forward alone and exposed to enemy fire from both sides of the road to assist. Reaching the casualty, who had sustained a serious gunshot wound to the lower abdomen, Sergeant Duncan dragged him back across the open ground until he reached the rear of the lead patrol vehicle, where he handed the casualty over to the Company's Nursing Officer for treatment. Sergeant Duncan then received a gunshot wound to his right leg as returned to his original vehicle.

Sergeant Duncan's exceptional gallantry in crossing open ground exposed to enemy fire enabled a seriously wounded soldier to receive the medical treatment that saved his life. His actions were in the finest traditions of the New Zealand Army.