

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

**John Charles DYER (P49877)**

**Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery**

Date of action: 6 January 1999

Date of award: 5 June 2000

### *Citation*

Lieutenant Colonel Dyer, on 6 January 1999, was serving in Sierra Leone with the United Nations Mission when rebel forces attacked Freetown, evading strongpoints in the city which were being guarded by the Nigerian-led Intervention Force (ECOMOG). The evacuation of all remaining United Nations personnel from the country was then ordered. By this stage, United Nations vehicles had become targets for both the rebels and frightened ECOMOG soldiers. Nevertheless, Lieutenant Colonel Dyer traversed Freetown to ensure that all United Nations personnel were accounted for. This task became more dangerous as the day progressed and at one point, during the rescue of a group of military observers, Lieutenant Colonel Dyer and his vehicles came under fire from tense ECOMOG personnel. At all times, Lieutenant Colonel Dyer remained calm and in control displaying a considerable presence of mind and disregard for danger in an extremely stressful situation. Through his personal courage and an accurate appreciation of a changing and volatile situation, Lieutenant Colonel Dyer was able to accomplish the successful evacuation of one hundred and twenty military and civilian United Nations personnel from Sierra Leone.