

**THE NEW ZEALAND GALANTRY STAR (N.Z.G.S.)**

**James PENNELL**

**Sergeant 1 New Zealand Special Air Service Regiment**

Date of action: June 2011

Date of award: 9 December 2014

*Citation*

Sergeant Pennell attended an incident in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2011. Sergeant Pennell demonstrated outstanding gallantry and leadership under heavy fire from a determined enemy, contributing to the resolution of the incident and the protection of comrades and civilian life. Sergeant Pennell's performance was of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of New Zealand's military record.

Note: For security reasons relating to the New Zealand Defence Force, the identity of this recipient of the New Zealand Gallantry Star, and details of the action for which it was awarded, were not made public until 2024, when he published a book about his time in the service.