

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD <small>(AR 672-5-1)</small>		PREPARE TO REACH APPROVING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE.		DATE 14 Feb 68
FROM: (Unit) Commanding Officer 191st Aslt Hel Co APO 96370		TO: Commanding Officer 17th Cbt Avn Gp APO 96266		
PART I - STATUS AT TIME OF RECOMMENDATION				
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME	2. SERVICE NO.	3. GRADE	4. BRANCH (Or MOS (I WO))	
SHEDDICK, James Patrick	210273	WO1	Infantry	
5. ORGANIZATION				
7th Bn, Royal Australian Regiment				
6. RESIDENCE (Number, Street, City, and State)	10 Melbourne Ave, Glenroy, Vic 3046, Australia			
7. RECOMMENDED AWARD	9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN			
Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)	Mrs D. J. Sheddick (Wife) AS ABOVE (5)			
PART II - STATUS AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE				
10. SERVICE NUMBER	11. GRADE	12. BRANCH (Or MOS (I WO))		13. ORGANIZATION
210273	WO1	Infantry		7th Bn, RAR TDY to 191st AHC
14. HAS ALL SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS ACT OR SERVICE (If not, summarize on reverse side.)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO				
15. IF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS ACT OR SERVICE, INDICATE TYPE OF AWARD RECOMMENDED, BY WHOM, WHEN, ACTION TAKEN, AND HEADQUARTERS				
N/A				
16. OTHER U. S. DECORATIONS RECEIVED (Include date and authority) (Do not list service medals; list foreign decorations only when same period as this recommendation.)				
None				
17. DID YOU HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACT OR SERVICE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO				
PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM				
18. WERE YOU AN EYE WITNESS TO THE ACT				
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO N/A				
19. IF CERTIFICATES OR AFFIDAVITS OR EYE WITNESSES OR PERSONS HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS ARE NOT INCLUDED, GIVE REASONS				
N/A				
20. PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OR WHO ASSISTED IN ACT OR SHARED IN SAME HAZARD				
FULL NAME		a. SERVICE NO.	c. GRADE	d. UNIT
MILLER, Larry G		W3154219	OW2	191st Aslt Hel Co
McKee, Edwin P		W3155084	WO1	191st Aslt Hel Co
KRAEMER, August III		RA15894156	SFS	191st Aslt Hel Co
21. IF ANY OF ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR HEROISM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACT, GIVE NAME AND TYPE OF AWARD				
N/A				
CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED				
a. LOCATION	b. INCLUSIVE DATES		c. TIME OF DAY	
Northeast of Tan Tru apr	25 January 1968		0700 - 2230	
d. CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND WEATHER				
Open rice paddies with scattered huts on west-northwest and northeast side of the LZ. A wooded area on the east side of the LZ with numerous bunkers. The LZ was appr 200 meters long and about 100 meters wide. The weather was clear until about 1900 hours when darkness brought several clouds although high in the sky.				
22. DESCRIBE ENEMY CONDITIONS (Morale, Proximity, Fire, Observation, Casualties, and Action; what the enemy was doing and what it did as the result of the act.)				
The enemy had heavy bunker emplacements, only in the wooded area. The ground forces had swept the area earlier in the day but did not sight any VC. Upon an attempted extraction, the VC opened fire on the helicopters with automatic weapons from the bunkers and from the numerous huts on the west sides of the LZ. Later it was discovered that one aircraft had taken hits with recoilless rifle fire.				

24. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES AND MISSION: INDICATE WHAT THE UNIT WAS DOING AT TIME OF ACT

Helicopters inserted a company of ARVN troops into an LZ. They had swept the area and found nothing. Upon attempted extraction the enemy made contact and the gunships suppressed the area where the fire was coming from. The helicopter crews sustained 12 A/C hit, 5 downed, and no casualties, while the ARVN's, several WIA.

25. WHAT WERE COMRADES WHO WERE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY DOING - HOW DID THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACT
In-ship was making a right orbit. Crew chief would fire only when the ship main-ained a level attitude. Pilot and co-pilot took turns delivering gunship ordnance on enemy positions. Wing aircraft covered the lead ship.

PART IV - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

26. UNIT, HEADQUARTERS, OR SECTION IN WHICH DUTY WAS PERFORMED

N/A

27. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED

N/A

29. NOW IN SAME OR RELATED ASSIGNMENT

NO TO BE REASSIGNED ON OR ABOUT
 TO BE RETIRED ON OR ABOUT
 TO BE RELIEVED FROM AD ON OR ABOUT

28. SERVICE COMPLETED YES

N/A

PART V - TO BE USED FOR ALL RECOMMENDATIONS

30. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF DEED OR ACT ACHIEVEMENT PERFORMED OR SERVICE RENDERED

FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM: WAS ACT VOLUNTARY? DESCRIBE WHY ACT WAS OUTSTANDING AND IF IT WAS MORE THAN WAS NORMALLY EXPECTED. EXPLAIN HOW, IF IN AERIAL FLIGHT, DESCRIBE TYPE AND POSITION OF AIRPLANE, CREW POSITION OF INDIVIDUAL, AND ALL UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

~~FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE: THIS IS NOT TO BE USED FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE DURING A PERIOD FOR WHICH A MEMBER IS COMPLETELY UNAVAILABLE TO DUTY. THIS AWARD IS FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE PERFORMED WHILE ON DUTY. THIS AWARD IS NOT TO BE USED FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE PERFORMED WHILE ON DUTY. THIS AWARD IS NOT TO BE USED FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE PERFORMED WHILE ON DUTY.~~
Warrant Officer James Patrick Sheddick, 210273, 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, displayed heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty on 25 January 1968. WO Sheddick distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as a gunner on a UH1C armed helicopter engaged in gunship cover of insertion and extraction operations near Tan Tru, Republic of Vietnam. WO Sheddick is an outstanding Australian Warrant Officer who volunteered to fly as door gunner in the gun platoon of the 191st Assault Helicopter Company, instead of taking an in-country R&R. WO Sheddick had never flown as a door gunner before, but he voluntarily attended a briefing presented by the experienced gunners and quickly learned his combat duties. When his aircraft approached enemy targets, he placed devastating and accurate fire on the enemy positions while his aircraft was receiving extremely intense enemy automatic weapons fire. Despite his lack of experience, WO Sheddick continuously, on at least 25 passes through hostile enemy fire, delivered accurate suppressive fires, and used extremely good judgment in placing his fire on the most dangerous areas. On several passes, WO Sheddick, standing out on the skids, placed fire behind the aircraft on the breaks. His actions reduced considerably the volume of fire coming from hostile positions and reduced the number of hits his aircraft

31. DESCRIBE EFFECTS OR RESULTS

At least two VC killed directly by gunships, many wounded, and several pinned down for the ground troops. The ground troops were extracted under fire.

32. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED

33. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD FOR PRESENTATION TO

Commanding Officer, 191st Assault Helicopter Co
APO 96370

34. INCLOSURES (Include proposed citation, sketches, and eye witness statements when required.)

35. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH, AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION

1. Proposed citation
2. Eyewitness statement

CARLVIN J CRIGGS, MAJ, INF
Executive Officer

36. SIGNATURE

Carlvin J. Criggs

REVERSE SIDE MAY BE USED FOR DRAFT OF PROPOSED CITATION, AND CONTINUANCE OF ABOVE ITEMS, IF NECESSARY.

SHEDDICK, James Patrick
210273, W01, Royal Australian Regiment
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award for Heroism

PART V: ITEM: 30 Narrative description of deed or act (cont)

received, while other aircraft took many hits. Again WO Sheddick displayed aggressiveness when his M-60 broke a bolt. He immediately picked up an M-16 and continued to suppress the enemy. Upon landing for refueling and refueling, he replaced the bolt in his M-60. It was then discovered that the number two hydraulic system had failed. In spite of the fact that it was explained to him that a bullet hole in the other system would leave the aircraft almost uncontrollable, WO Sheddick, at great risk to his own safety, volunteered to continue to fly with the aircraft, displaying a great sense of devotion to duty, although he was not obligated to fly at all. WO Sheddick's courage and skill were again displayed when, engaging the enemy positions, his aircraft received a hit. Disregarding this, he continued to stand on the skids, under intense enemy automatic weapons fire, and delivered accurate fire on enemy positions while at the same time reloading his weapons and marking new enemy positions with smoke. WO Sheddick's display of devotion to duty by volunteering to fly on a gunship, although never having flown before, exemplifies the attitude of a true soldier. His willingness to fly in an aircraft which could have been in serious trouble if it lost another hydraulic system, exhibits his courage and willingness to give of himself above and beyond the call of duty. His heroic actions and aggressiveness are a tribute to the Royal Australian Army and his country; but even more so, his willingness to fight side by side in a hostile situation with his allies exemplifies the comradeship that exists between the Australians and the Americans and is a tribute to the military services of the free world.

S T A T E M E N T

14 February 1968

Warrant Officer Sheddick is an Australian Officer who volunteered to fly as door gunner for the gun platoon of the 191st Aslt Hel Co, instead of taking an in-country R&R. WO1 Sheddick was serving as door gunner of a UH1C gunship when he distinguished himself in action against an enemy force on 25 January 1968 near Tan Tru, RVN. The aircraft on which WO1 Sheddick was serving made at least 25 passes on the enemy positions, receiving heavy and intense automatic weapons fire on each pass. Although he had never flown as a door gunner before, he placed continuous devastating suppressive fire into the VC positions on all of the passes. With complete disregard for his own safety and welfare, Warrant Officer Sheddick climbed half-way out of the aircraft to place fire behind the aircraft on the breaks. There is no doubt that his actions reduced the volume of fire coming from the hostile positions and reduced the number of hits that the aircraft received. When his M60 broke a bolt, WO1 Sheddick took up an M-16 and continued to place suppressive fire into the area, stopping only to reload, or to mark another position with smoke. WO1 Sheddick displayed his courage, skill, and devotion to duty when he was told that his aircraft had one hydraulic line broken, and if the other broke the aircraft would be nearly uncontrollable. He volunteered to continue to fly.

Larry J. Miller

LARRY J. MILLER
CW2 USA
191st Aslt Hel Co

P R O P O S E D C I T A T I O N

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS, APPROVED 2 JULY 1926, A DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS IS AWARDED TO: WARRANT OFFICER JAMES PATRICK SHEDDICK, 210273, INFANTRY, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT, FOR HEROISM WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT EVIDENCED BY VOLUNTARY ACTION ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY. WARRANT OFFICER SHEDDICK DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 25 JANUARY 1966 NEAR TAN TRU, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. VOLUNTEERING TO FLY AS DOOR GUNNER ON A GUNSHIP OF THE 191ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY, HE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON AN ASSAULT OF A HOSTILE AREA DURING INSERTION AND EXTRACTION OPERATIONS. ON SEVERAL PASSES HE LEANED EXTREMELY FAR OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT TO SUPPRESS BEHIND THE SHIP ON ITS BREAKS. UPON REARMING AND REFUELING, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT A HYDRAULIC SYSTEM HAD FAILED. ALTHOUGH EXPLAINED TO WARRANT OFFICER SHEDDICK THAT IF THE OTHER SYSTEM FAILED, THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE UNCONTROLLABLE, HE, AT GREAT RISK TO HIS OWN SAFETY, VOLUNTEERED TO CONTINUE TO FLY WITH THE AIRCRAFT. DESPITE RECEIVING A HIT IN EXTREMELY INTENSE ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WHEN THE AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO THE AREA, WARRANT OFFICER SHEDDICK CONTINUED TO LEAN OUT OF THE HELICOPTER WITH HIS FOOT ON THE SKID TO SUPPRESS THE ENEMY. WARRANT OFFICER SHEDDICK'S DISPLAY OF DEVOTION TO DUTY BY VOLUNTEERING TO FLY ON A GUNSHIP, ALTHOUGH NEVER HAVING FLOWN BEFORE, EXEMPLIFIES THE ATTITUDE OF A TRUE SOLDIER. HIS HEROIC ACTIONS AND AGGRESSIVENESS ARE A TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY AND HIS COUNTRY; BUT EVEN MORE SO, HIS WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE IN A HOSTILE SITUATION WITH HIS ALLIES EXEMPLIFIES THE COMRADESHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIANS AND THE AMERICANS AND IS A TRIBUTE TO THE MILITARY SERVICES OF THE FREE WORLD.

TEXT OF CITATION

TO BE MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 JAMES PATRICK ALBERT SHEDDICK

Warrant Officer James Sheddick served ten years in the British Army before enlisting in the Australian Regular Army on 1st May, 1951. He joined 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 11th October, 1965 and arrived in South Vietnam in February, 1967 as the Quartermaster's representative on the advance party.

On joining the battalion Warrant Officer Sheddick was posted as the Company Sergeant Major to Administration Company. Due to a general shortage of officers at the raising of the unit, he acted as Company Commander on frequent occasions. During this period he assumed responsibility not normally expected of his rank and carried out the added duties in an exemplary manner.

In late 1966, Warrant Officer Sheddick was reposted as the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant and he immediately began long range planning for the movement of stores and equipment overseas.

After arrival in South Vietnam Warrant Officer Sheddick began to prepare for the reception of 7th Battalion. At this time the Quartermaster of 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, returned to Australia and the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant of 5th Battalion suffered a heart attack through overwork. Recognising the difficulties, Warrant Officer Sheddick assumed the Quartermaster's responsibilities for both battalions and almost unaided completed satisfactory arrangements for the handover of stores from 5th Battalion to 7th Battalion. His untiring efforts, devotion to duty and long continuous hours of work also helped to ensure the smooth departure of 5th Battalion and the efficient reception of 7th Battalion.

During the unit's tour of active service in South Vietnam, Warrant Officer Sheddick has been responsible for the implementation of the unit's operational resupply system, personal liaison with units of 1st Australian Task Force and 1st Australian Logistical Support Group and the training of an efficient and functional Quartermaster staff. By his determined efforts Warrant Officer Sheddick has achieved a standard of operational resupply that is outstanding.

During the past two years Warrant Officer Sheddick has consistently worked long hours under difficult and sometimes adverse conditions. Nevertheless he has always maintained a sense of humour and a standard of bearing, loyalty and devotion to duty that is an inspiration to all members of the unit.