

Murray Ken HUDSON, GC 7th (Wellington, Hawkes Bay) Battalion, RNZIR

'Huddy' Hudson was born in Opotiki in the Bay of Plenty in 1938. After attending Opotiki College he joined the Territorial Force Hauraki Battalion. In 1961 he joined the Regular Force and served two years with the 1st New Zealand Regiment in Malaya.

Hudson thrived on the Army life and in 1966 he joined the Special Air Service, (SAS) the elite unit of the Army. While with the NZSAS he served in Borneo during the Malaysia/Indonesia Confrontation. Following his tour in Borneo he was promoted to Sergeant, posted to 1 RNZIR, the Infantry Battalion in Singapore, and served a year on active service with V Company during the Vietnam war. Towards the end of 1971 he returned to New Zealand and was posted to the Masterton company of 7 Battalion.



While training in Waiouru on 13 February 1974, Sergeant Hudson was awarded a posthumous George Cross for the following action.

"...while supervising a live grenade practice, Sergeant Hudson suddenly became aware that the NCO in his grenade throwing bay had accidentally armed the grenade he was about to throw. The Sergeant was then seen to quickly grasp the NCO's throwing hand and attempt to throw the grenade over the front parapet of the throwing bay. He was within inches of success when the grenade exploded killing both men. Sergeant Hudson displayed devotion to duty and courage of a very high order when, with a complete disregard for his own safety, he attempted to save the life of a fellow soldier."

At the time of his death Sergeant Hudson had been married to Shona Martin for five years and was raising two small children.

