

1: Dasher Wheatley and Australia in Vietnam / Ian Walters | National Library of Australia

Asia Pacific Media Educator Issue 5 Article 13 Book review: Dasher Wheatly and Australia in Vietnam P. McGregor University of Western Sydney.

Educated at Maroubra Junction Junior Technical School, Kevin worked as a milk carter, food sterilizer, machine operator and brick burner. Following recruit training he joined the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in September and transferred to the 3rd Battalion in March. He served in the Malayan Emergency from September that year to July, before transferring in August to the 2nd Battalion and in June to the 1st Battalion. In January he was promoted sergeant and in August, temporary warrant officer, class two. Short and stocky, he was a highly respected and well-liked non-commissioned officer with a reputation as a rough, wild man who was a good soldier. He distinguished himself on 28th May by risking heavy fire to rescue a 3-year-old girl. On 18th August, when South Vietnamese troops ceased advancing during an assault, he took the lead and inspired them to continue charging up a hill. Wheatley and another Australian, Warrant Officer R. Swanton, were on a search and destroy mission in the Tra Bong valley, Quang Ngai province, with a platoon of the Civil Irregular Defence Group on 13th November when it was attacked by the Viet Cong. The platoon broke in the face of heavy fire and began to scatter. Swanton was shot in the chest. Although told that Swanton was dying, Wheatley refused to leave him. Under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, he half-dragged and half-carried Swanton out of open rice paddies into the comparative safety of nearby jungle. He refused a second request to withdraw, pulled the pins from his two grenades and waited with his motionless colleague while the enemy approached. Two grenade explosions were heard, followed by several bursts of fire. Wheatley and Swanton were found at first light next morning, dead from gunshot wounds. A public outcry resulted in the government announcing on 21st January that the remains of service personnel who died overseas would in future be returned to Australia at public expense if their families desired. For refusing to abandon a wounded comrade in the face of overwhelming odds Wheatley was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. He deliberately chose the latter course. His acts of heroism, determination and unflinching loyalty in the face of the enemy will always stand as examples of the true meaning of valour. It commemorates those who had fallen from the Campbeltown district.

2: Virtual War Memorial | Kevin Arthur (Dasher) WHEATLEY VC

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Married in and having enlisted in the Regular Army in , he served in Vietnam from early as part of the Australian Army Training Team. Dasher Wheatley was killed in action in Vietnam on 13 November He was aged 29 and was survived by his wife, son and three daughters. Australian policy at the time was for military personnel killed overseas to be buried overseas. In , following a public outcry, the Government reversed its policy so that the remains of service personnel who died overseas would in future be returned to Australia at public expense if their families desired. At about hours, Warrant Officer Wheatley reported contact with the enemy. Enemy resistance strengthened and finally Warrant Officer Wheatley asked for assistance. Captain Fazekas immediately organised the centre platoon to help and personally led and fought towards the action area. While moving forward he received another radio message from Warrant Officer Wheatley to say that Warrant Officer Swanton had been hit in the chest, and requested an air strike and an aircraft, for the evacuation of casualties. At about this time the right platoon broke in the face of heavy enemy fire and began to scatter. Although told by the medical assistant that Warrant Officer Swanton was dying, Warrant Officer Wheatley refused to abandon him. He discarded his radio to enable him to half drag, half carry Warrant Officer Swanton, under heavy machine-gun and automatic rifle fire, out of the open rice paddies into the comparative safety of a wooded area, some metres away. He was assisted by a Private Dinh Do who, when the Viet Cong were only some ten metres away, urged him to leave his dying comrade. Again he refused, and was seen to pull the pins from two grenades and calmly awaited the enemy, holding one grenade in each hand. Shortly afterwards, two grenade explosions were heard, followed by several bursts of small arms fire. The two bodies were found at first light next morning after the fighting had ceased, with Warrant Officer Wheatley lying beside Warrant Officer Swanton. Both had died of gunshot wounds. Warrant Officer Wheatley displayed magnificent courage in the face of an overwhelming Viet Cong force which was later estimated at more than a company. He had the clear choice of abandoning a wounded comrade and saving himself by escaping or of staying with Warrant Officer Swanton and thereby facing certain death. He deliberately chose the latter course. His acts of heroism, determination and unflinching loyalty in the face of the enemy will always stand as examples of the true meaning of valour.

3: Dasher Wheatley and Australia in Vietnam - CDU eSpace

This book is about an Australian soldier killed at war in Vietnam. It is about the events surrounding his dying and the subsequent award to him of Australia's most distinguished medal for gallantry under fire, the Victoria Cross.

Educated at Maroubra Junction Junior Technical School, Kevin worked as a milk carter, food sterilizer, machine operator and brick burner. Following recruit training he joined the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in September and transferred to the 3rd Battalion in March. He served in the Malayan Emergency from September that year to July, before transferring in August to the 2nd Battalion and in June to the 1st Battalion. On his return from Malaya the Wheatleys bought cheap land at Campbelltown. They moved into a place at East Campbelltown. In January he was promoted sergeant and in August, temporary warrant officer, class two. Short and stocky, he was a highly respected and well-liked non-commissioned officer with a reputation as a rough, wild man who was a good soldier. He distinguished himself on 28 May by risking heavy fire to rescue a 3-year-old girl. On 18 August, when South Vietnamese troops ceased advancing during an assault, he took the lead and inspired them to continue charging up a hill. Wheatley and another Australian, Warrant Officer R. Swanton, were on a search and destroy mission in the Tra Bong valley, Quang Ngai province, with a platoon of the Civil Irregular Defence Group on 13 November when it was attacked by the Viet Cong. Accompanying the force were Captain F. Fazekas, senior Australian Adviser, with the centre platoon. The platoon broke in the face of heavy fire and began to scatter. Swanton was shot in the chest. Although told that Swanton was dying, Wheatley refused to leave him. Under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, he half-dragged and half-carried Swanton out of open rice paddies into the comparative safety of nearby jungle. He refused a second request to withdraw, pulled the pins from his two grenades and waited with his motionless colleague while the enemy approached. Two grenade explosions were heard, followed by several bursts of fire. Wheatley and Swanton were found at first light next morning, dead from gunshot wounds. Survived by his wife, and their son and three daughters, he was buried with full military honours in Pine Grove cemetery, Eastern Creek, Sydney. A public outcry resulted in the government announcing on 21 January that the remains of service personnel who died overseas would in future be returned to Australia at public expense if their families desired. For refusing to abandon a wounded comrade in the face of overwhelming odds Wheatley was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. The plaque is an exact replica of the one that had been erected in Vietnam and returned to Australia after the withdrawal of Australian troops in Wiggamoo, They Dared Mightily, 2nd edn revised and condensed by J. Staunton Canb, B. Breen, First to Fight Syd, M. Adkin, The Last Eleven? Was this page helpful?

4: "Book review: Dasher Wheatly and Australia in Vietnam" by P. McGregor

Kevin Arthur "Dasher" Wheatley, VC (13 March - 13 November) was an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

Educated at Maroubra Junction Junior Technical School, Kevin worked as a milk carter, food sterilizer, machine operator and brick burner. Following recruit training he joined the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in September and transferred to the 3rd Battalion in March. He served in the Malayan Emergency from September that year to July, before transferring in August to the 2nd Battalion and in June to the 1st Battalion. In January he was promoted sergeant and in August, temporary warrant officer, class two. Short and stocky, he was a highly respected and well-liked non-commissioned officer with a reputation as a rough, wild man who was a good soldier. He distinguished himself on 28 May by risking heavy fire to rescue a 3-year-old girl. On 18 August, when South Vietnamese troops ceased advancing during an assault, he took the lead and inspired them to continue charging up a hill. Wheatley and another Australian, Warrant Officer R. Swanton, were on a search and destroy mission in the Tra Bong valley, Quang Ngai province, with a platoon of the Civil Irregular Defence Group on 13 November when it was attacked by the Viet Cong. The platoon broke in the face of heavy fire and began to scatter. Swanton was shot in the chest. Although told that Swanton was dying, Wheatley refused to leave him. Under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, he half-dragged and half-carried Swanton out of open rice paddies into the comparative safety of nearby jungle. He refused a second request to withdraw, pulled the pins from his two grenades and waited with his motionless colleague while the enemy approached. Two grenade explosions were heard, followed by several bursts of fire. Wheatley and Swanton were found at first light next morning, dead from gunshot wounds. Survived by his wife, and their son and three daughters, he was buried with full military honours in Pine Grove cemetery, Eastern Creek, Sydney. A public outcry resulted in the government announcing on 21 January that the remains of service personnel who died overseas would in future be returned to Australia at public expense if their families desired. For refusing to abandon a wounded comrade in the face of overwhelming odds Wheatley was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. Wigmore, *They Dared Mightily*, 2nd edn revised and condensed by J. Staunton Canb, B. Breen, *First to Fight Syd*, M. Adkin, *The Last Eleven?*

5: Wheatley, Kevin Arthur [WorldCat Identities]

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Upon completing his schooling, Wheatley worked as a labourer in Sydney. On 20 July, he married Edna Davis; together they would have four children. Early the following year, he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and he subsequently served a tour of Malaya between late and early, during the Malayan Emergency. After his return to Australia, Wheatley served a posting with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in 1961 and then the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment from to He was promoted twice in, firstly to sergeant and then warrant officer. During the fighting, a child ran across the battlefield. Seeing the danger, Wheatley ran after the girl through the cross fire and brought her back to safety, using his own body to shield her. Later, in August, during an attack on a Communist held village Wheatley was recommended for an award by a US infantry advisor after he single-handedly exploited the position, carrying the attack up a steep slope as the Communist forces withdrew. The recommendation was not acted upon, however, and in September Wheatley was transferred to another team, known as the "A Team", who were part of the 5th Special Forces Group. Wheatley was assigned to one of the platoons with a fellow warrant officer, Ron Swanton. As the platoon advanced through rice paddies in the vicinity of Binh Hoa, they came under heavy fire from a larger Viet Cong force. In the ensuing fighting, Swanton was mortally wounded. As the situation grew more intense, Wheatley requested support from Fazekas and a medical evacuation for Swanton. When his platoon began to scatter, Wheatley carried the wounded Swanton to a safer area as Fazekas moved his troops to support. As the Viet Cong closed around his position, Wheatley insisted on staying with Swanton even though he was urged to leave by medical personnel. Wheatley was subsequently killed while defending his comrade. His posting in this area has been distinguished by meritorious and gallant service. On 13 November at approximately hours, a Vietnamese Civil Irregular Defence Group company commenced a search and destroy operation in the Tra Bong valley, 15 kilometres 9. Accompanying the force were Captain F. Swanton with the right hand platoon. The Viet Cong resistance increased in strength until finally Warrant Officer Wheatley asked for assistance. Captain Fazekas immediately organised the centre platoon to help and personally led and fought towards the action area. While moving towards this area he received another radio message from Warrant Officer Wheatley to say that Warrant Officer Swanton had been hit in the chest, and requested an air strike and an aircraft, for the evacuation of casualties. At about this time the right platoon broke in the face of heavy Viet Cong fire and began to scatter. He discarded his radio to enable him to half drag, half carry Warrant Officer Swanton, under heavy machine-gun and automatic rifle fire, out of the open rice paddies into the comparative safety of a wooded area, some metres away. He was assisted by a Civil Irregular Defence Group member, Private Dinh Do who, when the Viet Cong were only some ten metres away, urged him to leave his dying comrade. Again he refused, and was seen to pull the pins from two grenades and calmly awaited the Viet Cong, holding one grenade in each hand. Shortly afterwards, two grenade explosions were heard, followed by several bursts of small arms fire. The two bodies were found at first light next morning after the fighting had ceased, with Warrant Officer Wheatley lying beside Warrant Officer Swanton. Both had died of gunshot wounds. Warrant Officer Wheatley displayed magnificent courage in the face of an overwhelming Viet Cong force which was later estimated at more than a company. He had the clear choice of abandoning a wounded comrade and saving himself by escaping through the dense timber or of staying with Warrant Officer Swanton and thereby facing certain death. He deliberately chose the latter course. His acts of heroism, determination and unflinching loyalty in the face of the enemy will always stand as examples of the true meaning of valour.

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7: Wheatley, Kevin - Campbelltown City Council

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8: Kevin Wheatley - Wikipedia

Wheatley was posted to the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), in Vietnam on 16 March For his first six months in country he was attached to a regular unit of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) unit in Quang Tri province.

9: Dasher Wheatley and Australia in Vietnam / Ian Walters. - Version details - Trove

Australia Medals Military participation--Australian Soldiers Victoria Cross Vietnam War () Wheatley, Kevin Arthur, Alternative Names Wheatley, Dasher,

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