

IMMEDIATE.

15th. ANST. INF.

4th. AUSTRALIAN

AUSTRALIAN

5th. May, 1918.

51st. Bn.  
A. I. F.

Major (Temporary)  
Lieutenant-Colonel)  
Robert CHRISTIE.  
D. S. O.

On the 24th April 1918 near VILLERS-  
BRETONNEUX Lieut-Col. CHRISTIE  
commanded his Battalion in a difficult  
night operation with great gallantry  
and outstanding ability.

Following an enemy advance, in which VILLERS-  
BRETONNEUX was lost, the 51st Battalion which  
had already marched six miles was called upon  
to take part in a counter-attack the same  
night to recover the town. Orders were  
issued at 7 p.m. for the attack to take place  
at 10 p.m. The ground was strange to  
everyone and there was no time for reconnaiss-  
ances, but through splendid organisation and  
gallant leadership the approach march and  
deployment were carried out without a hitch  
and the subsequent attack was a brilliant  
success. Col. CHRISTIE moved about amongst  
his troops encouraging and directing them and  
finally established his Headquarters well  
forward in an open trench, which was heavily  
shelled, but from whence he was able to see  
and control his Battalion to the best  
advantage. The recapture of VILLERS-

*506* *Bar to*  
*15th A.I.* *DSO.*  
*Ede*

Date recommendation passed forward.  
Received. Passed.

Brigade.	8-5-18	9-5-18
Division.	11-5-18	13-5-18
Corps.		
Army.		

BRETONNEUX, a most important tactical success, was due in a very large measure to the  
admirable way in which the assaulting Battalions  
were handled. (SGD) E.C. SINGLAK MAC LAGAN,

Major-General,  
Commanding 4th. Aust. Division.