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13. 9. 18

6th Aust. Infantry

2nd Australian

AUSTRALIAN

13th Sept., 1918

21st Bn.  
A.I.F.

186

Sgt. Joseph  
William IRWIN  
(Temp. C.S.M., W.O.  
Class II)

At MT. ST.QUENTIN North of PERONNE on the 1st Sept., 1918, this W.O. reconnoitred and exploited a trench for a distance of several hundred yards beyond the preliminary objective until he encountered a hostile post garrisoned by 12 of the enemy.

He immediately returned to his Company and procured a small party with whom he attacked the post but was unable to proceed on account of unsuitable ground.

He then personally endeavoured to outflank the post but was prevented by the wire in front.

C.S.M. IRWIN then decided to establish a block in the trench, which he did, and this resulted in the evacuation by the enemy of their positions a little while afterwards. All this was done under heavy rifle and machine gun fire.

The work of this W.O. throughout the operations was marked by great courage and determination.

(Signed) J. C. ROBERTSON, Brig.-General,  
Commanding 6th Australian Infantry Brigade

M.M.