

Received

Passed

21.10.18

6th Aust. Infantry

2nd Australian

AUSTRALIAN

21st Oct., 1918.

22nd Bn.
A.I.F.

2301a Pte. Michael
William COWAN

For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations near ESTREES, East of PERONNE, on 4th Oct., 1918.

Prior to the attack this man acted as guide to the ration and ammunition carrying parties; & while engaged in this work was exposed to extremely heavy enemy shell and Machine Gun fire. When one party lost its way in the dark, this Runner went out and successfully guided them to the front line posts.

During the attack when the enemy Machine Gun fire was so great that it appeared impossible for anyone to live through it, COWAN carried despatches through it to the forward posts.

The same night while guiding a relief, casualties occurred and the men became scattered. This man reorganised them and extricated the unit from the barrage with a loss of only five casualties.

His work throughout was exceptional, and his bravery deserving of high commendation.

(Recommended for M.M., 20.9.18)

(Signed) A.R.L. WILTSHIRE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding (temp.) 6th Australian Infantry Brigade, D.S.O.