

Maj. (T/Lt-Col) Robert CHRISTIE, DSO.
51st Bn., Aust. I. F.

Bar to DSO

On 24th April, 1918, near VILLERS BRETONNEUX, this Officer commanded his Battalion in a difficult night operation with great gallantry and conspicuous ability.

Following an enemy advance, in which the village was lost, the Battalion had already marched six miles was called upon to take part in a counter attack the same night to recover the village. The ground was strange to everyone and there was no time for reconnaissance, but through splendid organisation and gallant leadership and approach march and deployment was carried out without a hitch and the attack was a brilliant success.

He moved about amongst the troops encouraging them and finally established his H.Q. well forward in an open trench, which was heavily shelled, but from whence he could see and control his Battalion to the best advantage.

The re-capture of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, a most important tactical success, was due in a very large measure to the admirable way in which the assaulting Battalions were handled.

QWR