

8rd. Infantry

1st. Australian

1st. A.N.Z.A.C.

May 14th. 1917

10th. Aust.
Inf. Battn.

6808

Lance Corporal
Robert Neil
VARCOE.

NEAR BULLECOURT, FRANCE during the operations from the 8th. to 9th. May 1917 L/Cpl. VARCOE displayed exceptional courage and initiative.

On the morning of the 8th. he was one of the Platoon put in on the extreme right of the portion of the HINDENBURG LINE held by the Anzac Corps to clear up the doubtful situation caused by the partial success of the enemy's counter attack earlier that morning. VARCOE at once went forward, got in touch with the enemy and finding that their bombers were causing us many casualties, he held up the operation for a few minutes to obtain rifle grenades. This N.C.O. then directed the fire of the rifle grenadiers onto the enemy bombing posts with such effect that we were enabled to push out our bombing stop, under the barrage which he had created, 50 yards further along the enemy's trench than it had been before the counter attack that morning. The casualties suffered were severe but nothing could shake the cool and persistent courage of this N.C.O.

C.O. Military

10th. Bn. Medal

Major General,
Commanding 1st. Australian Division.