

Maj. John Henwood McDONALD, MC.,
20th Bn., A.I.F.

on the morning of the 31st Aug. 1918 during the attack on MONT ST QUENTIN, N.E. of PERONNE, this officer advanced alone against an enemy M.G. nest, silencing two guns which were causing casualties, and capturing the crews. On arrival at the objective, he rapidly re-organised companies and consolidated, frequently exposing himself to heavy fire in so doing. He reconnoitred the whole Bn. front, visiting all the posts to ascertain they were properly sited. Later in the day on the unit being forced to fall back, owing to the left flank being unable to get up, he personally directed the withdrawal of our troops in a most skilful manner and organised a very solid defence with a splendid field of fire about 400 yards further back. This withdrawal was carried out with the utmost prevision, under very heavy enemy fire, the Bn. eventually establishing itself with a couple of minor casualties only. Any ill effect a withdrawal might have had on tired troops was nullified by the splendid way he moved amongst his men and personally supervised the mounting of enemy machine guns, which were used to the greatest advantage, thus conserving our own ammunition.