

Received

Pas 1
15. 9. 18

6th Aust. Infantry

2nd Australian

AUSTRALIAN

15th Sept., 1918.

24th Bn.
A.I.F.

2186

Sgt. Eric
William
JOHNSON

On Sept. 1st, 1918, in the attack on MT. ST. QUENTIN near PERONNE this N.C.O.'s platoon was in the leading wave of the attack.

When the Platoon Commander became a casualty, this N.C.O. took command and showed remarkable coolness and initiative in handling the platoon.

To improve his position he moved his men to a flank, and in rear of the village, he reorganised and took up a position along the edge of the wood. Here he inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy, who, by this time were endeavouring to escape. He personally reconnoitred trenches in the area in the face of heavy machine gun fire, and succeeded in getting his men into them with a minimum of loss.

His conduct throughout was splendid.

H.M.

24th Bn.
A.I.F.

99

Pte. Walter
Alexander RICHARDS

At MT. ST. QUENTIN near PERONNE on 1st Sept., 1918, this man was a stretcher bearer during the operations, where he worked almost incessantly for 20 hours dressing and carrying the wounded. His contempt of continuous machine gun fire was equalled only by his unfailing cheerfulness and devotion to duty. Repeatedly he risked his life to carry succour to the wounded, many of whom undoubtedly owe their lives to him. He worked untiringly and ceased only when no work remained for him to do.

Again on the 2nd Sept. he made several journeys over most exposed ground continuously swept by machine gun fire and undoubtedly saved many lives.

H.M.

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