[13423] W7670/M1618 2000m 9/17a 191 G&S E.1733. Forms/W.3121/5

Army Form W. 3121.

Date Recommendation passed forward.

	Received	Passed
Brigade		24/4/1918.
Division	25/4/1918	26/4/1918.
Corps		
Army		

2nd Aust. M.T.M. Bty. Brigade. 1st Australian Division. Australian Corps.

2199

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	2nd Australian Medium Trench Mortar Battery.	2877	Corporal (Acting Sergeant) Eric David BELL.	Not recommended in connection with Birthday Honours Gazette. At STRAZEELE Railway Station on morning of 17th April, 1918, when in charge of a mortar engaging enemy troops who seemed to be massing at a certain point, the enemy suddenly opened up a heavy barrage of 5".9 and other shells right across the mortar position, lasting from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. The remainder of the gun crew were wounded soon after the barrage opened, but Sgt. BELL remained at his post firing the mortar himself in the face of trying circumstances until 11 a.m. His splendid bravery and devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the situation, as he obtained direct hits on the massed enemy, and eventually through keeping the mortar in action they were dispersed. Major-General, Commanding 1st Australian Division.	D.T.M.O. 1st Aust. Division.	M.M.	

Awarded