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FRANCE.

THE MILITARY CROSS (Contd)

Lt. John James DALEY,
43rd Bn., A.I.F.

At MESSINES RIDGE, this Officer was in charge of one of the Companies detailed to attack UNDULATING TRENCH on the night of the 10/11th June 1917.

During the approach march the Coy. was subjected to such an intense artillery fire that many casualties were sustained and the formations broken. With great coolness, which was paralleled only by his quick initiative, he re-organised his remaining men and led them to the assault.

In the valour and resource he set a brilliant example to his men, and their great confidence in his leadership was the main factor in turning this minor operation from what might have been a disaster into a brilliant success under very difficult conditions.

Lt. Percy Britten WALD,
43rd Bn., A.I.F.

This Officer was in charge of the 2nd Company which took part in the attack on UNDULATING TRENCH.

The continuous bombardment caused many casualties during the approach march, and disaster was imminent when he, rising to the occasion, rallied his men, re-organised them, and led them through the hostile barrage in a successful assault on the enemy's position.

Throughout the night he moved continually amongst his exhausted troops and urged them to maintain their efforts at consolidation.

By his valour and determination the work on the new line was so organised and maintained that daylight found the Coy. in a well consolidated position, prepared to withstand the counter attack.

No. 1730 C.S.M. Cecil Norman PATTERSON,
43rd Bn., A.I.F.

On the 9th to the 11th June 1917, during the attack on the enemy trenches East of MESSINES, this W.O. was the CSM. of the Coy. attacking UNDULATING TRENCH on the right. Before gaining the enemy trench he was wounded, but continued with his Company until well on the way.

He then refused to leave until ordered to do so by his Commanding Officer. He came back to Bn., Headquarters and asked permission to return to his Coy. but was ordered to report to the ambulance.

This W.O. devotion to duty and courage was a very great factor in the good work performed by his Coy. during the night.

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