

14th Aust. Infantry

5th Australian

Australian

56th Infantry
Battalion,
A.I.F.

Captain
Edward Lumsden
DALSMITH

On 1-8-18 during the attack on PERONNE he was in charge of "A" Company. Almost immediately after 2280 heavy artillery and H.Q. fire was encountered and the only other Officer in the Company was wounded. He led his men with great coolness through the least shelled areas and when he arrived at the eastern edge of the Wood in I.21 Central he went forward and found that the line was at a standstill. He then discovered an abandoned enemy 77 field gun. With the help of two men of the 53rd Battalion (names unknown) he turned the gun round and fired 50 rounds into ST DENIS Wood with great effect.

Seeing that a further advance was impossible, and realizing that the left flank of the Brigade was in danger on account of Mount ST QUENTIN being held by the enemy he swung his Company round, and on his own initiative took up a defensive position on the north-west edge of the Wood, thus protecting the left flank of the Brigade.

Being the only Officer in the Company he had to take grave personal risks and it was to a great extent due to his courageous conduct and absolute disregard of personal safety that his Company got into position.

I strongly recommend him for a Military Cross.

Rank and Name have been verified and are correct.

This Officer has not received any previous award.

Lieut-Colonel A.C.S. Holland

Military Cross