

1st. Infantry

1st. Australian

1st. A.N.Z.A.C.

May 14th. 1917

155

1st. Aust.
Inf. Battn.

2445

Corporal
George HOWELL.

For gallantry, fearlessness and initiative on 8th. May 1917 in trench G.O.1 near BULLECOURT, FRANCE, part of which this Battalion was holding. The enemy attacked the Battalion which was occupying the trench on our right and succeeded in driving them from the trench and were approaching our right flank. Corporal HOWELL seeing this, without orders, immediately jumped up on the parapet and then singlehanded, though subjected to heavy bomb and rifle fire, threw bombs at the enemy and advanced on them at the same time. Having exhausted his supply of bombs he advanced along the top of the parapet and attacked the enemy with his bayonet until he fell wounded into the trench. Seeing HOWELL's action other men had come forward to support him and the enemy were finally driven out of the trench which was again occupied and held, being taken over later by the Battalion who had formerly occupied it. HOWELL's action in stemming the tide of advance of the enemy and forcing them to draw back enabled the organisation of the counter-attack which was immediately launched and drove the Germans from the position.

His action was witnessed not only by the whole of his Battalion but also by the Battalion occupying G.O.2. Apart from its great value tactically, his example had a great effect in inspiring other men and undoubtedly was greatly responsible for the enemy's being driven back immediately, though it was some time before they were driven out of the whole position.

Victoria

G.O.C. Cross

1st.

Aust.

Divn.

Q.

Dep. 3333

(Continued)