

988

3rd Aust. Infantry

1st Australian

1st Anzac

18th April 1917.

12th Battalion
A.I.F.

Captain James
Ernest NEWLAND.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the face of heavy odds on three separate occasions. On the night 7th/8th April 1917 Captain NEWLAND organised the attack by his Company on the WINDMILL on the BAPAUME-CAMBRAI Road West of BOURSIES, and having moved forward the platoons he personally and under heavy machine gun and rifle fire led a bombing attack up the main road. Owing to the heavy enemy fire two of his Company Officers became casualties; he then personally rallied the Company and was one of the first into the objective. On the night 8th/9th April 1917, the enemy counter attacked his position at the WINDMILL after a heavy barrage of smoke bombs and trench mortars. By his own personal exertions and utter disregard of the heavy enemy fire, he brought up a platoon from the reserve Company and with the remnants of his own Company charged the enemy and succeeded in regaining the position. On the morning of the 15th April 1917, Captain NEWLAND was in command of the second company from the left of the Brigade line N.E. of LAGNICOURT. At dawn the enemy attacked in great force overpowering the Company on his left, and entered LAGNICOURT from the N.West, thus taking Captain NEWLAND'S Company in rear. Captain NEWLAND at once brought back the left of his Company and beat off a combined enemy attack from three quarters.

G.O.C. Victoria
1st Cross.
Aust.
Division.
and
G.O. 12th
Battalion.