

Lieutenant Leslie James Price MC



PRICE



JACOBS

Looking over old German wire entanglements towards the village of Hermies.

Second Lieutenant Leslie James Price's description of the action at Hermies on 9 April 1917

I sent back for the section but two of us (Price and 2118 Lance Corporal Clifford Jacobs) went forward to mark our strong point. Of course, this was right out in the open and also exposed to observers from the Bosche heights, 2000 yards away.

I had been marking things a couple of minutes when I noticed 50 yards in front of me a very thin bit of hedge, and behind it a bit of German field grey cloth moving. I thought at first it was some of our own fellows, but changed, whipped out my revolver, and in five minutes I had six Bosches under my lance-corporal's escort marching back to headquarters. The beggars had been sniping at our fellows, and I could count fifteen corpses and at least half a dozen wounded sniped at. These Huns won't do any sniping for a while, but will give a hand to fix up our roads, etc. My escape from death was remarkable and miraculous. Their rifles were all loaded and they had plenty of ammunition.

Price was awarded the Military Cross whilst Jacobs received the Military Medal.

Letter from General W. H. Birdwood: 1st Anzac Corps, 24 April 1917.

Dear Price,

This is a line to congratulate you most heartily upon the Military Cross, which has been awarded to you for your good work during the attack on Hermies on the 9 April. I know what great courage and skill you displayed in superintending the construction of a strong point under heavy fire, and in taking charge, also, of the party next to you, when their officer was wounded. I know, too, that by your prompt action, you succeeded in capturing a party of six of the enemy in a small copse, with the assistance of one man.

Thank you so much for this, and with good wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Birdwood.