

18th. A. Inf. Brigade. 4th. Aust. Division. Australian Corps. 30/1/19. Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (To be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name	Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
8439	48 Bn AIF 4th. Aust. Divn. att. 18th. A. I. Bde.		Lieutenant Harry DOWNES, M.M..	<p>For conspicuous gallantry at I.E VERGUIER on 18th. September 1918, during attack on the Hindenburg Line. Lieut. Downes had charge of the collection of all prisoners of the Brigade (which totalled approximately 1500). This duty entailed his personal supervision in the forward area, immediately behind the attacking troops. Despite the very heavy Artillery and Machine Gun fire, which swept the area, Lieut. Downes moved about from place to place, collecting, arranging necessary escort and directing prisoners to Brigade Head Quarters. The cheeriness and example set by this Officer, under most strenuous conditions, inspired all, and the necessary task was carried out without a hitch.</p> <p>Immediately the Brigade was relieved from the above Sector, Lieut. Downes was detailed for duty with the 107th. Regiment, 27th. American Division, for a further attack on the Hindenburg system. On 26th. September 1918, when the above Regiment attacked the vilhge of BONY, Lieut. Downes was personally in charge of the supply of all rations, ammunition &c. of the attacking troops. This was a most difficult task on account of the inexperience of the troops engaged and in order to ensure that supplies of rations ammunition &c. reached the attacking troops, Lieut. Downes repeatedly guided pack animals and transport forward under exceptionally heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire from the enemy selected positions. The ground traversed was absolutely torn up by artillery fire and barb wire and debris was lying about in abundance which rendered going most difficult.</p>			255