



1263 GILDER Telford Graham



Lieut. T. G. Gilder, M.C.

Son of WA Gilder Solicitor 92 Pitt St Sydney born August 21 1894 Entered 1908 Left 1913 Junior 1911 Senior 1912 Prefect 1913 2nd XI Cpl in Cadets Great War 1914-18 (Captain MC) Solicitor 89 Pitt St Sydney Nom Roll Capt 34 Bn RTA 7/2/19 Service Record Joined 3/34 Bn Embarked 2/5/16 TOS 34 Bn France Lt 19/8/16 WIA 12/10/17 Capt Att 29 American Rgt 20/7/18 Returned 7/2/19 Terminated 21/7/19

R BEAN recounts the action of the 9Div advance to the starting line to commence the dawn attack at Passchendaele I on 12/10/17, through the German gas barrage called 'Moondnacht', in pouring rain and pitch darkness, only to find the line was not secured. Captains Gilder and Jeffries, commanding the leading companies of the 34Bn, halted their companies "at the entrance to the Broodseinde railway cutting, and themselves went forward to make sure that their column might not run into the enemy." [IV 910ff] R BEAN mentions the action later in the day for which Capt Gilder won his MC [IV 913]

R BEAN also recounts the action before Villers-Bretonneux, on 30/3/18, which attempted to secure the spur at Aubercourt. Captain Gilder's company was asked to reinforce the left of the 34Bn line. "Captain Gilder found by personal reconnaissance that the German line there lay along the crest. At 8 o'clock, advancing silently in one line followed by a machine-gun of the 9th Company, his men drove the Germans out of their picquet-line, capturing two machine-guns, and then swept on and cleared them from their main line, a continuous trench....Gilder decided to occupy the trench, and sent out patrols to find touch with the 33rd on his right. After a long search a patrol of the 33rd was met. R Its leader, Lieutenant King [Robert Cecil King qv. This was during the action for which King won his MC. The 33Bn had lost, earlier the same day, Lieut JGA Pockley, qv.], indicated where the line on the right lay, and said that it was hopeless for it to attempt a junction with Gilder's company. Gilder accordingly withdrew to the 33rd's line, 250 yards in rear, his troops filling a wide gap. Another gap was filled by two more companies of the 34th, and its last company was brought up into close reserve. Rain was still falling. Rifles and Lewis guns were difficult to clean. Maps became pulped and useless. But the troops were in high spirits. Ammunition and supplies were brought in limbers to the wood, and on pack animals to the advanced positions. The Germans driven back by Gilder's company did not detect his withdrawal, and the trench on the crest remained empty until 1.30 next morning, when a line of men appeared on the sky-line there. Intense fire was opened on them, and the figures vanished." [V 307-308]

MC : "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On the 12 Octr 1917 near PASSCHENDAELE he led his Coy forward with great coolness and bravery. When finding his left flank was open to enfilade machine gun fire he promptly made a personal reconnaissance of the open flank, and in spite of being blown up on two occasions by shells succeeded in organising a party and closing the exposed flank. Through[out] he showed a fine example of leadership and courage under extremely heavy fire."