



891 WILLIAMS Leonard Lisle



Lieut. L. L. Williams
Mentioned in Despatches (2nd time)

Son of [Cmdr] VW Williams Esq Killegar Aubin St Neutral Bay born December 5 1893 Entered 1904 Left 1911 Pockley Prize (aeq) 1st XV Colours Honour Cap 1911 GPS XV 1910 1st XI 1st Ath 1910 Sgt in Cadets Great War 1914-18 (Major MC Mentioned twice in Despatches) Grazier Suffolk Vale Boorowa

Nom Roll Major MC 7 LH Left 16/10/14 RTA 28/6/19

Service Record 506 Asst Overseer Joined 7 LH Tpr 13/10/14 Sgt 15/11/14 Embarked Second Exped Force 19/12/14 MEF Gallipoli 15/5/15 2/Lt 7 LH 1/12/15 at Anzac Lt 28/1/16 MID 1/12/16 MC 4/12/16 Capt 21/3/18 Maj 5/3/19 Returned 28/6/19 Terminated 3/10/19

R BEAN [Gullett] describes "the decisive incident in the assault" on Annam on 25/9/18. Captain LL Williams with Lt Stanley led a party of thirty-five in a dash at the trenches across a patch of „dead“ ground of about 80 yards width. "The Turks, taken by surprise, refused to meet the bayonet, and nine officers and ninety-seven other ranks, with seven machine-guns, surrendered. Not an Australian was hit." [VII 722] MC : "On the night 31 July - 1 August, 1917, for gallantry and skill. A night reconnaissance of the GAZA-BEERSHEBA road north of WADI IMLEIH was required to ascertain what enemy movement had been on it recently and whether the movement southwards the previous night of large bodies of enemy troops was a relief or a reinforcement to the BEERSHEBA Garrison.

Lieutenant Williams with one non-commissioned officer and two men were selected for this reconnaissance. They dismounted about half a mile from WADI IMLEIH and moved forward from the forward party of two troops. Two enemy cavalry patrols had just previously been met, one of twelve men and the other of three, but these fell back.

Lieutenant Williams crossed the Wadi and reached the GAZA-BEERCHEBA [*sic.*] road, which he closely examined, remaining for about an hour, and followed it some distance South, and came to the conclusion that there had been no great passage of troops on it for 24 hours, although there were plenty of patrol and Bedouin movement in the vicinity. He returned to the horses and on the way back his troop met a troop of 25 enemy cavalry, which were chased in a wild gallop in the darkness, one prisoner being taken who gave valuable information.

On previous occasions this officers [*sic.*] has shewn gallantry and skill."

N.B. THESE 2 PARAGRAPHS THAT FOLLOW ARE PROBABLY EARLIER VERSIONS OF THE PARAGRAPHS ABOVE:

MC [Lieut. Leonard Leslie WILLIAMS] : "Lieut. L L Williams carried out a reconnaissance of the BEERSHEBA ROAD in the vicinity of 570 (Ref. map BEERSHEBA 1:125,000) Sq C 5 on the night of 31 July - 1 Aug. He moved off in charge of the screen to two troops from Kh. IMLEIH. Before reaching the WADI IMLEIH two mounted patrols of the enemy were met, one of 12 and the other of 3 - they fell back in front of him. He and one Section on approaching the WADI dismounted and carried out a successful reconnaissance of BEERSHEBA ROAD - remaining in the vicinity for the best part of an hour.

On returning to the Regiment at Kh. IMLEIH an enemys mounted patrol of 25 was met - it galloped away - the two troops gave chase and one man was captured - the remainder escaping in the darkness.

Lieut. WILLIAMS has done excellent work in the past - he shows plenty of dash and pluck and initiative and is very cool under fire."

[Handwritten addition] : "A night reconnaissance of the GAZA - Beersheba road north of WADI IMLIEH [*sic.*] (Beersheba 1/125000) was required on the night of 31 July - 1 Aug to ascertain what enemy movement had been on it recently and whether the movement southward the previous night of large bodies of enemy troops was a relief or a reinforcement to the Beersheba Garrison. Lieut. Williams with one NCO and two men were selected for this reconnaissance. They dismounted about half a mile from WADI IMLIEH [*sic.*] near the G [?] in Bir El GIRHWL [*sic.*] and moved forward from the forward party of two troops."

MC [2 April 1918] : "On the afternoon of the 25 March 1918 in action against AMMAN, Lieut. WILLIAMS was in charge of a detachment occupying an isolated hill. The remainder of the Regiment was held up and Lt Williams observed a large body of enemy threatening our furthest flank. It was imperative that the Regimental Commander be warned and an NCO left with a message but fell wounded. Lt Williams immediately set out to warn the CO and in order to do so had to run down the hillside for 250 yards, being subjected to heavy fire all the way. He delivered the message and the Regt was able to withdraw before the neighbouring dominating points were occupied. During the withdrawal which occupied about 2½ hours this Officer by personal courage and devotion to duty succeeded in saving his wounded and enabled his motor-rise guns, the crews of two of which had been wounded, to be saved. Throughout the whole operations he has shown great gallantry and devotion to duty."