

Honours and Awards- ANZAC Day

Today I will talk about the Honours and Awards that have been received by people who have lived in the District.

21 people who have lived in Mt Marshal have received various awards.

The highest award available is the Victoria Cross. This is awarded for Valour.

The next highest is the Distinguished Conduct Medal. This is regarded as an extremely high level award. It is awarded for gallantry in the field. There are three recipients of the DCM who have lived in the District. Two are buried in the Bencubbin Cemetery.

The next highest awards are the Military Cross and the Military Medal. 12 people have been awarded these medals. The Military Medal is awarded for bravery in battle, acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire.

The next medal is the Meritorious Service Medal. There have been three people with this award in the District. This medal can be awarded for meritorious service or gallantry.

The last imperial award is the Mentioned in Despatches. This requires having a noteworthy action published in the London or Commonwealth Gazette. There is no medal involved. The recipient receives a certificate. A bronze oak leaf is sown on the campaign medal ribbon. There have been three recipients of this award

There have been three foreign awards received: Two Belgium Croix de Guerres and one United States Silver Star.

All of these medals were awarded during World War One except one Military Medal and the US Silver Star. These two medals were awarded during the Vietnam War.

The three Citations for the DCMs follow:

Cpl AG Forrester:

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty whilst in charge of a stretcher bearer squad during an attack. The advance was made under heavy shell and machine gun fire, and the N.C.O did invaluable work in organizing details, directing regimental stretcher bearers, and getting in touch with Battalion Headquarters and the Field Ambulance in rear. During his duties, he was continually exposed to heavy fire and did fine work under the most difficult circumstances.” Commonwealth Gazette No 15 dated 15th February 1919.

Cpl Charles Cowain:

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led a bombing attack [Hand grenades] through enemy trenches against continuous opposition. When the attack at other points was held up by an enemy machine gun, he kept it out of action until his company was able to proceed. It was in a great measure due to his almost reckless courage and personal example that his party was successful.” Commonwealth Gazette No 15. 4th February 1919.

Sgt James Nixon:

“For conspicuous gallantry and initiative. When in charge of a mine gallery he saw a light at the end of it. Putting out his own light he went to observe and saw a hand come through close to our charge. He at once withdrew all the men from the gallery and fired the charge before the enemy had time to disconnect it.” London Gazette 27th July 1916.