

Originated by Unit 28 Feb 45

Date recommendation passed forward

2 Cdn Armd Brigade Division 2 Cdn Corps

Received Unit 2 Mar 45
Passed 1 Mar 45
Brigade 2 Mar 45
Division

Schedule No. (to be left blank) Unit 27 Cdn Armd Regt (SFR) CAC

Corps
Army 17 MAR 1945 10 APR 1945

Army No. and Rank Lieut

Name John Wesley NEILL
(Christian names must be stated) CAC

Action for which commended
(Date and place of action must be stated)

Recommended by Honour or Reward (To be left blank)

In the breakout from CLEVE on the 26 Feb 45 Lt John Wesley NEILL was a Troop Leader with the 27 Cdn Armd Regt. At 0430 hrs he and his troop were to lead a column of KANGAROOS carrying infantry across the start line to the objective.

Immediate MC
F.T. Jenner
(F.T. Jenner) Lt-Col
CO 27 Cdn Armd Regt

As soon as the attack began heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire was brought to bear on the column. Added to this, progress was rendered extremely difficult when tracked vehicles began to bog down in the mud. A heavy smoke screen was laid by the enemy and, added to the darkness, made maintenance of direction virtually impossible. It was however the heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire which came from beyond the objective which made progress so slow. Lt Neill quickly appreciating the situation decided to make a dash for the objective and attempt, with fire from his tanks, to dominate the dead ground beyond. The tank charge was extremely difficult and dangerous

G.W. Robinson
(G.W. Robinson) Brig
Comd 2 Cdn Armd Bde
J.F. Bingham
(J.F. Bingham) Brig
BRAC First Cdn Army
H.G. Greer
Sgd (H.G. Greer) Gen
GOC-in-C
First Cdn Army

due to the fact it was made without infantry support and enemy bazooka men were in every ditch and slit trench. Arriving on the objective with only one other tank he was met by intense enemy mortar, artillery and machine gun fire. Although alone with one other tank and faced with superior enemy fire he refused to withdraw, but coolly and with grim determination, brought accurate fire to bear on the enemy, inflicting numerous casualties so that when the infantry arrived some twenty minutes later they were able to dig in and consolidate without appreciable loss.

It was without doubt the courageous action of Lt Neill in dominating the objective under great odds that brought this operation to a successful conclusion.

If a casualty as under, fill in date.

Nature of Casualty	Date
Killed in action	
Died of Wounds	
Died	
Missing	
Prisoner of War	

B. L. Ron Traucy

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
21 ARMY GROUP