



Wanganui Boy Honoured



PRIVATE ERNEST HENDERSON DECORATED

Sergt. Frank A Symes, late of Wanganui, writes as follows from the New Zealand (Command) Depot, Codford, Wilts:-

A most pleasing ceremony took place this afternoon at the N.Z. Depot, Codford, England, when in company with three others, Private Ernest Henderson was decorated with the Military Medal for gallantry in the field. The whole Depot was paraded for the occasion, and the various units were massed, forming a hollow square, the four recipients facing the dais. General Richardson, commanding the New Zealand Forces in England officiated, and in a happy little speech referred in glowing terms to the courage and devotion to duty that the recipients of the medal had displayed at the front. As each name was read out, the General stepped forward and pinned the medal on the breast of the man named, completing the ceremony by shaking hands cordially. At last the ceremony was over, and the proceedings terminated with the General calling for three hearty cheers for the recipients of the medals. These were given in true New Zealand fashion, after which the Depot Band struck up, and we marched back to our huts.

I should like to state that Private Ernest Henderson earned his decoration during a raid on a village held by the Germans in June last. He displayed conspicuous gallantry and initiative in hand-to-hand fighting, which was a feature of the raid, and was wounded in the engagement. I am pleased to say, however, that he has now recovered, and I feel sure that the people of Wanganui will join heartily with his many friends in the 2nd Wellington Battalion in tendering him our heartiest congratulations.

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