

held by two machine guns and about 30 men and rushed the guns, capturing them and killing all the enemy gunners, he himself killing two. By his fine action he saved many casualties.

2340 Sjt. W. Binnington, 2nd Bn., North'd Fus. (High Spen, Co. Durham).

For most conspicuous gallantry as battalion signalling serjeant during attack on Le Catelet on 4th October, 1918. During the two attacks on Le Catelet on 4th October he led a battalion headquarter platoon in a most dashing manner, inflicting loss on the enemy and greatly assisting our advance. He also obtained signal communication with brigade headquarters under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. In the mopping up of Le Catelet he silenced a machine gun in a house by throwing bombs through a window. He rendered excellent service.

12077 Sjt. (A./C./S./M.) R. S. Birkinshaw, 1st Bn., W. York. R. (Ripon).

At Selency, on 24th September, 1918, he displayed marked gallantry and devotion to duty under intense machine-gun and shell fire. He advanced with his platoon to assault a barricade across the road, the barricade being a nest of enemy machine guns. He got separated from his platoon officer, but went on with three men and bombed the two enemy posts on either side of the barricade, driving the enemy out, but was counter-attacked. At night, with six of his men he effected a ledgment in the enemy's trench further to his right. From here he bombed his way down to the barricade, captured it and took four machine guns. He showed determined gallantry.

337734 Cpl. A. H. Birks, 94th Sge. By., R.G.A. (Hartlepool).

On the 27/28th September, 1918, at Ronsoy, he was mounting his gun. The position was heavily harassed both with high-explosive and gas shell throughout the operation. Although he lost nine men of his sub-section from shell fire during the work, he displayed great gallantry and coolness, and to his personal efforts was due the successful mounting of the gun under most difficult circumstances, thus ensuring its participation in our attack on 29th September, 1918.

S/6579 Sjt. G. Birrell, M.M., 8th Bn., R. Highrs., attd. 26th L.T.M. By. (Edinburgh).

During the attack on Ledeghem on 1st October, 1918, he did most excellent work with the section under his command until his guns were put out of action. Then, hearing that the front line were short of Lewis-gun ammunition, he organised parties to carry same up to the line. These he led up several times under withering machine-gun and rifle fire, and by his initiative and disregard of danger saved a very serious situation.

S/41077 Pte. E. Black, 1/6th Bn., R. Highrs., T.F. (Forfar).

On 26th October, 1918, near Famars, he saw an enemy training his machine gun on advancing troops. He rushed towards the gun, firing with a captured enemy revolver, and forced the gunner to surrender with his gun. On other occasions, as platoon runner,

his devotion to duty under heavy fire was magnificent. All through he behaved with the greatest gallantry and complete disregard for his own safety.

22949 Sjt. R. Blackburn, M.M., 2nd Bn., G. Gds. (Carthorpe).

For most conspicuous gallantry and determination between St. Python and Vertain on 20th October, 1918. He was acting as C.S.M. On reaching the battalion's first objective he noticed a large party of the enemy with machine guns and trench mortars in a sunken road. He promptly organised a party and charged with the bayonet, inflicting severe losses on the enemy, capturing prisoners, two trench mortars, and several machine guns. Later, when nearing the final objective, with three men he rushed into a house under heavy machine-gun fire, where he captured one officer, twenty-five prisoners and a field gun. Throughout he rendered valuable service.

331037 Sjt. F. S. Blamire, 1/1st Bn., Cambs. R., T.F. (Cockfield).

For conspicuous gallantry and good leadership at Epehy on the 18/19th September, 1918. When his platoon was held up by a strong machine-gun nest, he went across the open to a tank and directed it to the machine-gun nest. He then followed with his platoon, and sent back as a result several prisoners. On the 19th September, in command of the company, he led them ably and gained his objective.

L/13223 Sjt. L. G. Blampied, M.M., 1st Bn., Midd'x R. (Bristol).

During the advance on the enemy position at Englefontaine on the 24th October, 1918, the line was held up by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. He collected a few men around him and charged the enemy position, inspiring the company to a further advance. Later, when his company commander had been killed, he assisted the second in command to rally the company under very heavy fire, and by his splendid example very greatly assisted in making the attack a complete success. Throughout the operations he showed most determined courage.

471702 Spr. (L./C.) J. Bloom, 122nd Fd. Coy., R.E. (Upton-on-Severn).

On the 16th October, 1918, during the bridging operations at Courtrai, he was one of the volunteers to get the rope across for the first pontoon, and displayed marked gallantry and coolness. He made several crossings of the River Lys with the first pontoon, and when the pontoons were destroyed by artillery fire and his officers and senior N.C.O.'s killed or wounded by machine-gun fire, he superintended the landing, and personally pulled two successive boatloads of infantry across the canal.

43948 Pte. L. Bottomley, 1st Bn., R. Berks. R. (Oldham).

For conspicuous gallantry on 29th September, 1918, near Noyelles. When his platoon was being harassed by an enemy sniper from the factory across the canal, he volunteered to go forward and silence him. This, under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, he succeeded in doing single-handed and bringing him back to his lines. Throughout the three