

confusion and retirement, closely pressed by hostile forces.

2nd Lt. Pollard at once realised the seriousness of the situation, and dashed up to stop the retirement. With only four men he started a counter-attack with bombs, and pressed it home till he had broken the enemy attack, regained all that had been lost and much ground in addition.

The enemy retired in disorder, sustaining many casualties.

By his force of will, dash and splendid example, coupled with an utter contempt of danger, this Officer, who has already won the D.C.M. and M.C., infused courage into every man who saw him.

No. 1630 Sjt. Frederick Charles Booth, S. Afr. Forces, attd. Rhodesia Native Regt.

For most conspicuous bravery during an attack, in thick bush, on the enemy position.

Under very heavy rifle fire, Sjt. Booth went forward alone and brought in a man who was dangerously wounded.

Later, he rallied native troops who were badly disorganised, and brought them to the fring line.

This N.C.O. has on many previous occasions displayed the greatest bravery, coolness, and resource in action, and has set a splendid example of pluck, endurance, and determination.

No. 5190 Sjt. Harry Cator, E. Surr. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

Whilst consolidating the first line captured system his platoon suffered severe casualties from hostile machine-gun and rifle fire. In full view of the enemy and under heavy fire Sjt. Cator with one man advanced across the open to attack the hostile machine gun. The man accompanying him was killed after going a short distance, but Sjt. Cator continued on, and picking up a Lewis gun and some drums on his way, succeeded in reaching the northern end of the hostile trench.

Meanwhile, one of our bombing parties was seen to be held up by a machine gun. Sjt. Cator took up a position from which he sighted this gun and killed the entire team and the officer, whose papers he brought in.

He continued to hold that end of the trench with the Lewis gun with such effect that the bombing squad was enabled to work along, the result being that 100 prisoners and five machine guns were captured.

No. 1836 Sjt. John William Ormsby, K.O. York, L. Inf.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during operations which culminated in the capture of an important position.

Acting as Company Serjeant-Major he showed throughout the attack absolute indifference to the heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, and set a fine example.

After clearing the village he pushed on and drove out many snipers from localities further forward.

When the only surviving officer was wounded he took command of the company and led them

forward under heavy fire for 400 yards to a new position.

He organised his new position with great skill and held his line with determination until relieved of his command.

His conduct throughout was admirable and inspired confidence in every man under his command.

No. 2902 Sjt. John Woods Whittle, Inf. Bn., Aus. Imp. Force.

For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on two occasions.

When in command of a platoon the enemy, under cover of an intense artillery barrage, attacked the small trench he was holding. Owing to weight of numbers the enemy succeeded in entering the trench, and it was owing to Sjt. Whittle personally collecting all available men and charging the enemy that the position was regained.

On a second occasion when the enemy broke through the left of our line Sjt. Whittle's own splendid example was the means of keeping the men well in hand. His platoon were suffering heavy casualties and the enemy endeavoured to bring up a machine gun to enfilade the position. Grasping the situation he rushed alone across the fire-swept ground and attacked the hostile gun crew with bombs before the gun could be got into action.

He succeeded in killing the whole crew and in bringing back the machine gun to our position.

No. 53730 L./Sjt. Ellis Welwood Sifton, late Can. Inf. Bn.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During the attack in enemy trenches Sjt. Sifton's company was held up by machine-gun fire which inflicted many casualties. Having located the gun he charged it single-handed, killing all the crew.

A small enemy party advanced down the trench, but he succeeded in keeping these off till our men had gained the position.

In carrying out this gallant act he was killed, but his conspicuous valour undoubtedly saved many lives and contributed largely to the success of the operation.

No. 811 L./Sjt. Thomas Steele, Sea. Highrs.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

At a critical moment when a strong enemy counter-attack had temporarily regained some of the captured trenches, Sjt. Steele rushed forward and assisted a comrade to carry a machine gun into position. He kept the gun in action till relieved, being mainly instrumental in keeping the remainder of the line intact.

Some hours later another strong attack enabled the enemy to reoccupy a portion of the captured trenches. Again Sjt. Steele showed the greatest bravery, and by personal valour and example was able to rally troops who were wavering. He encouraged them to remain in their trenches and led a number of them forward, thus greatly helping to re-establish our line. On this occasion he was severely wounded.

These acts of valour were performed under heavy artillery and rifle fire.