

casualties, Sjt. Molyneux instantly organised a bombing party to clear the trench in front of a house. Many enemy were killed and a machine-gun captured.

Having cleared this obstacle, he immediately jumped out of the trench and called for some one to follow him, and rushed for the house. By the time the men arrived he was in the thick of a hand-to-hand fight; this only lasted a short time, and the enemy surrendered, and, in addition to the dead and wounded, between 20 and 30 prisoners were taken.

Apart from the personal bravery of this Non-commissioned Officer, his initiative and dash prevented a slight check from becoming a serious block in the advance, and undoubtedly prevented many casualties.

No. 15122 L./Sjt. John Harold Rhodes, G. Gds. (Tunstall, Staffs).

For most conspicuous bravery when in charge of a Lewis-gun section covering the consolidation of the right front company.

He accounted for several enemy with his rifle as well as by Lewis-gun fire, and, upon seeing three enemy leave a "pill-box," he went out single-handed through our own barrage and hostile machine-gun fire, and effected an entry into the "pill-box." He there captured nine enemy, including a forward observation officer connected by telephone with his battery. These prisoners he brought back with him, together with valuable information.

No. 71130 Cpl. Ernest Albert Egerton, Notts & Derby R. (Longton).

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty when, during attack, owing to fog and smoke, visibility was obscured, and, in consequence thereof, the two leading waves of the attack passed over certain hostile dug-outs without clearing them. Enemy rifles, assisted by a machine-gun, were, from these dug-outs, inflicting severe casualties on the advancing waves. When volunteers were called for to assist in clearing up the situation, Cpl. Egerton at once jumped up and dashed for the dug-outs under heavy fire at short range.

He shot in succession a rifleman, a bomber and a gunner, by which time he was supported and 29 of the enemy surrendered.

The reckless bravery of this N.C.O. relieved in less than thirty seconds an extremely difficult situation. His gallantry is beyond all praise.

No. 23715 Actg. Cpl. Fred Greaves, Notts & Derby. R. (Balborough).

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and leadership, when his platoon was temporarily held up by machine-gun fire from a concrete stronghold. Seeing that his platoon commander and serjeant were casualties, and realising that unless this post was taken quickly his men would lose the barrage, Cpl. Greaves, followed by another non-commissioned officer, rushed forward regardless of his personal safety, reached the rear of the building and bombed the occupants, killing or capturing the garrison, and taking four enemy machine-guns.

It was solely due to the personal pluck, dash and initiative of this non-commissioned officer that the assaulting line at this point was not

held up, and that our troops escaped serious casualties.

Later in the afternoon, at a most critical period of the battle, when the troops of a flank brigade had given way temporarily under a heavy counter-attack and when all the officers in his company were casualties, this gallant non-commissioned officer quickly grasped the situation. He collected his men, threw out extra posts on the threatened flank, and opened up rifle and machine-gun fire to enfilade the advance.

The effect of Cpl. Greaves' conduct on his men throughout the battle cannot be over-estimated, and those under his command responded gallantly to his example.

No. 144039 A./Cpl. Filip Konowal, Can. Inf.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership when in charge of a section in attack. His section had the difficult task of mopping up cellars, craters and machine-gun emplacements. Under his able direction all resistance was overcome successfully, and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. In one cellar he himself bayoneted three enemy and attacked single-handed seven others in a crater, killing them all.

On reaching the objective, a machine-gun was holding up the right flank, causing many casualties. Cpl. Konowal rushed forward and entered the emplacement, killed the crew, and brought the gun back to our lines.

The next day he again attacked single-handed another machine-gun emplacement, killed three of the crew, and destroyed the gun and emplacement with explosives.

This non-commissioned officer alone killed at least sixteen of the enemy, and during the two days' actual fighting carried on continuously his good work until severely wounded.

No. 8162 L./Cpl. William Henry Hewitt, S.A. Inf.

For most conspicuous bravery during operations. L./Cpl. Hewitt attacked a "pill-box" with his section, and tried to rush the doorway. The garrison, however, proved very stubborn, and in the attempt this non-commissioned officer received a severe wound. Nevertheless, he proceeded to the loophole of the "pill-box," where, in his attempts to put a bomb into it, he was again wounded in the arm. Undeterred, however, he eventually managed to get a bomb inside, which caused the occupants to dislodge, and they were successfully and speedily dealt with by the remainder of the section.

No. 51507 L./Cpl. Harold Mugford, M.G. Corps (East Ham).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, under intense shell and machine-gun fire, L./Cpl. Mugford succeeded in getting his machine gun into forward and very exposed position. From this point he was able to deal most effectively with the enemy, who were massing for counter-attack. His No. 2 was killed almost immediately, and at the same moment he himself was severely wounded. He was then ordered to a new position, and told to go to a dressing-station as soon as the