

position was occupied. He refused to go to the dressing-station, but continued on duty with his gun, inflicting severe loss on the enemy.

Soon after he was again wounded, a shell breaking both of his legs. He still remained with his gun, begging his comrades to leave him and take cover.

Shortly afterwards this non-commissioned officer was removed to the dressing-station, where he was again wounded in the arm.

The valour and initiative displayed by L./Cpl. Mugford was instrumental in breaking up the impending counter-attack of the enemy.

No. 114 L./Cpl. Walter Peeler, Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery when with a Lewis gun accompanying the first wave of the assault he encountered an enemy party sniping the advancing troops from a shell-hole.

L./Cpl. Peeler immediately rushed the position and accounted for nine of the enemy, and cleared the way for the advance. On two subsequent occasions he performed similar acts of valour, and each time accounted for a number of the enemy.

During operations he was directed to a position from which an enemy machine gun was being fired on our troops. He located and killed the gunner, and the remainder of the enemy party ran into a dugout close by. From this shelter they were dislodged by a bomb, and ten of the enemy ran out. These he disposed of.

This non-commissioned officer actually accounted for over thirty of the enemy.

He displayed an absolute fearlessness in making his way ahead of the first wave of the assault, and the fine example which he set ensured the success of the attack against most determined opposition.

No. 3774 Pte. Patrick Bugden, late Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when on two occasions our advance was temporarily held up by strongly-defended "pill-boxes." Pte. Bugden, in the face of devastating fire from machine guns, gallantly led small parties to attack these strong points and, successfully silencing the machine guns with bombs, captured the garrison at the point of the bayonet.

On another occasion, when a corporal, who had become detached from his company, had been captured and was being taken to the rear by the enemy, Pte. Bugden, single-handed, rushed to the rescue of his comrade, shot one enemy and bayoneted the remaining two, thus releasing the Corporal.

On five occasions he rescued wounded men under intense shell and machine-gun fire, showing an utter contempt and disregard for danger.

Always foremost in volunteering for any dangerous mission, it was during the execution of one of these missions that this gallant soldier was killed.

No. 21654 Pte. Frederick George Dancox, Worc. R. (Worcester).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack.

After the first objective had been captured and consolidation had been started, work was considerably hampered, and numerous casualties were caused by an enemy machine gun firing from a concrete emplacement situated on the edge of our protective barrage.

Pte. Dancox was one of a party of about ten men detailed as moppers-up. Owing to the position of the machine-gun emplacement, it was extremely difficult to work round a flank. However, this man with great gallantry worked his way round through the barrage and entered the "pill-box" from the rear, threatening the garrison with a Mills bomb. Shortly afterwards he reappeared with a machine gun under his arm, followed by about 40 enemy.

The machine gun was brought back to our position by Pte. Dancox, and he kept it in action throughout the day.

By his resolution, absolute disregard of danger and cheerful disposition, the morale of his comrades was maintained at a very high standard under extremely trying circumstances.

No. 241475 Pte. Albert Halton, K.O.R. Lanc. R. (Carnforth).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack. After the objective had been reached Pte. Halton rushed forward about three hundred yards under very heavy rifle and shell fire, and captured a machine gun and its crew, which was causing many losses to our men. He then went out again and brought in about twelve prisoners, showing the greatest disregard of his own safety and setting a very fine example to those around him.

No. 331958 Pte. (A./L.Cpl.) John Brown Hamilton, High. L.I. (Lanarkshire).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the enemy's attack on the line held by our brigades. The greatest difficulty was experienced in keeping the front and support lines supplied with small-arm ammunition owing to the intense and continuous belt of artillery fire placed systematically by the enemy between our various lines and battalion headquarters. It was of vital importance for the successful maintenance of the defence of the position that ammunition should be got forward.

At a time when this ammunition supply had reached a seriously low ebb, L./Cpl. Hamilton on several occasions, on his own initiative, carried bandoliers of ammunition through the enemy's belts of fire to the front and support line, and then, passing along these lines in full view of the enemy's snipers and machine guns—who were lying out in front of our line at close range—distributed the ammunition to the men. In so doing he not only ensured the steady continuance of the defence by rifle fire, but by his splendid example of fearlessness and devotion to duty inspired all who saw him with fresh confidence and renewed their determination to hold on at all costs.

No. 267110 Pte. Arthur Hutt, R. War. R. (Earlsdon, Coventry).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack, when all the officers and non-