

through the window, putting the machine gun out of action and killing the team. On advancing the party again came under machine-gun fire; he again brought his gun into action, silencing the enemy machine gun and enabling the party to advance. He prevented the enemy from working round the flanks, causing them heavy casualties.

428337 Sjt. J. Baker, R.E. (Widnes).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He was one of a party detailed to establish a block in the enemy's trench. He formed the block, assisted to hold it, and then took part in a bayonet charge against the enemy, showing splendid courage and initiative.

29975 Cpl. T. Baker, M.M., R.F.A. (Abingdon).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On the enemy opening a heavy shell fire on two trench mortars, which were in action, one of the bomb dumps near by caught fire. On his own initiative he immediately rushed into the position and at very great personal risk succeeded in beating out the flames. Shortly afterwards a hostile shell again set it on fire, and this N.C.O., a second time, succeeded in extinguishing the flames. But for his courage, promptness and complete disregard for his own safety both mortars and position would have been completely destroyed.

51907 Cpl. (A./Sjt.) W. Baker, R.E. (Alveston).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was one of several linesmen laying main cable routes to the front line, and though the enemy put down an intense barrage, by his personal example the task was completed. Later, when one of the main forward cable routes had been destroyed he succeeded in repairing all the damage, only ceasing when communication had been completely re-established. On another occasion he was one of a party surprised by the enemy and was of the greatest assistance in organising the defence and delaying the enemy. He showed great initiative and set a splendid example to his men.

320001 C.S.M. J. Balcombe, R. Suss. R. (Brighton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He led the attacking waves on several occasions and got them forward to well-chosen positions. He was responsible for the capture of a large number of prisoners, and contributed largely to the success of the attack. He showed the greatest coolness, daring and initiative.

201542 Cpl. (L./Sjt.) R. Barker, R. War. R. (Gloucester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of his company when all the officers were casualties during an enemy attack, rallied and reformed his men and led counter-attacks, showing splendid leadership and initiative.

16625 Cpl. E. W. Barrett, Norf. R. ("E" Norwich).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of his platoon owing to casualties among the senior N.C.O.'s. He guided the platoon through a barrage and cleared the whole area originally allotted to them. On reaching the objective he collected all men in the vicinity and set them to work to consolidate while he himself patrolled close up to the protective barrage.

36713 Sjt. E. C. Bateman, M.M., R. Berks. R. (Chichester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of his company after all the officers had become casualties. He reorganised the company under most difficult conditions and heavy fire, formed a defensive flank, and later, extricated the company with very few casualties during a most difficult relief.

918 Sjt. W. Baxter, Rif. Bde. and K.A. Rif. (Bury St. Edmunds).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When touch was gained with the enemy he led his scouts with great determination, and later, on his platoon coming under heavy machine-gun fire, he showed marked courage, continually moving about the firing line. It was largely due to this N.C.O.'s work that the position was maintained without the need of reinforcements.

29807 L./Cpl. (A./Cpl.) R. Bean, Norf. R. (Blakeney).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During the attack he volunteered to accompany an officer and a serjeant-major in a rush over the open, whereby two machine guns, which were holding up our advance, were captured and the crews killed. The guns having been put out of action, he alone went down a narrow tunnel, to which some of the enemy had retreated, and bayonetting two of them, received the surrender of the remainder. During this hand-to-hand fighting he sprained his wrist, but, despite this, during the night he carried out a very valuable reconnaissance. During the whole of a very trying period of three weeks he set his section a magnificent example of courage, coolness and self-reliance.

761020 Cpl. F. M. Beddow, Lond. R. (Llanreath).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of the company owing to casualties. He set a splendid example of cheerfulness and resource under difficult circumstances and heavy fire.

8075 Sjt. A. Bell, E. Surr. R. ("E" Marylebone).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a bombing party in a raid. After his officer had been wounded, several men killed and wounded, and he himself wounded in the face and elsewhere, he rushed forward and killed the two men who had inflicted the casualties with a bomb. He continued to advance until ordered by the officer commanding the raid to withdraw.