

account of heavy casualties amongst the officers, he was placed in command of part of the line. He advanced fearlessly under fire, kept his men well in hand, and regained the lost ground. He was of the utmost assistance throughout the sixty hours of fighting, carrying out all his orders with the greatest precision and efficiency under extremely critical conditions.

*81572 Cpl. F. Watts, R.F.A. (Barton Hill).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a long period while in charge of communications. He laid and mended lines frequently under heavy fire, and set a splendid example throughout to the men under him.

T.Z. 657 P.O. T. Watson, R.N.V.R. (Durham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in moving the men forward under a heavy barrage, collecting many who were stuck in the mud and unable to move. When in the shell holes and during the relief under heavy fire, he was invaluable in steadying a number of men who were very shaken.

27221 C.S.M. R. Webb, R. Berks. R. (Sidecup).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an advance. He kept the men in hand when held up by machine-gun fire. After dark he went from shell-hole to shell-hole organising the defence and rallying many men from other units.

M2/101863 Pte. W. Welcome, A.S.C. (M.T.) (Chichester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When an ambulance was urgently required he ran his car through a village which was held by the enemy and was exposed to heavy shell and rifle fire throughout the whole journey, his car being hit on two occasions. He set a splendid example of courage and determination.

250358 C.S.M. H. W. Welsh, Lond. R. (Notting Hill).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He visited the gaps and advanced posts in front of the line on several occasions during enemy barrages, cheering and encouraging the men, and set them a splendid example of devotion to duty throughout the operations.

720661 C.S.M. G. W. West, Lond. R. (Luton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though seriously injured by gas he returned to his company in the front line, after having been sent to the aid post by his company commander, and remained with them until he collapsed. His cheerful demeanour under intense shell-fire was the greatest encouragement to his men.

R./2764 Sjt. W. West, K.R.R.C. (Whalley).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his company was held up by rifle and machine-gun fire he promptly

organised a section of rifle grenadiers who silenced the machine gun, and then led his men forward and captured the post. When the company was suddenly called on to support another battalion and had to advance through a heavy barrage, the company commander was killed, and this caused a slight wavering in the line, but he immediately took command and succeeded in pushing forward again.

8006 Pte. K. White, Conn. Rangs. (Banagher).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack and an enemy counter-attack which followed. His portion of the trench was heavily bombed by the enemy, but he stationed himself as near to the enemy as possible and continually caught their bombs in mid-air and threw them back. His courage and daring during several very critical hours contributed materially to the final defeat of the enemy.

91955 Cpl. A. Whitehead, Tank Corps (Pendlebury).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On his officer being severely wounded, he assumed command of his Tank and continued in command for five hours, though he himself was wounded early in the action. Despite the heavy fire brought to bear on his Tank, he patrolled in front of our line, keeping the enemy back till our infantry had consolidated. On one occasion he was responsible for the rounding up of a large number of prisoners and machine guns in conjunction with a bombing party of the infantry. Throughout the whole action he displayed the greatest gallantry, manœuvring his Tank with fine judgment and skill.

109630 C.S.M. (A.S.M.) C. J. Whitehead, R.E. (Birmingham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When, owing to heavy shelling, a construction train, with about 200 men, was cut off, the line being blown up, he immediately took an engine, the crew of which had taken cover, and with the help of a Corporal took three waggons of miners to the point of the break, thus permitting the track to be filled in and the train to be brought in.

205200 Cpl. (A./Sjt.) J. G. B. Whiting, Yeo. (Newport Pagnell, Bucks.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When without a troop leader he showed great gallantry in leading his men to the assault under heavy rifle and machine gun fire. He set a fine example of coolness and courage to his men.

230232 Cpl. F. L. Whittle, Yeo. (Sherborne, Dorset).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed great courage and initiative in approaching close up to an enemy machine gun and shooting the gunners.

203174 L./Sjt. R. P. Wilcox, W. Rid. R. (Oldham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in removing many wounded men from the fire-beaten zone at great personal risk. He greatly helped his Company Commander