

Lt. Henry Ernest Slater, Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After the battalion had reached its objective with few casualties an enemy strong point with several machine guns inflicted severe casualties on the right flank, and threatened the junction with the unit on the right. With a serjeant and two men he attacked the strong point, put the machine gun crew out of action, and captured the position with thirty prisoners. By his prompt and courageous action he saved many casualties. In the later stages of the fight by his courage and example he inspired his men to withstand and beat off a counter-attack.

Capt. John Charles Merriman Traill, M.C., Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He took command of the whole line when another company commander became a casualty during the advance, and encouraged and inspired his men throughout the attack by his splendid personal example. When the whole line was held up by direct fire from an enemy field gun he worked his way to a flank under heavy machine-gun fire and attacked it single-handed, killing five of the crew with his revolver and capturing the gun, thus allowing the advance to continue. His splendid action not only saved many lives but relieved a very critical situation, and the success of the operations was undoubtedly largely due to his magnificent example.

SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE.

Capt. (T./Maj. and A./Lt.-Col.) Ambrose Robin Innes Browne, S. Afr. Def. Force.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in command of a support battalion during an attack, and on going forward to reconnoitre he found that the advance was completely held up by flanking machine-gun fire from a pill-box. He at once organised an attack upon it, captured it and several other enemy strong points, and was able to establish a definite line, which he held until relieved. He displayed exceptional qualities of leadership and resource at a very critical time.

Lt. Ernest Crespin Forbes, Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He was with the support company, but, hearing that all the senior officers were casualties, he at once went forward and took command of the three leading companies and led them to the final objective. He then superintended the placing of outposts and the defence of the position, sending in clear and concise reports. Though wounded during the advance, he remained with his men under very heavy fire until he was again severely wounded. His gallant behaviour and cool confidence had a splendid effect on all ranks.

Capt. Leslie Francis Sprenger, M.C., Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. When the advance was held up by a cluster of concrete strong points he collected every available man and organised and led the attack on the position, which

he captured under very heavy fire. He showed great courage and high qualities of initiative and leadership, and his prompt handling of a critical situation enabled the advance to continue.

Awarded a Second Bar to the Military Cross.

T./Capt. Cyril Dudeney Hayfield, M.C., E. Kent R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When sent forward to reconnoitre the situation, he went to within a few yards of an enemy post. Though two men with him were killed, he completed his reconnaissance and returned with valuable information. He had previously marked out the assembly position with great skill, moving about continually in a most exposed position.

2nd Lt. James Alexander McLaren, M.C., L'pool R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his men with great dash and initiative to the capture of an enemy strong point, which was causing considerable trouble, and killed all the occupants of two concrete dug-outs. Later, he went about among his men during enemy barrages, steadying and encouraging them by his example.

Awarded a Bar to the Military Cross.

Capt. James Symes McEwan Aucott, M.C., Sco. Rif.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a reserve company. When the leading companies, after suffering heavy casualties, were forced to fall back, he led his company forward and secured the ridge to the right, after severe hand-to-hand fighting with the advancing enemy, and beat off several counter-attacks, causing severe losses to the enemy. His company captured two machine guns. Throughout a very trying and critical time he showed utter disregard of personal danger, and inspired great confidence.

T./Lt. (A./Capt.) Rupert Charles Bambridge, M.C., R. Fus.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He organised and consolidated his position and established a line of posts under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. Later in an attack, when the advance was held up by machine-gun fire, he went forward from the support line and reconnoitred the situation. He set a fine example to his men.

2nd Lt. Henry Boardman, M.C., L'pool R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of his company when his company commander had been killed early in the operations. He moved his company, which was in reserve, to several tactical positions under very heavy shell fire, and finally reinforced the front line, and was of great assistance during several enemy counter-attacks. He showed high qualities of leadership and great resource.