

and continuously shelled by the enemy. After they had fired all the ammunition ordered, Sergeant Apps then sent the detachment away, but he himself went through a heavy barrage of shell and machine-gun fire to visit the other mortars of the battery. Finding one of the N.C.O.'s in charge of a mortar badly wounded, he took charge and fired the remainder of the ammunition, after which he took the wounded N.C.O. to the dressing station, passing through heavy machine-gun fire in doing so. He then returned to the position and helped to remove wounded men. The success with which the trench mortar programme was carried out was very largely due to his courage and high spirit of initiative.

300337 Sjt. J. Armstrong, M.M., Dur. L.I. (Barnsley).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in a raid on the enemy trenches. Having carried out several daring patrols prior to the raid, he led the party forward, bombed the enemy, and personally captured a prisoner. By his gallant act, carried out under heavy machine-gun and bomb fire, an important identification was secured.

19111 Pte. (L./Cpl.) A. Asher, Wilts. R. (Amesbury).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when the enemy were attacking in force. He observed a machine gun well in front of the line whose team had become casualties. He rushed out under heavy fire, manned the gun, and together with a corporal inflicted severe casualties on the advancing enemy. When a withdrawal became necessary, he took up another position with his gun and covered it effectually. His example of courage and initiative had an excellent effect on the men.

200866 Cpl. H. Ashton, Leic. R. (Leicester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O. was in charge of a small reconnoitring patrol, which he handled with such skill and resource that he was able to penetrate, in daylight, to a point some 500 or 600 yards within the enemy lines. During the reconnaissance the sentry on an enemy post was surprised and shot, and a hand-to-hand fight with the garrison ensued. Corporal Ashton having accounted for several of the enemy withdrew his small party in the face of much superior numbers, bringing them safely, with a prisoner who had been captured, back to our lines some half a mile away, under heavy machine gun and rifle fire. His courage and leadership were admirable.

26493 Cpl. J. A. Ashton, E. Lan. R. ([E] Preston).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O. was in command of a section of his company during an attack by our troops. After passing the first objective, he saw an enemy machine gun post in a hedge in front; he worked up along another hedge at right angles, and getting within distance, he bombed the machine gun and put it out of action. He then led his sec-

tion forward and captured the post. Later, on finding that his platoon officer and sergeant had become casualties, he took command, led the platoon to its objective, and consolidated under very heavy shell-fire. Corporal Ashton displayed the greatest gallantry throughout the operations.

L/9017 C.S.M. S. Atfield, R.W. Surr. R. (Sittingbourne).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After an attack he made six reconnaissances under heavy machine-gun fire, and during a hostile bombing attack he took up reinforcements on his own initiative and succeeded in driving the enemy back. When a box of ammunition caught fire he threw it over the parapet at great personal risk. Throughout the operations he showed great courage, remaining at duty after being badly wounded, until he fainted with exhaustion.

265606 Sjt. A. Auchterlonie, R. Highrs. (Auchterarder).

For conspicuous gallantry and good leadership in an attack. With his platoon he captured four enemy machine guns and two trench mortars. His courage and ability were most marked throughout the fighting, and he rendered splendid service.

G/6884 Sjt. A. J. Ayres, E. Kent R. (Ottery St. Mary).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great dash and courage during a raid. He was first over the parapet and dashed on ahead to the objective. He assisted his officer in getting five of the enemy out of a dug-out, killing one and capturing the rest. All this was done before the platoon had reached the post. Throughout the operation he set a splendid example to the men.

18843 Pte. (L./Cpl.) C. Bailey, D.C.L.I. (Stratford).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Shortly after our advance had started his platoon officer and sergeant became casualties. He rallied the remainder of his platoon, which had suffered very heavily, and led them forward most gallantly, and with great initiative and boldness to the final objective, where he consolidated his position. He set a very fine example to his men.

9207 C./S./M. L. Bain, Sea. Highrs. (Dingwall).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the flank was held up in an advance this warrant officer gallantly led them forward to their objective, capturing a machine gun and team. During enemy bombardment on the captured position, lasting over 24 hours, he kept going round the company encouraging and cheering the men, to whom he set a splendid example of courage and coolness throughout the operations.

403156 Cpl. J. H. Barber, R.A.M.C. (Leeds).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He volunteered to accompany an officer of the R.A.M.C. to assist in the dressing and removal of numerous wounded from