

gun-pit, supervised the fitting of new springs under heavy fire, and examined the guns; and it was largely due to his untiring efforts that the guns of this battery were all kept in action. Later in the day, when ammunition was running short, he took charge of a party and carried ammunition for two hours along a heavily shelled track. He performed splendid service.

265104 C.S.M. R. Bell, R. Highrs. (Blairgowrie).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. After all officers had become casualties he took command of the remains of the company and captured his objective, and with other companies held the line. He displayed fine courage and leadership, and set a splendid example to his men.

2947 Sjt. E. Bellamy, The West India R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of a patrol. He delayed the advance of the enemy, who were in greatly superior numbers, by the skilful handling of his men. He subsequently commanded a garrison which inflicted considerable loss on the enemy owing to the accurate and steady fire directed by him. He did very fine work.

41556 B./S./M. C. E. Dyer, R.F.A. (Ryde, I. of W.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. He displayed great coolness and power of leadership in getting his battery away from a narrow track in a wood when caught in very heavy shell fire, which caused many casualties to horses. By his quickness and initiative he saved his battery from heavy casualties.

18849 Cpl. H. Bennett, York. L.I. (Tyde-well).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a counter-attack he brought his Lewis gun into action at a critical period and killed five of an enemy attacking party of fifteen and took the rest prisoners. Subsequently he did great execution on the enemy approaching through the wire, though he was continuously under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. He did splendid service.

44793 Sjt. T. M. Bentley, M.M., R.F.A. (East Ham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. He was No. 1 of a detachment, and throughout the action displayed marked coolness and courage. He fought his gun without ceasing until the close approach of the enemy, when it was run out of the pit and engaged the advancing enemy infantry, being eventually withdrawn under cover of the rifle fire of the remaining detachment.

36762 Sjt. R. H. Bickerdyke, W. York. R. (Harrogate).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the objective had been reached by the progress of our attack, he discovered a machine-gun manned by three of the enemy in a shell hole. Single-handed he worked towards the place, and in spite of being heavily bombed, he rushed the gun and cap-

tured the whole detachment. His prompt and gallant action saved his platoon from severe casualties.

L/8893 Cpl. (L./Sjt.) W. J. Bigg, E. Kent R. (Cheriton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, and great gallantry while in command of a bombing block during a hostile attack. Several times he got out of the trench and attacked the enemy single-handed with grenades. On each occasion as he drove them back he ordered a barricade to be built, covering the workers himself. He was constantly under bomb and machine-gun fire, his courage and determination setting a fine example to the men.

38007 Pte. (L./Cpl.) R. W. Biggs, Glouc. R. (Gt. Missenden, Bucks).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although wounded immediately before our advance began, this N.C.O. remained at duty and took charge of his platoon, as the senior N.C.O. had become a casualty. He led his platoon to the objective with great gallantry and determination, setting a fine example and encouraging his men greatly. He carried on until he was again wounded. During the whole operation his fearless behaviour, endurance and devotion to duty distinguished him in a remarkable manner.

14621 Cpl. (L./Sjt.) A. H. Bird, M.M., Glouc. R. (Cirencester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During our attack this N.C.O. led his men to their objective with great courage, showing a fine example of gallantry and determination. When the enemy counter-attacked he directed the Lewis-gun fire with much accuracy and effect, materially assisting in breaking up the enemy formations. Immediately afterwards he and another N.C.O. went out and captured an enemy machine-gun and its crew of five men, and later went out with the same N.C.O. and brought in ten more prisoners. He then took out two patrols and reconnoitred to the front, bringing back valuable information. He was untiring in his efforts.

31363 Pte. A. H. Bird, Lan. Fus. (New Cross, S.E.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He attacked and captured an enemy machine-gun single-handed, killing the team. He then endeavoured to gain touch with the left and killed several of the enemy he met. He destroyed a trench mortar with a bomb, and all through the action he showed fine courage and determination, and was of the greatest assistance to his officers.

43103 L./Cpl. T. Blair, Durh. L.I. (Low Spennymoor).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty and resource in an attack while in charge of the Lewis gun section with the mopping-up platoon. He assisted in the capture of a large number of prisoners and three machine-guns. Seeing that the assaulting wave had lost half its men, he took up his two Lewis guns to the front line and directed the consolidation in the vicinity. He then re-