

killing the crews of four enemy machine guns. His excellent leadership and great personal courage enabled his men to overcome heavy odds.

817815 Cpl. W. Appleby, M.G.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and good work during an attack. He went forward as a scout and brought back valuable information to his section officer. He guided his crew through heavy fire and brought it into action on several occasions, inflicting heavy casualties. His gun also put two field guns out of action.

75155 Cpl. A. Armstrong, M.M., Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. When his officer became a casualty he took charge of his platoon on the left flank when the troops on the left were forced to temporarily withdraw. He used his few remaining men as a flank guard to cover the withdrawal, maintained his position, and brought covering fire to bear on the enemy, enabling the flank troops to come forward. During the whole of this time he was exposed to very heavy fire and cut off from the remainder of the battalion. His courage and able leadership were most marked.

2448321 Pte. J. Asteriades, Infy.

When their platoon was being held up by snipers and machine-gun fire, this man, along with a comrade, rushed two positions under very heavy fire, killing or capturing five in one and seven in the other. This enabled the platoon to continue the advance to the final objective.

785124 Pte. W. Ayers, Infy.

When a machine gun held up the advance of his company, he advanced at great personal risk to a position about fifty yards on the flank, and opened fire, causing the crew to surrender. Later in the advance he pushed on in front of his company, and took up a commanding position, from which he inflicted heavy casualties by his fire. Throughout he used his gun with great effect, being responsible for many casualties.

282788 Cpl. H. R. Barnaby, Infy.

This non-commissioned officer led his machine-gun section with great skill and initiative. Twice held up by machine-gun nests, he on each occasion organised a charge from both flanks, capturing the guns and killing both crews. His disregard of danger was a splendid example to the men.

748807 Sjt. T. Barron, Infy.

This non-commissioned officer, after his platoon commander became a casualty, took command and handled it through an artillery barrage and machine-gun fire with determination and ability. The next day he led his platoon against a machine-gun post, and dislodged the enemy with heavy losses, he himself killing two of them. He then led his men on to the final objective.

847085 Sjt. A. Bastien, Infy.

This non-commissioned officer was in charge of the left flank of the company, and met strong opposition from an enemy block, which repeated assaults failed to dislodge. Taking one man, he went forward and rushed the post with bomb and bayonet, forcing the enemy out. Twenty yards further on he disposed of a similar block, and before reaching his objective he had successfully led rushes on six strong points. He made a passage through the last block by rushing forward with his rifle wire-cutters. His determination and energy set a fine example.

147451 Pte. J. Belasko, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry during an attack on a village. When the battalion was checked before the village he went forward alone, locating an enemy post and killing an officer and two men. He continually went alone to close quarters with the enemy, and throughout the fighting set a very fine example of courage and determination.

27666 Sjt. W. R. Bell, Infy.

While advancing through a wood in close support of the main attack the platoon which this non-commissioned officer commanded met an enemy machine-gun nest of two guns which the first wave had passed. He made a skilful flank attack, killing both crews. On reaching the final objective, the colour serjeant-major having been wounded, this N.C.O. superintended the reorganisation and consolidation under heavy fire. He displayed brilliant leadership through the day.

449278 Sjt. E. Bellanger, Infy.

This non-commissioned officer was in charge of a platoon in the attack, and handled his men with skill and determination. He captured a machine-gun nest of three guns and fifty men, personally inflicting many casualties. During the two days' fighting his coolness and determination were a great factor in the success of his company.

62245 Sjt. P. Benoit, Infy.

As acting colour serjeant-major he rendered valuable service prior to the attack, organising the company and distributing munitions, etc., while throughout the fighting he was the mainstay of the commanding officer. He organised a successful rush on an enemy field gun which was firing point blank and inflicting heavy casualties. Through the artillery barrage and machine-gun fire he remained quite cool, and set a fine example to the men.

422919 Sjt. R. Benson, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. When his officer became a casualty he took command of his platoon and carried them forward under heavy fire. He succeeded in killing or capturing the crews of six enemy machine guns. His excellent leadership and great personal courage enabled his men to overcome heavy odds.