

fantry, machine gunners and Lewis gunners in action, in spite of h.e. and gas shelling and bombing, until the attack was repulsed.

Capt. Gerald Carr Benham, 8th Bn., Essex R., T.F.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 14th September, 1918, at St. Quentin Wood, when owing to heavy machine-gun fire his company lost touch and became scattered. Regardless of danger he took energetic steps to reorganise the men under heavy shelling and machine-gun fire, and leading them forward, gained his objective and consolidated. A few days later, while on reconnaissance, he was badly wounded in five places.

T./Lt. Cecil Frederick Bennett, 12th Bn., M.G. Corps.

Between Meaulte and Montauban during the period 22nd to 28th August, 1918, this officer on all occasions handled his guns with great skill and gallantry. On one occasion, during the mist of early morning, he pushed on with his limbers in front of the infantry, and came into action in front of them, driving off the enemy and helping forward the attack. On every occasion he has shown great qualities as an officer and skill and determination of a high order.

T./2nd Lt. Wilfred James Bennett, 19th Div. Sig. Coy., R.E., attd. H.Q., 87th Bde., R.F.A.

On the 25th September, 1918, this officer joined the F.O.O. at Neuve Chapelle for balloon signalling purposes during the attack on the Distillery. Rough weather preventing the balloon's ascent, he volunteered to go forward with the infantry to the distillery, and from there he kept his brigade in communication with the front line of the attack during several hours, although his cable was continually being broken by shell fire.

Lt. Maurice Bennetts, 2nd Bn., Welsh R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Maisemy on 15th September, 1918, in command of a company. Through heavy machine-gun fire he advanced his line some 800 yards, and though wounded, remained at duty until consolidation was completed. His fine example of courage and his good leadership greatly contributed to the ultimate success of the operations.

Lt. (A./Capt.) James Wilson Herbert Benson, I.A.R.O., attd. 1/101st Grenadiers, I.A. (EGYPT)

For conspicuous gallantry on night of the 12th-13th August, 1918, in an attack at the west end of Ghurabeh Ridge. Though the enemy wire was under cross fire from two machine guns, he led his men straight through and effected the capture of the machine guns by getting in between them. He then charged the remainder of the garrison, himself killing three; the remaining 18 were captured. He displayed fine courage and leadership.

2nd Lt. Mervyn Everett Bentley, R.G.A., Spec. Res., attd. 163rd Siege Bty.

This officer was F.O.O., and went forward from Tilloy with the infantry in the attack

on 26th August, 1918, and remained in the outpost line, sending back valuable information, keeping communication open all the time. He showed great gallantry and utter disregard of danger, and his information has been as useful to the infantry as the artillery.

T./2nd Lt. Norman Ewart Berra, 1st Bn., M.G. Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry at Maissey-Fresnoy, 18th and 19th September, 1918. He handled his guns with great resource, and took up positions from which he protected the threatened flank. His coolness during heavy enemy counter-attacks gave much encouragement to his own men and the infantry near him.

No. 325753 C.S.M. Harry Betts, D.C.M., 1/1st Bn., Cambs. Regt., T.F.

During the attack on Morlancourt on 9th August, 1918, the right flank was held up by a nest of machine guns. This warrant officer immediately went forward alone, and, with great gallantry and disregard of danger, killed three and captured 30 of the enemy and four machine guns, thereby clearing the way for his company and disposing of an obstruction which might have upset the whole operation. He did magnificent work.

Lt. (A./Capt.) Cuthbert Bevington, 4th Bn., Welsh R., T.F., attd. 15th Bn.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 8th October, 1918, when acting adjutant in charge of battalion headquarters at Mortho Wood. About 60 of the enemy suddenly appeared; he at once attacked them with what men he had, killing some and capturing the rest with two machine guns. Later in the day he helped to reorganise the battalion after heavy fighting, and enabled it to continue the advance.

2nd Lt. Arthur William Bicker, R.G.A. (SALONIKA)

For conspicuous gallantry during operations, 16th to 19th September, 1918, on the Doiran front. When one howitzer received a direct hit, causing six casualties and shaking the remainder of the men, he took up a position alongside the remaining howitzer and stood there while it was in action on 17th, 18th, 19th, under constant fire. He also twice led men to extinguish burning cart-ridges, and under a heavy gas attack kept his section in action, and by his initiative obviated many casualties. He has previously shown marked courage and devotion to duty.

Lt. John Burgon Bickersteth, Dns., Spec. Res., attd. 1st Dns.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of the brigade observation post on 3rd October, 1918, at Estrees, and again on October 9th, 1918. He went forward on both occasions under very heavy fire to isolated positions in the front line. His determination to get information, and his coolness in writing reports under fire, or bringing the news in himself, had a great effect on the success of the operations. He set a fine example to all.