

CANADIAN FORCE.

Lt. Ralph Adams, 45th Bty., 9th Bde.,
Can. Fld. Aarty.

For conspicuous gallantry and resourcefulness as field observation officer during the attack on Boiry Notre Dame on 28th August, 1918. He established an observation post close to the attacking infantry and maintained communication with artillery brigade headquarters continuously throughout the day under heavy fire, obtaining valuable information and supplying the artillery with numerous targets. At a critical moment he obtained reinforcements and ammunition for the infantry, and enabled them to repel a heavy counter-attack. Throughout the attack he maintained close touch with the outpost line, and was the sole link in the communications between battalion and brigade.

Lt. Alexander McLaughlin Aitken, 50th Bn., Can. Infy., Alberta R.

For great gallantry in front of Dury during the operations from 2nd/4th September, 1918. When a unit on the left flank, through the loss of all officers and non-commissioned officers, had lost direction, and were wavering, this officer rallied them and led them forward to their objective, which he captured, thus securing the left flank of his own battalion. On rejoining his own unit he brought back most valuable information as to the situation on his left. Throughout the operations he showed marked initiative and disregard for personal safety.

Lt. Alexander Wylie Allan, 4th Bn., Can. M.G. Co.

During the period of the attack on the Drocourt-Queant line, from 2nd September, 1918, he showed conspicuous gallantry and initiative. Two hours after zero his battery commander was wounded by shell fire. Although shaken severely by the same shell, he immediately took over command of the battery. He led the battery, and continuously kept it in action until relieved on the night 4th/5th September. His grip of the situation and coolness under trying circumstances were undoubtedly responsible for the most efficient support which his battery was able to give to the infantry.

Lt. Ernest Ansell, 1st Bn., Can. Infy., W. Ontario Regt.

During the operations near Upton Wood on 30th August, 1918, he led his platoon with great skill and gallantry in face of heavy fire and captured two machine guns, with fifteen prisoners, and killed many others. When his company commander became a casualty he took command, and beat off a determined counter-attack. His courage and leadership throughout the operation inspired his men with the greatest confidence.

Capt. Ralph Edward Balders, Royal Canadian Reg., Nova Scotia Reg.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack on Bois de Gart on 26th August, 1918. When the attack was held up he went through intense enemy fire to the front line to ascertain the situation, and returned to battalion headquarters with information causing the reserve company to

be sent to fill a gap in time to meet an enemy counter-attack. On 28th, in answer to an urgent call for reinforcements, he saved a critical situation with his two companies on Artillery Hill, where the enemy was heavily attacking. He did excellent work.

Capt. Hubert Raymond Banks, 7th Bn., Can. Egrs.

On 28th August, 1918, he displayed great gallantry and determination in going forward with the attacking infantry and making reconnaissance of a demolished bridge over Cojeul River, west of Remy. He then sent for his section, and although the bridge was under direct observation, and was constantly subjected to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, he completed the bridge. The successful completion of the bridge was due to the skilful supervision and excellent example set by this officer.

Lt. Joseph Walter Barnard, Can. L. Horse attd. Can. Corps Survey Sec.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty since 8th August, 1918. On 2nd September, 1918, he moved forward an observation post to the vicinity of Dury, getting the lorry to within about 600 yards of this point. The road was being so heavily shelled that he continued with his party on foot, and, arriving near the spot, found a gap between two divisions and a strong enemy counter-attack in progress. He threw his party into the gap and rendered valuable help in warding off the counter-attack, taking charge of that part of the line and holding it until relieved.

Lt. Cyril Holte Barnes, 75th Bn., Can. Infy., 1st Cent. Ont. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the attack on September 2nd, 1918, east of the Queant-Drocourt line. He led his platoon forward with the greatest dash over some 600 yards of open ground under heavy machine-gun fire at close range to a position from which he enfladed the enemy with his Lewis guns and enabled the remainder of his company to rush the position on his right. With only 12 men left he pushed forward again and established a post from which he brought fire to bear on the enemy on his left flank, and assisted the battalion on the left to take this position. He showed fine courage and leadership.

Lt. James Brandome Beddome, 13th Bn., Can. Infy., Quebec R.

On the 2nd September, 1918, at the Drocourt line in front of Cagnicourt, he and his serjeant, when their company was held up by very heavy hostile machine-gun fire, crawled through the German wire, and, single-handed, dealt with three machine guns, killing the crews with bombs and rifle fire, allowing their company to advance. Although wounded at the outset of the attack he carried on through the attack, and, although wounded again, continued his good work until he had his company consolidated on their objective. His splendid courage was an inspiration to all ranks, and had a lot to do with the success of the operations.

Capt. Thomas Bingle, 2nd C. Ont. R., attd. 44th Bn., Can. Infy., New Brunswick R.

For conspicuous gallantry at Dury on September 2nd, 1918, as second in command