

Intense machine-gun fire and succeeded in entering the enemy trench. Finally, being forced to withdraw, he was the last to cross the barrier. On the following morning he volunteered to lead a mopping up party down the same trench after another unit had gone through. Immediately the first wave passed he led the dash, was first over the enemy barrier, and bombed his way along. Twenty-one machine guns were captured altogether, twenty-two enemy dead counted, and 70 prisoners taken.

2nd Lt. Albert Joseph Smith, D.C.M., 1st Bn. Bord. R.

For fine courage and leadership on September 28th, 1918, at Hooge. With the greatest dash he led forward his platoon to attack the enemy strong point—Jasper Dugouts—bayonetting an enemy machine gunner there and capturing the gun. He then bombed the dugout, killing and wounding several of the enemy. He then went down and brought up as prisoners three officers and over 100 enemy N.C.O.'s and men. He afterwards led on and rushed an enemy machine gun, bayonetting one of the crew himself. On his company commander becoming a casualty he took command and carried on for four days under difficult circumstances with marked success and ability. He did magnificent work.

Maj. (T./Lt.-Col.) Bertram Abel Smith, M.C., S. Notts. Hrs., comdg. 23rd Bn. Middx. R.

As battalion commander at Houthem, on September 29th, 1918, he showed great gallantry and power of command. When the left flank of his battalion had been left in the air, he overcame a difficult situation by very able handling of his command. Again, near Gheluwe, on October 1st, 1918, he led his battalion to the attack with great gallantry through very heavy machine-gun and shell fire, though suffering from the effects of gas. His leadership and personal example maintained a fine fighting spirit in his battalion.

Lt. (A./Lt.-Col.) Wilfrid Cabourn Smith, M.C., K.R.R.C., Spec. Res., attd. 17th Bn. R. Fus.

Near Noyelles, on September 28th/29th, 1918, during the crossing of the Canal St. Quentin, he commanded his battalion with marked gallantry and skill. The passage of the canal and formation of a bridgehead was conducted under heavy shelling and machine-gun fire. Throughout the period he showed great coolness and ability. Later, when his battalion was suddenly ordered to attack Forenville, thanks to his energy and personal supervision all objectives were gained and many prisoners and guns captured.

Lt. (A./Maj.) Spencer Gordon Strudwick, M.C., R.F.A., Spec. Res., attd. B./78th Bde.

During operations at Caullery on October 9th, 1918, he personally led a gun forward in close support of the advancing infantry, and engaged enemy machine guns successfully over open sights. He continued firing until his gun was disabled by hostile artillery fire. His very gallant action effectually silenced the enemy machine guns and enabled our infantry to advance. Later, he again brought a gun

into action within 750 yards of enemy machine gun and destroyed it. He has previously shown marked gallantry and ability.

Maj. (T./Lt.-Col.) James Hanson William Tapp, R. of O., attd. H.Q. 230th (N.M.) Bde., R.F.A., T.F.

During operations on September 29th and October 3rd, 1918, near Bellenglise, he commanded a Field Artillery Group with great distinction. The time available for preliminary preparation before each of these operations was very short, and it was only by his fearless reconnaissance work and tireless energy that the work was accomplished. On the occasion of the latter operations he only received his orders at 5.30 p.m. on October 2nd, his batteries then being some distance west to the Canal. He made a very skilful and daring reconnaissance, and by his excellent arrangement he was able to move his batteries of positions two miles east of the canal, and took part in the opening barrage at 6.5 a.m. on October 3rd. During the whole period of these operations the work of this officer was extremely good.

T./2nd Lt. Rowland Thomas-Evelyn, attd. Manch. R. (12th Bn.).

On October 12th, near Neuville, in command of the platoon specially detailed to deal with the enemy machine-gun post which had held up every previous attack, he successfully attacked the post, killed the enemy there and captured the two guns, enabling the battalion to set forward. He showed great dash and courage, and was in front during the whole time. Later, as the only officer left with the four companies, he did excellent work in rallying the men after the counter-attack and throughout set a fine example to all.

T./Capt. Oswald Varley, M.C., 7th Bn. E. York. R.

During the attack on the high ground north-west of Neuville on October 10th, 1918, he commanded his company with great skill and initiative. Finding no bridges, he led his men across the river under heavy fire, captured forty prisoners, killed many of the enemy, and destroyed five machine guns, reaching his objective and establishing posts on both flanks. His marked gallantry, sound leadership and cheerfulness inspired his command.

Maj. (A./Lt.-Col.) Henry Walter Weldon, 2nd Bn. Leins. R.

For great devotion to duty and gallantry during the attack which led up to the capture of Gheluvelt and Ghelewe on September 28th, 1918. He personally led his battalion throughout the operation and showed great skill and gallantry throughout the period from September 28th to October 4th, 1918. The success of the operation was largely due to this officer's energy and gallantry.

Capt. and Bt. Maj. Aubrey Ellis Williams, M.C., S. Wales Bord., G.S.O. II, 30th Div.

At Menin, on October 14th, 1918, he made a very bold reconnaissance of the river crossings in face of considerable shell and machine-gun fire and forward of all our infantry posts, thus enabling a bridge to be thrown over