

strong point which was inflicting severe casualties. He personally accounted for four of the enemy and captured a machine gun. He showed magnificent courage and initiative.

7001 C.S.M. F. W. Bean, Rif. Bde. (W. Ealing).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He was always in front of the company leading the men on and inspiring them with confidence. When the position had been captured he went out with two men to where about forty of the enemy were holding up the advance of part of another unit. He succeeded in killing or capturing the whole party, taking two officers and twenty other ranks prisoners. His prompt and courageous act was of the greatest assistance to the advance.

352520 Pte. A. Beech, Manch. R. (Stockport).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in command of his platoon after his platoon officer and all the N.C.O.'s were killed or wounded. He reorganised it and held on to the position, in spite of very heavy hostile shelling.

200837 L./Sjt. J. W. Bell, E. Lan R. (Blackburn).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When an enemy sniper was causing a great number of casualties in our ranks he went forward three times with a party to secure him, going on alone after all his party had become casualties, and succeeded in killing the sniper.

4406 Cpl. T. Berry, Rif. Bde. (Cable Street, London, E.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in taking charge of his platoon when his serjeant was killed, and moving it under heavy fire to form part of the defensive flank. He then reconnoitred the position and established two posts and gained touch with another unit. He sent back valuable information, engaged the enemy snipers, and drove off an attempted bombing attack.

325753 Sjt. H. Betts, Camb. R. (nr. March).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Whilst in charge of a platoon he held a position which was very heavily shelled and enfiladed by snipers. Locating two of the latter he crawled out in front of the trench, and from a very exposed position shot them both with his rifle. On the following evening, under very heavy concentrated shelling, he walked up and down the parados of his trench encouraging his men and setting them a magnificent example. Throughout the whole operations his conduct was distinguished by courageous and soldierlike qualities.

13029 Sjt. F. H. Billing, G. Gds. (Fareham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He observed an enemy patrol about 100 yards off approaching our lines. He at once rushed out single-handed and attacked it with such energy that he captured an officer and one man, dispersing the

remainder. He was conspicuous for his courage and offensive spirit throughout the operations.

277742 Pte. E. Billington, Manch. R. (Manchester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in volunteering, though almost exhausted by exposure and lack of food and water, to go with a message to the support company during an intense bombardment. A hostile counter-attack was in progress, and the message was important. In spite of the darkness and the fact that he was suffering great pain in his feet, he delivered the message.

717 Cpl. of Horse H. T. Bishop, Household Cav. (Didcot).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. With five men he captured an enemy "pill-box" and over twenty prisoners. He held it with two men until his ammunition gave out, and was then captured by two of the enemy. He, however, managed to lead them into our lines, and so received them both as prisoners.

5547 C.S.M. G. H. Black, R. Scots Fus. (Bo'ness).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in rushing forward and dropping a bomb through one of the loopholes of a "pill-box" that was holding up an attack. The garrison, fifteen in number, at once surrendered. His gallantry enabled the company to take the position. He was himself severely wounded.

3857 Pte. J. Bowler, Notts. & Derby. R. (Morton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as runner. On two occasions, when the enemy were forming up for a counter-attack, he carried urgent messages through a heavy barrage. It was entirely due to his courage and determination that the information was got through and the artillery were enabled to break up the enemy's concentration. He worked untiringly with complete disregard of danger throughout the operations.

15646 Sjt. B. Bowman, R. Fus. (Brough, Westmoreland).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. When part of the advance was held up by machine gun fire from a blockhouse, he captured it single-handed, killing the garrison. He repeated this exploit later in the advance, and showed great courage and determination on each occasion.

267965 Sjt. F. Brockbank, Ches. R. (Lancaster).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During the attack on the final objective he took command of his company and handled it with great success. Having reached his objective, he dug in and consolidated in an excellent tactical position, and, in spite of every effort of the enemy to regain it, held it until relieved. He displayed the utmost coolness under heavy