

unable to speak he kept his section together, and gave valuable assistance in taking the objective, refusing to leave until the position was consolidated, and then carrying a written message to battalion headquarters, and giving valuable information in addition.

120 Sjt. (now 2nd Lt.) J. W. Gratton, Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On reaching the objective he was one of the first to volunteer to assist in capturing the further ridge and final objective. He reorganised his men under very heavy fire, and stormed and captured a concrete strong point. He then accounted for a very active sniper, and captured a machine-gun and thirty prisoners from another strong point.

875 Pte. J. J. Gray, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a Lewis gun team in an advanced post. His gun was blown up and he himself wounded, but he at once seized an enemy machine-gun and opened a destructive fire on the first counter-attack, inflicting heavy casualties. His prompt action disorganised the enemy and gave more time to the battalion to get established. He remained at his post for the two days the battalion were in the line, although suffering a good deal from his wound.

29460 Fitter S./Sjt. T. E. Gysin, F.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though severely burnt on both legs by a bursting gas shell he remained on duty, moving from gun to gun under heavy fire, often getting them into action when they would otherwise have been sent back for repair. Though suffering terribly he refused to leave his post until the operations had quietened down.

846 C.S.M. W. H. Hackfath, R.O.D.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a hostile air attack on an ammunition depôt. A bomb was dropped on a waggon loaded with shells, which was set on fire, and he at once got into the truck and extinguished the fire. His gallant conduct undoubtedly saved the ammunition.

3856 Pte. P. D. Hayes, M.G. Coy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in taking charge of a gun crew when the officer and N.C.O. had become casualties. When one gun was blown up he salvaged another and established his two guns on the objective in splendid tactical positions. He remained in charge of the two guns for two days, showing courage, cheerfulness and resource, although suffering heavy casualties.

4505 Sjt. J. A. Heading, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon with great courage and determination in an attack, and when all the officers of three companies became casualties he took charge, connected his flanks, and showed a thorough grasp of the situation. His work was of great value to his battalion.

2417 L./Cpl. R. Hillier, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Early in the attack he had two fingers of his right hand shot off, but he continued at duty, always taking the lead. Near the final objective, single-handed, he put out of action an enemy machine-gun which had held up part of the advance. Though wounded twice more he worked energetically at the consolidation of the position, and going out on patrol he received a fourth wound which put him out of action. He showed magnificent courage and cheerfulness as well as good leadership, and his fearlessness and devotion to duty under heavy fire had a most inspiring influence on all with whom he came in contact.

113 Bomdr. W. F. Hodgman, F. Arty.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of men and packs bringing ammunition to the battery position. Though he and several others were wounded at the dump, he delivered the shell through a heavy barrage to the battery. He did not report that he was wounded, but became too weak through loss of blood to ride.

12320 Sjt. A. Holgate, A.M.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of stretcher-squads under heavy shell fire, rallying them when they were on the point of exhaustion through adverse weather conditions and the state of the country. He carried on though suffering from mustard gas burns.

7187 Cpl. (T./Sjt.) W. R. M. Holt, Fld. Arty.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in charge of a party moving a gun-carriage along a track, when they came under heavy shell fire. The road was very badly damaged and the gun-carriage became bogged, but he still persisted in his efforts to get it forward until it was blown into a shell hole by a bursting shell. He set a splendid example of determination and gallantry throughout the operations.

74 Pte. H. Hubbert, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as stretcher-bearer. When his company was in support and suffered heavy casualties, including nearly all the stretcher-bearers, he showed great gallantry in attending to the wounded under heavy shell fire. Later, during an attack, he established an aid post on his own initiative, and attended to all the wounded in his part of the line. He showed an utter disregard of danger, and repeatedly exposed himself to heavy machine-gun fire to bring in wounded.

2036 Pte. A. W. Inch, A.M.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a stretcher-bearer. Though slightly wounded by shell splinters, he continued to carry wounded under shell fire and difficult conditions. When everybody had been obliged to take cover, hearing that a Major of Artillery had been buried in his dug-out, he left the R.A.P. and dug him out, thus saving his life.