

When he found that he had not sufficient men to capture the position he went back under heavy fire and brought up a party of forty, and after a preliminary bombardment with rifle grenades he led an attack which was entirely successful. Two enemy officers and twenty other ranks were killed and more than forty prisoners were taken, and also four machine guns. He at once directed the consolidation of the position and showed the greatest coolness, energy, and resource under heavy fire, remaining at duty though he was blown up by a shell.

CANADIAN FORCE.

Lt.-Col. Duncan Barrie Blair, M.C., Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an action. He repeatedly went through the enemy barrage, steadying and encouraging his men, and directing the consolidation of the captured position. His courage and coolness did much to inspire all ranks, and the success of the operations was largely due to his personal efforts.

2nd Lt. Allan Richmond Cockerell, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. While he was endeavouring to fill a gap on his left flank during an attack his platoon came under heavy fire from some pill-boxes and an enemy trench. He at once led his men to the attack, captured the garrison of the trench, and eventually, by a skilful manoeuvre, put the pill-boxes out of action. He was cut off from his company and all his platoon had become casualties, but he took command of a few men near him and held his position when the rest of the advance was held up. Later, he rejoined his company, took command, and consolidated the new position. He showed the greatest gallantry, coolness, and leadership throughout.

Lt.-Col. Duncan Colquhoun, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During heavy fighting, when the situation was obscure, he went forward at a critical time through heavy shell fire and made a most valuable personal reconnaissance of the position. He showed courage and ability of a high order during the subsequent operations.

Major Kenneth MacCormick, Med. Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of the evacuation of the wounded during an action. He remained at duty for forty-eight hours without rest, visiting the advanced posts, searching shell-holes, and bringing in many wounded. When one of his bearer posts was heavily shelled, with great coolness he got all the wounded away, staying behind himself until the last had left. He set a splendid example of courage and untiring energy.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Maj. William Bannerman Craig, A.M.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. After the aid post had been blown up he attended the wounded and organised bearer parties in the open. Though wounded he persisted in his work until disabled by another wound.

Maj. William Allan Hailes, Aust. A.M.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in attending to four wounded men in the open under heavy fire and conveying them to cover. His example stimulated the stretcher-bearers to great efforts under most trying circumstances.

Maj. Harrie Bertie Lee, M.C., A.M.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in charge of the organisation of bearer reliefs during an action, and hearing that the officer in charge of the forward bearer parties had been killed he at once went forward under heavy fire and took charge. He located the new regimental aid posts forward of the former front line, and with absolute disregard of danger arranged for the evacuation of the wounded from these new posts through a heavy barrage. His quick grasp of the situation and prompt and courageous action were of inestimable value.

Maj. Robert Maxwell McMaster, A.M.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in tending the wounded continuously for ten hours under shell fire. Several of his bearers were killed and wounded, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that he was able to save the wounded from being killed or buried alive.

Lt.-Col. Muir Purser, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was ordered at very short notice to take part in an attack with his battalion on the following morning. Notwithstanding the limited time available he made all the necessary arrangements, and led his battalion through a heavy barrage to the assembly position. In the attack he overcame all resistance by assaulting numerous strong points and capturing large numbers of prisoners. After the final objective was captured he was instrumental in repulsing with heavy loss several enemy counter-attacks. He set a splendid example of courage and determination to his battalion.

Capt. Percival Thomas Roberts, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of his battalion in an attack when his commanding officer became a casualty. As soon as the objective was reached he personally reconnoitred the whole front, laid out the line of defence and saw that communication was well established with both flanks. During the four days in the line he displayed great qualities of leadership and organisation, and set a most inspiring example to all ranks under his command.

Lt. Joseph Lindley Scales, Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in capturing a strong point 150 yards in front of our line. This he did single-handed. By the effective use of his rifle he killed four of the enemy in the post and two more as they tried to escape. He rushed the post from a distance of fifty yards and captured the machine-gun. His devotion and courage inspired his men to further efforts, including the capture of five prisoners.