

another occasion they volunteered to fetch water from a water point exposed to fire, and though a watercan was shot out of their hands while filling it, they managed to bring back three cans full to their company, who were urgently in need of it.

35007 Cpl. H. G. Beasley, 84th Bty., R.F.A. (Uxbridge).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the enemy got close to the battery in a mist, this N.C.O. with a party of gunners armed with rifles, held them off, so that the detachments were able to destroy the guns and get away. He then joined a small party of officers and men, and fought a running fight for two hours, in the course of which they covered the withdrawal of a heavy howitzer battery.

WR268321 A./C.S.M. E. W. Beavis, R.E. (Southampton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On several occasions, in spite of hostile shelling of a very intense description, he brought up trains to advanced R.A.M.C. bearer posts and brought away large numbers of British and French wounded, who could not be evacuated by road on account of the heavy shelling. The railway track was frequently blown up by shell fire, but this gallant N.C.O. immediately had the gaps repaired. The assistance he rendered to the medical services was invaluable, and his cheerful and unremitting devotion to duty was most marked.

04755 T./Sub-Cond. H. S. J. Beckett, A.O.C. (Great Yarmouth).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when heavy enemy shelling set several ammunition dumps on fire. This Warrant Officer assisted in moving burning tarpaulins and in removing loaded trucks of ammunition which were in imminent danger of catching fire. He also assisted in putting out a burning cartridge store, and in stopping the fire spreading to neighbouring dumps. Though injured in the knee, he carried on, issuing ammunition during the three subsequent days until the approach of enemy's infantry necessitated the evacuation of the depot. All this time he had been under continuous shell fire, and his gallant conduct and the example he set the men were of the highest order.

27029 Cpl. W. Beckett, E. Lanc. R. (Sadden).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When in charge of a Lewis-gun team got into position to frustrate a flank attack, and enfiladed the enemy, who were collecting in an orchard. He kept the gun in action after all the team had become casualties, and prevented any sorties from the orchard. When ordered to withdraw he brought the gun back, having used all his ammunition.

240778 Sjt. (A./C.S.M.) W. A. Bee, N. Staffs. R. (Lichfield).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O.'s company was holding some advanced posts, when, after a very heavy barrage, the enemy attacked in large numbers, breaking through the line. A

counter-attack was immediately made, and this N.C.O. was found with an officer and two other men still holding out, though practically surrounded. Although wounded, he remained in the post, rendering valuable assistance.

12072 Pte. T. Belcher, Midd'x R. (Stanmore).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while in charge of a Lewis-gun post. After the line had fallen back behind him, and all the remainder of the gun team were killed or wounded, he continued to serve his gun from the isolated position until all his ammunition was expended, when he brought his gun away. He behaved splendidly.

S/9142 Sjt. H. G. Bellamy, Sea. Highrs. (Cambridge).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. He took charge of a party of men of different units, organised them, and controlled them with great skill, although under very heavy machine-gun fire. He did splendid work with the bayonet until wounded, and throughout set a fine example of courage and resource.

3/10059 Pte. W. H. Bellamy, North'n R. (Kettering).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the enemy in their advance had brought up a machine gun, Private Bellamy collected his section and attacked and captured the gun, and held on to the position until reinforced and re-organised, though his platoon officer had been wounded early in the battle. When his rifle had been shattered by a shell he armed himself with the revolver of the wounded officer. This soldier displayed exceptional initiative under very adverse circumstances, and his fine example at a critical time was of the greatest value to the platoon.

550065 Sjt. J. Beltram, M.M., R.E. (Westbourne Park, W.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the enemy had succeeded in working round a flank, he organised machine-gun positions to defend flank on withdrawal, and himself manned a Lewis gun to cover withdrawal. He showed fine courage.

35794 Pte. F. A. Bennett, Sco. Rif. (Chatham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When all the rest of the detachment had become casualties this man, who was No. 1 of a Lewis gun, brought his gun, under heavy fire, to the support of an attack on a strong point. Running short of ammunition, he went back and collected some from casualties, and, bringing it up in panniers, resumed action with his gun. Later, when his gun went out of action, he again went back under heavy fire and obtained spare parts, and recommenced firing. His example of cool courage throughout the battle impressed all who saw him.