

who were firing at short range on the detachments and the teams. This gunner, who was in charge of the battery machine gun on the exposed flank, by the skilful handling of his gun and devoted courage kept the enemy at bay until the guns were clear. He then rallied scattered parties of infantry and reformed them in the vicinity and thus strengthened a weak portion of our line till reinforcements arrived.

2059 Sjt. A. J. Parr, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During our attack the services rendered by this N.C.O. were most valuable; he kept his platoon well in hand, and afforded every information to his company officer as to the needs of the situation. He led an attack on and captured an enemy machine-gun that was causing casualties, and near the final objective, with a bombing party, he captured another machine-gun and two officers and fifty men. He showed great courage throughout and set a fine example to his men.

7120 Pte. H. I. Passmore, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his section commander had become a casualty, during a counter attack on strong enemy positions, this man, who is a Lewis gunner, took command of the section and led them forward under heavy machine-gun fire. He attacked an enemy strong point with the Lewis gun and with bombs, killing seven of the garrison and making two prisoners. The remainder retired with disorderly celerity, leaving three machine-guns in his hands. On continuing the advance with two men (all that remained of his section), finding he was far ahead of his company, he returned, and, picking up on the way a man who was severely wounded, he carried him back into safety. During all this time Pte. Passmore was under heavy fire, and his great courage and rapid initiative were a fine example to everyone.

2952 Pte. F. O. Porter, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During our advance Pte. Porter displayed the greatest gallantry, rushing forward single-handed, well in advance of our line, and attacking a group of ten of the enemy, of whom he killed five with the bayonet, the remainder retiring with precipitation. Shortly afterwards, though wounded in the arm and with his wrist broken, he dispatched two of the enemy who suddenly emerged to attack him. His behaviour was invaluable to his platoon during the advance, and the example of his courage deeply impressed all his comrades.

661 Gnr. C. J. Powter, R.G.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the battery position had to be vacated, this man with one N.C.O. remained behind under heavy fire, and rescued stores necessary to put the guns in action in their new position. On a later occasion these same two men maintained communication by signalling lamp between the F.O.O. and the battery position under very heavy fire, enabling effective fire to be brought on the enemy.

2751 Sjt. W. J. Prescott, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon successfully on a dangerous enterprise, having to occupy and dig in a post within thirty yards of a position strongly held by the enemy. This he successfully accomplished at small cost. He was subsequently wounded for the fifth time.

124 Cpl. W. J. Purcell, R.G.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the battery position had to be vacated, this N.C.O., with one other, remained behind, under heavy fire, and rescued stores necessary to put the guns in action in their new position. On a later occasion these same two men maintained communication by signalling lamp between the F.O.O. and the battery position, under very heavy fire, enabling effective fire to be brought on the enemy.

7059 L./Cpl. E. Rawdon, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as leader of a bombing squad. After being severely wounded he continued bombing the enemy position until his party were safe, although he was under heavy machine-gun fire at close range. He refused to be carried, and walked over a mile to the dressing station in order to save the stretcher-bearers, who were busily engaged at the time.

564 C.S.M. T. Reid, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in organising the men of his company for attack, keeping direction during the advance, and encouraging the men under terrific fire. When the company was held up he moved about giving orders to the various sections, and without a doubt his very gallant bearing at a critical time did wonders towards keeping up the morale of the men. When the withdrawal took place he stayed till the last, collecting men and getting them back systematically to the original line. His conduct throughout was magnificent.

26 C.S.M. A. M. Richardson, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in reorganising the company after the first stages of an enemy attack. The casualties in the company were heavy, and when the men started to dig in this warrant officer, under heavy fire, organised them into two platoons. By his skill and coolness he kept up the spirits of the men.

2432 Pte W. Ryan, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When carrying a message under very heavy machine-gun fire to an outlying post he had one eye shot out and was otherwise severely wounded. Nevertheless, he kept on with indomitable endurance until he reached the post and delivered clearly and correctly the verbal message with which he was charged. He refused to be assisted to return, as he did not wish to weaken the post at a critical time, but made his way back alone. His behaviour was a fine example of unflinching courage, and on many occasions during a period of severe strain his conduct has been most inspiring to those about him,