

naissance when there was great difficulty in establishing connection between the company he commanded and the units on his flank. When the attack, in preparation for which he had been disposing his company, began to develop, he led his men with great gallantry against strong detachments of the enemy without any preliminary artillery barrage, and gained his objective. His example and energy inspired his men, who were tired with previous fighting, to renewed efforts, and owing to his leadership they were able to accomplish a difficult task.

2nd Lt. John Bennett, High. L.I.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He collected and reorganised stragglers, and then, with a Lewis gun section, vigorously attacked enemy parties who had penetrated our line and drove them back, inflicting heavy casualties. Though wounded, he continued to walk about under heavy machine-gun fire, encouraging his men and directing their fire. By his prompt and gallant action he undoubtedly saved the situation at a most critical time.

T./2nd Lt. John Thorne Masey Bennett, R. Innis. Fus.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He held his position until enemy stick bombs and rifle grenades were falling all round, and with the exception of himself and a corporal all were casualties. Then he destroyed his gun and fought his way out with the corporal. He behaved splendidly.

2nd Lt. Lewis Duncan Bennett, Lond. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed great dash in leading his platoon in a surprise attack, when he personally rushed an enemy machine gun. Later, he held a bombing block in a captured trench against four counter bombing attacks, and led a few men over the block, driving the enemy down the trench. He set a most inspiring example of good leadership and contempt of enemy fire.

T./Lt. (A./Capt.) Reginald Edward Bennett, R.F.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. At the commencement of an enemy attack this officer's battery was completely neutralised by the enemy, so he limbered up under heavy shell fire and moved his howitzers 400 yards to a flank nearer the enemy, coming into action with open sights, and remaining there till dark. He has many times shown similar resource and energy.

Lt. William Gordon Bennett, R.F.A., Spec. Res.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his battery was being heavily shelled during an enemy attack, and had suffered heavy casualties, with one other man he kept one of the guns in action, firing steadily until reinforcements could be brought up. The period was critical, and it was absolutely essential that every available gun should remain in action.

T./2nd Lt. Albert Edward Bentley, M.G. Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He went forward with a serjeant to reconnoitre a position. They were surrounded by the enemy and called on three or four times to surrender, but they made their way back amidst very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, bringing a prisoner with them. He has consistently shown great courage and devotion to duty.

T./Capt. Arthur James Bentley, Bord. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer has shown great skill in handling his company, and his cheerful demeanour encouraged his men. He was particularly to the fore during a period of withdrawal, when his example was of great value in steadying all.

Lt. Harold Beresford, R.F.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when forward observation officer. He remained at his post until his communications were cut and he was nearly surrounded. He eventually brought in very useful information. He subsequently displayed great coolness and gallantry while temporarily in command of his battery.

T./Capt. John Best, York. L.I.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. In spite of determined attacks by the enemy in great numbers, the section commanded by this officer remained intact throughout the fighting. The heaps of dead in front of the company sector testified to the splendid work done by his men, largely due to his example and leadership.

T./2nd Lt. Harold Richard Bettinson, M.G. Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while in charge of machine-guns. Under a barrage of very heavy shell fire he held up the enemy for an hour at a most critical time, covering the withdrawal of other troops. He then successfully withdrew his guns, though closely engaged by the enemy. Throughout these difficult operations he displayed a high example of courage and disregard of danger.

Lt. (A./Capt.) John Maybery Bevan, R.F.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty throughout sixteen days' operations. On one occasion he voluntarily carried a message under heavy hostile machine-gun fire at about 300 yards range.

2nd Lt. Guy Henry Bickers, R.F.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his battery was suddenly enveloped in a heavy barrage, with the greatest coolness he moved about the dug-outs where the fire was exceptionally heavy, collecting the men with their respirators on at the guns, which he got into action in the shortest possible time. By his prompt grasp of the situation, his vigorous action and his fine example he saved many casualties, and