

tive. He then only left to give valuable information to his company commander, who ordered him to the R.A.P.

8031 C.Q.M.S. (A./C.S.M.) J. Fitzgibbon, M.M., E. Surr. R. (Kingston-on-Thames).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During the whole action the behaviour of this N.C.O. was worthy of the highest praise and was a fine example to the men of his company. Previous to the attack he remained out all night with the men, reconnoitring the ground and cutting the wire where he thought it might be an obstacle. When the attack began his courage was conspicuous. At one point a platoon was temporarily checked and the commander wounded by a sniper. Serjeant Fitzgibbon rushed forward and killed the sniper, rallied the platoon and pushed them forward to the final objective.

275161 Sjt. A. S. Fleetwood, Manch. R. (I. of Man).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid. When his officer and several men were put out of action by enemy bombing he led the rest of the party forward with great initiative. Later, seeing a wounded man with a broken leg lying beyond the enemy trench, he went to him and carried him back to the lines twenty minutes after the return of his party. He set a fine example of courage.

200055 Serjt. S. Fliteroft, M.M., W. Rid. R. (Halifax).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. When a withdrawal was ordered he took command of a Lewis gun team and covered the withdrawal, being the last man to retire and inflicting severe casualties on the enemy. His team covered the withdrawal of other units of the division to which his brigade was attached.

S/6948 Sjt. A. W. Forbes, Gord. Highrs. (Aberdeen).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty whilst commanding a platoon. The enemy posts in front of his platoon had not been knocked out by the artillery barrage. These he rushed at the point of the bayonet and accounted for many of the enemy. Then, with five machine guns against him and two-thirds of his platoon becoming casualties, he led on through all opposition to the final objective, where he arranged his dispositions with great skill, gaining touch with the unit on his left and protecting his right flank, which remained in the air for some considerable time.

201919 Sjt. R. H. Ford, M.M., Notts. & Derby. R. (Wilne, Derby).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. While in command of his platoon he covered the withdrawal of his company with great ability under very heavy shelling. At the close of this operation touch was momentarily lost on one flank, and under heavy fire this N.C.O. personally patrolled and came into touch.

36004 Sjt. (A./B.S.M.) J. W. Fordy, R.F.A. (Stockton-on-Tees).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. The battery was undergoing an intense shell fire from enemy artillery of large calibre, and this non-commissioned officer with great coolness continued to serve his guns until the order to retire was received. By that time the enemy infantry were within 600 yards of the position, but the guns were withdrawn one by one in perfect order. The example set by Sjt. Fordy, under trying circumstances, was splendid.

42817 2nd Cpl. (A./Sjt.) B. C. Foster, R.E. (Bromley).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He laid a line and maintained it to battalion headquarters after having the only two men with him killed. Next day he kept open a forward communication centre under heavy shell fire. Throughout by his coolness and personal disregard for danger he inspired the men under him and caused communication to be maintained under most difficult circumstances.

64432 Sjt. C. A. Freeman, R.F.A. (Peckham, S.E.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When it was desired to withdraw the guns of the forward section of the battery, the teams of which had all been destroyed, he brought up fresh teams through a heavy fire of gas and high explosive shells, using excellent judgment and determination in moving them forward, and succeeding in getting them eventually to the guns, which otherwise might have fallen into the hands of the enemy. He volunteered later to try and regain the gun limbers, which, owing to casualties, has been abandoned earlier in the day, and made a very gallant attempt to carry out his object, but was unsuccessful in his effort, as it was found the limbers had been completely shattered by shell fire.

236891 Cpl. W. J. Fuller, Shrops. L.I. (Kington).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After his officer had become a casualty he led his men forward and captured the objective, taking two machine guns and one officer and twenty-nine other ranks prisoners. He consolidated the position with great skill, and used the machine-guns on the retreating enemy. Throughout the operations he displayed great courage, repeatedly putting heart into his men by his cheerful contempt of danger and inspiring them by his splendid example.

18364 C.S.M. A. Furphy, R. Mun. Fus. (Manchester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Learning that the enemy had entered an unoccupied trench, he went alone to it, and by skilful bombing and rifle fire forced the enemy to retire to his former position. His prompt action and coolness undoubtedly prevented a severe attack on the flank of the company, and was a very fine performance.