

1219 Sjt. (A./C.S.M.) A. D. Atkins, R. Fus. (Shepherd's Bush).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his company officer was badly gassed he went forward into the area which was being heavily shelled with gas shells and arranged for the evacuation of the men, and remained until all the area was cleared. Later, when his company was held up by intense enfilade machine-gun fire, he rushed forward to get them into a covered position. He set a very fine example.

285550 Sjt. F. Axon, Welsh R. (Stockport).

When the consolidation of his company was being harassed by machine-gun fire from a flank, he collected some bombs, and, working skilfully round, he bombed the guns with great effect, and captured them and ten prisoners, whom he brought back with the guns. His gallantry and initiative were worthy of great praise.

5/3877 Sjt. (A./C.S.M.) W. Ball, K.R.R.C. (Bardwell, Suffolk).

For conspicuous gallantry during an attack. When his company was held up by a strong enemy machine-gun position, he collected four men from company headquarters and rushed the position, though three of his companions were wounded. This capture greatly assisted the whole operations, throughout which this warrant officer showed great courage and devotion to duty.

512830 Sjt. W. J. Ball, M.M., Lond. R. (Deptford).

This N.C.O.'s company was directing the attack. All the officers became casualties very shortly after leaving the assembly trench. Sjt. Ball took command and led the company to the final objective under heavy fire. Two days later he again led the company successfully forward, though every N.C.O. became a casualty. His gallantry, coolness and initiative were splendid.

29656 Pte. S. Barker, W. Rid. R. (Windhill, nr. Bradford).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid. When his platoon in the early stages of the action encountered an enemy post he went forward and engaged the enemy with rapid fire, thus enabling the others to outflank the post and capture the garrison. Throughout he displayed great skill and initiative and utter disregard of personal danger.

139966 Dvr. F. J. Barnes, R.H.A. (South Norwood).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When a shell killed or wounded the five other signallers with him and broke the telephone he ran back, and, after being knocked down by another shell, got another telephone and opened up communication with the observation post. His cool determination and devotion to duty were beyond praise.

M2/153167 Pte. W. F. Barr, A.S.C. (Van Island, B.C., Canada).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He drove his ambulance up to a village from which the enemy had just been driven and worked continuously for 48 hours removing the wounded, often under heavy shell fire, along a road where ammunition and petrol dumps were burning. On a later occasion, though he was ordered to withdraw for a rest, he remained at work for 72 hours. He saved many lives by his energy and contempt of danger.

63877 B./S./M. L. Barton, R.F.A. (Wallsall).

His battery came into action five times during the operations, and he rendered valuable service laying out telephone wires and reconnoitring, enabling the guns to come into action immediately they reached their fresh positions. Throughout the operations his coolness under fire of the heaviest description, his presence of mind and power of command in difficult circumstances were admirable, and his example encouraged the men in a very marked manner.

4689 Sjt. S. T. Battersby, R. Fus. (Leytonstone).

For conspicuous gallantry and good leadership. When all the officers of his company had become casualties in an attack he took command and led his men to the objective where he collected and reorganised the company. He showed great initiative under difficult conditions and inspired his men with confidence by his excellent example.

406702 Cpl. J. Bebbington, L'pool R. (Middlewick).

For conspicuous gallantry and resource in an attack. Seeing that the troops on his right were held up by heavy fire from a strong point he skilfully led his section round the flank, and, after bringing his Lewis gun into action, assaulted the strong point, killing or capturing the garrison and taking four machine guns. He set a splendid example of coolness and good leadership.

8363 C./S./M. G. Bell, Arg. & Suth'd Highrs. (Stirling).

For conspicuous gallantry and splendid leadership during an attack. His company commander and two platoon commanders had become casualties, and by his determined courage and skill he was largely responsible for leading his company through thick belts of wire in face of very heavy machine-gun fire without the assistance of an artillery barrage.

10229 Sjt. S. Bell, Bord. R. (Hackney).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in a raid. When the advance was held up he crawled round behind the enemy forces holding the position and used his rifle most effectively, although wounded. He repeated this manœuvre several times, and his determination and cool courage had a very disconcerting effect on the enemy, while his independent action caused them many casualties and saved many of the raiding party.