

72867 L./Cpl. E. J. Bellaby, R.W. Fus. (Nottingham).

For conspicuous gallantry and resource. He rushed an enemy post single-handed and captured the garrison. In a later attack he led his men with great determination in an attack on an enemy machine gun. He showed splendid leadership throughout the operations.

152059 Cpl. (A./Sjt.) W. G. Benjamin, M.G. Corps (Clitheroe).

After an advance, this N.C.O. displayed great courage and resource in a heavy artillery barrage, and greatly assisted to break up a severe counter-attack. Later, when the infantry advance was checked, he went forward and engaged a hostile machine gun at short range, and put it out of action. His conspicuous gallantry and initiative were worthy of great praise.

9949 Sjt. H. L. E. Bertouche, K.R.R.C. (Plaistow).

For conspicuous gallantry and good leadership during several days' operations. When all the officers of his company had been killed he showed great resource and determination in leading the company forward under intense machine-gun fire. Hearing that the left flank was held up, he led a patrol into a village and captured forty prisoners.

G/6366 Sjt. E. B. Best, R. Fus. (Northfleet).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the enemy made a determined bombing attack down a communication trench, this N.C.O., though wounded, collected a few men under heavy machine-gun fire, and formed a bombing block. He drove off three attacks successfully, and his splendid example of courage and determination saved the remnants of his company from being surrounded.

34396 Pte. W. Beverley, R. Berks. R. (Wandsworth).

For most conspicuous gallantry and good work during an attack. He rushed a machine gun which was holding up the company, and killed two of the enemy and took ten prisoners. Although wounded, he went forward again and captured another gun, which he turned and fired at the enemy, thus enabling the company to advance. In all he captured two machine guns and about twenty prisoners single-handed.

8479 C.Q.M.S. (A./C.S.M.) T. Bills, M.M., S. Staffs. R. (West Bromwich).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid. He rendered very valuable assistance to his company commander, and was one of the first into the enemy position. In spite of heavy machine-gun fire he reorganised and led forward his men, inflicting considerable casualties on the enemy. Throughout he showed marked courage and initiative.

G/75004 Pte. E. J. C. Binks, R. Fus. (West Ham).

For conspicuous gallantry when bombs were needed by his platoon in support of the attacking company. In spite of enemy barrage and machine-gun fire, he collected all the bombs he could lay hands on and rushed forward with them. His fine courage and determination had a most inspiring effect on his comrades.

235526 C.S.M. A. Blackburn, W. Rid. R. (Bradford).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid. Although severely wounded in the head before reaching the enemy wire, he remained with his platoon, which he led to the final objective. He organised the mopping up of dug-outs, killing many of the enemy and personally capturing an officer. His coolness and utter disregard of danger instilled great confidence into his men.

225017 Pte. J. A. Blaker, Lond. R. (West Ham).

He led five men with great skill and determination against the enemy regimental headquarters, killing 35 of them and making 65 prisoners, among whom were the regimental commander and four company commanders. Throughout the operations he showed an example of fine personal gallantry, and his initiative and power of leadership were conspicuous.

Sub-Cond. (A./Cond.) A. Booth, Supply and Transport Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great coolness and contempt of danger while under a heavy bombardment from machine guns and bombs from hostile aeroplanes flying at low altitude. It was due to his fearless behaviour that a stampede of animals was averted.

13116 L./Cpl. T. Booth, Devon. R. (Trefford, Glam.).

When his company encountered an enemy trench in a thick mist, they were suddenly met with machine-gun fire and bombs. Corpl. Booth dashed along the top of the trench and attacked the machine gun, killing an officer and two men. The remainder of the team and many of the enemy in their dug-outs at once surrendered. This N.C.O.'s prompt and gallant action saved many casualties, and the advance was able to proceed.

280566 L./Cpl. J. Briton, M.M., H.L.I. (Glasgow).

He was medical orderly to battalion headquarters, and was helping the medical officer to dress wounded men in a shell-hole when a shell burst over them, killing the medical officer and killing or wounding every one who was there. Corpl. Briton, in spite of being wounded himself, continued to attend to the other wounded men, and throughout the day, until another medical officer arrived, he followed up the battalion and dressed wounded men under fire. His splendid example of devotion to duty was admired by all ranks of the battalion.