

exhorting his men to fight on to the last, this very gallant soldier was killed.

No. 8000 Sjt. William Merrifield, 4th Bn., Central Ontario R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the attack near Abancourt on the 1st October, 1918. When his men were held up by an intense fire from two machine-gun emplacements, he attacked them both single-handed. Dashing from shell-hole to shell-hole he killed the occupants of the first post, and, although wounded, continued to attack the second post, and with a bomb killed the occupants. He refused to be evacuated, and led his platoon until again severely wounded.

Sjt. Merrifield has served with exceptional distinction on many former occasions, and throughout the action of the 1st October showed the highest qualities of valour and leadership.

No. 205353 Cpl. (A./Sjt.) John Brunton Daykins, 2/4th Bn., York & Lanc. R. (T.F.) (Jedburgh, Scotland).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative at Solèsmes on 20th October, 1918, when, with twelve remaining men of his platoon, he worked his way most skilfully, in face of heavy opposition, towards the church. By prompt action he enabled his party to rush a machine gun, and during subsequent severe hand-to-hand fighting he himself disposed of many of the enemy and secured his objective, his party, in addition to heavy casualties inflicted, taking thirty prisoners.

He then located another machine gun which was holding up a portion of his company. Under heavy fire he worked his way alone to the post, and shortly afterwards returned with twenty-five prisoners and an enemy machine gun, which he mounted at his post.

His magnificent fighting spirit and example inspired his men, saved many casualties, and contributed very largely to the success of the attack.

No. 241028 Pte. (L./Cpl.) William Harold Coltman, D.C.M., M.M., 1/6th Bn., N. Staffs. R. (T.F.) (Winhill, Burton-on-Trent).

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty.

During the operations at Mannequin Hill, N.E., of Sequehart, on the 3rd and 4th October, 1918, L./Cpl. Coltman, a stretcher-bearer, hearing that wounded had been left behind during a retirement, on his own initiative, went forward alone in the face of fierce enfilade fire, found the wounded, dressed them, and on three successive occasions carried comrades on his back to safety, thus saving their lives.

This very gallant N.C.O. tended the wounded unceasingly for forty-eight hours.

No. 213078 Spr. Adam Archibald, 218th Fd. Coy., R.E. (Leith).

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 4th November, 1918, near Ors, when with a party building a floating bridge across the Canal.

He was foremost in the work under a very heavy artillery barrage and machine-

gun fire. The latter was directed at him from a few yards distance while he was working on the cork floats; nevertheless, he persevered in his task, and his example and efforts were such that the bridge, which was essential to the success of the operations, was very quickly completed.

The supreme devotion to duty of this gallant sapper, who collapsed from gas poisoning on completion of his work, was beyond all praise.

No. 42954 Pte. Norman Harvey, 1st Bn., R. Innis. Fus. (Newton-le-Willows).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Ingoyghen on the 25th October, 1918, when his battalion was held up and suffered heavy casualties from enemy machine guns.

On his own initiative he rushed forward and engaged the enemy single-handed, disposing of twenty enemy and capturing two guns.

Later, when his company was checked by another enemy strong point, he again rushed forward alone and put the enemy to flight.

Subsequently, after dark, he voluntarily carried out, single-handed, an important reconnaissance and gained valuable information.

Pte. Harvey throughout the day displayed the greatest valour, and his several actions enabled the line to advance, saved many casualties, and inspired all.

No. 17324 Pte. Francis George Miles, 1/5th Bn., Glouc. R. (T.F.) (Coleford, Glos.).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack on the 23rd October, 1918, during the advance against the Bois L'Evêque, when his company was held up by a line of enemy machine guns in the sunken road near the Moulin J. Jacques. Pte. Miles alone, and on his own initiative, went forward, under exceptionally heavy fire, located a machine gun, shot the gunner, and put the gun out of action. Observing another gun near by, he again advanced alone, shot the gunner, rushed the gun, and captured the team of eight. Finally, he stood up and beckoned to his company, who, acting on his signals, were enabled to work round the rear of the line and to capture sixteen machine guns, one officer, and fifty other ranks. It was due to the courage, initiative, and entire disregard of personal safety shown by this very gallant soldier that the company was enabled to advance at a time when any delay would have jeopardised seriously the whole operation.

No. 30245 Pte. James Towers, 2nd Bn., Sco. Rif. (Preston).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at Méricourt on the 6th October, 1918, when, under heavy fire, five runners having failed to deliver an important message, Pte. Towers, well aware of the fate of the runners who had already attempted the task, volunteered for the duty.

In spite of heavy fire opened on him as soon as he moved, he went straight through from cover to cover and eventually delivered the message.