

casualties and capturing the crews. On arrival at the objective, he rapidly reorganised and consolidated, reconnoitring the whole battalion front under heavy fire. Later, he personally directed a withdrawal in a most skilful manner and under very severe enemy fire, establishing himself in an admirable position with few casualties. Throughout he showed conspicuous gallantry and powers of leadership.

Maj. John Joseph Murray, M.C., 53rd Bn., A.I.F.

For conspicuous gallantry near Peronne on 1st September, 1918. He led his company with great skill and initiative, and cleared the assembly position, thus allowing the remainder of the battalion to take up its position in time for the attack. Later, while advancing under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, he led his company through two unbroken belts of wire. Finally, under heavy fire, he supervised consolidation of the ground won, and throughout set a fine example of courage and energy to his men.

Capt. Lewis Noedl, M.C., 7th Fd. Coy., Aust. E.

For very conspicuous gallantry and devotion under exceptionally heavy fire from the 30th August to 1st September, 1918, during reconnaissances for a construction of bridges across the Somme Canal. By dint of his example and inspiring spirit in face of every kind of difficulty and opposition, and although time after time driven off by heavy shell and machine-gun fire with severe casualties, he carried out his work, and the ultimate success of the operations was greatly due to his coolness, courage and unflinching energy.

Capt. Patrick Joseph Francis O'Shea, M.C., A.A.M.C., attd. 8th Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Chuignes on August 23rd, 1918. Keeping up with the advance, he was always in the hottest part of the line, dressing wounded and organising stretcher-bearers. Realising that an R.A.P. could not cope with the casualties, he dressed them where they lay and made prisoners carry them back. In many cases he carried men back himself under heavy fire of all descriptions, and working in gas-drenched areas. He had no rest for three days and nights, and did another medical officer's work as well as his own.

Capt. Percy Gilchrist Towl, 37th Bn., A.I.F.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the night of the 29th-30th August, 1918, at Clery. In charge of his company of only 28 men with 25 prisoners, he was attacked by some 150 of the enemy, who had at first surrendered. He was surrounded practically, and by fire from front and flanks his party, before he was reinforced by other troops at 3 p.m. next day, was reduced to twelve men. His performance was a splendid one, and it was due to his determined courage and able leadership that his company, besides holding out, retained their prisoners.

Major Eric Norman Webb, M.C., 7th Fd. Coy., Aust. E.

During operations near Peronne from the 29th to 31st August, 1918, he displayed the greatest courage, skill, and powers of leadership and organisation in constructing and repairing bridges for crossing the Somme, under continuous shell and machine-gun fire. He also carried out valuable reconnaissances on water supply and roads up to the front line to assist the advance, and throughout this period his untiring efforts and determination contributed in a large measure to the success of the operations.

Maj. Thomas Williams, 4th A.L.H.R., XXII. Corps, Mtd. R.

For conspicuous gallantry during a period up to September 12th, 1918, on the Somme. He worked his patrols in a daring and able manner, keeping divisional headquarters supplied with reliable information. By personal reconnaissances he was able to direct the artillery on to splendid targets with excellent results. His work right through the operations was of a very high order.

NEW ZEALAND FORCE.

Capt. (T./Maj.) Harold Eric Barrowclough, M.C., 1st Bn., N.Z. Rif. Brig.

For conspicuous gallantry and able leadership near Havrincourt Wood from 8th to 13th September, 1918. He was in command of a battalion up against a strong position stoutly defended by the enemy. He gained good information from personal reconnaissances, during one of which the enemy counter-attacked. He rallied his men, and, leading them forward, drove back the enemy with bomb and bayonet.

Lt.-Col. Leonard Handforth Jardine, M.C., 2nd Bn., N.Z. Rif. Bde.

For conspicuous gallantry and good leadership at Gouzeaucourt from 8th to 13th September, 1918. His battalion was engaged in very heavy fighting against strong enemy positions held by picked troops. He constantly reconnoitred the front, having to pass through gas and enemy barrage, and by keeping in the closest touch with the situation he was able to cope with several enemy counter-attacks. It was owing to his skilful leadership that the operation was a success, and his courage and coolness under heavy fire inspired all ranks.

Maj. Gordon Ross Mitchell, Otago Mtd. Rif., XXII. Corps, Mtd. Troops.

For conspicuous gallantry during operations on the Somme from 22nd August to 18th September, 1918. This officer with his squadron was attached to the division on the left flank, and during the whole time, owing to his splendid leadership, his squadron obtained information of the utmost value. On the 24th August, in the vicinity of La Boisselle, when the position was obscure, he personally went forward under heavy machine-gun and shell fire and brought back most valuable information to divisional headquarters. Several times during the operations he made personal reconnaissances and obtained most reliable information.