

with coolness and judgment. He was successful in filling an important gap between the brigade and the division. His good leadership inspired his men with great confidence.

2nd Lt. Horace Bernard Smith, 32nd Bn., Aust. Infy.

During the operations near Fontaine-les-Cappy on 27th-29th August, 1918, when the flank of the company was held up by a well-concealed machine gun and about thirty men, he advanced with two men and a non-commissioned officer and captured the gun and eight prisoners, putting the remainder to flight with heavy loss. His gallantry and good leadership were conspicuous, and his complete disregard for his own safety was a splendid example to his men.

Lt. William Henry Gordon Smith, 7th Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and good leadership during the attack on Lihons on 11th August, 1918. Throughout the advance he led his company with great skill and courage, always being in the thickest of the fighting. When the nature of the ground and the opposition caused two leading companies to diverge, he threw his support company into the gap, enabling the advance to continue without pause for reorganisation. He carried his objective in brilliant style, and when heavily counter-attacked by a numerically superior force, fought desperately at the head of his men until he staved off the enemy.

2nd Lt. Percy Ellesmere Smythe, 24th Bn., Aust. I.F.

This officer displayed conspicuous courage and skill during operations at Mont St. Quentin on the 1st September, 1918. When the advance was held up by a hostile machine gun he pushed forward, and working to a flank in face of heavy shell and machine-gun fire, rushed the post, killing four of the enemy and capturing the gun with three prisoners, thus enabling the advance to continue.

2nd Lt. Arthur Frederick Snelling, 42nd Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 31st August, 1918, near Peronne. Chiefly by bombing he rushed two machine guns, killing three of the enemy and taking the remainder prisoners. Afterwards, on reaching the enemy's main line, he killed many and captured twenty prisoners with his bombing party. When counter-attacked on the flank, he crept forward with a few men and a Lewis gun and enfiladed them. His determination under heavy fire enabled his men to consolidate and hold on.

Lt. John Sayers Percival Stafford, 6th Bn., Aust. Infy.

Near Lihons, on 9th/10th August, 1918, he led his platoon boldly throughout, and at a critical stage, when the attacking company was suffering severe casualties, he dashed forward with his men, reinforced the leading wave and greatly assisted them to carry on the advance. He displayed marked coolness and gallantry whilst leading his men and inspired them by his courage in the face of

heavy fire. Later, when all officers of another company had become casualties, he took charge, reorganised it and superintended the consolidation of the line taken up.

Lt. Joseph Lawrence Stapleton, 2nd Bn., Aust. M.G. Corps.

During the attack on 9th August, 1918, at Framerville, near Amiens, he was in charge of two Vickers machine guns. Noticing a large hostile party threatening the flank of the battalion with which he was operating, he at once brought fire to bear on the enemy, inflicting heavy losses, and finally dispersed them. He then moved across the open in the face of fierce enemy sniping and machine-gun fire and obtained an infantry escort for his gun, which he placed in position to guard the exposed flank. He again took part in an attack on the 11th August, 1918. He carried out several daring reconnaissances, kept close personal liaison with battalion headquarters, always at extreme risk from enemy snipers at close range, and by his indomitable cheerfulness throughout was an inspiration to his men.

Capt. Clive Selwyn Steele, 5th Fd. Coy., Aust. Engrs.

For conspicuous gallantry, initiative, and devotion on the 31st August, 1918, at Peronne, when he made the most daring and valuable reconnaissance, regardless of heavy shelling, to ascertain the condition of the bridge across the Somme River and Canal and arrange for the repairs. He organised parties and carried out these repairs, which enabled communication across the river and canal to be successfully established. Throughout the operations he did splendid work under most trying conditions.

Lt. Graeme Stobie, 6th Bn., Aust. I.F.

For conspicuous gallantry and fine leadership while commanding his company in the attack near Lihons, 9th/10th August, 1918. When the line was held up he personally went out under heavy machine-gun fire and arranged for a platoon to come to his assistance. Again, when the left flank was exposed, he crossed in direct view of enemy machine gunners to bring the unit on his left up into line.

Lt. Alexander Stuart, 24th Bn., Aust. I.F.

For conspicuous gallantry and skill during the attack at Mont St. Quentin on the 1st September, 1918, when he led his company, in face of heavy opposition and cleared the enemy out of their positions. His determination and courage in moving forward freely and amongst his command was a splendid example to all and of great value in the operation.

Lt. Clifford Lister Sturt, 3rd Bn., Aust. I.F.

At Chiugnes, on the 23rd August, 1918, he took command of his company after the commander was killed and led on with great skill and determination against a strong enemy post. His coolness and fine leadership was a big factor in the success of the operation.