

dispersed the rest of the party, inflicted many casualties, and captured the machine gun and four prisoners.

200908 Pte. (A./Cpl.) J. Bennett, 1st Bn., S. Staff. R. (Birmingham). (ITALY)

During operations across the Piave, 27th-29th October, 1918, he did excellent work in capturing a machine-gun nest which was causing the advance much trouble. Later, at C. Paolotto, he was instrumental in knocking out a second machine gun, and led a determined bayonet charge in face of heavy fire, and, although wounded, continued to lead his party. He afterwards saved a wounded comrade lying in the open.

10511 Sjt. S. A. Bent, 2nd Bn., H.A.C., T.F. (U. Tooting). (ITALY)

During the attack on the Grave di Papadopoli on the night of the 23rd-24th October, 1918, this N.C.O. was heavily counter-attacked. By most able and courageous leadership he beat off the attack, inflicting very heavy casualties on the enemy. He was seriously wounded, but still continued to command and direct operations until the enemy were finally driven off.

9513 Sjt. J. T. Birch, 1st Bn., S. Staff. R. (Wednesfield). (ITALY)

During the operations 27th-29th October, 1918, he did excellent work. On the 28th he followed up the enemy and went forward into their territory. Coming into touch with a party of the enemy at Vazzola, he, with two other ranks, attacked and put them to flight, taking five prisoners. On the 29th he led his platoon, under heavy fire, to its objective. At Cimetta he again led forward a strong patrol, and, crawling forward, pushed back the enemy and enabled his company to dig in.

421746 Pte. (A./L./Cpl.) J. Bloxham, 1/10th Bn., Lond. R. (Old Ford). (EGYPT)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the operations of the 19th September, 1918, near Sivri Tepe. He off-loaded his gun from the mule single-handed, and brought it into action under heavy fire, thereby enabling his platoon to advance. He went forward himself to within an assaulting distance of the enemy ahead of his platoon, and covered with fire the successful assault of the position. His behaviour throughout was of the utmost value at a critical time.

265166 Cpl. S. Bonner, 1/7th Bn., R. War. R. T.F. (Nuneaton). (ITALY)

On the night of 2nd November, 1918, near Vezzena, heavy fire was opened on the battalion from some huts close to the road. With two men he rushed forward and cleared several huts, killing and putting to flight a large number of the enemy. He showed conspicuous gallantry and determination.

785528 B./S./M. G. F. Bowden, M.C., A/312th (W. Rid.) Bde., R.F.A., T.F. (Newcastle).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Neuf Mesnil on 8th November, 1918. When his battery was going into action several shells burst in the midst of the column, causing numerous casualties to men

and horses and threatening a stampede. He showed coolness and resource in handling the teams and despatching them to safety.

265791 Sjt. G. Bowery, M.M., 1/1st Bucks. Bn., O. & B., L.I., T.F. (Slough). (ITALY)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack north of Asiago on 1st November, 1918. When his company was held up by a machine gun he rushed forward, in spite of very heavy fire and bombs. This gallant action on his part drew the whole fire of the enemy post on himself, and enabled a rifle section on his flank to rush in and capture the hostile post.

59021 L./Cpl. J. Boyle, 2nd Bn., York. L.I. (Middlesbrough).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the Sambre Canal on 4th November, 1918, when he led his section forward under intense artillery and machine-gun barrage. He rushed an enemy machine gun which was maintaining a hot fire on the troops and engaged the crew, whom he overwhelmed and forced to flee, putting the machine out of action and thereby saving casualties.

755439 Cpl. C. E. Bratton, 251st (North'bn) Bde., R.F.A., T.F. (Hull).

755438 Sjt. D. Dunling, 251st (North'bn) Bde., R.F.A., T.F. (Hull).

On May 27th, 1918, on the Chemin-des-Dames, four guns of the battery were destroyed, and the detachments withdrawn. These two N.C.O.s were in charge of the remaining two, and when Cpl. Bratton's gun was hit, he took his men and ammunition over to Sjt. Dunling's gun, when they posted gunners to defend the flank, and fought their gun, with the enemy at 300 yards range. They showed magnificent courage and coolness throughout.

7260 Sjt. L. E. Brittain, 11th (S.) Bn., North'd Fus. (Witley Bay). (ITALY)

For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attacks on the north bank of the Piave on the 27th and subsequent days of October, 1918. On 27th October, after the officers and most N.C.O.s of his company had become casualties, he took charge of the company and organised and led several successful attacks. His total disregard of danger was directly responsible for the success which attended the efforts of his company. In the attacks on the 29th October he accounted for many of the enemy.

270041 Pte. G. Brown, 12th Bn., Dur. L.I. (Stockton-on-Tees). (ITALY)

At the forcing of the River Piave on 27th Oct., 1918, a party was engaged in cutting wire which was holding the attack up. Except the officer, who was wounded, the whole party was killed. Pte. Brown, who had already been wounded once, then ran forward on his own initiative to help his officer. He was again wounded, but went on with the work until a passage was effected. Had the wire not been cut, the battalion could not have advanced and the attack would probably have failed.