

party working on a cavalry track. By his skill in disposing his men and his personal energy under heavy fire, he succeeded in completing the track before the arrival of the Division, thereby performing most valuable service.

(D.S.O. gazetted 3rd June, 1916.)

Capt. and Bt. Maj. (actg. Lt.-Col.) Gerald Brice Ferguson Smyth, D.S.O., R.E., attd. K.O.S.B.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although seriously wounded, he remained at the telephone in an ill-protected trench for many hours during a critical time to report the course of events to Brigade Headquarters. He realised that there was no officer of experience to replace him, and his sense of duty may cost him his remaining arm, the other having been amputated as the result of a previous wound. He was five times wounded.

(D.S.O. gazetted 11th November, 1914.)

Temp. Lt. Comdr. Walter Sterndale-Bennett, D.S.O., R.N.V.R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On discovering the wire uncut except in a few places he went forward himself and led his battalion through the partially cut gaps. He finally gained his objective, and held on against very strong resistance. The success of the operation was almost entirely due to his personal example.

(D.S.O. gazetted 26th January, 1917.)

Capt. (temp. Lt.-Col.) Francis Martin Tomkinson, D.S.O., Worc. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and ability in the handling of his battalion. He commanded in three attacks during the month, and on each occasion, after gaining his objective, was counter-attacked by considerable enemy forces. His determination and complete control of his unit enabled him in every instance to defeat the enemy.

(D.S.O. gazetted 1st January, 1917.)

#### AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Maj. Eric Clive Pegus Plant, D.S.O., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion. When acting as Brigade Major he remained on duty continuously for over forty-eight hours, and his gallant work in reorganising broken infantry, and later in rallying stragglers under heavy artillery fire, was invaluable.

(D.S.O. gazetted 1st January, 1917.)

**His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointments of the undermentioned Officers to be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field:—**

Capt. (actg. Maj.) Clifton Edward Rawdon Grant Alban, L'pool R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When assembly trenches were ordered to be dug he reconnoitred the position, placed the tape, and superintended the digging of

the trench. On a later date he carried out a daring reconnaissance of the enemy wire, and rendered most valuable reports.

Temp. 2nd Lt. (actg. Maj.) Richard John Andrews, M.C., Devon. R. (attd. Welsh R.).

For conspicuous gallantry and resource when in command of a brigade. Early in the operations he was wounded in the foot by a shell, but, with great courage and skill, he took effective measures to carry out an original plan, and subsequently directed a successful withdrawal. He personally supervised the retirement of the last supporting platoon in order to ensure, so far as possible, the safety of the wounded. He has been previously noted for gallantry and skill when in command of a battalion.

Capt. (actg. Lt.-Col.) Francis Arthur William Armitage, W. York. R., attd. Hamps. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He commanded his battalion with the utmost skill and determination. Subjected to heavy shell fire throughout, he remained in close touch with the enemy, gaining his objective the first day. He successfully beat off an enemy counter-attack, and held on until relieved.

Temp. Capt. James Harding Barry, M.C., R.A.M.C., attd. Lond. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in attending to the wounded under exceptionally trying conditions. Under very heavy shell fire he dug out five men who were buried, and amputated two men's legs on the spot. He showed utter disregard of any personal risk, and his example was splendid.

Lt.-Col. Percy William Beresford, Lond. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and ability in command of his battalion during heavy enemy counter-attacks. The skill with which he handled his reserves was of the utmost assistance to the division on his right, and his determination enabled us to hold on to an almost impossible position. He repulsed three counter-attacks, and lost heavily in doing so.

Capt. (temp. Maj.) John Victor Bridges, Worc. R., attd. North'd Fus.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. His display of untiring energy and devotion to duty was magnificent. He led his battalion with great skill and courage, and it was largely due to his initiative that the battalion gained its objectives.

Temp. Sub-Lt. James Hardy Brown, R.N.V.R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty throughout the campaign. He has navigated his ship at high speed, night and day, in all weathers, with marked zeal and determination. He has at all times set a magnificent example of courage and initiative.

(The award of the D.S.O. was announced in the Gazette of 11th May, 1917, without details of service. The second Christian name was incorrectly published therein.)