

duty under exceptionally trying conditions. Under very heavy shell fire he dug out several men of his company who had been buried. The following day he stuck to his rifle-pit, under very heavy shell fire, until it was demolished. He then dug out his platoon serjeant, who had been buried, and finally recovered his company's rations, and carried them to a place of safety. The next day he went forward under machine-gun and rifle fire, and brought in three wounded men. Throughout the operations he showed a magnificent spirit of determination and devotion to duty.

265630 Cpl. A. Baker, Herts. R. (Ware).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. After the officers of his company had become casualties, he led his platoon and displayed great initiative and good leadership. He collected parties of men and assisted the regimental serjeant-major, who was commanding the battalion; to consolidate the position. During the whole of the time he was under very heavy fire.

11398 Cpl. A. E. Baker, Worc. R., attd. L.T.M.B. (Stourbridge).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at a critical moment. When trench mortar detachments had become split up and disorganised owing to enemy shell fire, he found himself in charge of two gun detachments and a carrying party. He promptly organised his men, and resolutely led them to the first and second objectives, where he materially assisted the infantry in opening fire upon the enemy's machine guns.

P.1624 L./Cpl. F. Baker, Rif. Brig. (Kensal Rise).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as stretcher-bearer. Having got separated during the advance from the Medical Officer, he went out to the first objective and established an aid post, where he dealt with the wounded and organised bearer parties. After communicating his whereabouts to Headquarters, he continued to do excellent work throughout the action, often under heavy shell fire—setting an example of fearlessness and devotion to duty that deserves the highest praise.

108482 Dvr. J. Baker, R.F.A. (Birkenhead).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when acting as guide to an ammunition carrying party. On the return journey, seeing that a bridge which had to be crossed was under heavy shell fire, he went ahead to see if it was safe. Two of his party followed him, and a shell having broken the bridge, all three were thrown into the river. With great gallantry and devotion he rescued them both, and then climbed on to a portion of the bridge, only to find that it was drifting down-stream. He accordingly took to the water a third time, swam to the bank, and shouted to the party to go round by another bridge. That they all returned safely was due to his gallantry and presence of mind under very trying conditions.

490762 Pte. W. Baker, Lond. R. (Thornton Heath).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After all the stretcher-bearers in his company had been wounded, he repeatedly went into the open to bring in wounded men, and later in the day, when the enemy were shelling his battalion headquarters heavily, he went out alone and fetched in two wounded men, and was himself seriously wounded when returning to bring in a third. Throughout the day he set a splendid example of courage and disregard of personal danger.

14759 Sjt. E. Baldwin, L'pool R. (Burscough Town).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Assisted by another N.C.O., he bombed a concrete dug-out, drove out fourteen of the enemy, and made them prisoners. Later in the day he led a party with which he bombed several more dug-outs, and on the following day led his men in a most gallant manner through very heavy fire. After the attack his work in reorganising was invaluable; he collected his men under close and accurate machine-gun fire, brought them up in line, and personally supervised the consolidation of the new position. His gallantry and devotion to duty was most marked.

L./8718 Pte. (L./Cpl.) G. W. Bardell, R. Fus. (Winchester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in handling and keeping his men together during an attack. Having arrived at one objective, he collected some men together, and on his own initiative led them forward against a strong point, which they captured, killing many of the enemy. His behaviour throughout was beyond all praise, and inspired confidence in all around him.

19951 Pte. (L./Cpl.) J. W. Barker, R. Scots Fus. (Durham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During twenty-four hours of heavy fighting he acted as company stretcher-bearer and did magnificent work under intense fire of every description. At one period a bomber was shot close to him, and two of the bombs in his pouch were ignited. With great promptitude Lce.-Corpl. Barker pulled open the man's pouch and threw both bombs away, when they immediately exploded. He was dressing the wounded man at the time, and his courageous action undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.

18427 Sjt. E. Barlow, North'd Fus. (Bulwell, Nottingham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He commanded his platoon throughout the advance with great ability, leading a charge against a strong point which was holding up the advance, putting the whole garrison out of action. He then collected parties of men, and reached his objective after heavy fighting. His example throughout was magnificent, and it was due to him that the objective in that part of the line was reached.