

men were sheltering, Private Neal and ten others being wounded. One bomb with a fuze burning fell into the midst of the men. Although wounded and badly shaken, he seized and hurled it through the window, when it immediately exploded. His prompt and gallant action saved many lives.

202119 C./S./M. (A./R./S./M.) F. Neale, Lond. R. (Brighton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an action. He remained outside Battalion H.Q. throughout the whole engagement, looking after the runners and signalers and others. When Battalion H.Q. was hit by a shell he worked until the trench was cleared and the survivors were spread out in a safe part of the trench. By his courage and personal example he did a great deal to retain order at a critical moment.

20505 Sjt. J. P. Negus, Suff. R. (Chatteris, Cambs).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in a position isolated from the rest of the line. He organised and led bombing attacks, and gained 70 yards of trench, killing some of the enemy, and putting a machine-gun out of action. He constantly exposed himself in order to keep touch with the nearest troops, and on one occasion went over the open under very heavy fire, and brought back fresh supplies of bombs. For three days he held on to and improved a most difficult position, setting a magnificent example of initiative and fearlessness.

27968 L./Cpl. J. F. Norris, North'n R. (Irechester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He located and put out of action three enemy machine-guns which were holding up the advance, and used his Lewis gun throughout in a most able and effective manner, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. He showed wonderful initiative and courage, which were an inspiration to all around him.

270424 Pte. F. Nowell, R. Scots. (Walsall).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was preparing to fire a rifle grenade when an enemy shell burst, knocking the rifle out of his hand, and causing the grenade to fall out. Without any hesitation he called to the men round him to get clear, and put his foot on the grenade, which exploded and blew off his foot. By his very gallant act he saved the lives of an officer and five other men who were with him.

3308 Sjt. W. Nurse, R. W. Kent R. (Nunhead).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his company officers had all become casualties, he took command and consolidated with great ability and courage under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. When the company on his left had lost all its officers he took charge of the whole line, which he dug in and made a good defensive position under the most trying conditions of weather and continuous shelling, setting a splendid example of coolness and leadership.

537 A./C./S./M. B. J. Oatley, R. Suss. R. (Marylebone).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Before the attack he organised and superintended carrying parties to the front line, and it was largely owing to his efforts that arrangements for the supply of ammunition, bombs, and water were successfully carried out. He showed great dash and ability in the attack, and later went out and brought in wounded men. His good spirits, courage and devotion to duty were the admiration of all.

240116 Cpl. G. Oliver, N. Lanc. R. (Hindley, nr. Wigan).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On reaching the enemy's lines he set his signal section mopping-up and successfully cleared four concrete dug-outs, taking four prisoners and killing fourteen others. He then established his post and maintained communication until relieved, by his utter disregard of danger and coolness under difficulties setting a splendid example to all ranks.

8949 Sjt. F. Oram, Hamp. R. (Overton, Hants.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack on the enemy's position. At a critical moment he collected some of his own and of another platoon, and led them against an enemy strong point which was holding out with great determination and holding up our attack. He killed the officer who was directing the defence, and took many prisoners, as well as a number of valuable documents, afterwards rejoining his company and advancing with it to the second objective. His fearlessness and initiative deserve the highest praise.

28370 Pte. F. L. Osborn, North'n R. (Olney).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the two assaulting companies were held up by machine-gun fire he displayed great courage and initiative in assisting two N.C.O.'s to capture two hostile guns, and to disperse a number of the enemy. Later, when in an advanced position, he brought three wounded men to safety at great personal risk, having displayed the utmost gallantry throughout the action.

265405 L./Sjt. (actg. Sjt.) S. H. Osborne, Herts. R. (Hatfield).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He was in command of his platoon, and when the enemy counter-attacked on his immediate left he grasped the situation at once, and formed a defensive flank, which kept the enemy off. When the Regimental Serjt.-Major who was commanding the remnants of the battalion was wounded he took command and supervised the defence of the line, setting a splendid example of courage and initiative, until the battalion was relieved.

200027 C./S./M. A. J. Owen, Midd'x R. (Kilburn).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. His company was moved forward in support, and for two nights organised