

62627 Sjt. T. J. Aven, R.F.A. (Cwmmlery).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was sent forward with a single gun to cover retirement of infantry. He fired on the advancing enemy, though under heavy machine-gun fire, until they were within five hundred yards and he had expended all his ammunition. At a later date, when the battery had been forced to remain behind, he carried in a badly wounded serjeant.

240639 C.S.M. A. G. Avery, E. Lanc. R. (Burnley).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action, when he collected a party of fifty men, and, leading them forward through heavy shell and machine-gun fire, he reinforced a front line at a time when reinforcements were urgently needed. During seven days of continued fighting, and until he was wounded, he showed the greatest courage and determination, and set a magnificent example to his men.

950245 Bomdr. W. P. Aylward, R.F.A. (Blackheath).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He made a daring reconnaissance and brought back valuable information. He then went forward and signalled back information. He behaved with the utmost gallantry and coolness.

27225 Pte. G. F. Badcock, Wilts. R. (Peckham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as battalion runner. He repeatedly carried messages over ground swept by machine-gun fire, and on one occasion through the heaviest possible barrage, when he succeeded in safely delivering a message of vital importance to a company commander in the front line. By his courage and untiring energy he was largely instrumental in enabling the battalion to evacuate a position and thus avert complete destruction.

200491 L./Cpl. F. A. Badger, L'pool R. (Liverpool).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the buried cable route to Brigade Headquarters became disconnected, this N.C.O., though not responsible, volunteered to try and find the break. He eventually opened up visual communication with Brigade Headquarters. He had only one other signaller to assist him, though four would be the number normally required. At night one other signaller was sent to assist, and these three men worked the station until relieved after about 48 hours, all under shell fire.

13/15 Pte. W. Bailey, E. Yorks. R. (Hull).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a strong enemy attack. He was sent to a spot with two signallers to establish communication with battalion headquarters. The spot indicated was occupied by the enemy, but he managed to signal successfully with his towel from a farm close by, having placed his men in a secondary position. He subsequently crept

back to his secondary post under machine-gun and shell fire, and from an exposed position successfully maintained communication for two days.

1314 C.S.M. J. Baines, Lanc. Fus. (Bolton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a heavy enemy attack. When the platoon commander was wounded, he took charge, rallied the men, and drove the enemy back. He set a splendid example, and the gallant stand the company made was in no small measure due to his initiative and courage.

9661 C.S.M. J. Baines, R. Ir. Rif. (Preston).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He gave invaluable assistance to his company commander when the subaltern officers had become casualties.

6427 Cpl. W. N. Baldwin, R.F.C. (Grim-sargh).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a withdrawal he collected a party of men, and, under heavy bombing attacks by low-flying enemy aircraft, succeeded in saving a quantity of valuable stores. He directed his men with great zeal and energy, and set them a splendid example of coolness and determination.

78018 Gnr. A. H. Ball, R.F.A. (Finsbury Park, N.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was signaller at the O.P. when all wires were cut by heavy shelling. He volunteered to take a message through the barrage, a duty which he successfully performed. When he returned to the O.P. he found the F.O.O. severely wounded, and though he himself was much exhausted, he with another man carried him back. He went out several times though ordered to rest, and mended wires in an area that was being heavily shelled. When the Battery Commander was mortally wounded, this man was the first to assist him. Later, when a new F.O.O. went out, he volunteered to accompany him, though actually unfit to walk even a few hundred yards. It is only by the exceptional courage and endurance of signallers, of which Gunner Ball's behaviour was such a very fine instance, that batteries are able to deal with new targets in battle, and it is difficult to exaggerate the value of such services.

97474 Sjt. W. Ball, M.M., R.E. (Southport).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took a small party of infantry and carried up ammunition and bombs to the front line under very heavy fire. On his return he led this party forward in a counter-attack, and together with some of his own men held the ground gained. He did fine work.

295819 Sjt. P. Ballinger, M.M., R.G.A. (Jarlington).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O. withdrew his gun under intense shell and machine-gun fire, and then helped to withdraw the other gun of the