

was in an exposed position, and no cover available. This gallant N.C.O. at once appreciated the critical situation and realised that unless something was done at once the platoon would be annihilated. On his own initiative, without a moment's delay, and alone, he sprang forward and reached one of the hostile machine-gun posts, where he shot the man operating the machine-gun and bayoneted the next one who attempted to operate it, whereupon nine others surrendered to him.

Cpl. Brereton's action was a splendid example of resource and bravery, and not only undoubtedly saved many of his comrades' lives, but also inspired his platoon to charge and capture the five remaining posts.

No. 445312 Pte. John Bernard Croak, late Quebec R.

For most conspicuous bravery in attack when having become separated from his section he encountered a machine-gun nest, which he bombed and silenced, taking the gun and crew prisoners. Shortly afterwards he was severely wounded, but refused to desist.

Having rejoined his platoon, a very strong point, containing several machine guns, was encountered. Private Croak, however, seeing an opportunity, dashed forward alone and was almost immediately followed by the remainder of the platoon in a brilliant charge. He was the first to arrive at the trench line, into which he led his men, capturing three machine guns and bayoneting or capturing the entire garrison.

The perseverance and valour of this gallant soldier, who was again severely wounded, and died of his wounds, were an inspiring example to all.

No. 506 Sjt. Percy Clyde Statton, M.M., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in action when in command of a platoon which reached its objective, the remainder of the battalion being held up by heavy machine-gun fire. He skilfully engaged two machine-gun posts with Lewis gun fire, enabling the remainder of his battalion to advance.

The advance of the battalion on his left had been brought to a standstill by heavy enemy machine-gun fire, and the first of our assaulting detachments to reach the machine-gun posts were put out of action in taking the first gun. Armed only with a revolver, in broad daylight, Sjt. Statton at once rushed four enemy machine-gun posts in succession, disposing of two of them and killing five of the enemy. The remaining two posts retired and were wiped out by Lewis-gun fire.

Later in the evening, under heavy machine-gun fire, he went out again and brought in two badly wounded men.

Sjt. Statton set a magnificent example of quick decision, and the success of the attacking troops was largely due to his determined gallantry.

No. 9/523 Sjt. Richard Charles Travis, D.C.M., M.M., late Otago R., N.Z.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During "surprise" operations it was necessary to destroy an impassable wire block. Sjt.

Travis, regardless of all personal danger, volunteered for this duty. Before zero hour, in broad daylight, and in close proximity to enemy posts, he crawled out and successfully destroyed the block with bombs, thus enabling the attacking parties to pass through.

A few minutes later a bombing party on the right of the attack was held up by two enemy machine guns, and the success of the whole operation was in danger. Perceiving this, Sjt. Travis, with great gallantry and utter disregard of danger, rushed the position, killed the crew, and captured the guns. An enemy officer and three men immediately rushed at him from a bend in the trench and attempted to retake the guns. These four he killed single-handed, thus allowing the bombing party, on which much depended, to advance.

The success of the operation was almost entirely due to the heroic work of this gallant N.C.O., and to the vigour with which he made and used opportunities for inflicting casualties on the enemy.

He was killed twenty-four hours later, when, under a most intense bombardment prior to an enemy counter-attack, he was going from post to post, encouraging the men.

War Office,

28th September 1918.

The announcement of the award of the Military Cross to T./Capt. Harry Austen Hutson, Gen. List, as notified in the London Gazette dated 24th September 1918, is cancelled. The award of the Military Cross to this Officer was published in the London Gazette dated 16th September 1918.

Chancery of the Royal Victorian Order,  
St. James's Palace, S.W.

14th September 1918.

The KING has been graciously pleased to make the following promotion in the Royal Victorian Order:—

To be Knight Grand Cross.

Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Lloyd, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.

Whitehall, September 26, 1918.

The KING has been pleased by Warrant under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, bearing date the 25th instant, to appoint Montague Rhodes James, Esq., Litt.D., to be Provost of Eton College, in the room of the Reverend Edmund Warre, D.D., C.B., C.V.O., who has retired.

Whitehall, September 26, 1918.

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto the under-mentioned gentlemen His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Legion of Honour of the classes indicated against their respective names, which Decorations