

Maj. Blair Anderson Wark, D.S.O., 32nd Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and control during the period 29th Sept. to 1st Oct. 1918, in the operations against the Hindenburg Line at Bellicourt and the advance through Nauroy, Etricourt, Magny La Fosse, and Joncourt.

On 29th Sept., after personal reconnaissance under heavy fire, he led his command forward at a critical period and restored the situation. Moving fearlessly at the head of, and at times far in advance of, his troops, he cheered his men on through Nauroy, thence towards Etricourt. Still leading his assaulting companies, he observed a battery of 77mm. guns firing on his rear companies and causing heavy casualties. Collecting a few of his men, he rushed the battery, capturing four guns and ten of the crew. Then moving rapidly forward with only two N.C.O.'s, he surprised and captured fifty Germans near Magny La Fosse.

On 1st Oct. 1918 he again showed fearless leading and gallantry in attack, and without hesitation and regardless of personal risk dashed forward and silenced machine guns which were causing heavy casualties.

Throughout he displayed the greatest courage, skilful leading and devotion to duty, and his work was invaluable.

2nd Lt. James Johnson, 2nd Bn., North'd Fus., attd. 36th Bn.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty S.W. of Wez Macquart on the morning of 14th Oct. 1918, during operations by strong patrols.

He repelled frequent counter-attacks and for six hours under heavy fire he held back the enemy. When at length he was ordered to retire he was the last to leave the advance position, carrying a wounded man. Three times subsequently this officer returned and brought in badly wounded men under intense enemy machine-gun fire. His valour, cheerfulness, and utter disregard of danger inspired all.

2nd Lt. James Palmer Huffam, 5th Bn., W. Rid. R. (T.F.), attd. 2nd Bn.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 31st Aug. 1918. With three men he rushed an enemy machine-gun post and put it out of action. His post was then heavily attacked and he withdrew fighting, carrying back a wounded comrade. Again, on the night of 21st Aug. 1918, at St. Servin's Farm, accompanied by two men only, he rushed an enemy machine gun, capturing eight prisoners and enabling the advance to continue. Throughout the whole of the fighting from Aug. 29th to Sept. 1st 1918 he showed the utmost gallantry.

No. 4119 Sjt. John O'Niell, M.M., 2nd Bn., Leins. R. (Glenboig).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Moorseele on 14th October 1918, when the advance of his company was checked by two machine guns and an enemy field battery firing over open sights. At the

head of eleven men only he charged the battery, capturing four field guns, two machine guns, and sixteen prisoners.

Again, on the morning of the 20th October 1918, Sjt. O'Neill, with one man, rushed an enemy machine-gun position, routing about 100 enemy and causing many casualties. Throughout the operations he displayed the most remarkable courage and powers of leadership.

No. 271410 L./Cpl. (A./Cpl.) Roland Edward Elcock, M.M., 11th Bn., R. Scots (Wolverhampton).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative south-east of Capelle St. Catherine on the 15th October 1918, when in charge of a Lewis gun team. Entirely on his own initiative, Cpl. Elcock rushed his gun up to within ten yards of enemy guns, which were causing heavy casualties and holding up the advance. He put both guns out of action, captured five prisoners, and undoubtedly saved the whole attack from being held up. Later, near the River Lys, this non-commissioned officer again attacked an enemy machine gun and captured the crew. His behaviour throughout the day was absolutely fearless.

No. 1153 L./Cpl. (T./Cpl.) Lawrence Carthage Weathers, 43rd Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 2nd September 1918, north of Peronne, when with an advanced bombing party.

The attack having been held up by a strongly held enemy trench, Cpl. Weathers went forward alone under heavy fire and attacked the enemy with bombs. Then, returning to our lines for a further supply of bombs, he again went forward with three comrades, and attacked under very heavy fire. Regardless of personal danger, he mounted the enemy parapet and bombed the trench, and, with the support of his comrades, captured 180 prisoners and three machine guns.

His valour and determination resulted in the successful capture of the final objective, and saved the lives of many of his comrades.

No. 23 L./Cpl. Bernard Sidney Gordon, M.M., 41st Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 26th/27th August 1918, east of Bray.

He led his section through heavy shell fire to the objective, which he consolidated. Single-handed he attacked an enemy machine gun which was enfilading the company on his right, killed the man on the gun, and captured the post, which contained one officer and ten men. He then cleared up a trench, capturing twenty-nine prisoners and two machine guns. In clearing up further trenches he captured twenty-two prisoners, including one officer, and three machine guns.

Practically unaided, he captured, in the course of these operations, two officers and sixty-one other ranks, together with six machine guns, and displayed throughout a wonderful example of fearless initiative.