

energy and resource encouraged his men to overcome all difficulties, and resulted in the capture of Prihart Farm. He subsequently reorganised the company on his left, which was in difficulties, and finally brought up and posted a support company, securing the left flank of the division.

Lt. (A./Lt.-Col.) William Richard English-Murphy, M.C., 1st Bn. S. Staff. R. (ITALY)

In the attack across the Piave on 27th October, 1918, and following days, he handled his battalion with conspicuous gallantry and skill. Seeing the leading battalion in difficulties owing to the swiftness of the river and the wire on the river bank, he on his own initiative moved his battalion up on the flank of the leading battalion, and gave most valuable assistance in the capture of the first objective at a somewhat critical period. He then reorganised his battalion and led them rapidly forward, capturing the villages of Smichele Di Piave and Tezze, with hundreds of prisoners and several guns. Throughout the operations he set his men a splendid example of fearlessness and dash, which materially helped to insure the great success achieved.

T./Capt. Rowland Beattie Fawkes, M.C., 6th Bn. North'n R.

For great gallantry and fine leadership during operations near Preux on 4th November, 1918. He commanded the company, taking the first of the battalion's objectives in face of strong enemy opposition. The company won its way by rifle and machine-gun fire and captured a number of machine guns and took over 100 prisoners.

T./Lt. Harry Amelius Beauclerk. Fyers, 179th Tun. Coy., R.E.

For conspicuous gallantry and good work between 25th October and 17th November 1918, in detecting and removing enemy acid delay action and other mines from the railway. On 12th November he superintended the removal of three mines at Monchecourt Station, himself removing the fuse from one mine, which was reported to be six days overdue and liable to go off at any moment. His section removed over 8,000lb. of explosives during the above period.

Lt. (A./Capt.) Frederick Blake Garrard, 2nd Bn., H.A.C. (ITALY)

For conspicuous gallantry during the attack carried out by the battalion on the Grave Di Papadopoli on the night of the 23rd/24th October, 1918. He showed the most consummate coolness and skill in collecting and forming up his company under the most intense shell fire. Again, particularly on the night of the 25th/26th October, during the attack on the southern portion of the island, he showed fine powers of leadership and complete disregard of danger, and was greatly responsible for the large capture of prisoners. During the final operations, when the enemy was offering a most stubborn resistance, he was severely wounded, but still continued to direct and command his company until the enemy resistance was finally overcome.

Lt. (T./Capt.) Charles Gibbons, M.C., D.C.M., Durh. L.I., attd. 12th Bn. (ITALY)

For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. At the forcing of the River Piave on 27th October, 1918, near the Island of Papadopoli, the battalion, after passing the most northerly stream under very heavy fire, was held up by uncut wire. He with four N.C.O.s and men ran forward from his own company and through the leading company to cut the wire, which was swept from end to end with shell fire and by machine-gun fire from the front and in enfilade. All the party except himself were killed and he was wounded. In spite of his wound he continued until a lane had been cut, helped only by one other rank, who had already been wounded and who came up to his assistance. But for this act of devoted heroism the attack must have failed and the battalion been repulsed. Suffering from a most painful wound, he continued to lead his company until they had taken the third and final objective.

2nd/Lt. (T./Lt. and A./Capt.) Kenneth MacIver Grierson, M.C., Manch. R., attd. 22nd Bn. (ITALY)

He was in command of one of the leading companies in the attack on the 27th October, 1918. He led his men across the Piave in a magnificent manner. When the enemy bank had been reached he crawled forward and helped to cut a gap in the wire to within 15 yards of the enemy; all this time he was under observation and fire from the embankment, which was still held by the enemy. The splendid example he set to his men contributed in a large extent to the successful capture of the first objective. Later, in the taking of all objectives, he showed himself to be a fine leader both in skill and courage. All the houses and strong points were tackled under his direction in a systematic and dashing way.

Capt. (A./Maj.) Eric Llewellyn Griffith Griffith-Williams, M.C., 135th By., 32nd Bde., R.F.A.

For conspicuous gallantry in action near Villers en Cauchies, on the 13th October, 1918. His battalion occupied a very forward and exposed position in support of an attack, and came under heavy shell fire throughout the day. It was owing to the fearless and skilful way in which he handled the battalion and arranged shelter for the men that he was able to keep up an uninterrupted fire with great effect. He also went forward under heavy fire to ascertain the progress of the battle, and later, when ordered to withdraw, displayed the greatest skill and courage in carrying out this difficult manœuvre.

2nd Lt. (A./Capt.) John Cyprian Hedley, M.C., R. W. Surr. R., attd. 11th Bn.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion on the night of the 8th/9th November, 1918, during and after the crossing of the Scheldt at Neersche, when, although opposed by thick belts of wire and water-logged marshes, and finally by a very deep ditch 15 yards wide and full of water, he led his company, under heavy and direct fire, with the greatest courage and determination, and, surmounting all obstacles, forced his way into the village, capturing it with many prisoners and