

but he persisted with and successfully accomplished his task.

Temp. 2nd Lt. John Clement Birtles, 8th Bn., M.G. Corps.

During the advance from the Fresnes-Rouvroy line to St. Amand, between the 12th and the 21st October, 1918, he displayed the greatest keenness and energy. He kept his guns well forward with the leading companies, and was constantly on the spot and ready to give immediate support to the leading platoons. On the 21st October, in St. Amand, he again showed ability and daring in the handling of his guns.

T./Capt. Geoffrey Herbert Blackett, 11th Bn., North'd Fus. (ITALY)

On the 27th, 28th and 29th October, 1918, in the Piave operations, he worked unceasingly in the capacity of staff captain, and was largely responsible for bringing a brigade into its final assault position. His difficulties were considerable, and it was entirely due to his initiative and resource that they were overcome. During this and subsequent period he was constantly exposed to shell and machine-gun fire. His conduct throughout trying operations was admirable.

2nd Lt. Frederick Blacklee, R. Wilts. Yeo., Sec. 104th Bn., M.G. Corps.

At Dadizee during the operations from the 9th to the 14th October, 1918, he carried out harassing fire, frequently having to move his guns owing to the severity of enemy shell fire, but continuing from his new positions. On the 25th October, 1918, in the Lys sector, he moved forward with the infantry, and took up positions guarding the left flank of the brigade, showing great resource. He has shown consistent courage and initiative.

2nd Lt. Walter Reader Blackton, 4th Bn., Leic. R., T.F., attd. 14th Bn.

For conspicuous gallantry and cool leadership on 18th September, 1918, near Haisnes. He took a patrol through the enemy front line to the main line of resistance, where he remained some time acquiring valuable information, and returned safely with his patrol, though discovered by the enemy. The following night when attempting to capture a machine-gun post which he had located, his patrol was discovered, and came under heavy fire, but he got all his men back safely.

Lt. Richard Norman Rowsell Blaker, Rif. Brig. (Spec. Res.), attd. 13th Bn.

For most conspicuous courage and good work on 4th November, 1918, near Louvignies. While leading his platoon in the attack, he was temporarily cut off from it, and came single-handed on two enemy machine guns in action. He dashed between the guns, capturing them both and their teams. Seeing his men a short distance ahead, and held up by machine-gun fire from a house on their flank, he again single-handed took them in the flank, clearing the house and capturing two officers and 28 other ranks.

T./2nd Lt. Reginald George Boden, Lan. Fus., attd. 16th Bn.

During the attack on the Oise-Sambre Canal on 4th November, 1918, when all

other officers of his company had become casualties, he took command of the company, and when heavy resistance was met with from machine-gun nests, he showed great courage and initiative in working round the flanks of these strong points, thus overcoming the opposition, and gaining all objectives allotted to him.

T./2nd Lt. Sydney Harold Bond, VI. Cyclist Bn. A.C.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action near Borissois on 10th November, 1918. A cyclist patrol which was going from Borissois to La Folie Farm was in danger of being cut off by a party of the enemy. Realising the danger of the patrol, he went out across country to find it, and bring it back by another route. Although exposed to heavy machine-gun fire, he succeeded in reaching it, and brought it back safely. The vigour and boldness with which he has handled patrols have been a great asset throughout.

2nd Lt. Ernest Wilfred Bone, R. Fus. (Spec. Res.), attd. 3rd Bn.

For conspicuous gallantry and coolness S.E. of Le Cateau on 18th October, 1918. At a critical moment of the attack, he reorganised and pushed forward the remnants of his company at the Quennelet Grange Farm. On a later occasion at Fontaine au Bois, his platoon accounted for several hostile machine-gun posts, and was instrumental in the capture of a battery of field guns.

Capt. George Leslie Booth, 1/7th Bn., W. York, R., T.F.

For conspicuous gallantry at Avesnes-le-Sec. N.E. of Cambrai, on 11th October, 1918, when he led his company to the attack with the greatest courage and determination in face of a heavy barrage of shell and machine-gun fire. Inspired by his enthusiasm, his company set a splendid example of steadiness under fire. Later, when the enemy counter-attacked with tanks, and the C.O. was wounded, he took command of the battalion, which, through his able leading, beat off the counter-attack, and established its position on high ground.

2nd Lt. Albert Sydney Bostock, 6th Bn. Essex R. (T.F.), attd. 10th Bn.

In the attack on Mormal Forest on the 4th November, 1918, he gallantly led the leading platoon forward under heavy fire and cleared the enemy so that the battalion could advance. Shortly after this the company commander was wounded, and he assumed command of the company, and commanded them admirably at a trying time.

Capt. (A./Maj) Percy Kenneth Boulnois, 54th Fd. Coy., R.E. (ITALY)

During the bridging operations of 26th October to 28th October, 1918, at Salettuol, he rendered extremely valuable services under difficult and dangerous circumstances. Under hostile shelling and bombing he showed a fine disregard of danger, and set a splendid example to his men. It was largely owing to personal example that the operation was a success, and he showed