

splinters, and it was entirely due to his action that casualties were avoided, and the gun kept in action. On another occasion he extinguished a fire which was threatening the ammunition in his pit after it had been struck by a shell. His initiative and devotion to duty deserve the highest praise.

64021 Sjt. R. C. Sherwood, R.F.A. (Sittingbourne).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of a trench mortar detachment. During an intense shelling of his position a shell burst, which shattered the timbers and put the mortar out of action. He worked the whole time in the open, under severe and continuous shell fire, prepared fresh timbers, and temporarily re-constructed the bed. The mortar was then again brought into action, and owing to his great resource and coolness continued to fire according to programme.

9933 Pte. A. G. Shipp, R. Fus. (Teddington).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when acting as runner. He went twice up to the front companies through heavy machine-gun and artillery fire, on the third occasion accompanying his Adjutant; and when the latter was wounded, he dressed his wounds and assisted him back. Later, although very exhausted, he again returned to the front line with a serjeant-major. The runner who went with him was hit, so he continued alone, and successfully delivered his message, having displayed exceptional gallantry and determination.

1723 Pte. (L./Cpl.) F. C. Simkins, E. Kent R. (Southwark).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the officer in charge of the party, and all the N.C.O.'s had become casualties, he took command, and placed the remainder of the men in position behind our barrage, taking up a good covering position himself with his Lewis gun. Although wounded in both legs, and with two of his team knocked out, he continued to work his gun until it jammed, at the same time signalling the actual moment for the assault. His splendid personal example of pluck and devotion to duty was invaluable in keeping up the morale of his men.

4159 L./Sjt. A. Sippetts, R. Suss. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at a critical moment, when the attacking troops were checked by machine-gun fire. He at once got a Lewis gun into action, and compelled the enemy machine-gun team to retire, shooting the gunners as they did so. By his initiative and courage he greatly facilitated the advance of the assaulting troops.

27272 Pte. H. Slater, Notts. & Derby. R. (Ashford, Derbyshire).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a Lewis gun team. During an attack on enemy trenches he had both legs broken, and in this condition crawled to a position from which he could fire on the enemy, continuing to do so until the gun was taken away from him and he

was evacuated. His pluck and determination won the admiration of all ranks.

242382 Cpl. (A./Sjt.) P. McL. Small, Gord. Highrs. (Huddersfield).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Taking command of a platoon which had lost both its officer and platoon serjeant, he led it under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire against the enemy's trench. On reaching his objective he established a strong post in front, and later, when his platoon was detailed to hold an advanced position under the most trying circumstances, and the troops on his left had withdrawn, he rallied his men and held his own until relieved thirty-six hours later. He set a splendid example throughout the operation.

7658 Pte. (L./Cpl.) C. E. Smith, N. Staff. R. (Kingsbury, nr. Tamworth).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when a stretcher-bearer. After the advance had been held up by hostile machine-gun fire he walked from shell hole to shell hole in our most advanced positions under very heavy fire, searching for, dressing, and bringing in the wounded for some three hours, until he himself was at last wounded in fetching a stretcher for a wounded man. He displayed the utmost indifference to personal danger, and set a magnificent example by his coolness and courage under heavy fire.

15007 L./Cpl. E. A. Smith, R. Suss. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his section into action with tremendous spirit and resolution, and was always in the forefront of the fight. He bombed eleven enemy dug-outs, inflicting many casualties, and taking a number of prisoners. His great courage was a splendid example to all who came in contact with him.

6504 L./Sjt. F. A. Smith, C. Gds. (Pease-down-St. John, nr. Bath).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of his battalion aid post. He was absolutely fearless under the heaviest shell fire in attending to the wounded, on one occasion a shell penetrating the dug-out and killing the men he was attending to. It was entirely due to his prompt assistance that the lives of many were saved under heavy fire, and his behaviour throughout was a splendid example to all.

200780 Pte. (A./L./Cpl.) F. H. Smith, North'n R. (Thrapston).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a stretcher bearer. He continually distinguished himself by the fearlessness and devotion with which he discharged his duties in daylight, under most perilous conditions, and when night came he remained until nearly daybreak between the lines, helping to bring in the wounded.

43237 Pte. F. L. Smith, North'n R. (Hitchin).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. With another man he located an enemy machine-gun which was