

saved the company many casualties. Finding that the regular route was heavily shelled, he discovered a shorter and better route, through which he brought up the company without a casualty. In the attack, on his senior officers becoming casualties, he led his company through the enemy barrage on to the objective with very few casualties. His splendid courage, wonderful initiative and cheerfulness under such great difficulties afforded a wonderful example to all ranks.

Capt. (A./Maj.) George Sherry Robinson, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his company with magnificent determination and courage in an attack, rushing and capturing two enemy machine guns. He gained all his objectives against strong opposition and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Though severely wounded, he remained with his company for another thirty-six hours and completed the consolidation of the position. He set an inspiring example to his men.

Lt. Stanley Macquana Sproule, Engrs.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a working party building a plank road. The hostile shelling was extremely heavy on all roads and communications, and the infantry were forced to withdraw. He, with his sappers, remained, repaired the damage caused by shells, and rendered the road passable for immediate traffic. His gallant conduct was the greatest inspiration and example to the men under him.

Lt. Charles Breckon Smith, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the troops in advance of his position were driven back on to his company, he steadied his men and held his position with great courage and determination in the face of very intense fire. His gallantry undoubtedly saved a most serious situation.

Lt. Thomas Steele, M.G. Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of eight guns. The guns were under a concentrated bombardment, many members of the crews becoming casualties. Although buried many times by shell fire, he exhibited the greatest courage, cheering on his men, caring for the wounded, and keeping his guns in action under the most adverse conditions.

Lt. Harry Cecil Stiver, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though wounded before the attack, he advanced with his platoon and led them with great gallantry. When some troops in advance were driven back he rallied a party of them and led them forward with his platoon, saving a serious situation by his coolness and leadership.

Lt. William Wallace Taylor, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Through his personal courage and disregard of machine-gun fire he captured a hostile machine gun and immediately brought it into action. On his company

commander being evacuated, he was the only officer left with the troops, and his cheerfulness at all times materially assisted in keeping up his men's spirits during the heavy bombardment which followed on the consolidation of the position.

Lt. (A./Capt.) Edgar James Thomas, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his company in an attack, capturing his objectives under most difficult conditions, and organised the consolidation wholly regardless of danger. His accurate and comprehensive report on the situation were of the greatest value in the subsequent operations.

Lt. Geoffrey Alfred Wheable, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He, with his company, captured and consolidated the portion of the first objective allotted to them, during which time he was wounded. He, however, remained on duty, and led his company on to the final objective, which he captured, consolidated, and held. His gallant conduct throughout was most praiseworthy.

9066 C./S./M. Frederick Williams, D.C.M., Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his company was moving into the line all his officers became casualties. He, realising the importance of getting men forward, reorganised, and took charge of the company, and led them to their battle positions. After the assault he moved his company up in support of the attacking battalions, and personally superintended the evacuation of the wounded, working unceasingly for thirty-six hours with great determination and energy. His cheerfulness, cool judgment and fine leadership were an inspiration to all ranks.

#### AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Capt. John Robert Cain, L.H.R., and M.G. Sqn.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led a machine-gun squadron at the gallop close up to the enemy line and machine guns. His gallant action was of great assistance at a critical period of the engagement.

2nd Lt. Frederick Sidney Cornett, M.G. Sqn.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command when four machine-gun officers became casualties during an engagement, and handled the guns with great skill in spite of several casualties among his men. He displayed great courage and resource throughout the day.

Lt. Herbert Dickson, L.H. Regt.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the advance guard was held up by the enemy in considerable strength he led his troop forward under heavy fire on to a commanding position, and, though wounded, held it until dark. He materially assisted the advance by his energy and skill.