

8508 C.S.M. H. Bennett, R. Highrs. (Edinburgh).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of a post after his company commander and subaltern had been killed and the garrison, which originally consisted of two platoons, had been reduced to 12 unwounded men. He showed a complete disregard for his own safety and a firm determination to hold the position at all costs, organising an effective machine-gun and Lewis-gun fire on the enemy's parapet under an intense bombardment.

24458 B.S.M. N. S. Bennett, R.G.A. (Southsea).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the battery position and surrounding farms were being heavily shelled this W.O. entered one of the farms to rescue some wounded men. Throughout the day he showed the utmost disregard of personal safety, and set a splendid example to the men. He was afterwards slightly wounded.

1162 C.S.M. W. Benneworth, Dur. L.I. (Sunderland).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He made a personal reconnaissance under a heavy machine-gun fire over 800 yards of ground, thus saving a very dangerous situation. Later, when in command of a post, he showed great courage and skill in covering the retirement of other troops, killing six of the enemy himself. He set a fine example to all.

5269 Sjt. J. P. Bennington, North'd Fus. (York).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O. commanded his platoon with great ability during eight days' severe engagements. His patrol work in obscure situations was very valuable. During a counter-attack under heavy enemy enfilade machine-gun fire he handled his men with great skill, steadying them at trying moments by his example of coolness and courage, and it was largely owing to his gallantry that, though the company commander had become a casualty, the objective was gained in spite of difficulties.

8249 C.S.M. H. S. Benson, E. York. R. (Normanton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though himself gassed and his position surrounded by the enemy, he cleared a buried Lewis gun, got it into action, and inflicted severe casualties on the enemy. He set a fine example of courage and determination.

11920 Sjt. R. B. Bent, M.G.C. (Wigston).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his gun team covered the withdrawal of the infantry, and later of the other machine guns in the line, he remained at his post till last, and did not withdraw his guns till all his ammunition had been expended. Next day he and his team were again last to withdraw. He rendered valuable service and showed fine courage and determination.

330606 L./Cpl. L. Bentley, M.M., L'pool R. (Liverpool).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. In face of heavy enemy attacks he encouraged his section to maintain a successful resistance. He showed determined courage and set a fine example to his men. He was severely wounded.

16897 Sjt. J. Bertenshaw, Ches. R. (Hyde).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O., in a counter-attack, organised the men round him and pushed forward until, his position becoming untenable, he was ordered to withdraw, which he did, personally carrying two wounded men in under heavy fire. Later, when all the officers had become casualties, he took command and held the position until relieved. His example was excellent, and he acted with coolness and determination.

205181 Sjt. W. J. Betty, Som. L.I. (Taunton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During recent operations, after the officers of his company had become casualties, this platoon serjeant took command of the survivors of his company during the whole of the operations. He showed exceptional coolness and devotion to duty throughout and was a most inspiring example to his men.

676452 Serjt. A. Billinge, R.F.A. (Liverpool).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He volunteered to and successfully brought back a gun of his battery under heavy machine-gun fire. This operation was of a particularly hazardous nature, and brilliantly performed.

113735 Gnr. P. T. Biott, R.G.A. (Darlington).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He repeatedly passed through heavy barrage when carrying information. When the observation post became untenable and the officer in charge was found to be suffering from gas, although the enemy were close at hand he remained with the officer and succeeded in getting him to a place of safety.

200243 Sjt. E. T. Bird, R. War. R. (Birmingham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of a platoon during a raid on enemy trenches. He showed initiative and leadership in forcing a way through the enemy wire and making a passage for his own and the supporting platoons. His platoon subsequently captured a machine-gun and inflicted considerable loss on the enemy.

G/20400 C.S.M. (A./R.S.M.) H. M. Bird, R. Suss. R. (Cork).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on several occasions.

201597 Fittr./Cpl. R. Birkin, M.M., R.F.A. (Matlock).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When a battery was being very heavily shelled and most of the guns were damaged he went from gun to gun, repairing