

them where possible and keeping them in action when practically all the battery were casualties, until he was badly wounded. He showed great pluck and determination and absolute disregard for danger.

8931 Sjt. A. B. Birkitt, M.M., R. Lanc. R. (York).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O. was serjeant of a platoon holding an important sap during heavy fighting. He controlled the fire of the men so skilfully that the enemy, despite repeated attacks, did not even gain a footing in the sap, being cut down by rapid fire at close range. He shot at least twenty of the enemy, and, going forward over the parapet, secured seventeen prisoners and one machine gun. His coolness and example helped largely to the defence of the sap.

275883 Cpl. A. Black, Arg. & Suth'd Highrs. (Denny).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. The unit on his flank having been driven out of their trenches, this non-commissioned officer immediately led his section against the enemy, whom he bombed out of a large portion of the captured trench, in spite of strenuous opposition. His initiative, leadership and personal gallantry were worthy of the highest praise.

19378 Serjt. G. H. Black, M.M., M.G.C. (Holloway, N.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He was sent forward in charge of a gun team, and, when surrounded by the enemy, he kept firing to the last possible moment, and finally, though wounded, brought back his gun and team. He set a fine example of coolness and determination.

723 Sjt. E. H. Blackburn, King Edward's Horse (London, N.W.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a retirement. He commanded a detachment of twenty men of his regiment which formed part of the rearguard. He rallied stragglers of other units on several occasions under fire, and did much to restore confidence. Throughout he behaved splendidly.

72528 L./Cpl. A. E. F. Blake, M.G. Corps (Warminster).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O. was in command of a gun team, all of whom became casualties, but he continued to fire the gun until all the ammunition was expended, and he was surrounded; so he blew up the gun and tripod and fought his way out with his revolver. He had held up the enemy for three hours.

31266 Cpl. R. S. Blake, M.G.C. (Canterbury).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When surrounded by the enemy and endeavouring to reach his own lines, he noticed the enemy using a Lewis gun, and collecting a few bombs, he went forward and, singlehanded, bombed this gun out of action and effected his escape. A fine performance.

16353 Sjt. T. Blakeley, E. Lanc. R. (Wigan).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O. was sent with ten men to discover the situation in a village. Finding it occupied by the enemy he attacked and drove them out, holding the village until relieved. During the action he located an enemy machine-gun position which was causing trouble, and silenced it.

340425 Ftr. S./S. W. T. Blowers, R.G.A. (W. Ham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This N.C.O., who is the battery artificer, kept the guns in action throughout a day's heavy fighting, going from gun to gun, attending to repairs, and helping to serve the guns where casualties occurred. One gun, which was temporarily out of action through a hit by a shell splinter, was repaired and got into action again by him on the spot, though it was really a job for the workshop.

11826 Pte. (L./Cpl.) W. Blyton, Bord. R. (Wigan).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. His company forward posts were attacked and driven in by the enemy. A counter-attack was at once made, and, although badly wounded, he rushed from post to post, single-handed killing ten of the enemy and taking four prisoners. His great courage and cheerful spirit so inspired all with him that all the posts were retaken.

B/19945 C.S.M. H. M. Boag, M.M., R. Fus. (Ilford).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy offensive lasting several days. His disregard of danger, unflagging energy, and brilliant methods of dealing with critical situations were most marked. On several occasions he collected stragglers of various units, formed defensive positions, and fought continuous rearguard actions, when a check to the advancing enemy was invaluable.

70102 Cpl. (A./Serjt.) B. Boardman, R.F.A. (Manchester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Under heavy shell fire he got all the wounded away safely and later assisted to bring his gun out of action, got a new detachment together, and his gun in action again in a new position. He has done consistent good work.

43702 Sjt. J. Boden, R.E. (Chesterfield).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took charge of his section and continued to lead the men in a counter-attack against superior numbers until forced to retire, owing to the withdrawal of both flanks. His section officer was killed just after the attack started. He showed fine dash and gallantry.

22362 Sjt. J. Boness, Bedf. R. (Biggleswade).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon with great dash, and rushed an enemy machine gun which was