

T./2nd Lt. John Thomas Leslie Baxter, Tank Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer fought his Tank during an action with the utmost gallantry. Only his promptitude and skill in manœuvring saved it from being disabled by the heavy enemy shelling. He was able to destroy several enemy machine-gun nests, and saved the infantry from heavy casualties. He set an admirable example to his crew.

Lt. John Neville Beeman, Midd'x R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. He led his platoon with great dash and ability, and was about to capture a machine gun singlehanded when it was blown to pieces by a shell. He secured his objective, and captured a machine gun and twelve prisoners. He did splendidly.

T./2nd Lt. (A./Capt.) Edwin Beesley, L'pool R.

He commanded his company in a successful raid, capturing six prisoners. He previously led reconnaissances of enemy posts four nights in succession, cutting a gap in the enemy wire the fourth night. On the night of the raid he assembled his particular section in this gap, and was the first to reach the enemy post, capturing two prisoners. He was the last to leave the post, which he personally searched, thereby obtaining useful information. Throughout he displayed great gallantry and fine powers of leadership.

T./Lt. William Thomas Benfield, S. Wales Bord.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while commanding the wire-cutting and torpedo parties during a raid. When cutting the enemy wire under heavy fire he was wounded, but at once gave orders to explode the torpedoes, and led the wire-cutting parties into the position, overrunning an enemy post, two of which were bayoneted. Continuing his advance, he entered through a gap in the second belt of wire, considerably in front of the remainder of the party, and took up the most forward position.

Lt. (A./Capt.) Isaac Bewley, D.L.I.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He showed great skill in the handling of his men, and kept his battalion commander well in touch with the situation by sending back accurate reports. When the attack broke down he organised a party, and brought in several prisoners. Next morning, when the positions of the enemy were still obscure, he made a personal reconnaissance and brought back valuable information, besides accounting for two of the enemy. He has previously done fine work.

Lt. Vivian Hare Bicker-Caarten, Yeo.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. While leading his troops in a charge against a railway bridge he came under heavy machine-gun fire. Coolly, and at

once, he withdrew his troops and organised a dismounted attack, thus capturing the bridge. This capture enabled the squadron to seize their objective. His gallantry and coolness were of a very high order.

T./Capt. Basil William Bird, Notts. and Derby. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and initiative. He was of the greatest assistance to his commanding officer after battalion headquarters had been temporarily abandoned, when he organised and led forward a counter-attack. He showed marked ability in bringing forward troops on the left of the counter-attack, and generally displayed great resource under very trying conditions.

Lt. Edgar Gerald Birtles, E. Surr. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer was in command of raiding parties on two different occasions, and it was owing to his leadership that both raids were successful. In withdrawing his parties he saved many casualties by the way he superintended the retirement himself, taking good advantage of the ground to shelter his men from the enemy barrage fire.

T./2nd Lt. Charles Harold Bishop, D.L.I.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He worked unceasingly in driving off the enemy, and for nine hours he remained on the fire-step, personally accounting for several of the enemy. When the attack broke down he immediately organised a party, and brought in several wounded and unwounded enemy. His courage and determination were most marked.

Lt. Robert Pearson Black, R.G.A., S.R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when his anti-aircraft guns came under heavy shelling. One gun lorry was hit and the petrol tank set on fire, causing the shells in the front limbers to start exploding. He called for volunteers, organised supplies of earth and water, and succeeded in getting the fire under control. During this operation shells were continually exploding in the burning débris, and there was the danger of the fire reaching the high-explosive shell in the rear limbers.

2nd Lt. George Wilkinson Bladen, M.M., E. York. R.

For great gallantry and initiative during an advance. In full view of the enemy, he was in the forefront, encouraging and advising the forward patrols and showing them methods of advance round the flanks. On one occasion, under heavy fire, he remained standing cool and collected, supervising a post digging in under great difficulties. His example and courage contributed largely towards the success of an advance carried out under novel circumstances.

T./2nd Lt. Andrew Nelson Blair, Cam'n Highrs.

This officer performed exceptionally good work in an attack. Going into action without previous knowledge of the ground,