

broken telephone lines. Next night he twice helped to carry rations to the front line, each trip being through heavy enemy barrage.

2nd Lt. George Edward Gaskell, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and leadership. He made several daring reconnaissances with small parties, and his patrols during one morning were responsible for the capture of one officer and thirty-one other ranks, besides three machine guns. He did splendid service.

2nd Lt. Ernest Pither Hitchcock, D.C.M., Infy.

For great gallantry and skill while leading his platoon, which was the centre of an attack, and which met with much opposition. When a frontal assault on a heavily garrisoned enemy strong point was temporarily held up, he split his men into two parties, and, attacking from both flanks and rear, succeeded in gaining his objective. Twice wounded early in the attack, he yet carried on until met by his company commander, who ordered him to the dressing station.

Lt. Francis Patrick Laracy, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and leadership. With a small patrol of four other ranks he surprised and captured various enemy posts, capturing twenty-eight prisoners and four machine guns. He then reported the situation to his company commander, and, during the main operation that followed he rendered assistance in co-operation by making a further advance, capturing seven prisoners and a machine gun. With the aid of reinforcements he then linked up with the unit on his right, while the position gained was consolidated. Thanks to his splendid patrol work valuable ground was won with slight casualties and with considerable loss to the enemy.

Lt. Claude Ronald Morley, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and leadership. He took out a patrol of four other ranks, and got round in rear of enemy posts, of which there were six in the area with a garrison of four or five men each, and some with machine guns. With his little party he surprised one post after another and captured twenty-five prisoners and four machine guns, thus enabling the line to be advanced 250 yards. He did splendid service.

Lt. Victor Morton, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He left the lines with eight men to secure an identification. Observing thirty of the enemy working in a trench he led his men to the flank to secure the greatest fire effect. On a signal the covering party opened fire, while he, with his serjeant, rushed to the nearest of the enemy, seized him alive, and brought him back to the lines.

Capt. James Kevin Murphy, Infy.

This officer in an attack led his company with most conspicuous gallantry and skill to the first objective, which was a very strongly held position. He personally led a party who destroyed a machine-gun crew. On moving forward again he was severely wounded, but continued his command until he heard that the final objective had been captured. He behaved splendidly.

Lt. Albert Murray, Infy.

For conspicuous daring in dealing with a troublesome hostile machine gun. Crawling over "No Man's Land," he entered the enemy's trench and worked up it for about 150 yards until he located the sentry mounted on the gun. He killed the sentry and captured the gun. After bombing a dug-out and killing an officer and four men he made good his way back with two prisoners.

Capt. (T./Maj.) Francis Roger North, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. Though badly shaken by a bursting shell he stuck to duty and led his two attacking companies to their objective. The whole success of the operation was due to the way he handled and organised his command, and throughout he set a very fine example to those under him.

Lt. Harold Charles Pinsent, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry when his platoon was held up by two machine guns. He immediately rushed the post, killing two of the enemy and capturing both guns. The following night he skilfully attacked an enemy post with his platoon, capturing eight prisoners and one machine gun without casualties to his men. He showed great courage and first-class leadership.

Lt. James Ravie Robb, Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. At a critical stage when his men were momentarily held up by heavy bombing from the flank posts he rushed the position with a small party and killed the garrison. Later, at the head of his men, after strenuous fighting, he gained the final objective. He set a splendid example of pluck and enthusiasm to all ranks.

Lt. Frank Sharp, F.A.

As forward observation officer during the attack on and capture of a village he maintained connection with battery headquarters with great skill and devotion to duty, in spite of heavy enemy shell fire. One of his party having been very severely wounded, he dressed his wounds with much care under the heavy fire, and, having found and mended the break in the wire, which the man was repairing when wounded, he carried him to a place of comparative safety, and then returned to his duty. He displayed throughout a disregard of his own safety worthy of the highest praise.