

a forward post. His leadership, coolness and courage in danger set a fine example to all.

240358 Coy. S./M. William Fisher, D.C.M., 5th Bn., W. Rid. R., T.F.

For conspicuous gallantry and leadership. When two platoon commanders had been wounded during an advance, he took charge of both platoons, taking the lead himself, and reaching the final objective 500 yards ahead of the remaining front line. Being unable to hold the position alone, he obtained touch with the right division, forming a defensive flank, beating off a hostile counter-attack, and gaining fresh ground at a critical time. Later, he led a bombing party, and by his great courage and personal example was largely responsible for the capture of trenches, 100 prisoners, fifteen machine guns, and two trench mortars.

Capt. (A./Maj.) Aylmer Louis Elliot Fleet, B/56 Bty., R.F.A. (MESOPOTAMIA)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He commanded his battery with energy and ability. On one occasion he brought it up to close range and rendered valuable assistance to the infantry by his fire, thereby contributing materially to the success of the operations.

T./Lt. Sydney Flowitt, Hawke Bn., R.N.D., R.N.V.R.

For conspicuous gallantry during an attack. He handled his company splendidly under very heavy enemy machine-gun barrage, and rushed three enemy posts, killing the crews. Later, he was invaluable in his reconnaissance and reports on the situation. His courage, cheerfulness and devotion to duty inspired all under his command.

2nd Lt. Willoughby Victor Foot, 15th Bn., Lond. R., attd. 1/13th Bn.

For conspicuous gallantry when ordered to advance on an objective about 2,000 yards distant with two platoons. He skilfully brought his men with slight loss through heavy artillery and machine-gun fire to a point within 500 yards of the objective. Here being met with intense machine-gun fire, he advanced in conjunction with two other platoons and rushed the position, inflicting heavy loss on the retreating enemy with rifle and Lewis-gun fire. He was wounded after firmly establishing himself in this position under heavy shell fire. He showed splendid courage and leadership.

T./2nd Lt. Leonard Norman Ford, 8th Bn., Som. L.I.

During ten days' hard fighting his gallantry under fire and his skill in dealing with difficult situations were conspicuous. He made two particularly daring reconnaissances, obtaining valuable information that was much required at the time. His able leadership on one occasion secured a position which undoubtedly enabled the whole division subsequently to reach their objective.

Lt. Bryan John Fowler, H.Q., 72nd Bde., R.F.A., attd. Guards Divl. Arty.

When sent on a special mission to report on a situation, he got in touch at once with

the front line troops, and sent in frequent and valuable reports. He arranged with the battalion commander for a bombardment of a special section of the enemy's defensive line, and registered the guns by direct observation, being under heavy machine-gun fire the whole time. The result was the surrender of 150 of the enemy, and the occupation by the infantry of the enemy's trench.

T./Lt. Benjamin George Fox, attd. Welsh R. (15th Bn.).

For conspicuous gallantry in command of a company. He fought his way across a river and through heavy machine-gun barrage to his objective. Though wounded he remained with his men until he had placed them in a position where it was possible for them to consolidate. He behaved splendidly, and in the course of this operation captured eleven prisoners and two machine guns, and killed the teams of the latter.

2nd Lt. Herbert France, R.F.A. (Spec. Res.), attd. D./223rd (H.C.) Bde., R.F.A., T.F.

This officer was sent out as forward observation officer to follow up an attack. He went over behind the leading wave of infantry and sent in half-hourly reports. When all infantry communication broke down he established an observation post, which was frequently under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, in front of the infantry, and was able, by means of runners, to keep not only his own artillery group, but also the infantry brigade, fully informed of the situation. His courage, coolness and initiative were of the greatest assistance to the attacking troops.

T./2nd Lt. Lionel Fricker, 2nd Bn., Suff. R.

During an attack he displayed the greatest gallantry in rushing a strong post of four machine guns and killing and capturing the crews. This was done under heavy fire. Later, when a withdrawal took place he moved about under heavy machine-gun fire, utterly regardless of danger, collecting stragglers and organising them. While doing this he was severely wounded.

Lt. Charles Friend, 5th Bn., W. York. R., T.F., attd. H.Q., 185th Inf. Bde.

As brigade intelligence officer he went forward to tape out an assembly position in advance of a line. This was done under heavy and continuous machine-gun and shell fire, and it was largely due to his courage and zeal that the troops were lined up in time for an attack. During a later attack he went forward under heavy fire and established an observation post, from which his clear and concise reports were most valuable.

2nd Lt. Charles Arthur Gadsby, 4th Bn., W. Rid. R., T.F., attd. 2/4th Bn., Hamps. R., T.F.

During an attack he led his platoon with the greatest courage through a heavy gas and high explosive barrage to his objective. On subsequent days his company were subjected to intense artillery fire, and the men were very much shaken. He, although ill and suffering from the effects of bursting