

September, 1918. When his platoon commander became a casualty, this N.C.O. took over the command of the remnants of his company and captured an enemy post, taking 11 prisoners and a machine gun.

41237 Pte. W. W. Ager, 2nd Bn., Essex R. (Mendlesham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On the 2nd September, 1918, north of Dury, he and another man were the only two left with a Lewis gun, all the rest being killed or wounded, and much of the ammunition lost. Collecting drums from derelict guns, they worked their way round to a flank of the company and brought enfilade fire to bear on the enemy, which materially assisted the infantry advance. During consolidation they pushed ahead and kept down hostile fire, one working the gun, the other collecting ammunition.

205319 Pte. (A./L./C.) A. G. Ahrens, 2/4th Bn., Y. and L. Regt. (T.F.) (E. Dulwich, S.E.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. At Vaulx-Vraucourt on the 2nd September, 1918, when all his company officers and senior N.C.O.'s had been either killed or wounded he led the men forward, and at the point of the bayonet captured three enemy field guns which were defended with stubbornness. His gallantry and disregard of danger when facing heavy odds were a very fine example to his men.

10778 Cpl. B. F. Allen, 1st Bn., R. Lan. R. (Hadleigh).

For conspicuous gallantry and initiative on the night of 1st September, 1918, before an attack on the Drocourt-Queant line. He was returning in charge of five G.S. limbered waggons, and on arrival at a bridge over a river found it under heavy shell fire and blocked by an artillery column. He took command, unhitched several dead horses, cleared the bridge, still under shell fire, and dressed four wounded drivers. His prompt action saved casualties, and enabled much needed ammunition to be got forward.

13597 C.S.M. A. M. Anderson, M.M., 10th Bn., W. York R. (Birmingham).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Gouzeaucourt on 18th September, 1918. After consolidating when reconnoitring with his officer, the latter was killed, and he took command of the company. He then went forward alone to some dugouts and brought in 36 prisoners under a very heavy barrage. His coolness and leadership inspired confidence among all ranks.

38698 Sjt. S. Bagnall, 8th Bn., R. Berks. R. (Pendleton).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 27th August, 1918, at Trones Wood. When a hostile machine gun was checking the advance of his company, he dashed at it and captured it, being severely wounded in the head while doing so. His prompt action enabled the advance to be continued to a successful conclusion.

G/12191 C.S.M., A. W. Balchin, 11th Bn., R. Fus. (Southfields).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at the crossing of the Ancre on 22nd

August, 1918, when the Company Commander and the officer next him were killed by machine-gun fire, and the Company was disorganised by having to wade through marshy ground often over their hips. He went forward and reorganised those near him as far as possible, leading them on to the first objective. His coolness and determination ensured a successful advance.

14438 Pte. E. W. Banks, 1st Bn., Essex R. (Bishop's Stortford).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 18th September, 1918, at Havrincourt. During a counter-attack he made repeated journeys as a company runner between Battalion Headquarters and his Company Commander, always under continuous shell fire. His personal observation and concise information on the progress of the fighting, apart from the messages he carried, were of great value. He set a stirring example to all ranks.

240661 Pte. H. Barnaby, 1/5th Bn., R. W. Surr. R. (T.F.) (Acton). (MESOPOTAMIA.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action at Ramedy on 28th/29th September, 1917. He twice voluntarily went forward under heavy fire and brought in wounded men. He behaved splendidly.

G/3460 Sjt. S. Barton, 9th Bn., R. Fus. (Paddington).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Morlencourt on 9th August, 1918. An enemy strong point, against which several attacks had failed, was causing many casualties. This N.C.O. went forward under heavy fire, and having carefully reconnoitred the ground crawled close up with three volunteers and rushed the post. The enemy, taken by surprise, surrendered after a sharp fight, and one officer, 30 men and three machine guns were captured. The gallantry and very skilful initiative displayed by Sjt. Barton saved many casualties and enabled the advance, which had been held up, to continue.

32099 Pte. H. W. Beatley, 1st Bn., Glouc. R. (Hereford).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 16th September, 1918, south of Maisemy in bombing a sunken road and dugouts. He single-handedly rushed a hostile machine-gun team, forced them to surrender, and, having captured the gun, turned it on the fleeing enemy. He continued to behave with the greatest gallantry until finally wounded in the hand.

TZ/2452 L.S. (H.G.) R. G. Bell, Hawke Bn., R.N.V.R. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).

He led his men throughout the attack near Bucquoy, on 21st/23rd August, 1918, with conspicuous gallantry and skill, capturing several machine guns with their crews and materially assisting the company to advance, in spite of heavy fire and stiff resistance. He did fine work.

308323 Cpl. W. Bell, 4th Sup. Coy., Tank Corps (Darlington).

On 22nd August, 1918, near Morlencourt, when his sub-section commander had been killed, he led his Tank on foot through an extremely heavy barrage. Arriving at our front line, he endeavoured to unload, but the