

1918. While in charge of a signal station during a counter-attack by the enemy, he saw that a platoon, having lost both its officers and serjeant, was in a living way. He at once rushed across the open and took command, rallying them and organising a bombing squad to form a block in the trench, first checked, and then drove the enemy back some distance. Two machine guns were captured, and his prompt initiative in a critical situation was of the utmost service.

301064 Pte. H. Smith, 1/8th Bn., Manch. R. (T.F.) (Manchester).

For gallantry and devotion to duty on 30th August, 1918, west of Rieneourt. Noticing that all the members of a Lewis gun team in the most advanced position had become casualties, and the gun in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, with the utmost disregard of his own safety he advanced through a heavy artillery barrage and intense machine-gun fire, and succeeded in bringing in the gun. He afterwards returned, still under very heavy fire, and brought in the wounded Lewis gunners. His courage and devotion to duty throughout the operations set a fine example to all ranks.

8603 Cpl. J. Smith, 1/7th Bn., Ches. R. (T.F.) (Manchester).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the advance on Kemmel the 4th and 5th September, 1918. He led his platoon forward about 1,000 yards through difficult country full of machine guns and snipers, and remained in command for eight hours after he was wounded, superintending the consolidation of the line. His example of endurance inspired his men.

285016 Cpl. T. A. Smith, M.M., 1st Bn., Herts. R. (Diss).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty south-east of Havrincourt on 18th September 1918. When the enemy attacked after a heavy barrage lasting more than an hour, he organised a strong point in a forward crater, and collecting some men from advanced posts, held on for three hours, although the enemy had broken through on both flanks and penetrated a depth of 500 yards. He then crawled back 300 yards to Company Headquarters, and returned with ammunition. His dogged determination in holding on to his post was instrumental in the failure of the attack.

3783 Sjt. W. B. Smith, M.M., 1st Bn., Notts. and Derby. R. (Nottingham).

He displayed great gallantry and prowess of leadership in command of his platoon in a successful raid on the enemy's trenches in Oppy Wood on 7th September, 1918, when prisoners and machine-guns were captured and many dugouts destroyed. His example to his men was one of conspicuous courage and initiative.

4426 Sjt. H. Snedker, 9th Bn., R. Fus. (Northampton).

For conspicuous gallantry. During an attack on Hardecourt and the Maltz Horn Farm Ridge on 2th August, 1918, owing to many casualties amongst officers he had to take command of two platoons. These he led with great skill and courage, in spite of heavy opposition from machine-guns and shell fire. On reaching the objective the remaining officer in his com-

pany was wounded. He immediately assumed command of the whole company, re-organised them, and commenced to put the line in a state of defence. Throughout the time he walked to and fro amongst his men cheering and urging them on. Later in the day he observed a large party of the enemy withdrawing on the left of his company. Without a moment's hesitation he directed fire of his Lewis guns and rifles on them, inflicting heavy losses, and making them scatter in great confusion. He remained in command of the company throughout the day until an officer was sent up.

850068 Wht.-S/Sjt. F. Sparshatt, 215th Bde. R.F.A. (Portsmouth). (MESOPOTAMIA)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Ramadi on 28th/29th September, 1917. He carried out the erection of an observation ladder and pole under heavy fire, and its removal after dark from its position in front of the trenches, whither our infantry had withdrawn.

120082 Pte. W. E. Spradbery, 36th Fd. Amb., R. A.M.C. (Walthamstow).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Mametz on 26th August, 1918. He accompanied an officer when rescuing one officer and three men of an infantry battalion under very heavy machine-gun fire. One of the party was killed, two were wounded and two other men got bullets through their clothing. Notwithstanding this he, with his squad, after bringing in the first party of wounded, returned under heavy machine-gun fire and brought in a N.C.O., who was wounded.

3/8074 Pte. E. H. Stacey, 6th Bn., Dorset R. (Caerphilly).

For conspicuous gallantry and initiative in reconnoitring and cutting wire under heavy machine-gun fire at Gouzocourt on 18th September, 1918, so as to clear the way for an attack. He successfully completed this task, and later, when the advance was held up by a machine-gun, crept forward alone with a Lewis gun and killed or wounded the crew, again enabling the advance to continue.

M.2/078952 Pte. F. B. Starkey, R.A.S.C. (M.T.), attd. No. 7 Fd. Amb., R.A.M.C. (Manchester).

For remarkable courage at Rumilly on 1st October, 1918. While driving his car this N.C.O. was ambushed and wounded. When ordered to drive behind the enemy lines, he succeeded in ditching the car and locking the gears. He was then marched back under escort to a second car, but seeing the driver seriously wounded he refused to drive without first attending to the man. While so engaged the escort shot him through the spine, and then withdrew. His gallantry saved his comrade's life and the cars from falling into the hands of the enemy.

38473 Pte. F. T. Stone, 2/4th Bn., Hamps. R. (T.F.) (Bentley).

For conspicuous gallantry during the attack on Havrincourt on 12th September, 1918. As company runner he took numerous messages across the open to advanced posts, under close range machine-gun fire and during heavy shelling. Throughout the whole day his utter fearlessness was a splendid inspiration to the men.