

When his company commander became a casualty, he led the company to its objective, and supervised consolidation. On 11th August, during the attack on Lihons, he again led a company brilliantly to its objective, and then skilfully formed a defensive flank, beating off a strong counter-attack. He rendered valuable service.

Capt. Frederick Angel, 5th Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and able leadership of the front line company in the attack on St. Martin's Wood on 23rd August, 1918. His company secured all its objectives, and he personally reconnoitred the left flank under heavy fire, besides moving about amongst his men cheering and steadying them.

Lt. Edward Napier Armit, 19th Bn., Aust. I.F.

For conspicuous gallantry and skill before and during the attack on Mont St. Quentin on the 31st Aug. 1918, when he guided the battalion to the jumping-off position under circumstances of the greatest difficulty, entailing the crossing of a single plank bridge, which was most heavily shelled. His splendid work in placing the companies in position in the short time available was an important factor in the success of the attack.

Lt. Henry Evans Banfield, 20th Bn., Aust. I.F.

During operations at Mont St. Quentin, near Peronne, on the 31st August, 1918, he displayed great gallantry and remarkable resource in obtaining information, repeatedly crossing the river under the concentrated fire of many guns. The information collected was most valuable and enabled suitable dispositions to be made against hostile counter-attacks. His courage and coolness were of a very high order.

Lt. Alexander Fulford Bechervaise, 5th Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and determined leadership. In the attack on Lihons, on 10th August, 1918, he made a daring reconnaissance under heavy machine-gun fire and then led his platoon to the attack. Later in the day he cleared out a nest of machine guns, which enabled the platoon on his right to get forward into a wood, which was then quickly captured. He also rendered splendid service in reorganising and again pushing forward. His dash and skill in securing the important tactical point undoubtedly was the means of saving the company many casualties.

Lt. Harold Rupert Beer, 1st Bde., Aust. F.A.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Estrees and Villers Carbonnel on 28th and 29th August, 1918, as forward observation officer of the brigade. He pushed forward with the first wave of infantry, and his timely information gave his brigade full opportunity to deal with the retiring enemy. His wire was the only one for the infantry to use as well, and it was through his energy and disregard of danger that the brigade was able to give the infantry close support.

Lt. Leslie Roy Bell, 33rd Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on Roadwood, near Bouchavesnes, on 31st August, 1918. He commanded a platoon on the right of the attack, and with three men rushed a machine-gun post, killing two and capturing the gun and the remainder of the crew. After clearing the wood he rushed another gun and crew, and then with bombers drove the enemy from their trenches, subsequently assisting in the capture of a battery. He showed a fine fighting spirit.

Lt. William Stanley Bennett, 10th Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 23rd August, 1918, near Coppy, when he found his platoon strongly opposed from Justice Wood. He crept forward with a small party, regardless of his personal safety, and, outflanking the enemy, forced them to retire. This effort greatly facilitated the day's advance.

Lt. William Victor Bevan, 53rd Bn., Aust. Infy.

During the advance on Peronne on 1st September, 1918, he led his platoon forward with great gallantry in face of heavy artillery and machine-gun fire. On reaching his final objective he found his flanks exposed and the enemy behind him. Nevertheless he fought his way back with great skill and determination through a nest of machine guns, killing many of the enemy, and eventually rejoined his company. His splendid example of resolution and tenacity inspired all under his command.

Lt. Victor Walter Biddle, 30th Bn., Aust. Infy.

During the operations on 26th and 27th August, 1918, which resulted in the capture of Foucaourt, he commanded a platoon with great skill and daring. Though wounded he declined to retire, and continued to lead his men across the ground heavily swept by machine-gun fire until he reached his objective. His brilliant leadership, in spite of great pain, and his resolute example had a most inspiring effect on his men.

Capt. Lyle Aubrey Blackman, 8th Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and determination during the attack north of Rosieres on 9th August, 1918. He led the right forward company splendidly and secured his objective against heavy odds in face of intense machine-gun fire. Though wounded early in the advance he carried on and personally led several bayonet charges on enemy posts, setting his men a fine example which they were not slow to follow.

Lt. Wesley Mervyn Blake, 1st Bn., Aust. Infy.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 23rd August, 1918, near Chignolles, when he led his platoon in an attack on the wood in face of machine-gun fire and direct fire from an anti-tank gun and a field gun. He cleared the wood, and for 2½ hours held on to the position, moving amongst his men regardless of the enemy's fire, until all was secure.