

to cheer his men. When his ammunition was expended he took a bomb, but was shot through the head while getting up to throw it.

His splendid courage had so encouraged his men that when they had no more ammunition or bombs they threw stones and ammunition boxes at the enemy till only nine of the platoon were left. Finally they were compelled to retire.

Capt. (temp. Maj.) Lionel Wilmot Brabazon Rees, R.A. and R.F.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

Whilst on flying duties, Major Rees sighted what he thought to be a bombing party of our own machines returning home. He went up to escort them, but on getting nearer discovered they were a party of enemy machines, about ten in all.

Major Rees was immediately attacked by one of the machines, and after a short encounter it disappeared behind the enemy lines, damaged.

Five others then attacked him at long range, but these he dispersed on coming to close quarters, after seriously damaging two of the machines. Seeing two others going westwards, he gave chase to them, but on coming nearer he was wounded in the thigh, causing him to lose temporary control of his machine. He soon righted it, and immediately closed with the enemy, firing at a close-contact range of only a few yards, until all his ammunition was used up.

He then returned home, landing his machine safely in our lines.

No. 19384 Pte. George William Chafer, E. York. R.

For most conspicuous bravery. During a very heavy hostile bombardment and attack on our trenches, a man carrying an important written message to his Company Commander was half buried and rendered unconscious by a shell. Private Chafer, at once grasping the situation, on his own initiative took the message from the man's pocket, and, although severely wounded in three places, ran along the ruined parapet under heavy shell and machine gun fire and just succeeded in delivering it before he collapsed from the effect of his wounds. He displayed great initiative and a splendid devotion to duty at a critical moment.

No. 7064 Acting Sergt. John Erskine, Sco. Rif., T.F.

For most conspicuous bravery. Whilst the near lip of a crater, caused by the explosion of a large enemy mine, was being consolidated, Actg. Sergt. Erskine rushed out under continuous fire with utter disregard of

danger and rescued a wounded serjeant and a private. Later, seeing his officer, who was believed to be dead, show signs of movement, he ran out to him, bandaged his head, and remained with him for fully an hour, though repeatedly fired at, whilst a shallow trench was being dug to them.

He then assisted in bringing in his officer, shielding him with his own body in order to lessen the chance of his being hit again.

No. 136414 Sppr. William Hackett, late Royal Engineers.

For most conspicuous bravery when entombed with four others in a gallery owing to the explosion of an enemy mine.

After working for 20 hours a hole was made through fallen earth and broken timber, and the outside party was met. Sapper Hackett helped three of the men through the hole and could easily have followed, but refused to leave the fourth, who had been seriously injured, saying "I am a tunneller, I must look after the others first."

Meantime the hole was getting smaller, yet he still refused to leave his injured comrade. Finally the gallery collapsed, and though the rescue party worked desperately for four days the attempt to reach the two men failed.

Sapper Hackett, well knowing the nature of sliding earth, the chances against him, deliberately gave his life for his comrade.

No. 3156 Pte. Arthur Herbert Procter, L'pool R., T.F.

For most conspicuous bravery. Private Procter, noticing some movement on the part of two wounded men who were lying in the open in full view of the enemy at about 75 yards in front of our trenches, went out, on his own initiative, and, though heavily fired at, ran and crawled to the two men, got them under cover of a small bank, dressed their wounds, and after cheering them with the promise of rescue after dark, and leaving with them some of his clothing for warmth, regained our trenches, again being heavily fired at.

At dusk both men were brought in alive.

No. 15818 Pte. George Stringer, Manch. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and determination. After the capture of an enemy position he was posted on the extreme right of his battalion to guard against any hostile attack. His battalion was subsequently forced back by an enemy counter-attack, but Private Stringer held his ground single-handed and kept back the enemy till all his grenades were expended.

His very gallant stand saved the flank of his battalion and rendered a steady withdrawal possible.