

effect on all ranks, and it was largely owing to his personal courage and example that the shell hole line was held in spite of the very heaviest fire.

Throughout the day his calm courage and cheerfulness exercised the greatest influence over all with whom he came in contact, and it is generally agreed that Brigadier-General Coffin's splendid example saved the situation, and had it not been for his action the line would certainly have been driven back.

Lt. John Reginald Noble Graham, Arg. & Suth'd Highrs., attd. M.G.C.

For most conspicuous bravery, coolness and resource when in command of a Machine Gun Section.

Lt. Graham accompanied his guns across open ground, under very heavy rifle and machine gun fire, and when his men became casualties, he assisted in carrying the ammunition.

Although twice wounded he continued during the advance to control his guns and was able, with one gun, to open an accurate fire on the enemy, who were massing for a counter-attack. This gun was put out of action by the enemy's rifle fire, and he was again wounded. The advancing enemy forced him to retire, but before doing so he further disabled his gun, rendering it useless.

He then brought a Lewis gun into action with excellent effect till all the ammunition was expended. He was again severely wounded, and forced through loss of blood to retire.

His valour and skilful handling of his guns held up a strong counter-attack which threatened to roll up the left flank of the Brigade, and thus averted what might have been a very critical situation.

2nd Lt. Denis George Wyldbore Hewitt, late Hamps. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in command of a Company in attack.

When his first objective had been captured he re-organised the Company and moved forward towards his objective. While waiting for the barrage to lift he was hit by a piece of shell, which exploded the signal lights in his haversack, and set fire to his equipment and clothes. Having extinguished the flames, in spite of his wound and the severe pain he was suffering, he led forward the remains of the Company under very heavy machine gun fire, and captured and consolidated his objective. He was subsequently killed by a sniper while inspecting the consolidation and encouraging his men.

This gallant Officer set a magnificent example of coolness and contempt of danger to the whole Battalion, and it was due to his splendid leading that the final objective of his Battalion was gained.

No. R.2794 Sjt. Edward Cooper, K.R.R.C. (Stockton).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack. Enemy machine guns from a concrete blockhouse, 250 yards away, were holding up the advance of the battalion on his left, and were also causing heavy casualties to his own battalion. Sjt. Cooper,

with four men, immediately rushed towards the blockhouse, though heavily fired on. About 100 yards distant he ordered his men to lie down and fire at the blockhouse. Finding this did not silence the machine guns, he immediately rushed forward straight at them and fired his revolver into an opening in the blockhouse. The machine guns ceased firing and the garrison surrendered. Seven machine guns and forty-five prisoners were captured in this blockhouse.

By this magnificent act of courage he undoubtedly saved what might have been a serious check to the whole advance, at the same time saving a great number of lives.

No. 265473 Sjt. Alexander Edwards, Sea. Highrs. (Lossiemouth).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when, having located a hostile machine gun in a wood, he, with great dash and courage, led some men against it, killed all the team and captured the gun.

Later, when a sniper was causing casualties, he crawled out to stalk him, and although badly wounded in the arm, went on and killed him.

One officer only was now left with the company, and, realising that the success of the operation depended on the capture of the furthest objective, Sjt. Edwards, regardless of his wound, led his men on till this objective was captured.

He subsequently showed great skill in consolidating his position, and very great daring in personal reconnaissance.

Although again twice wounded on the following day, this very gallant N.C.O. maintained throughout a complete disregard for personal safety, and his high example of coolness and determination engendered a fine fighting spirit in his men.

No. 13531 Sjt. (actg. C.Q.M.S.) William H. Grimbaldston, K.O. Sco. Bord. (Blackburn).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack.

Noticing that the unit on his left was held up by enemy machine gun fire from a blockhouse, though wounded, he collected a small party to fire rifle grenades on this blockhouse. He then got a volunteer to assist him with rifle fire. In spite of very heavy fire from the blockhouse he pushed on towards it, and made for the entrance, from which he threatened with a hand grenade the machine gun teams inside the blockhouse.

These he forced to surrender one after another. The extraordinary courage and boldness of C.Q.M.S. Grimbaldston resulted in his capturing thirty-six prisoners, six machine guns and one trench mortar, and enabled the whole line to continue its advance.

No. 20002 Sjt. Ivor Rees, S. Wales Bord. (Llanelly).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack.

A hostile machine gun opened fire at close range, inflicting many casualties. Leading his platoon forward by short rushes, Sjt. Rees gradually worked his way round the right flank to the rear of the gun position. When he was about twenty yards from the machine gun he rushed forward towards the team, shot one, and bayoneted another. He then bombed the large concrete emplacement, killing five and capturing thirty