

No. 2358 Sjt. Albert David Lowerson, 21st Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and tactical skill on the 1st September, 1918, during the attack on Mt. St. Quentin, North of Peronne, when very strong opposition was met with early in the attack, and every foot of ground was stubbornly contested by the enemy. Regardless of heavy enemy machine-gun fire, Sjt. Lowerson moved about fearlessly directing his men, encouraging them to still greater effort, and finally led them on to the objective.

On reaching the objective he saw that the left attacking party was held up by an enemy strong post heavily manned with twelve machine guns. Under the heaviest sniping and machine-gun fire, Sjt. Lowerson rallied seven men as a storming party, and directing them to attack the flanks of the post, rushed the strong point, and by effective bombing captured it, together with twelve machine guns and thirty prisoners.

Though severely wounded in the right thigh, he refused to leave the front line until the prisoners had been disposed of and the organisation and consolidation of the post had been thoroughly completed.

Throughout a week of operations, his leadership and example had a continual influence on the men serving under him, whilst his prompt and effective action at a critical juncture allowed the forward movement to be carried on without delay, thus ensuring the success of the attack.

No. 6594 Sjt. Gerald Sexton, 13th Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery during the attack near Le Verguier, north-west of St. Quentin, on the 18th September, 1918.

During the whole period of the advance, which was very seriously opposed, Sjt. Sexton was to the fore dealing with enemy machine guns; rushing enemy posts, and performing great feats of bravery and endurance without faltering or for a moment taking cover.

When the advance had passed the ridge at La Verguier, Sjt. Sexton's attention was directed to a party of the enemy manning a bank, and to a field gun causing casualties and holding up a company. Without hesitation, calling to his section to follow, he rushed down the bank and killed the gunners of the field gun. Regardless of machine-gun fire, he returned to the bank, and after firing down some dugouts induced about thirty of the enemy to surrender. When the advance was continued from the first to the second objective the company was again held up by machine guns on the flanks. Supported by another platoon, he disposed of the enemy guns, displaying boldness which inspired all.

Later, he again showed the most conspicuous initiative in the capture of hostile posts and machine guns, and rendered invaluable support to his company digging in.

No. 16444 Cpl. (L./Sjt.) Harry Blanshard Wood, M.M., 2nd Bn., S. Gds. (Bristol).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during operations at the village

of St. Python, France, on the 13th of October, 1918.

The advance was desperately opposed by machine guns, and the streets were raked by fire. His platoon serjeant was killed, and command of the leading platoon fell to him. The task of the company was to clear the western side of the village and secure the crossing of the River Selle. Command of the ruined bridge had to be gained, though the space in front of it was commanded by snipers. Cpl. Wood boldly carried a large brick out into the open space, lay down behind it, and fired continually at these snipers, ordering his men to work across while he covered them by his fire. This he continued to do under heavy and well-aimed fire until the whole of his party had reached the objective point.

He showed complete disregard for his personal safety, and his leadership throughout the day was of the highest order.

Later, he drove off repeated enemy counter-attacks against his position.

His gallant conduct and initiative shown contributed largely to the success of the day's operations.

No. 32827 (L./Sjt.) Thomas Neeley, M.M., 8th Bn., R. Lanc. R. (Liverpool).

For most conspicuous bravery during operations at Flesquières on 27th September, 1918.

His company was held up during the advance by heavy machine-gun fire from a flank. Cpl. Neeley, realising the seriousness of the situation, at once, under point-blank fire, dashed out with two men and rushed the positions, disposing of the garrisons and capturing three machine guns. Subsequently, on two successive occasions, he rushed concrete strong points, killing or capturing the occupants.

The splendid initiative and fighting spirit displayed by this gallant non-commissioned officer in dealing with a series of posts, in some cases single-handed, was largely responsible for the taking and clearing of a heavily fortified and strongly garrisoned position, and enabled his company to advance 3,000 yards along the Hindenburg support line.

No. 240693 Cpl. (A./Sjt.) Louis McGuffie, late 1/5th Bn., K.O.S.B. (T.F.) (Wigtown).

For most conspicuous bravery and resourceful leadership under heavy fire near Wyttschaete on 28th September, 1918. During the advance to Piccadilly Farm, he, single-handed, entered several enemy dugouts and took many prisoners, and during subsequent operations dealt similarly with dugout after dugout, forcing one officer and twenty-five other ranks to surrender.

During the consolidation of the first objective he pursued and brought back several of the enemy who were slipping away, and he was also instrumental in rescuing some British soldiers who were being led off as prisoners.

Later in the day, when in command of a platoon, he led it with the utmost dash and resource, capturing many prisoners.

This very gallant soldier was subsequently killed by a shell.