

His valour, determination, and utter disregard of danger were an inspiring example to all.

No. 43839 Pte. Alfred Wilkinson, 1/5th Bn., Manch. R. (T.F.) (Leigh).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on 20th October, 1918, during the attack on Marou, when four runners in succession having been killed in an endeavour to deliver a message to the supporting company, Pte. Wilkinson volunteered for the duty. He succeeded in delivering the message, though the journey involved exposure to extremely heavy machine-gun and shell fire for 600 yards. He showed magnificent courage and complete indifference to danger, thinking only of the needs of his company and entirely disregarding any consideration for personal safety.

Throughout the remainder of the day Pte. Wilkinson continued to do splendid work.

No. 3102 Pte. Thomas Ricketts, 1st Bn., R. Newfoundland R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 14th October, 1918, during the advance from Ledeghem, when

the attack was temporarily held up by heavy hostile fire and the platoon to which he belonged suffered severe casualties from the fire of a battery at point-blank range.

Pte. Ricketts at once volunteered to go forward with his section commander and a Lewis gun to attempt to outflank the battery. Advancing by short rushes under heavy fire from enemy machine guns with the hostile battery, their ammunition was exhausted when still 300 yards from the battery. The enemy, seeing an opportunity to get their field guns away, began to bring up their gun teams. Pte. Ricketts, at once realising the situation, doubled back 100 yards under the heaviest machine-gun fire, procured further ammunition, and dashed back again to the Lewis gun, and by very accurate fire drove the enemy and the gun teams into a farm.

His platoon then advanced without casualties, and captured the four field guns, four machine guns, and eight prisoners.

A fifth field gun was subsequently intercepted by fire and captured.

By his presence of mind in anticipating the enemy intention and his utter disregard of personal safety, Pte. Ricketts secured the further supply of ammunition which directly resulted in these important captures and undoubtedly saved many lives.

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