



Tommy Ricketts
1901 – 1967

Winner of:
Victoria Cross
Distinguished Conduct Medal
Croix de Guerre with Gold Star

Tommy Ricketts was 15 years old when he enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment in September 1916. He was eager to follow his older brother George who had enlisted the year before, in 1915.

The enlistment form describes Tommy as being from Middle Arm, White Bay, a small outpost in Newfoundland. Tommy signed the form, declaring that he was over 18 years of age.

Tommy went overseas several months later in January, 1917. He was wounded in November of that year but quickly returned to action in April, 1918.

In October, 1918 Tommy Ricketts was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery in action in Ledeghem, Belgium. He was the youngest Canadian soldier to receive the Victoria Cross and the third youngest in the British Empire.

When Tommy returned home he was treated like a hero. There were parades, gifts and many speeches about his bravery in battle. People were eager to make the most of his experiences and to hear his stories. However, he was not happy to be in the spotlight or to speak about his wartime experiences. For many years he refused to accept the VC pension.

His wife said, "He did not want this VC. He just felt that others, everyone who went across, was just as equal as he was."

FIRST NEW GUINEA REGIMENT

ATTESTATION OF

No. *3102*

Name *Thomas Pickett* Corps

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

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| <p>1. What is your name?</p> <p>2. What is your full Address?</p> <p>3. Are you a British Subject?</p> <p>4. What is your age?</p> <p>5. What is your Trade or Calling?</p> <p>6. Are you Married?</p> <p>7. Have you ever served in any Branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so,* which?</p> <p>8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?</p> <p>9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service?</p> <p>10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you?.....</p> <p>11. Are you willing to serve upon the conditions as embodied in the roll of service to be signed by you if you are accepted?</p> | <p>1. <i>Thomas Pickett</i></p> <p>2. <i>Middle Inn White Bay</i></p> <p>3. <i>Yes</i></p> <p>4. <i>18</i> Years <i>3</i> Months</p> <p>5. <i>Businessman</i></p> <p>6. <i>No</i></p> <p>7. <i>No</i></p> <p>8. <i>Yes</i></p> <p>9. <i>Yes</i></p> <p>10. { Name</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Corps</p> <p>11. <i>Yes</i></p> |
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I, *Thomas Pickett* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

E Sept 6 *Thomas Pickett* SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
John Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Thomas Pickett* do make oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at
 on this *2nd* day of *Sept* 191*6*

Signature of Attesting Officer *J. W. [Signature]*

†CERTIFICATE OF APPROVING OFFICER.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been compiled with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the;

If enlisted by special authority, such will be attached to the original attestation.

Date.....191

Place.....

} Approving Officer.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
 ‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

* If so, Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink. If re-enlisted in the (Regiment).....