

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Captain John Hanlon Atkinson served as a Lieutenant in Company D, 7th, U. S. Inf., while I was in command of that Company in Belleau Woods. He there conducted himself with great gallantry and was always dependable during a period in which everyone in that Company was put to the severest test.

For twelve hours on July 15th, 1918, Company D, was under heavy artillery fire, sustaining approximately forty casualties. During that time Lt. Atkinson continually exposed himself to shell fire in administering first aid to the wounded. Although Lt. Atkinson was completely exhausted by his efforts at this time he refused to go to the rear.

During the evening of July 19th, Lt. Atkinson succeeded in carrying a wire cable across the Marne, by means of which three Companies of the first battalion were enabled to cross the river.

In the attacks made upon machine gun nests during the next few days Lt. Atkinson displayed a daring spirit combined with more than ordinary intelligence.

After participating in an attack at Tulieris Farm, he was greatly shocked by the explosion of a shell, in a small German cabin in which he was resting. He was then ordered to the rear to obtain much needed rest, but after an absence of a few hours returned to the first battalion of which I was then in command and took command of Company D.

A day or two later Lt. Atkinson led Company D, in an attack on the village of Le Charnel and again displayed high qualities of leadership under most trying circumstances.

Lt. Atkinson continued in command of Company D, until he was severely wounded while giving first aid to a wounded man under very heavy artillery fire. He lay at the point of death for a long period.

During the period of my service with the 7th, Infantry, I was in daily contact with Lt. Atkinson and always, when responsibilities were great I found him most dependable and relied upon him to a great extent. He was courageous, enduring, intelligent, faithful to his superior officers and idolized by his men. For the services which he has rendered he deserves well from his Country.

Joseph J. Brown

Formerly Captain 7th U. S. Inf.