

Cpl. Frank Severn



Ripley & Heanor News 1917, Codnor Soldier Killed

Official intimation has been received by Mr Frank and Mrs Severn, of Mill lane house Codnor, that their eldest son Frank of the K.R.R has been killed in action in France. No particulars are to Hand and the bereaved parents would much appreciate information from any comrades. Severn prior to the war worked at New Denby colliery.

Ripley & Heanor News May 3rd 1918 Gave His Life For A Comrade, Codnor Corporal's Sacrifice.

Information has recently come to hand showing how a Codnor soldier, Corpl. Frank Severn, of the machine gun section, Kings Royal Rifles, sacrificed his life in a gallant attempt to save that of one of his comrades.

Corpl. Severn was officially reported killed in action on July 31st 1917. Though particulars were lacking, and through the agency of the British Red Cross Society. His parents have received the following letter from a chum of Severn's in France.

"I knew Corpl. Severn well. I think he lived at Ripley in Derbyshire or somewhere about there. On the 31st of July 1917 we were attacking at Hollebeke, and reaching our objective, holding it, and consolidating, when one of Corpl. Severn's machine gun company got wounded. He went out just over the parapet to look after him, when I saw him hit by a sniper in the head and killed instantly. This happened about 9 or 10 a.m. His body was left there and would be buried by the R.A.M.C. during the night. We were relieved that night and sent a burying party up next night."

Corpl. Severn, who was well known locally enlisted in August 1915, and after training at Romford and Aldershot, went to France the following May. He had seen continued active service in many engagements for fifteen months before he fell victim to the sniper's shot. Previous to joining he was employed as a stoker at Whiteley Colliery.

Enlistment Details

Frank enlisted for the Kings Royal Rifles 18th Battalion, service number C/6741 on the 3rd August 1915 at the age of 21 years and 5 months. His address is given as 3 Severns Row Mill Lane Codnor and his occupation, Engine Driver.

Signature of witness was an Alfred Topham.

His height is given as 5 foot 6 1/8 inches and religion C of E.

He was posted to France on 2nd May 1916 and promoted to Corporal on 22nd June 1917.