

Corpl. William Edwin Martin



RIPLEY & HEANOR NEWS 1918 CODNOR CORPORAL DIES OF WOUNDS

Crawls back to English Lines After Medical Treatment By Germans

Yet one more Codnor soldier has made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of right and freedom. This is Corpl. W.E.Martin of the Royal Scots, who fell in action seriously wounded on April 12th 1918 with a bullet through his right shoulder. He was left on the field and the Germans treated him decently. An act of chivalry uncommon to them. After dark he managed to crawl back to our own lines and was admitted to the Canadian General Hospital at Etaples.

Corpl. Martin managed to write home with his left hand, and knowing as he must have known that he had received a fatal wound, made an heroic endeavour to write cheerfully and spare his aged parents from bad news. Letters from the Chaplain also spoke of his removal to Blighty when sufficiently recovered, consequently the news of his death came somewhat as a shock to his friends and relations.

Acquainting his parents of his death, the Chaplain writes :-

“He was such a cheerful, hopeful, patient, and brave sufferer, that one could not realise from meeting him how seriously he was wounded. They tried hard to save him in the hospital. Doctors, nurses, and orderlies all thought a good deal of him and gave him every attention, but he was so seriously injured internally that it was not possible for him to recover. His faith in the saviour was clear and constant. Your son was confident that he would soon be in Blighty and meet you, but God willed it otherwise. You will meet in the land were sorrow, suffering, and separation are unknown. He passed peacefully away and will be carried to rest in the Etaples Military Cemetery.”

Corpl. Martin was in his 28th year and prior to enlisting in February 1916, was a member on the scholastic profession, holding an appointment as assistant master under the London County Council. He received his training at Heanor Secondary School, and Islington Training College. He had seen almost a years service on the Western front, and was home on leave as recently as a few weeks ago.

By his death the profession will lose an ardent and enthusiastic member and the Army a dutiful N.C.O.

The deepest sympathy of his large circle of friends is extended to his parents in their sad loss.