

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you of the death in action of your son 61048 Pte. A.L. Lloyd

He was killed on the evening of the 20th inst. He was not at the time serving under me, as he was one of a party whom I had been ordered to send to escort another ambulance.

He has been slightly wounded in the hand earlier I the day but had refused to go sick and had remained on duty.

A shell came into the dug-out where he was sitting and injured him so severely that he died half an hour later. He became unconscious almost at once, so that you have at least the poor comfort of knowing that his death was practically painless.

The shell was a "gas" shell and your son with another man who was with him were brought out by an officer of the ambulance and a party of volunteers at the risk of their lives. The officer was rather badly gassed and is in hospital.

He was buried in the "Quarry" cemetery about 500 yards due south of BAZENTIN-LE-GRAND and about 2 miles due south of MARTINPUICH. The service was taken by the Rev. H. Ewbank C of E chaplain attached to 33rd Division.

It is not possible to do much to the grave at present, as it is under heavy shell fire, but it will be marked with his name and will be made up by the Graves Registration Commission.

We all feel that your son is a great loss to the ambulance.

Apart from the fact that he was a very nice lad of exemplary character, he was one of the very best bearers I had. He repeatedly volunteered for specially dangerous duties. During the 3 or 4 days previous to his death he had been employed under most dangerous conditions and his gallantry on many occasions had been specially noted by the officers under whom he had been working.

His personal effects have been sent down to the base and will be returned to you in due course.

Please accept from myself and every officer and man of 141 Field ambulance our deepest sympathy for you and your family in your great loss. You have at least the satisfaction of knowing that your son was not a "conscientious objector" and that he died as a man should die!

I am your faithfully Anderson Menden Lieut. Col. R A M C

O.C. 141st Field ambulance

At the Front 23.8.16