

23/11/17

No 389830 Cpl J. W. Robinson.  
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Dear M<sup>r</sup> Hind

It is with very great regret and deep sympathy that I write these few lines in reference to your late son Walter. It will interest you to know that I was with Wattie when he was gased. We had just taken over the "Cambrai trench" in the Ypres sector. from a Staffordshire Reg. "Wattie" (as we all call him) was in charge of the gas guard & it was without doubt his tenacity & devotion to duty & his thought for his mates that caused him to lose his life. A great number of gas shells were coming over & Wattie was untiring in seeing that all his platoon were safe, to my own knowledge he had taken his mask off several times to test the air by smelling, thus running the risk of being gased, solely to let his mates know if it was safe to remove theirs. During a lull in the shelling he had just taken his mask off & had sounded the all safe, he was holding his mask in his hand leaning

against the trench when Fritz started shelling again a gas shell came over + burst on the parapet within a few feet of him, before putting on his own mask he gave the alarm, + although he was gassed himself went on with his duties seeing that everyone was safe + had received the alarm he carried on after this for fully 1/2 an hour + did not seem to have a thought for himself as long as the boys were safe + although it was easy to see he was suffering would have continued to do so had he not been almost forced to go to the dressing station. There is no doubt that in giving the alarm before putting on his mask cost him his life, although it was the means of saving his mates. Wattie + I had <sup>not</sup> changed addresses before going into the line + I would have written you before but could not find the hospital he had been taken to, + being wounded myself shortly afterwards had no way of finding out + it came as a very great shock to me when I found he had died. We had been mates while in the company together + those of us that are left will miss ~~him~~ him very much, he was always very popular with the boys in his platoon. As Corporal of number 8 platoon he had a great deal to do with our rationing, mail, & if any of the boys wanted anything, it was always go to Wattie + he will fix things up he would always go to any trouble to set things right.

Several of his old platoon mates are over here  
wounded & have too asked me to express to you  
their deepest sympathy & to state that they consider  
your son's action was the means of saving a  
good many lives that night. In conclusion I can  
only say that Wattie was a man in the truest  
sense of the word & I hope these few lines from  
one of his mates will help a little in your sorrow.  
With deepest sympathy

From Yours very sincerely  
J. W. Robinson