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Sympathetic Letters.

DEATH OF RIFLEMAN WATSON.

Mrs Watson, of Marchwiell Street, Timaru, mother of the late Rifleman William Winter Watson (late of Palmerston North), who died of wounds in France, has received three letters from France regarding the death of her son.

Major A. Digby Smith, commanding B. Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd N.Z. Rifle Brigade, to whose company Rifleman Watson belonged, wrote on June 3rd: "He was always a good soldier, and did his duty to the entire satisfaction of his officers. We all deplore his untimely end, but hope you will gain some comfort from the knowledge that he died at his post, nobly doing his duty for his country as a soldier should."

The Sister in Charge (J. E. Jolly) of No. 2 Clearing Station, wrote on May 26th:—"I am sorry to tell you your son Rifleman W. W. Watson was brought in here yesterday, very severely wounded in the abdomen, and though everything possible was done for him he passed peacefully away at 10.30 last night. I told him I would write and let you know we were taking care of him, and he sent his love. He was too collapsed to talk much, so he left no other message. He will be laid to rest in a part of the cemetery here reserved for our brave troops, and a little wooden cross bearing the name and date marks each resting place. The name of place and number of his grave will be sent you later from headquarters. You can rest assured that your son had every care and attention. With much sympathy."

Bob Simmers writes on June 23rd:—"Dear Mrs Watson, you have my heartfelt sorrow in the loss of your son, Billy. He was in the same company as I am, and so we were in the firing line together. We were schoolmates at Waimataitai, so when I heard he was hit I went to him and stayed with him till the ambulance took him away. Although he knew he was badly hit he was very brave about it. The shell had landed within three or four yards of him and a piece hit him in the small of the back and went through to his stomach. I tried to get more information from the hospitals, but could not find out anything. You and your family have had a great loss, but you have one consolation. He died like a man and a soldier fighting for his country."

PUG PARS.

Stan Wright, late of Palmerston N., writing from somewhere in France says: A few lines from this far off land to inform you that yours truly has, so far, dodged the six by two section. From one of the boys I have borrowed several copies of "Truth," and I can honestly say that your columns were highly appreciated. I was pleased to read that Billy Shields had donned the uniform, the only sensible thing for him to do. George Barr is still with us. He is a sergeant in the Lewis Machine Gun section. George does not get much time for sparring nowadays, as he is kept "strafing" bigger game. Young Joe Stone, of Manuwatu (who is also with us), has put on a lot of weight, and he is always willing to put on the mitts with all and sundry in his own class. A gratifying feature at the Wellington B.A. annual meeting was the election of C. E. Budge as a vice-president. Mr. Budge is now a Lieutenant in charge of our machine-gun section and a real good sport to boot. We are in a pretty hot corner of the mix-up, and between "strafing" and gas, we are ever on the alert. A member of our battalion, **W. W. Watson**, a Tlmaru boy, who more than once appeared in the square ring, had the misfortune to be smacked up, and although the poor lad put up a great fight against his wounds, he crossed the great divide. Peace be to his ashes. The rations in this country are very good and leave little room for complaints; still, of course, there are grumblers. The weather, although it is now summer, has been very wet and cold, and consequently mud of a very sticky nature is largely in evidence in the trenches.