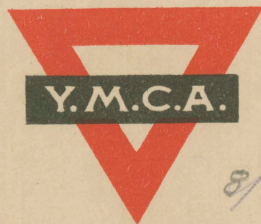


On Active Service

**WITH THE BRITISH  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**



8/3/16

Lee Corp of Freeman 2/163  
1/6<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters  
55<sup>th</sup> Inf Base  
Rouen  
B. E. F. France

Dear Miss Dale

It is with the deepest regret I write these few lines to you with regards to the loss of your dear brother & my most devoted comrade, Jimmy. My late platoon, & myself especially, mourn to-day for a real good chum, & on their behalf I write tendering our most sincere sympathies to you & family.

Jim, by his quiet unassuming manner, & his willingness to always take the lions share of whatever work there was to be done, had made himself very popular amongst us, but no one will miss him more than I, as I was one of his closest friends

He was in the section of which I had command during the charge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, & was by my side when he was hit. A shell burst over us when we were within throwing distance of the German lines, & Jim was hit in the head with a shrapnell bullet. He never knew a moments pain as he went quite quietly. I myself was wounded in the



neck & shoulders a few minutes later, & I must make that  
my excuse for not having written before, & I am still a little  
stiff, but Jim asked me before leaving the trench to write  
to you if anything happened to him.

He seemed to know he would never come back, he  
told me so before going out, but he never once gave a  
thought to holding back, in fact, he with another were the  
only ones that were with me from my section during our charge.

Once more I send you my deepest sympathies in  
your great loss & remain

Yours Very Sincerely  
John Freeman