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Lce Cpl J Freeman 3163. 16 Platoon D Coy. 1/6th Glosters B. E. F.

15/10/16

Dear Miss Dale

I am very sorry I have been unable to reply to your letter before, but we have been on the move a lot lately, so you must accept that as my excuse.

I was very pleased to receive your kind letter, I will do my utmost to supply you with the details you ask for, censor permitting.

Your brother had a premonition that he was going to meet his end that night, & told me so just before leaving the trench preparatory to going forward to the attack. We had to attack from Villers & I should say we were out about an hour when Jimmy was hit. Right up to the last his thoughts were of you & he made me promise several times to write to you if anything happened to him. No man could have met his fate in a braver manner than did Jim. It is pretty awful having to go forward in the face of such a fire as we were subjected to that night, but he had no thoughts of turning back. I can tell you I was very proud to have him in my section, as he had previously volunteered for dangerous jobs.

You ask about his manner of living during the time I knew him, & I will say that no man could have lived a better or cleaner life. He was always very considerate for the other chaps in the platoon, amongst whom he was very popular. The few chaps that are left from that night wish me to tell you how deeply they sympathise with you in your loss, as he was thought such a lot of by them. I can quite understand his seeing after your pleasure when he was home, that is just the impression he made with us. I can quite understand your being anxious about his life with us, as I am one of the very few who knew his story, he told me a few weeks before, but I thought none the less of him for it, in fact, I respected him all the more for his genuine efforts to atone, most men would have let things slide had they been in his position.

His body was recovered a couple of days later by a search party & buried near where he fell, about half a mile north east of Villers.

I must thank you very much for the compliment you paid me in your letter, but I only did what I considered my duty to a fallen chum, & if there are any other things you would like to know, I shall be only too pleased to supply them if I can.

Of his personal effects I know nothing, but if there are any they will be forwarded on to you through the War Office.

In conclusion let me once again assure you of our deepest sympathy for you in your great loss.

I am

Your Sincere Friend

J Freeman

P.S.

Have you received a letter from Sergt Wilson? As there was no officer left in the platoon, he felt it his duty as senior N.C.O. to inform you of the platoon's sympathy with you in the death of poor old Jimmy