

Surname	Riley
Forename	Richard
Initials	R T
Age	21
Honours/Awards	
Date died	24/05/1916
Rank	Lance Corporal
Regiment	Cheshire Regiment
Unit/Squadron	"D" Coy. 11th Bn.
Service Number	16537
Cemetery/Memorial	Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St. Eloi
Grave Reference	II.C.14.
Further Information	Son of Philip and Mary Riley, of 73, Hawthorn Grove, Seacombe, Wallasey, Cheshire.



News Report

Shot By A Sniper

Lance-Corporal R.T. Riley, of the Cheshire Regiment, was shot through the head by a sniper. The parents who live at 73, Hawthorne Grove, Seacombe, have received several letter of condolence from the firing line. Lieutenant A.W. Powets writes:-

“Words cannot express my sympathy for your loss. Your son was one of the battalion bombers, and was immediately under my command as Battalion Bombing Officer. He was my best N.C.O., and I had recommended him to be full corporal. His death is mourned by all his comrades with whom he was so popular. He hed his squad of bombers fearlessly and enthusiastically into the thickest part of any scrap. His death is a great personal loss to us. I can only give you the consolation that his death was quite peaceful and that he suffered no pain whatever. He was buried some distance behind the firing line in a quiet peaceful little village.”

The following touching letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Riley:-

“As members of the Platoon of which Lance-Corporal Riley was a member we desire to express our sincere condolence with you all in your sad bereavement.

“We all respected ‘Dick’ because we ever knew him to be a brave and fearless soldier, and the best of comrades, and is it because of this that our hearts go out to you now.

“Whilst mourning with you at the loss you and ourselves have sustained, we would beseech you to bear up realising that your loss is his external gain.

“He died like the faithful and valiant soldier he was – at his post of duty. He laid down his life for his country’s cause which we know he always had at heart.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

“He has fought the good fight and the memories of his life and character which are stamped upon our hearts will always be a sure source of encouragement to us.

He is buried in a little cemetery a few miles behind the line, and his grave is alongside the graves of comrades, who, like ‘Dick’. Have fallen – faithful unto death.

Concluding with the hope that God will lighten these dark days, and keep you in perfect peace.

Yours very sincerely,
Sergeant S. Meredith”

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission

Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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