

Transcriptions of letters sent to Mrs. Barrett. The transcriptions are likely to have been done by Christopher Barrett, Billy Barrett's brother. Written by Billy's comrades, they describe his last days.

II

Same address

1/7/17

Dear Mrs. Barrett,

I am very sorry not to have answered your letter before, but I am sure by now you have heard and got further information about your dear son as I am afraid I cannot give you very much. I know he had been wounded in the right arm before the fatal piece of shrapnel hit him, but it was instantaneous when the piece hit him in the stomach, and I helped to bury him & I gave his pay book to my captain as I thought he could get him reported killed before I could let you know as I knew it would be a great shock to you if you had not heard anything about him being killed before I wrote.

He was buried about a mile behind the advanced positions that were taken about 50 yards from where he was killed. I have wrote [sic] to his sweetheart as by now you have seen the letter and I advised her what to do. Yes I knew him, you have been very unfortunate losing his nephew and now your son, but try and bear up. I have his cap badge, if you want it let me know.

Well I think this is all I can tell you, as you can see the circumstances we are under. It was the 7th of June he was killed.

Yours very sincerely,

Joe Hornblow
