

FRANCE,
31/10/17.

Dear Mr. Reid,

It is with the greatest sorrow that I have to write to offer you and your family the deepest sympathy in the sad loss of your worthy son. All my officers, and in fact the whole Company, join me in expressing the greatest grief at the loss of so gallant and officer and so dear a comrade. As poor Jimmy had been with me about 17 months, I had plenty of time and opportunities of learning and appreciating his splendid character, absolute devotion to duty, and charming personality, and really, I cannot hope to express my own personal grief at his loss. It must be an awful blow to you all, as it was easy to see how devoted the poor fellow was to his family.

It was particularly sad that he should have died just as the announcement came out that he had been awarded the Military Cross for his gallant and brilliant work in a previous offensive operation. He did not live to hear the splendid news. I had also highly recommended him for further award for the actual operation in which he was wounded, and it is quite probable that mention of his splendid work will be published in orders, as my recommendation was forwarded immediately after the offensive.

I know you will be anxious to hear the actual details of poor Jimmy's end. He was badly wounded in the right side by a bullet from either a rifle or a machine gun. He was then right up at the most advanced portion of our newly captured position, engaged in the construction of an important redoubt, or "strong point" as we call them in the field. He was wounded about 3 p.m. on 26/10/17, and was carried a distance of nearly 3 miles on a stretcher by a party of his own devoted sappers. The reason for this long carry was that we were advancing, over the most terrific obstacles of country torn up by shells, and knee deep with sticky mud in most places. The sappers of Jimmy's section absolutely worshipped him, and would have done anything for him, and there was no lack of volunteers to carry him back. He was then taken by ambulance motor to the main dressing station, then to a Canadian

casualty clearing station, where he remained until his death, which was at 7.40 a.m. on 30/10/17. We are all very shocked to hear the very sad news, as we had great hopes that he would pull through O.K. seeing that he got back as far as the clearing station, but I fear some internal complications must have set in. It is very difficult during these strenuous operations to get fuller particulars, but I will endeavour to forward further particulars if I can get more information. All the poor fellow's kit and belongings will be forwarded to you through the proper channels at the very earliest possible moment.

Again offering you all our very deepest sympathy in your great grief.

Yours very sincerely

(Sgd) L. F. Mather

(Major)