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OLD COUNTY SCHOOL BOY KILLED.

The news of the death in France of Lnc.-Corpl. Frederick Ralph Ryder, of the 1st Cambs., an old County School boy, will cause deep regret to many past and present members of the school. Pte. Ryder, who was killed in action on June 3rd, was only 19 years of age. He was the son of the later partner in the firm of Messrs. Ryder and Amies, of King's-parade, and his mother lives in Tenison-road. He entered the County School in September, 1907, and was there for four years.

Second-Lieut. E. R. Wood, deceased's officer, writing to Mrs. Ryder says:

"It is with very great sorrow that I have to inform you of the death of your son, Lnc.-Corpl. F. R. Ryder (2075). He was shot by a sniper while working in the trenches on the afternoon of June 3rd; we buried him the same evening in the cemetery at Houplines, Armentières.

"I cannot express to you how much we feel his loss in the platoon. From the very first day the battalion came into action he proved to be one of our most cheerful and capable N.C.O.'s.

"His influence was always excellent; and I am voicing the feelings of the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the company, and especially of his platoon – with whom he was a great favourite – when I say that the loss of him is most deeply felt."

Another old boy, Pte. C. W. Bishop, writing to the Rev. C. J. N. Child, headmaster, gives particulars of Ryder's death.

"I know that you and the whole school," he writes, "will be more than grieved to hear of the sad death of Freddy Ryder. He was shot through the head yesterday afternoon, and died an hour afterwards, being unconscious the whole time. He was in the same platoon as myself, and was killed only a few yards from me. I believe it was a sniper that got him.

"Our platoon officer, Lieut. Woods, and a party of two N.C.O.'s and two men, including myself, and two other old boys, Corpl. Jones and Pte. Struggles, buried Freddy in a graveyard, some distance behind the trenches, and our officer read parts of the Burial Service. We then marched back to our places in the trenches. A cross and some flowers have to-day been placed over Freddy's grave.

"It would be impossible to explain to you how sad the whole platoon feels at their loss of such a brave fellow. He was liked by everyone. We have a consolation in knowing that it was God's will, and we all pray that he will comfort the bereaved. I think you will agree with me when I say that the Old Boys have made their old school's name even more famous by the splendid way in which such numbers of them rallied to the flag."

Lnc.-Corpl. P. Paisley, of 95, Chesterton-road, his cousin, who is also in the Cambs. Regiment., helped to bury him.