

(Cambridge Independent Press, Friday, 21 September 1917)

COUNCILLOR'S SON KILLED

We regret to announce the death in action, on September 13th, of Gunner Owen Beaumont Gentle of the Siege Battery, youngest son of Councillor Samuel and Mrs. Gentle, of 95, East-road, Cambridge. Gunner Gentle voluntarily joined up two years ago and was stationed at Dover for some time. He went out to France a year ago, and since then had been in a base hospital and a convalescent camp for three months suffering from a bad attack of trench fever. He had been transferred to a fresh siege battery and had only just got back into the line when he was killed. He was first hit in the leg and went to a dug-out, where a shell landed and killed him instantly. Gunner Gentle was of an exceedingly cheerful and kindly disposition and was much liked by those who knew him. He had recently met his brother, Pte. Hubert Gentle, of the Grenadier Guards, at a base camp in France, and was looking forward to coming home on leave soon to see his parents. Two other sons of Mr. and Mrs. Gentle offered their services to their country. Mr. Daniel Gentle is Inspector of Canteens in the Ipswich district, and Sergt. W. Gentle was called up on mobilisation with the 1st Cambs, and afterwards was discharged on account of ill-health. He served 13 years in the old Volunteers and the 1st. Cambs. Territorials.

Gunner Gentle's Captain in a letter notifying his death, says: "He was in the battery position, and about three minutes before had been slightly wounded in the leg. He came into the dug-out where I was, and I was attending to him, when the place was hit by a shell, and almost everyone in it was killed instantly, and your son was one of them. He cannot have felt anything. He was a very good, reliable man, whom I had known in another battery, and when I came to this battery I was glad to find him here, I shall miss him a great deal, as I considered him an old friend, with whom I had often been out in the old battery. I know that I cannot say much to help you in so great a trouble, but you must try and think of your son as a brave man who did his duty faithfully and well, and of such is the the kingdom of heaven. He was buried this afternoon near where he fell."
