

Late Private Walter Gooding.

LETTERS OF SYMPATHY.

FROM CHAPLAIN AND COMRADES.

Mr and Mrs E. Gooding, of Arkona, who recently lost two sons, Private Walter and Gunner Harold Gooding, on active service, have received the following letters of sympathy—one from the chaplain of Walter's battalion; the other from one of his comrades. They are as follows:—

Belgium, 30/10/17.

Dear Mrs Gooding,— As chaplain of your son's battalion, I write to express my sympathy for you at the loss of your son, 4198, Private W. J. Gooding, who was killed in action on Sept. 26, 1917. In this action your son helped to maintain the splendid name attached to his battalion. The Australians have made a grand name for themselves. They are second to none. Your son's name will always be held in honor. May God comfort you in your loss.

Yours sincerely,

A. F. EVA (Chaplain C.E.)

France, 3/10/17.

Mr Gooding— You will have heard the sad news before you receive this of Walter's death. I am writing these few lines; they will not be much comfort for you, but it is a little satisfaction to know all particulars. Walter was killed by machine-gun fire on Wednesday, 26th Sept. Our battalion made an attack on the enemy at daylight that morning. It was very successful; we captured a lot of prisoners and took all our objectives. We had a good few casualties, but of course

we must always expect some, and I am sorry to say Walter was among the killed. He got over alright in the morning, and was killed about ten o'clock during the day. I am proud to have been one of his mates. He was well liked by all that knew him; he was always willing to do his duty; he gave his life for his king and country; and if I am spared to get back to Australia, I will be proud to shake hands with the father of so good a soldier. I was fortunate enough to be left out of the trenches this time. I shook hands with Wallie and said good-bye to him the night he went in the trenches. My mates buried him on the 'battleship,' and put a cross over his grave. I could not get anything belonging to him to send home to you. If I do get anything belonging to him, I will send it to you. If there is anything I can do for you, I will do all I can.— W. THOMSON.