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ALWAYS WILLING AND CHEERFUL!

An Officer's Tribute.

Young Local Soldier Killed in the Bivouac.

Official information has been sent to Special Constable Frederick Churcher, of 7, Buckingham-road, that one of his sons, Private Frederick William Churcher, was killed by a shell at the beginning of this month. This young soldier served with a Territorial Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment in the Dardanelles, and was at the historic landing at Gallipoli, and when the peninsula was evacuated he was sent to France.

Writing to the parents to express his sympathy, the Commanding Officer explains that a German shell pitched into the Camp and killed both Churcher and one of his comrades, and wounded ten others. The funeral took place in a quiet meadow by an old farm near Ypres, and the promise is made that the grave will always be kept tidy.

The Captain adds: "We are all very sorry to lose him, and he was always willing and cheerful. I noticed him myself laughing and joking the day before."

A sympathetic letter has also been received from the Chaplain, who explains that the men of the Company must have been

Asleep in the Bivouac

when the shell burst over them. "It seems so sad to me," he adds, "that he should have come through so much and then be killed some way behind the lines. But in these days the guns reach so many miles that many a man is hit miles behind the actual front line trenches. . . The officers and men of his Company stood round the graveside as I read the service. As you know, the French people have promised that after the War the graves where our brave fellows have been buried shall be respected, and the ground kept as sacred."

Before he offered himself to the service of his country the late Private Churcher was employed by Messrs. Snewin and Son as a plumber's assistant, and Mr. Hubert Snewin has written to the bereaved parents to express his own deep sympathy and that of his wife. He says: "He was so good, so bright, and willing in civil life; and as a soldier he proved his bravery, courage, and compassion. All his comrades that I have met spoke of his devotion and extraordinary pluck, and his happy way of tending to the needs of the wounded."