

How a Munster Fusilier Fell.

In a letter to the widow of Lieut. Chute, Royal Munster Fusiliers, Capt. Jervis, the senior surviving officer of the battalion, gives some details of the fight on the 27th August, in which the battalion suffered so severely. The regiment was left in a somewhat exposed position and the orders for a withdrawal seem to have gone astray. Chute, with his guns, which he handled with wonderful skill, covered the withdrawal of my company at mid-day. It was pouring rain, and with entire disregard to personal comfort he lay in six inches of water to manipulate his guns the better. The Germans were crossing the front, and he never neglected an opportunity of delaying their advance. He withdrew them from one position to another, all day forming an invaluable escort to the two field guns we had attached to us. The withdrawal continued through a village at about 5.30 p.m., and the other side of it he came into action again, firing right down the road, on both sides of which Capt. Rawlingson's company was withdrawing. Owing to the help of your husband's guns the company rejoined the battalion. The enemy was now on three sides of us, and their artillery opened. Chute brought his machine guns back at a gallop under a positive hail of lead. It was a splendid feat, successfully accomplished and once again the guns were in position. We were now surrounded, and as your husband crossed the road to try and find a target to aim at he was shot in the right side and fell dead. Up to the last he was full of spirits as ever. It is impossible to realise that we'll never hear his voice again. He will leave a large gap, not only in the regiment but in each and all of his brother officers' hearts. It may be some small consolation to you to know that before the action he was looked upon as the best machine gun officer of the brigade, and his work during the day only served to confirm this view. On 28th the Germans allowed us to send out a burial party of our own, and they found Chute, and buried him with the eight other officers of the regiment killed, in a grave separate from the men. He was buried with all his personal effects on him. His heavier kit is with the regimental transport, the only part of the regiment to escape.