

27 12 1916

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter Alec Boucher was killed near Station Road near Beaucort Sur Ancre. It was very bad work we were not fighting at the time and had just taken up our position in this road, a sunken road with very steep banks on either side and near these banks one was practically immune from shells, he was walking along by one of these banks and talking to two Artillery Officers when a shell burst through the band, he was killed instantaneously and the other two officers wounded, some of our officers were within a few yards of him and he was only 200 yards from me.

He was about to visit the Battalion on our right. It was most unfortunate especially as he had literally walked through fire on the two previous days.

The work he did was stupendous during those days and I forwarded his name for a very high award, which I hope yet may be given to honour his deeds and his brave self and also his family and regiment.

He was one of the bravest and straightest young officers I had ever met and although I had only got to know him intimately (since he had come to live with me as my Intelligence Officer) for a week or so, I had a very great affection for him and I shall never forget him.

Sargent Major Downs to whom you refer, was at the time acting as Regiment Sargent Major (the previous one having been killed two days previously) and he was present at his funeral and helped me to put a wire fence round the grave.

My pioneers erected a five foot cross above the grave on which were painted his name, honour, rank and Regiment and the Regimental Crest.

I see on reference to your letter it was Sargent Moon you mention, I expect he was present at the funeral but am not certain and his NCO lately went to England for a Commission.

All Alec's effects were sent to England some time ago and doubtless have before now been received by his parents.

I have still in my possession 4 halfpennies and a religious medallion which being loose I kept and mean to post them to his parents next week when I hope to be home for a few days.

If I can give you any further information I shall be pleased to do so

Yours Truly

C P Rooke