



Commonwealth War Grave located in St. Denys Churchyard for H. W. Lewis

UNKNOWN SOLDIER Buried With Full Military Honours

The scriptural injunction "I was a stranger and ye took me in" has been literally fulfilled by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Cruse, of Silver Street. A few months ago a soldier twice wounded in fighting for his country, came to Warminster in search of a temporary engagement as pianist. He secured homely lodgings with Mrs. Cruse and when his health began to fail she nursed him and fed him as any mother would have done for her son. Despite every care and attention, however, the man passed away, a victim to wounds from shrapnel shell received in the fight at La Basse. Who he was did not matter. It was enough to know that he had fought bravely for his country and had the scars to show not only of recent engagement but of the historic fight near the Modder river in the South African War, through which his face was disfigured. He went by the name of Stanley Lewis, though that was not his proper name but it was the name he adopted and by that name his body was consigned to its last resting place. Apparently he joined the Army when he was 15 years of age and was a bugler boy in the North Lancashire Regt. He became a professional musician and gained a diploma. Having been wounded during the fighting at La Basse in December last he was sent back to the Tidworth Hospital and afterwards received his discharge. Finding his way to Warminster he secured an engagement as pianist at Mr. Albany Ward's Picture Palace. Internal complications, however, arose from the wound and this brought on dysentery and he died on April 23rd. Arrangements were made for a full military funeral on Wednesday, when the deceased soldier was interred in the Minster Churchyard. The coffin was borne to the Church on a gun carriage supplied by the Devon and Cornwall Army Service Corps, in charge of Sergt. Mitchell, and the coffin was draped with the Union Jack. A firing party and buglers of the Cornwall Light Infantry preceded the gun carriage, the former marching with arms reversed. Lieut. Hall was in command, and the firing party was under the charge of Sergt. Major Palmer.

Those who followed as mourners were Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Cruse, Messrs. Gerald Carence, Cyril and Alex Cruse, Mr. and Mrs. P. Turner, Misses May, Dorothy and Ivy Cruse, Mr. Mitchelmore, Mr. C. M. Trickett, Mr. M. Saxty, Mr. R. Morey, Mr. Pratey, Mr. Cook, and Mr. Cook, and Mr. Savage (fellow lodgers), ex-Sergt. Mayell, Mr. W. H. Welsh, Mr. Lennox Sheppard, and Mr. Thirlway, (managers of the Warminster, Codford, and Sutton Veny Picture Palace), Mr. Evans and Mr. F. D. Watts (pianist). The service was conducted by the Rev. V. R. Rogers, and at the final graveside scene the firing party fired three volleys and the buglers sounded the "Last Post." The funeral arrangements were ably carried out by Mr. G. Bush, and the inscription on the coffin lid was as follow: -

STANLEY LEWIS
Died April 23rd, 1915.
Aged 30 years.

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