

Belgian Interpreter Leon Courouble's Tribute to Alan

Sir or Madame,

Tournay 30th August 1921

Some weeks ago, I went to pay my visit to one whose memory is very dear to me. Lieutenant Hyett was very kind to me and we were great friends from the first day we met, on the 28th May 1917 at Armentieres, when I had the honour to be attached to the BEF as an interpreter to the prisoners of the 3rd Division.

At our mess I was seated next to him, we slept in the same room, or rather...what has been left of a room, and I remember that on the evening of the 30th May, the day before we moved to Nieppe, he showed me before we went to sleep, all the photos of his family.

The last time I went to pay him a visit I took a photo of his tomb and another one of the cemetery. At the back of this photo I have put a cross where his tomb is exactly.

The Strand cemetery is quite close to the village of Ploegsteert and is perfectly cared for. My friend will have my visit regularly.

I have been trying to find the grave of another Officer of the 3rd Australian Pioneers, Major Adams. I know that he has been killed in action somewhere in Dickebusch but I have been unable up to the present time to find him.

I am at your entire disposal, or of any family of my old Australian comrades, to take any photos you would like. Just let me know what is required. If possible, let me have a map location and I shall do my best to give satisfaction. I will do it only for pure remembrance and love for my dear old Australian friends.

With respect, believe me, Monsieur or Madame, your wholly devoted,

Leon Courouble.
Interpreter to BEF

NB: Leon died on 11th August 1929 aged 52



Alan Newcombe Hyett

Leon Courouble's Letter 30th August 1921

copy

TOURNAI 30th August 1921.

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or
Madam,

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LEON COURUBLE

Interpreter to E. E. F.