



# Martyr, Frederick -- Killed In Action, Obituary

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LIEUT. F. MARTYR,

A SOLDIER'S DEATH IN FRANCE.

As the "Gazette" briefly notified yesterday, Queensland has lost another of its finest men in the person of Lieut. Frederick Martyr, nephew of Mr. H. Bracker, "Henley" Toowoomba, and who is officially announced to have fallen on the battle-field in France, whilst nobly doing his duty.

Towards the end of August— on the 22nd— Mr. W. J. Martyr, of Ghin Ghinda, near Taroom, Lieut. Martyr's brother, received word from the base records office in Melbourne (through Mr. H. Bracker, to whose care it was addressed), that the gallant young officer had been wounded. This notification, unhappily, was afterwards followed by the announcement that he had been killed in action, and fell on August 8th, an expression of sympathy from the King and Queen and the Commonwealth authorities being added.

The late Lieut. Martyr was a son of the late Mr. C. P. Martyr, manager of Kilcummin Station, Peak Downs, near Clermont, and it was there that he was born. He was formerly a buyer of fat stock for the Australian Meat Export Company, and his business in that connection ultimately took him to the Northern Territory. Realising the Empire's need of men in the unprecedented struggle in honour's cause he deemed it his duty to offer his services. He was at once accepted, as his splendid constitution and physique ensured, and about July of last year went into camp at Enoggora. During his period of training there he studied military requirements to such good purpose, in the military school, that when he was about to leave for Egypt he was given a commission, his appointment of lieutenant, with his pay for that rank being dated back in view of the credit in which he had carried out his duties.

It was with the Light Horse that he went to Egypt, where he served as transport officer. The uneventful life in Egypt did not at all suit his ardent patriotic disposition, however, and in order that he might get into the thick of the fighting he transferred to the 15th Battalion, under Colonel Cannan, and so got to France, where he showed the utmost bravery, his career being unfortunately cut far too short, when he met a true soldier's death.

The deceased officer was well-known and esteemed in the west of Queensland, particularly at Charleville and Cunnamulla. He was also known very well to the sporting section of the public of Toowoomba and neighbourhood, for, as a member of the Brisbane gun club he was brought into touch with shooting enthusiasts hereabouts. Pigeon shooting was one of his favourite pastimes, and he was one of the best rifle shots in the country.

Lieut Martyr was, indeed, one of the best specimens of manly Australians, and was but 30 or 31 years of age.

His country's quarrel he took up as his own, and in one of his last letters home from the front he writes that what may with advantage be remembered now that the conscription referendum in Australia is drawing on apace "In fact," he says, detailing some of his impressions of French war


scenes, "but for the soldiers you would not know there was a war on when you get back a few miles, but houses are blown to bits. Some of them are very nice places too, and all brick, or rather, they were! But, there, you cannot realise what war is. If you did there would be no need for conscription for people in Queensland would know that if the war is not won we might see Queensland the same as France. What a homecoming then for the poor devils after the war!"

To the sympathy of the King and Queen, and the Commonwealth Government, with the members of the bereaved family, will be added that of our readers, in the loss they and Queensland has sustained.

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 **Date:** 8 Aug 1916

 **Place:** Queensland, Australia

 **Description:** LIEUT. F. MARTYR. (1916, September 12). Darling Downs Gazette (Qld. : 1881 - 1922), p. 4. Retrieved November 7, 2016, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article183260478>