

COPY

THE GAZETTE, DECEMBER 28th 1908

A British Soldier's death

To the Editor of The Gazette:

Dear Sir,

Will you permit me to narrate the following incident, the facts of which, I personally vouch for, in the hope that it may prevent a recurrence in any city that has a strong representation of British ex-army men.

A few days since, a British Pensioner without friends or relatives within location sank in a doorway, ill and comatose,

The police removed him to an hospital where he died shortly afterwards without regaining consciousness.

Another soldier approached a "British" soldier's organization, who expound the "theory" of good comradeship with a view to respectable interment at a minimum cost, and was told by one of the Executive that there were "no funds" for such a contingency, and that not being a member, or having contributed to the funds, they could do nothing in the matter. Consequently the body was handed over to the Inspector of Anatomy for disposal.

The Executive member's retort was presumably prompted by this particular man not being a member, but as an ex-member of that particular organization I have heard the sentiment expressed that they should never allow an ex-British soldier or sailor to fall ill and die without decent burial, if brought to their notice.

I would strongly advocate a "voluntary" burial fund being organized for this purpose, which, from my experience of British soldiers and sailors, I feel confident would be kept in such a condition as to meet such local contingencies, and provide a resting place for the Empire's fighting "derelicts".

Arthur H.D. Hair

