

THE BOY CORNWELL.

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL AT MANOR PARK.

John Travers Cornwell, "the boy hero of the Jutland Bank Battle," as he will be known for all time, was buried with every honour, military and civil, on Saturday at Manor Park Cemetery.

It was an extraordinarily impressive funeral both for its details and all that it implied. The assemblage was at the East Ham Town Hall. The gun-carriage with the coffin draped with the Union Jack was drawn by a party of bluejackets. Six boys of the Chester, Cornwell's mates, formed a guard of honour, and they carried beautiful floral tributes from the captain, officers, and crew of the ship. Before the gun-carriage a sailor walked bearing a wreath sent by Sir David Beatty. The Bishop of Barking, with the other clergy, and the Mayor and Councillors of East Ham, followed in open carriages. Dr. Macnamara, M.P., represented the Admiralty and Sir John Bethell, M.P., and Mr. P. J. Hannon, secretary of the Navy League, were among other representative people present. In mourning coaches were the parents of the boy and his brothers and sisters. Detachments of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve were also in the procession, which, very appropriately, was composed mainly of youths—naval cadets, boys of the Naval Brigade, Boy Scouts, all in uniform, and a group of 50 of Cornwell's old schoolmates, led by the schoolmaster, Mr. J. Gribble. "An ordinary English boy" is Mr. Gribble's description of Cornwell, and there could be no finer epitaph or a more striking testimony to the sterling qualities of the rising generation.

At the cemetery, after the hymn "Eternal Father, strong to save," had been sung, the coffin was placed in the grave. On the plate was the inscription "John Travers Cornwell, late H.M.S. Chester. Entered into rest June 2, 1916, aged 16. 'Faithful unto death.'" The Burial Service was conducted by the Bishop of Barking, and the Mayor of East Ham (Councillor R. Banks-Martin) read the Lesson. At the conclusion of the service a volley was fired over the grave, "The Last Post" was sounded, and the Bishop of Barking and Dr. Macnamara delivered eloquent tributes to Cornwell's heroism. The latter was the bearer of a wreath from the Royal Navy.

A statement, signed by Lord Beresford, Mr. Robert Yerburgh, Mr. Banks-Martin, and Sir John Bethell, has been issued to the effect that it has been finally decided that the national memorial shall take the form of the endowment of a ward for disabled sailors in the Star and Garter Home, towards which every boy and girl attending school throughout the Empire will be invited to subscribe a penny; the provision of cottage homes for disabled and invalided sailors and their families, the foundation of naval scholarships for deserving boys, and a suitable monument on Cornwell's grave to be erected by the school children of East Ham. Subscriptions for the ward should be sent to the secretary of the Navy League, 13, Victoria-street, S.W., and for the other objects to Sir John Bethell, M.P., at the House of Commons, S.W.

The Misses Spalding have promised £50 if another or others will give the same amount to dedicate a bedroom in the Union Jack Club Extension in memory of the heroism of Cornwell, to be retained for the use of sailor boys using the club. Donations should be sent to the hon. treasurer, Union Jack Club, 91A, Waterloo-road, S.E.

It is announced, on behalf of Sir Robert Baden Powell, that Cornwell has been awarded the bronze cross, the highest award possible in boy scouting.

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