

The Wipers Times

Robert Short - executed October 1917

Joined in 1916
 Soon as I turned 18, boys
 That's what I told the board
 Took me at my word, boys
 They needed men to to show the hun what for
 And send them running home
 And I was so naïve
 I thought that I could do it on my own

I really did my bit
 Knee deep in blood and shit, boys
 Over the top and run
 Losing mates one by one
 Got mentioned in despatches taking
 the machine gun nest that did them in
 poor blokes gun got jammed,
 me mills bomb did the rest
 I kept the pin

I wrote to the Wipers Times
 Sent them some of my worst rhymes
 Came under scrutiny
 Accused me of mutiny
 I only told it like it was
 No frills, no covering up the pain,
 The pointless sacrifice in charging when
 there's nothing left to gain

God bless the French at Arras saying
 no advance, its better to defend
 and though we knew that made sense
 the buggers got me I the end, they always do

Because when the next order came to go over the top,
 I stood to attention, saluted, and said....

I won't play that game no more
 Now I've found what my lifes for
 Always knew there should be more
 I wont play that game no more

So that's all I've got to say
 A price I'm prepared to pay
 I've made my peace with god
 And the boys in the firing squad
 And when they came to blindfold me
 I said I'd look them in the eye
 And take my stand for truth
 And show them how a man
 Can choose a time to die
 And when they asked for my last words
 I sang so everyone could hear
 and as the order came
 I'd swear I heard their voices
 singing loud and clear

I won't play that game no more
 Now I know what my life's for
 Always knew there should be more
 I won't play that game no more

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Date <i>12 September 1917</i>		No.		
Name of Alleged Offender (a)	Offence charged	Plea	Finding, and if Convicted, Sentence (b)	How dealt with by Confirming Officer
<i>No 626. Corporal Jesse Robert Short. 2nd Battalion Northumberland Lusitania</i>	<i>Undaunted to persecute persons in the Majesty's King's Force to give in a military in that he at Cape, on the 12 September 1917 endeavored to persecute a Prisoner not to listen to their Officers but to lay down their arms and grant him and referring to the Officer in Command of the Prisoner, said to be "Recruit" you ought to get a report let it sound the rest with a drum and show him not the river, or words to that effect.</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Guilty to suffer death by being shot.</i>	<i>Approved James Brown 184</i> <i>Confirmed W. King 30 Sep 17</i>

(a) If the name of the person charged is unknown, he may be described as unknown.