

SOAR Curricular Material #16

Sergeant Russell T. Rinker (November 1918—Obituary—Original Version)

The Students of Moravian College will always think of **November 11, 1918**, with a peculiar feeling of happiness and sorrow. The day was given over to celebrating our victory, and the evening to mourning the untimely death of a highly esteemed comrade. Sergeant Rinker was afflicted, with a disease of the kidneys which brought on his condition of weakness. The long parade in which he took part and the physical exercises on the drill ground proved too much for him. He was taken to his room in an unconscious condition and soon afterwards passed away. Bishop Hamilton spoke at the funeral and his words conveyed a feeling of reassurance and comfort that did much to console the sorrowing relatives and comrades of our departed friend. Sergeant Rinker was buried with military honors on Friday afternoon, November 15, 1918. In the short time Rinker was in college, he showed himself to be amazing in every sense of the word. His capacity for leadership soon became evident and he was given the responsible position of Sergeant. He was respected by men and officers alike and the Moravian College S.A.T.C. Unit has lost a valuable man and true friend.

~~W.H.A.

Obituary Analysis

- 1) What is the significance of the date mentioned in first sentence of the obituary (Nov. 11)?
- 2) What is the irony of this date?
- 3) What do we know about Sergeant Rinker's life and persona based off of his obituary?
- 4) What does this obituary tell you about the public's reaction to Rinker's death? How might this reaction reflect the public's views of the War?