

LEFT WOUNDED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

THE FATE OF A WAKEFIELD OFFICER.

A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

AFRAID THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF LIEUT. R. D. B. ANDERSON BEING ALIVE.

Second-Lieutenant Reginald Dudley Bowdler Anderson, of the York and Lancaster Regiment, and youngest son of Mr. R. G. L. Anderson, of the Academy, York-street, Wakefield, is reported wounded and missing as from July 1st. He is 20 years of age (his birthday being celebrated in the trenches), and joined the Grimsby Pals' Battalion, as a private, shortly after the outbreak of war, being promoted two months later to the position of sergeant. He received his commission on March 18th, 1915, being allotted to his present unit. He has been in France since April 18th of this year, prior to which, for a few months, he was in the Reserve Battalion at Colchester and Blyth, where he acted as company captain, and also started and organized a Sports Club for the men, who took a great interest in all matters connected with this club—especially the boxing contests—and wrote after he had left the battalion as follows:—"What is now to become of our Sports Club? for you have taken such a great interest in it that you have endeared yourself to all of us, but we are afraid now it will have to drop."

Another member of the battalion wrote to his father:—"That the draft of about 120 rough diamonds, that left here a few weeks ago, owe a great deal to Lieut. Anderson's training of them; it was a treat to watch him handle the men, and after he had done with them there was nothing left to be done. I have a feeling of nobility for him, and would go with him and do my best at anything he ordered me to do."

The Commanding Officer of this Battalion also wrote of him:—"I am glad to say he will render a good account of himself when he gets out to the front, as he was one of the best platoon commanders in this unit, and knew his work thoroughly. I may say I have recommended him for promotion as long ago as last October. There has, however, been some difficulty as to the promotions. I have made the recommendations over and over again, but not one has been carried out to the present time. I hope he will have better luck in France."

Lieut.-Col. Hulke, his Commanding Officer at the front, wrote his father on July 25th, as follows:—

"I very much regret to inform you that your son, R. D. B. Anderson, has been missing since July 1st, having come into action on that day. I have refrained from writing to you before, hoping each day would bring better news. I am afraid now that there is little or no hope of him being alive. He was, I am informed, last seen lying on the open, wounded, but could not be attended to. Please accept my deepest sympathy in the loss you have sustained. He died as a hero—nobly and fearlessly—facing a determined enemy, and the only consolation one has is to know he died as a gentleman should for his King and country."

The gallant young officer's elder brother, Lieut. Bernard G. Anderson, of the Lincolns, was wounded in the engagement on July 2nd—a gun shot wound in the thigh. He is now in the Chatham Military Hospital, and progressing well. The eldest brother, Lieut. Arthur E. P. Anderson, is in the Royal Field Artillery, and has been stationed in Dublin since the outbreak of the riot, but is now at Ripon.

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