

# WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT WAR ITEMS.

## WAKEFIELD FAMILY'S BEREAVEMENT.

TWO OF THEIR SONS WHO HAVE  
GIVEN THEIR LIVES.

YOUNG OFFICERS WHO HAD  
PROMISING CAREERS.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. J. Anderson, of Ashfield House, York-street, Wakefield, have suffered a double bereavement in the death of two of their three sons, and widespread are the expressions of sympathy with them in their sorrow.

A few weeks ago we recorded the fact that their youngest son, Second-Lieutenant Dudley Rawlins Anderson, of the York and Lancaster Regiment, was reported wounded and missing after the Somme action on July 1st, but this week Mr. Anderson has received the sad intimation from the War Office that he has been killed. Lieutenant Anderson, who was only 20 years of age, was on the staff of the Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company, when at the age of 18 he joined the "Drimmer" "Pals" Battalion. Two months later he attained the rank of sergeant, and on March 18th, 1915, he received his commission as second-lieutenant. When the men were in training in this country, a member of the Battalion wrote to Mr. Anderson regarding his son as follows:—"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."

LIEUTENANT R. G. ANDERSON'S  
DEATH IN CHATHAM HOSPITAL.

A BRAVE YOUNG OFFICER WHO  
HAD BEEN AWARDED THE  
MILITARY CROSS.

THIS COMMANDING OFFICER'S  
CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. Anderson's second son, Lieutenant Bernard Gordon Anderson, of the Lincolnshire Regiment, who was wounded in the Somme Battle on July 1st, succumbed to his wounds in the Chatham Military Hospital on Tuesday last. On the 21st July official intimation was sent to Chatham that Lieutenant Anderson had been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the field, and his Commanding Officer (Lieut.-Colonel Corstange), in a letter dated July 22nd, wrote:—

"I am so pleased that you have been awarded the Military Cross, which you well deserve, and I heartily congratulate you; for at the end of a long day of most severe fighting, you willingly undertook still further work which you and the gallant men with you would have carried through had it been possible."

The work referred to consisted of leading a bombing party of seventy or eighty men—forty of his own company and thirty Northumbrian Fusiliers—to bomb out the Germans from their trenches.

The following is an extract from the several letters received from Major Wigmore, who himself is a patient in the London General Hospital, Wandsworth:—"I cannot tell you how grieved I am to hear that your son and my subaltern, Bernard, is passing away. I shall miss him as if he was my own brother. I sympathise deeply with you all, and can well realise how he would stick it without grumbling, as he has stuck everything up to now." Major Wigmore also visited him in the hospital.

Captain F. Worthington, of the same company, also wrote from Manchester Hospital, as follows:—

"I cannot tell you how shocked I was on hearing of Bernard's death. I was hoping that poor Jerry (as we affectionately called him in the Mess) had taken a turn for the better. In fact, I had made arrangements to run over to Chatham to see him this week-end, as I am now out of hospital myself for ten days. No words of mine can express my heartfelt sympathy with you in your sad bereavement, the harder to bear, perhaps, in consequence of the bad news as to poor Dudley also. As you doubtless know, Bernard and I had shared our various 'quarters' right throughout our 15 months' training and frequently abroad. Nothing could knit young men better together than this; so you can imagine how I deplore his loss. A kinder-hearted fellow it would be impossible to meet, intensely sympathetic, especially with his men, with whom he was always most popular, and I know that those of them who survive that fearful First of July will greatly regret his loss. I trust you will find some consolation in the fact that he has made the 'Great Sacrifice' for the 'Great Cause,' his decoration adding honour to the glory of such sacrifice. Having two months' sick leave, I shall call to see you in Wakefield at an early opportunity, and regret exceedingly that I cannot attend the interment at Wakefield, as I have an appointment with an ear specialist on that day.

The deceased officer was 25 years of age, and prior to enlistment he was assistant manager at the Yorkshire Penny Bank at Dewsbury, previous to which he was at the Wakefield Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson's only remaining son is Lieutenant Arthur E. P. Anderson, who is in the Royal Field Artillery.

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