

THE LATE MAJOR TOM SMITH.

Major Thomas (Tom) Smith, Royal Scots Fusiliers, and late of the Gordon Highlanders (Pioneers), killed on the 23rd January, 1917, was the youngest son of the late Alexander and Mrs Smith, of New Street, and brother of Mr John Smith, Union Street, Stonehouse, and was a born soldier. At the age of 17 he enlisted and was attested as 18 in the Gordon Highlanders on the 2nd July, 1864; was promoted Lance-Corporal, 4/8/86; Corporal, 20/8/90; Lance-Sergeant, 22/3/87; Sergeant, 27/3/89; Colour Sergeant, 19/12/92. He was with the Gordon Highlanders in the following campaigns:—Chitral Expedition, 1895; Punjab Frontier, 1897-8; Tirah Frontier, 1897-8; and in the following actions:—Dargai, 18th October; the famous charge of the Gordon Highlanders at Dargai, 20th October; Sempagha and Arhanga Passes, Maidan, Warren and Bara Valleys. He was awarded the India Medal (1895) with three clasps for the Chitral Expedition, Punjab Frontier (1897-8), and Tirah (1897-8). He was transferred to the London Scottish as Sergeant-Major in 1897.

At the commencement of the South African War he was specially selected from about 10 applicants for the position of Sergeant-Major to the City of London Imperial Volunteers by General Sir Henry Mackinnon, K.C.B., Commandant, and had the honour of being twice recommended by him for a commission, twice mentioned in despatches, and granted the Distinguished Conduct Medal "for the gallant manner in which he repeatedly carried ammunition to the firing line at Doorukop, and also at Diamond Hill, South Africa, 1900." He was also made a Freeman of the City of London. On return from South Africa he resumed his duties with the London Scottish, was awarded the Coronation Medal 26/6/02, received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and was discharged on pension on the 1st July, 1905, after twenty-one years' service.

On the outbreak of the present war he volunteered for active service, was appointed Quartermaster and Hon. Lieutenant in the Gordon Highlanders (Pioneers), was promoted Captain and Adjutant, proceeding with his regiment to France in June, 1915. He was in action at Loos on 25th, 26th, and 27th September, 1915, and was mentioned in despatches. In August, 1916, he was appointed second in command of a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers with the rank of Major, and went through some of the fiercest fighting on the Somme, including the advances on Martinpuich and Gueudecourt, when he commanded his battalion, and was again in command of the battalion (during the temporary absence of his Colonel) when he was killed on the night of the 23rd of January, 1917, "while proceeding round the company lines in the front line."

The Colonel late Commanding his battalion of the Gordon Highlanders (Pioneers) wrote:—"This officer's experience has been of the greatest service to the battalion, both on the parade ground and in the orderly room. He has devoted himself whole-heartedly to his work, and there is no one individual who has contributed more to the efficiency of the regiment."

The Colonel Commanding the battalion writes on behalf of himself and all his officers