

## SECOND-LIEUTENANT W. D. MACBETH,

OF THE

6TH BATTALION BLACK WATCH.



SECOND-LIEUTENANT W. D. MACBETH, who was born at Dornoch, Sutherlandshire on October 9th, 1884, was the son of Sergeant John MacBeth, late of the Bombay Light Infantry, who for many years served his country faithfully and well, having taken part in the quelling of the Indian Mutiny and the Persian and Chinese Campaign of 1857-1860.

Thus Lieut. inherent in him instincts which serves at the country's need. Lieut. MacBeth joined R.V., now 5th Landers (Territorial Force), but had resigned before the war. He received his commission on 1915, being Royal High-Black Watch). for some time at the Western Front on April 23rd, action during Arras as he was leading his men to the attack on the German second line.



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MacBeth had strong military displayed themselves at the first sign of his As a youth was a Volunteer 1st S.H. Seaforth Highlanders (Territorial Force), and some years before the war. He received his commission on March 3rd, 1915, and was posted to the 5th Landers (The Black Watch). He had served considerable time at the Western Front, when, on April 23rd, 1917, he fell in the Battle of Arras gallantly leading his men to the attack on the German second line.

A resourceful and capable officer, his death was a great loss to his battalion,

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by whom he was held in deserved respect and affection. His talent as a leader is evidenced by his Colonel's words :—

"He fell bravely leading his men after the capture of the German first line during the advance to the second line. He was a splendid and most reliable officer, and one the Army can ill afford to lose."

Later the Colonel again wrote :—

"I'm afraid I know nothing beyond the fact that he was killed when gallantly leading his men in the advance upon the Gaverele Road, just north of the chemical works, on April 23rd. . . . You will find some comfort in the thought of the heroic manner in which your brother gave his valuable life for his country."

Further tribute to Lieut. MacBeth came from the Adjutant of the 6th Battalion The Black Watch :—

"His loss to me as a friend was very great, and also to the Battalion. His disposition and his calm demeanour under fire endeared him to officers and men alike, and his loss was a great blow to us all."

Lieut. MacBeth, who was educated at Dornoch Academy and the University of Aberdeen, was before his military service English master at the High School, Dundee.

During his holidays he had travelled considerably on the Continent, visiting France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Switzerland.

Amongst those who knew and loved him his death left a deep sense of personal loss; but his fine personality has left an indelible impression. His spirit and example live on.