

## **SERGEANT GILBERT THOMAS HOGG, KENDAL**

Born 42 years ago, Sergt. Hogg, from his early days, was a keen soldier. He had a long record in the old Volunteers and wore the long service medal. Anything connected with drill and semi-military matters had his keen support. Boys' Brigade, Boy Scouts, and other movements of a similar kind always attracted him. He was educated at Kendal Grammar School, and when he left, he entered Netherfield works. After a spell there he joined his father in the widely-known artist and photographic business at 71 Stricklandgate, Kendal. All his studies, especially those of children, were most successful. His nature was alert and quick, dabbling in most affairs of the moment. He was a keen Freemason, and as he was initiated by his father in 1904. 3 years ago, he was Worshipful Master of Union Lodge 129, Kendal. In politics he was an ardent Conservative, and he did good work at election times.

But when all is said and done, soldiering was his passion, and when war broke out he did not "wait to be fetched", but joined up on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1914 when the Kendal section of the Lonsdale's was formed. He took his old Volunteers' rank of Sergeant straightaway and was most useful in assisting Col. Haworth and his new officers in making the recruits into something like shape. He was thoroughly happy in his new work and looked forward eagerly to the time when the Regiment was ready to go to the front. All the dreary time spent in making themselves fit did not damp his keenness, and when at last orders came to go to France, he realised his ambition.

He was very popular with the men of his Company, and he went by the affectionate nickname of "Father". From the time the Lonsdale's went into the trenches his letters home, until quite recently, were invariably cheerful. But the last one received almost appeared to have some premonition of what was going to happen. Sergt. Hogg married Miss Margaret May Harrison, of 2 Town View, Kendal and there are 2 little children. His eldest brother - Arthur - who is in the Middlesex Yeomanry, was wounded a few weeks ago, and is now in hospital at Alnwick.

Col. Machell [who was killed on 1<sup>st</sup> July] wrote: "I write to offer my deepest sympathy and to express my great regret at the death of your husband, who was killed in action while on important duty in the front line of our trenches at about 3.30 p.m. on 26<sup>th</sup> June. He was the gas expert of C Company and had been directed to clear gas out of a sap leading forward from our part to the enemy front line. He was proceeding with a sprayer and a party of men when he was struck by a shell and rendered unconscious. He died 5 minutes later without regaining consciousness. Sergt. Hogg, for whom I always had a personal regard, was much respected, and is a very great loss to the Battalion. Others will have written, or will write to you, and all will tell you how deeply they feel his death, but no one can regret it more than myself."

The Rev. A. J. W. Crosse, chaplain to the Division to which the Lonsdale's are responsible, wrote: "With all my heart I sympathise with you in the loss of your brave

husband. You will have heard particulars and his officers will have told you how highly we all thought of him. I should like you to know that he was buried with all the sympathy and honour we could give him in a cemetery not far from the trenches at Authuille and close to where the brave fellows lie who perished in the raid. May God help you to be as brave as he was.”

Sergt.-Major Atkinson [who was slightly wounded a week later], of Sedbergh, wrote:- “I beg to inform you that your husband was killed in action on June 26<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and to express to you on behalf of the N.C.O.’s of C Company and men of C Company their deepest sympathy on the big loss that you have sustained. He was killed instantaneously and did not suffer at all while carrying out the duty assigned to him. A cross will be put up and his grave well cared for. As many of the Company that were allowed attended the funeral, the guns were booming all the time during the service, and he had a true soldier’s end. He had nobly done his duty.”