



A. I. ADAM,

1912-1914.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR INNES ADAM

CAMBRIDGESHIRE REGIMENT

CAPTAIN ARTHUR INNES ADAM (COLL., 1907-1912) was born on April 25th, 1894—son of Dr. James Adam, Litt.D., Fellow and Tutor of Emmanuel College, Cambridge—and came into College at the head of the Roll from Mr. R. S. Goodchild's school at Cambridge. He reached Sixth Book at an unusually early age, became Prefect of Library and in December 1911 was elected to the Senior Classical Scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, a year before his natural time for taking the examination. He won the King's Gold Medal for English Essay, the King's Silver Medal for Latin Speech, the Warden and Fellows' Prizes for Latin Verse, Latin Essay and Greek Prose, the Moore-Stevens Divinity Prize and the Kenneth Freeman Prize, and was Goddard Scholar in 1912; he also took an active part in the work of Debating and Archæological Societies, and played the violin in orchestra. His life at the University was full of varied interests. He took a First Class in Classical Moderations in 1914, was appointed Secretary of the Balliol College Musical Society and threw himself with infectious enthusiasm into Boys' Club work both in Oxford and in South London.

He had served in the cavalry contingent of the University O.T.C., and in September 1914 obtained a commission in the 2/1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment. He went to the front in June 1915, after a previous rejection for foreign service on account of short sight; he was slightly wounded in the following month and late in the year succeeded to the command of his company.

His battalion was engaged in heavy fighting near Hamel on the Ancre early in September 1916; and on the night of the 15th, when returning from a local operation, he went back, either to look for a disabled man, or to help an officer of his company. He fell wounded close under the German wire and died in enemy hands.

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ARTHUR ADAM was born at Cambridge on April 25, 1894. Alike from his father, Dr. James Adam, the distinguished Platonic scholar and Tutor of Emmanuel, and from his mother, a Classical Lecturer at Girton, he inherited the tradition of classical scholarship. As a boy of three he used to read Job and Jeremiah on the nursery sofa, and in July 1907, when he was elected to the senior scholarship at Winchester, the examiners noted that he "showed remarkable classical ability." His Winchester days brought him many prizes, culminating in the Goddard Scholarship in July 1912. He came to Balliol in October of that year as the first Classical Scholar, and at the end of his first term was awarded the Warner Exhibition: in March 1914 he obtained his first in Honour Moderations, and had already made a most promising start in Greats when the war broke out.

In September he was commissioned as 2nd Lieut. in the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment. He had great fears that his eyesight would not be good enough for foreign service, but he was passed in May 1915, and went to France in June to join the 1st Battalion. He was at first near Armentières and moved to the Somme in September: after a period in the First Army Training School he returned to his battalion as Temporary Captain in February 1916. On September 3rd he took part in the battle near Hamel, and on the night of September 15 was reported wounded and missing or captured. No further news was ever received and it is presumed that he was killed that night.

At Balliol he was a conspicuous figure, the life and soul of his circle. Thin and wiry, with a head of exceptionally fair hair, sharp features and a rather high-pitched voice he seemed naturally to attract nick-names: to his friends he was "The Mouse," to the irreverent spirits of the Boys' Club "Scarecrow," and afterwards to his company "Parson Snowy"—each name appropriate enough. Though he was above the average as a classical scholar, he was never a pedant, and had not quite the finer touch in composition which wins University

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scholarships. The classics were always literature to him, and with a deep love of Homer and Plato and Pindar he united a certain impatience of pedantic analysis. His mind was intensely versatile, and his thinking full of vitality and always connected with action. He spoke often in the Union and was deeply interested in the "social problem," but showed his interest not so much in theorizing as in the practical work of the Boys' Club, where he was always a favourite and had a great influence on the boys. His real passion was music: he was a good amateur violinist and an enthusiastic member of the Bach Choir, but he was just as much at home at the old piano in the Boys' Club, trying to teach an unruly audience songs from *Gaudeamus*. His eyesight prevented him from taking much part in games or athletics, but he was devoted to the country and loved nothing better than his rambles on reading-parties in Somerset and Wales. It was perhaps in this spirit as well as from a high sense of duty that he joined the Cavalry Squadron of the O.T.C.

The impression left by Arthur Adam on his contemporaries is one of intense vitality: he was always alert and his ready and whimsical wit and his high laugh were infectious. Below this, as his friends knew, was a deep and serious outlook on life, and an eager desire to help his generation. To them he was unique, and the impression could hardly be better summed up than in a sentence from the letter of a friend who came across him in France: "In October I met the one and only Adam at Abbeville; he was lost in his uniform and George Meredith."

