



CAPTAIN GERALD JOHN EDWARDS.
King's Royal Rifle Corps.

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OF THE
KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.

LIEUT. EDWIN ALLEN JAMES EDWARDS,
OF THE
3RD BATTALION THE BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

NO regiment of the British Army possesses higher traditions than the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and its various battalions during the Great War have repeatedly added fresh laurels to their high reputation: laurels won by the individual heroism of each Officer and man, many of whom will return to us no more.

Captain Edwards, of the Rifle Corps, was and Mrs. H. Suva, Surbiton nephew of the Edwards, of Cathedral, and Brixton in 1883 United West he joined the London Artillery in 1900, and mission in the Own Royal Regiment in etted Captain in Battalion after the 20th County Regiment (Ter-



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Gerald John King's Royal the son of Mr. Edwards, late of Surrey, and late Canon Allen Southwark was born at Educated at the minster Schools, First City of lery (Volunteers) accepted a Com-3rd Queen's West Kent 1907, being gaz-1911. This wards became of London ritorial Force).

With them Captain Edwards mobilised in the fateful August of 1914, and served in England and France until the Autumn of 1916, when he was transferred to the 16th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, with whom he remained until he fell in action.

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On April 23rd, 1917, his Company distinguished itself in action at Croissilles; the report reading:—

“They fought very stoutly and especially showed extraordinary steadiness when coming up in support, going through enemy wire and into trenches under very heavy fire.”

And subsequently, on May 20th, near Croissilles, whilst again leading them into action, Captain Edwards was seriously wounded. He was taken to a Casualty Clearing Station at Achiet-le-Grand, and here on June 9th, 1917, he succumbed to his injuries.

Whilst serving in France he was, for a time, attached to his Divisional Staff. His General wrote to his brother, Lieutenant H. W. Edwards, R.N., referring to a trying and critical time in the face of the enemy:—

“Whilst under my Command your brother did the work that I gave him to do very well indeed and was most thorough in it; I am really grieved to hear he has been killed. . . . I should be glad if you will allow me to express my deep sympathy with his wife and child and yourself.”

The following fine testimony came from Captain Edwards' Commanding Officer:—

“Please accept my deep sympathy in your loss. His death is also a great loss to us. He was one of the best and most popular Officers in the Battalion.”

Captain Edwards, who was a good tennis player, was a member of the Charlton Conservative Club, Blackheath, and an Hon. Member of several London Clubs. He married on May 2nd, 1905, Jean Margaret, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Cheeswright, of De Beauvoir Town, N., and Aylesbury, who with one daughter, Eileen Mary, survive him.

His elder brother, who is a Gunnery Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, is also on active service, whilst his younger brother, Lieutenant Edwin Allen James Edwards, who held a commission in the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, laid down his life in France, in 1914. The latter was born at Brixton, on March 13th, 1895, and received his education at St. John's College, Brixton, and Dulwich College, where he matriculated in June, 1911. He took a keen interest in all pertaining to the Army, and was an enthusiastic member of the Dulwich College O.T.C., winning the Shooting Cup for the School in 1912. Finally he decided to adopt the profession of Arms, and in the Army Qualifying Examination he passed out top of the list, being gazetted to the Bedfordshire Regiment in June, 1913. Exactly a year later he was

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promoted Lieutenant, and on the declaration of war was amongst the first to go out to the Front. He went with the First Battalion of his Regiment, sharing with it the terrible hardships and perils of the Battles of the Marne and the Aisne, being severely wounded, on October 15th, while gallantly leading his men at Givenchy. After weeks of suffering, bravely and patiently endured, he succumbed to his injuries on December 31st, 1914, at the Fishmongers' Hall Hospital, London Bridge.

Desirous of doing their duty to the utmost of their ability, Captain Edwards and his brother have given us an undying example of duty well done by their noble deaths in the service of their Country.



LIEUTENANT EDWIN ALLEN JAMES EDWARDS.
3rd Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment.