



E. Atkinson,
J.H. 1913.

set a splendid example to all ranks."

LIEUT. ELWYN ATKINSON,
R.F.A. (T.F.).

DIED MAY 18TH, 1917, OF WOUNDS
RECEIVED IN ACTION THAT DAY, NEAR
BULLECOURT. AGED 21.

At the School 1910—13 (Judde House).

Lieut. Elwyn Atkinson was the fifth and youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic William Atkinson, of Heathfield House, Blackheath.

The third son, Capt. Edmund Stafford Atkinson, Dorsetshire (Q.O.) Yeomanry (J.H. 1903—6), joined the Inns of Court on August 4th, 1914, and, receiving a commission in the Yeomanry in the following October, served with the 4th Cavalry Division, Egyptian E.F., from October, 1918, to September, 1919.

The fourth son, Capt. Cedric Atkinson, M.C., R.F.A. (J.H. 1909—12), who coxed the School IV. in 1910, had been in the H.A.C. since 1912, and became a Cadet at the R.M.A. in April, 1915. He was appointed an Under Officer there, and having been gazetted to the R.F.A. in October, 1915, served in France from the following December till March, 1919. He was with the 37th Divisional Artillery throughout, mainly with a Battery of the 124th Brigade, R.F.A., but from February, 1917, to April, 1918, he was a Staff Lieutenant, 1st Class, as Reconnaissance Officer. He was slightly wounded and gassed at Bief Villers on August 26th, 1918, and was mentioned in the Despatch dated April 7th, 1918. The award of the M.C. was gazetted in January, 1919.

Elwyn Atkinson came to the School from Stratheden House School, Blackheath, and had been in the Cadet Corps there. Entering the School in September, 1910, he was in the O.T.C. throughout his time here, and left in July, 1913. On the outbreak of war he enlisted in the R.F.A. (T.F.) and volunteered for service abroad and, being recommended for a commission by his colonel, was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the 2/4th County of London Battery, 2nd London Brigade, R.F.A.

(T.F.), November 6th, 1914, promoted Temporary Lieutenant, December 16th, 1915, and went out to the Front in January, 1917. His promotion to full Lieutenant, with precedence from June 1st, 1916, was gazetted after his death.

He served with the 58th Divisional Ammunition Column, taking part in operations at Berle-aux-Bois and St. Léger, till he was posted to D Battery, 291st Brigade, in the middle of the Battle of Bullecourt, which lasted till May 17th.

On May 18th he was on his way to the observation station with a signaller when both met their deaths from a chance shell. Lieut. Atkinson was very severely wounded in the head and died at the Casualty Clearing Station later in the day without having recovered consciousness, and was buried in the adjoining cemetery at Achiet-le-Grand.

The Chaplain wrote: "I knew your boy very well and was very fond of him. He was one of the best and we shall all miss him 'sorely'; and the following are extracts from letters written by his brother officers:—

"I miss his ever cheerful spirit. He was a brave fellow, ever adventurous and though young gave evidence of considerable character. He was not only absolutely without fear, but even under the most depressing conditions I never saw him in anything but the most cheerful of spirits, and his popularity among the men was so great that every man in his old battery who knew him asked permission to go to his funeral. . . . Although this Brigade has lost a very gallant officer and gentleman, his memory will always remain fresh with us."

His Commanding Officer wrote:—

"He had been doing excellent work and had behaved himself in a most gallant manner under most difficult circumstances. He was a most promising officer, proving himself highly intelligent and very keen on his work."

LIEUT. JOHN ISMAY ATKINSON,
13TH BATTN. NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS.
PRESUMED TO HAVE DIED OF WOUNDS
RECEIVED IN ACTION NEAR FRICOURT,
JUNE 29TH, 1916. AGED 21.

At the School 1910—11 (School House).
Lieut. J. I. Atkinson was the only son
of the late John Ismay Atkinson and

of Mrs. Atkinson, of Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Entering the School September, 1910, he left at Christmas 1911, from the Lower Fifth to go to Switzerland, where he was at the *École de Commerce*, Lausanne, till the following July. He then became a clerk in the office of a London firm till the outbreak of war. In August, 1914, he joined the Inns Court O.T.C. and received a temporary commission, dated December 14th, 1914, in the 13th Batta. of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He went out to France with his Battalion on September 1st, 1915, and only sixteen days later, September 26th, was wounded at Hill near Loos, but was able to rejoin his Regiment in France on February 10th, 1916, and was promoted Lieutenant on May 1st, 1916.

At the end of June, 1916, the Battalion was in front of Fricourt, on the Somme, and the great Allied offensive was in preparation. On the night of June 29th, officers were sent out by the Brigadier to examine the German wire entanglements and ascertain to what extent the preliminary bombardment had been successful in destroying them. Lieut. Atkinson was one of those selected for this dangerous and responsible task and took with him a R.E. Sergeant as well as a Sergeant and four men selected from his Battalion. Leaving the others behind, he and the Sergeant succeeded in reaching the wire at about 2 a.m., and were examining it when a Very light went up. A burst of machine-gun fire showed that they had been seen, and continuous heavy fire rendered it impossible for the men to go forward for his rescue and compelled them to retreat. Some hours later the Sergeant made his way back and reported that Lieut. Atkinson was seriously wounded and that he had himself, after staying with him for several hours, being unable to bring him in to be aided, had started back to obtain assistance and had been shot through the knee on the way. With the information given by the Sergeant the Colonel and another officer at great risk, reached a position from which they could search the ground with the aid of their glasses. They could distinctly see Lieut. Atkinson lying right up against the German wire, but whether he was still alive the

LIEUTENANT ELWYN ATKINSON, R.F.A., who died on May 18, of wounds received in action the same day, was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic W. Atkinson, of Heathfield House, Blackheath. He was born in 1895, and was in the Cadet Corps at Stratheden House School, Blackheath, and in the O.T.C. at Tonbridge School. On the outbreak of war he enlisted in the R.F.A., T.F., and volunteered for service abroad. He was recommended shortly afterwards by his colonel for a commission, was gazetted second lieutenant on October 8, 1914, and lieutenant on December 18, 1915. He had been at the front since January last.