



Geoffrey Cyril Ransome

He was born on the 10th October 1887 in Leeds the second son of Cyril Ransome, Professor of History and Literature at the Victoria University, Leeds, and of Edith Rachel (nee Boulton) his wife. Between 1901 and 1905 Geoffrey attended Rugby School. Later he worked for the firm of Messrs. Ballantyne and Hanson, Printers and Publishers. He joined the Public Schools Corps in September 1914 and received his commission in 10th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment one month later.

Geoffrey went to the Front with them in September, 1915 and was severely wounded near Armentières, in February 1916, doing volunteer duty, which nearly cost him his life. He was then attached to the Second Training Reserve and received a rank of temporary Captain. In December 1917, he returned to the Front attached to the 13th Battalion, and in January 1918 was wounded again, but remained on duty. On 11th January, while on patrol in the Cambrai Sector, he received another wound, from which he died at a Casualty Clearing Station at Achiet-le-Grand on 15th January, 1918, aged 30 years. He is buried in Achiet-le-Grand, Communal Cemetery, Grave II.C.9. Geoffrey had a brother Arthur Mitchell Ransome (b. 1884) and two sisters Cecily Margaret Ransome (b. 1887) and Marjorie Edith Joyce Ransome (b. 1892). His father Cyril died in 1897. In 1914 his brother Arthur became a journalist and during the war reported from the Eastern Front for the Daily News, he later covered the Russian Revolution. After the war he became foreign correspondent for the Manchester Guardian. The Ransome family had frequently spent their summers at Nibthwaite to the south of Coniston Water in the English Lake District and some years after the war Arthur Ransome settled in the Lake District and began writing. His best known work being "Swallows and Amazons" he went on to become one of the best English writers of children's books.