



RODERICK HUBERT GRAY

LIEUTENANT R. H. GRAY, M.C.

*H. C. Bradby*

ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY

RODERICK HUBERT GRAY was the elder son of Roderick McKenzie and Norah Gray, of Cherrywood, Lexden, Colchester.

He entered the School in 1911 and left in 1915. Proceeding to the R.M.A., Woolwich, he obtained his Commission in the R.F.A. in May, 1916.

In August, 1916, he joined the 119th Battery on the Somme, and afterwards took part in the capture of Vimy Ridge on April 9th, 1917. For services during this attack he was awarded the Military Cross in the New Year's Honours of January 1st, 1918. In September, 1917, he was posted to I Battery, R.H.A., and was promoted Lieutenant in November.

While acting as Liaison Officer with the Infantry, he was wounded on November 30th, in the Battle of Cambrai, in an advanced trench near Bourlon Wood, during a sudden attack by the enemy. He died from his wounds at a Casualty Clearing Station on December 2nd, 1917. Age 20.

His Colonel wrote :—

"Your son had not been very long with us, but I can assure you that in that short time he had endeared himself to every one of us. We have lost a good friend, and the Country has lost a good and very gallant Officer. At the time he was hit he was doing lookout duty in some advanced trenches, which were suddenly attacked by the enemy."

His Major wrote :—

"I have formed a very deep affection for him, and feel his loss far more than I can express. One gets to know and discover the good in a man very quickly in War, and the time he was with us was more than enough to enable us to appreciate and grow very fond of him. Your boy came to me with the reputation of being 'an absolute Tiger,' a name given to him, I believe, by his previous General, and I was also told that he was twice recommended for gallantry. That was hearsay, but I can tell you that during the past strenuous fortnight he has been the life and soul of our circle. Cheerful and merry every minute of the day and night, under the most miserable conditions he was always busy and volunteering for every work to be done. He seemed impervious to fatigue, and everything he did was well done."

Other Officers wrote testifying to his instinctive gallantry and chivalry, his unflinching cheerfulness, his keenness and industry under the most trying circumstances, and the high promise of his short career.