



*GAVIN ALEXANDER PORTER, elder son of Alexander Porter, of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, and his wife Hannah (Shaw), was born on June 23rd, 1891. He was educated at Guildford Grammar School, Western Australia, whence he came to England in 1905 and entered U.C.L. to study for matriculation. He returned to Australia in 1907 but was back in England in 1910, and started an Engineering Course. He found this too slow for him, and obtained a commission in the R.F.A., being gazetted on September 30th, 1911. On May 24th, 1913, he transferred to the R.A., and was promoted Lieutenant on June 9th, 1915. He went to France in August, 1914, and with the 68th Battery took part in the retreat from Mons and all the subsequent fighting. He had for some time been interested in flying, and after acting as observer with the R.F.C. he took his pilot's certificate at Etampes and returned to England to complete his course of instruction. On July 5th, 1915, he was gazetted to the R.F.C., and on November 17th was promoted Flight-Commander. On Sunday, December 5th, 1915, Porter's squadron was engaged in an air fight, and his machine was brought down by a Fokker just outside Havrincourt, which was then in German hands. Both occupants seem to have been killed in the air. On the following Tuesday they were given a military funeral in the cemetery of Havrincourt with full honours. The French civilians, in spite of prohibition by the Germans, attended the funeral, and until they were evacuated, kept the graves well tended. Flight-Commander Porter's body now lies in the Communal Cemetery Extension of Achiet-Ie-Grand.*

(Times, 19.2.16; College Records; Union Mag. VII, 217; Photograph by Elliott & Fry)