

IN MEMORIAM
CAPTAIN MAURICE GEORGE TROUSDELL
1883-1917

Maurice George Trousdell was born at Cobtree on December 16th 1883. His first school was at Mrs Bridge's, Buckland School, Maidstone, and from there he went to Carlisle, where he held a Headmaster's scholarship. He left school at the age of 17 to go into Lloyd's bank. He was in a London Branch first, and was then transferred to Maidstone in 1901. The following year he left Lloyd's Bank and joined the Standard Bank of South Africa, and went to Capetown in May 1902. While in Capetown he took a great interest in rowing, and was one of the East London crew who won the Colonial Cup at the first Zambesi Regatta, in June, 1905. After six years in South Africa he came home for three months leave, went out again and was in Nairobi when war broke out. He came home shortly after, and in May 1915, got a commission in the Army Service Corps. He joined the Guards Divisional Train on its formation and went out to France with the Train on August 21st 1915. The Division has been continuously in the fighting line during these two years, and since May last has been in the thick of the heaviest engagements. He was promoted to Captain early in this year. The following is an extract from a letter of Major Landon, A.S.C., Guards Divisional Train: - "I am writing now on behalf of the Divisional Train, and especially of myself, to offer our most sincere sympathy to you and your family on the death, in action, of your son, Maurice. He was mortally wounded at 3 p.m. of August 6th by a bomb, and Captain Estall and two men were at the same time very dangerously wounded. it will be a great relief to you all to know that he suffered no pain; he lived for twenty minutes, and for the first ten was fully conscious; his only remarks were, "I am afraid that I am badly hit," and then, "How is poor old Estall?" Captain Hime, of this Train, who was doing what he could for him, offered him some brandy, which he took saying, "I am not in pain." He then became unconscious, and passed away peacefully almost immediately. He was buried at ten a.m. on August 7th, at Canada Farm Military Cemetery..... Your son's death has caused us all the greatest grief, for he was most popular, and had been with us since the formation of the Train. He and I have been intimately acquainted in our work for the last two years, and I cannot tell you with what admiration and respect I always regarded him. I think that he was one of the very finest specimens of manhood in every way that I have ever met, and I realise that in him I have lost a most loyal and genuine friend, and the service the most hard working, conscientious and unselfish officer, who never spared himself where the welfare of the troops was concerned. I do not know if you are aware that since he has been in France his name has twice been forwarded for recognition...." Lord Ailesbury, the Commanding Officer of his company, writes: "Your son was a universal favourite with both officers and men, and he was respected as much as he was liked. He was one of the most straightforward, honourable and honest men that I have ever met. It was a real advantage to have met such a fine character, and I shall always treasure his memory." Veness, Captain Trousdell's servant, writes: "I have lost the finest officer that I have ever been servant to in all my soldiering."

A memorial service was held at Boxley Parish Church on Monday afternoon, August 20th, which was attended by many of his friends. Portions of the Burial Service were read, and Psalm 23, and Hymns 225, 27 and 437 were sung. At the close the Dead March in Saul was played, which was followed by the National Anthem. The Union Jack draped the altar, and on it was placed a wreath of dahlias, delphiniums and phloxes in red, white and blue

① Died 08/08/17 buried in Boxley Eastern Cemetery
Captain Arthur Cecil Estall