



Christ Church, Staincliffe

'Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friend'



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES

STAINCLIFFE OFFICER KILLED.

"KEEN, BRAVE AND COMPETENT."

We regret to record that Second-Lieut. Ernest Crowther, R.E. (son of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Crowther, of East View, Chapel Fold, Staincliffe) has been killed. A letter received on Wednesday from his Major reads: "I sincerely regret to inform you that your son, Second-Lieut. Crowther, was killed to-day (October 25th). His death was absolutely instantaneous and he cannot have suffered at all. He and I were together inspecting roads and arranging work when a shell burst a few yards away. Your son was struck in the head. I am very grieved at the loss of your son, especially as he was exceptionally keen, brave and competent, and a very good leader. His men will miss him very much indeed, for although he had only been with us a short time they all loved and respected him." Deep sympathy will be extended to the relatives in their bereavement. The fallen officer's father Mr. G. R. Crowther, is well-known and highly respected in the capacity of minister in charge of the Boothroyd Lane Congregational Mission. Many years ago he held a similar position in connection with the King Street Congregational Mission, Batley Carr.



2nd-Lieut. Ernest Crowther, R.E., Staincliffe (killed).

Second-Lieut. Crowther, who was 25 years of age, enlisted as a private in the Royal Engineers in May, 1915. He quickly won promotion to the rank of sergeant, and proceeded to France in June, 1916. After nearly eighteen months' service on the Continent, he returned to England to prepare for his commission, and he was gazetted in February last. He returned to France towards the end of August. A native of Morley, the fallen officer was employed as a clerk in the Land Survey Department at Doncaster before joining the Forces. A younger brother, Lewis, has recently obtained his commission in the Royal Air Force.



STAINCLIFFE CHORISTER KILLED BY A SHELL.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Appleyard, 11, Fox's Buildings, Chapel Fold, Staincliffe, have been informed by an Army Chaplain that their son, Private John Appleyard, Durham Light Infantry, was killed by a shell on August 7th and buried in a military cemetery the following day.



Private John Appleyard

Private Appleyard, 21 years of age, had been in the Army fourteen months, eight of which had been spent at the Front. Previous to enlisting he was employed as a piecener at Messrs. George Fox and Sons', Staincliffe, where his father is engineer. An old boy of Staincliffe Church Day School, he was also connected with Staincliffe Parish Church and Sunday school. He was a member of the church choir. He possessed a tenor voice of much promise, and was a member of the Dewsbury Amateur Operatic Society, having taken part in several of their productions.

His twin brother, Bombardier Henry Appleyard, who was also formerly employed by Messrs. Fox and Sons, has been out at the Front two years with the R.F.A.

DEWSBURY SOLDIER'S DEATH IN FRANCE.

"HELD OUT TOO LONG."

Deaths among our gallant soldiers in France, so long after hostilities have ceased are always especially painful to record, and the news which was received last Sunday that Private Lewis Harold Lumb (35), the only son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lumb, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury, had passed away the previous Wednesday created a sad impression. He had served with the Forces since October, 1915, being attached to the R.A.S.C., and had seen a great deal of heavy fighting, and been wounded once with shrapnel. A telegram was received in the first place on February 3rd from the R.A.S.C. Records to say he was dangerously ill from influenza and regretting that permission to visit could not be granted. A letter from the matron at the 18th Casualty Clearing Station, France, held out hope that the patient might soon be out of danger, but in a later letter she admitted "your son is very much worse this morning. I am afraid he held out too long before coming into hospital." On Sunday, as stated, the official notice came to say he died on February 5th. The fact is the more painful in that his early release from the Forces was expected in order that he might resume his connection with his father in the conduct of the latter's business as a wheelwright. Private Lumb, who married the daughter of Mr. Fred Rhodes, J.P., in October, 1917, was home on leave in October last year. He was an old scholar of the Dewsbury Parish Boys' School, and for many years a ringer at the Dewsbury Parish Church, where on Sunday next his brother ringers will ring a muffled peal, as a token of respect for their deceased colleague.

