

CAPTAIN J. A. O. BROOKE, V.C.,

OF THE
GORDON HIGHLANDERS.

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HE response to the call of patriotism and duty has been universal, but it is not given to many to offer four sons for the service of King and Country.

Captain Harry Vesey Brooke, J.P., D.L., of Fairley House, Countesswells, Aberdeenshire, son of the late Sir Arthur Brooke,

Bart., M.P., of Park, Co. Fermihimself served in Highlanders, is four sons, two of J. A. O. Brooke, t a i n H. B. fallen in battle ment, and of Brooke, 18th Own) Lancers, was severely action while first Expedition-France, when at-4th Hussars, and ant P. H. Brooke, who is serving in and who saw H.M.S. *Indomit-*



CAPTAIN J. A. O. BROOKE, V.C.,
Gordon Highlanders.

Colebrooke managh, who the Gordon the father of whom, Captain V.C., and Cap-Brooke, have in his old Regi-Captain Arthur (King George's second son, who wounded in fighting with the ary Force in tached to the of Sub-Lieuten-his youngest son, the Royal Navy, service whilst on able in the Dar-

danelles and also at the Dogger Bank fight in the North Sea.

Captain H. V. Brooke's son-in-law, a most gallant officer of the Cameron Highlanders, Captain C. Napier Gordon Cameron, son of General Sir William Gordon Cameron, G.C.B., was killed in action on September 28th, 1914, in the Battle of the Aisne.

The first of Captain Brooke's sons to fall was the eldest, Captain J. A. O. Brooke, who was educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst. He was a born soldier and a keen sportsman.

At Sandhurst he was Captain of the Shooting Eight and one of the football team. He won the big obstacle race and tied for the Saddle. His proficiency in his professional studies was marked, and he became senior of the Colour-Sergeant and won the College Sword of Honour.

Being gazetted to the Cameron Highlanders, he accompanied the Regiment to India, where he was one of the smartest officers in the Regiment. He was an all-round sportsman and a splendid shot, winning many fine trophies among the Markhor, Ibex, Sambur and Bears in India.



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Captain J. A. O. Brooke's Regiment formed part of the first Expeditionary Force to France and, as Assistant-Adjutant, with a speedy prospect of being Adjutant, he saw much service at that strenuous period of the War.

On October 29th, 1914, during an action at Ghelevult, near Ypres, in Flanders, he was sent with a message from the Colonel along the whole length of the line at a very critical time. The enemy, who were attacking in great force, numbering five

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to one, were breaking through our line, and Lieut. Brooke, as he then was, promptly seized the situation, gathered every man he could, and with most conspicuous gallantry led them in a brilliant charge against the oncoming rush of the foe. At the cost of his life he saved the situation, driving back the enemy, and recaptured a most important trench. His Commanding Officer attributed the success entirely to his promptitude and great bravery.

For this eminent service His Majesty was pleased to award him, posthumously, the highly-coveted Victoria Cross, and his promotion to Captain was antedated to the preceding September.

Captain H. Brian Brooke, born in 1890, was the third son of Captain Harry Brooke. After being educated at Clifton College, he spent seven years as a settler and big game hunter in British East Africa. On the outbreak of war he joined the local forces in Jubuland and was severely wounded and invalided home. On his recovery he was transferred to the Gordon Highlanders and gazetted Captain.

When the time came for the great advance on July 1st, Captain Brooke, whilst gallantly leading his men in the glorious charge at Mametz, which added such lustre to the heroic record of the Gordons, was severely wounded three times. Not till the third bullet entered his neck would he give in, but when victory was secured he was removed to the Base Hospital, and later to the Empire Hospital, London, where he succumbed to his wounds on July 24th, 1916, and was buried with full Military Honours near Aberdeen.

All the Officers and men speak in enthusiastic terms of his great bravery. In the words of Milton :—

“ Nothing is here for tears,”
but a life laid down, nobly lived and willingly offered.