

In Memoriam :

LIEUT.-COL. GEORGE ALEXANDER
SMITH, D.S.O.

Killed in Action, 28th July, 1918.

We share with his many personal and professional friends the great regret felt at the death of Lieutenant-Colonel George Alexander Smith, D.S.O., Gordon Highlanders, who was killed in action on 28th July last while directing an operation by his battalion (which was successfully carried out). He took up an exceedingly exposed position on the top of a hill, where he could watch the progress of his men. As the Major-General commanding the Division subsequently wrote—"A less fearless man would have selected a more covered place." The gallant Colonel was killed by the splinter of a shell.

Lieut.-Col. Smith, who was an advocate in Aberdeen, joined the Cairngorm Club in 1911, and was present at several of the later outings of the Club. He had a highly meritorious record of service in the war. He had been an enthusiastic Volunteer and Territorial Force officer, and when the war broke out he held the rank of Major in the 4th battalion of the Gordons. He was actively engaged in many of the operations on the Western front, participating in particular in the big retreat at St. Quentin; he was one of the few officers of his battalion who went through that arduous and dangerous movement unscathed. A thoroughly capable officer, Lieut-Col. Smith had the complete trust of his men. He was twice wounded, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and was twice mentioned in despatches. For a time he was Lieutenant-Colonel in command of the 8th battalion of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment, but latterly had returned to the Gordon Highlanders, being gazetted second in command of a battalion. On several occasions he was offered staff appointments, but he refused them, preferring to serve as an active combatant.