

August 1915

THE LATE LIEUT. W. G. GARFORTH.

A Memorial Service was held in the Parish Church on the afternoon of Sunday, July 18th. There was a very large attendance, as was to be expected, for Mr. Garforth was widely known and respected, and his death is a great blow to us. His many friends from the place and neighbourhood, the employees of Ascott, the Home Guard, etc., etc., attended. The service consisted of Psalm XC., portions of the Burial and Visitation Offices, and a beautiful prayer from the Liturgy of the Russian Church. The special lesson was I. Thess. iv.13. The service was concluded with our Wing Battle Hymn (the last verse so fitting for to the occasion), Chopin's "Marche Funebre" and "God Save the King." The Vicar, after the reading of the lesson, said:-

"I have asked you, my friends, to come here to-day to remember before God one who was a constant worshipper and a communicant in this Church, who was known more or less to all in Wing and was very dear to many of us, and yet is but a representative of thousands of our countrymen and fellow subjects who have offered their lives for the defence of our Motherland in this terrible war. From every part of our worldwide Empire they come, and from every rank of life, and each day adds fresh names to that lengthening Roll of Honour which we scan with such painful interest. We read it with very mingled feelings. With sorrow, of course, first of all, that so many brave men have had to sacrifice their lives, and secondly with thankfulness and pride that British courage, British sense of honour and duty are still (in spite of some fears to the contrary) what they always have been, and thirdly with sincere sympathy for the bereaved and for the many who are mourning their nearest and dearest all over the land. And as we join in this service of prayer for our brethren, whether living or dead, particularly for him whom we have lost from our midst and think how some to whom but the other day we said "Goodbye! God bless and keep you!" are now laid to rest on a foreign soil, it is hard to realize that, though lost to us, they are on a higher plane than we are now. It brings the meaning of death and of life home to us in a startling manner. There is a sort of sacredness about them now. We treasure anything that recalls them to us- their photograph, their last letter, or perhaps some kindly act or simple word which we thought nothing of at the time. And their memory becomes to us almost an inspiration. William Garforth was just a specimen of a gallant young Englishman, a God-fearing, clean-living, upright and honourable gentlemen, *sans peur et sans reproche*, fond of wholesome and manly sport, done his arduous work, and all that his hand found to do with all his might. He had no particular leaning to a soldier's life, but, when his country called him to go, he just went. It was his duty-and that was enough for him. And we were hardly surprised that he had soon become a promising and an efficient officer, trusted by his superiors, respected by his men, and when the sad news was confirmed of his death, regretted and mourned by all who knew him. 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ' So said our Divine Master, the Captain of our salvation, Who laid down His Life for us, and in a way still associates each act of self-sacrifice of ours with His own supreme offering on the Cross. He also said: 'I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you.'"

"And so for him, our dear friend, and all who have given themselves to save our beloved country from the horrors and frightfulness of a German invasion, we humbly offer our memorial of thanksgiving and devotion to Almighty God, humbly praying that when our turn comes to be

weighed in the balance, we may not be found wanting, and that we may do our duty after their example and with the same simple faith and courage as they.”

Almost the only empty seat in the Church was the little pew in the north aisle, in which Mr. Garforth was wont to sit. It was covered with the Union Jack and several laurel wreaths. The cards from the wreaths were afterwards sent to his mother (he was, like so many of the fallen, an *only* son), who writes as follows:-

Weston Hall, York.

Dear Miss Tatham,- Will you convey to our son's friends at Ascott, Burcott and Wing how deeply Major Garforth and I feel their testimony to his memory. It cost him much to leave them all, feeling he might possibly not return, but he was right to fight for his King and country, and in dying for them he could not have done more. We shall always remember the kindness shown to our son at Ascott, and value the proof of his friends' esteem in attending the memorial service at the beautiful Parish Church-a Church he held in such reverence.

Yours sincerely, Hyda Garforth.

The following letter from Lionel Jordan, one of our many Wing men at the front, will be of interest:-

“A few lines to let you know that I received the parcel quite safe, for which I thank you very much. The contents came in very useful, for I received them at the time we were in the trenches for 18 days. That is the longest we have been without being relieved, although we have been in the trenches, a great deal since we came out here and seen a lot of fighting. I am sorry to say we have lost a great number of our fellows. They were in great need of men when we first came, and we were pushed into the fighting within a week of our leaving Newcastle and took up a portion of the line near Ypres, where heavy fighting was going on. I'm pleased to say our Regiment has done good work and won a name for themselves. The Germans have gassed us three times, but not since Whit Monday, when they gave us some both morning and evening. The Germans advanced to one of our trenches and we lost about half of one company. I hear now we go to another part of the line, which is very quiet to what we have been used to. Leaving trenches tonight. Then we get three days' rest before we move on again. I expect to get home in a few weeks' time as our Regiment is getting leave, but very few at a time are allowed to go. I suppose things are very quiet at Wing just now; it will be a good thing when this terrible war is over as mothers that have sons out here are anxious to know how they are getting on. Thanking you again. I am,

Yours Truly, L. Jordan.”

THE DAILY INTERCESSION SERVICES will be as usual viz.; Daily Mattins 8, Evensong 6 (except Friday), Intercession 12, 3.

THE SCHOOLS.- The school broke up for the summer holiday on Friday, July 30th. We are happy to record that at the recent examination, Frederick A. Randall won a Minor Scholarship of £20 a year tenable for three years, and Frances F. B. Redrup a teacher-candidate scholarship- a credit alike to them and to their teachers- Mr. Long and Miss Baldrey.

OFFERTORY RECEIPTS

	£	s.	d.	
July 4 th (5 th S. aft. Trin)	3	13	0	Sick and Needy.
“ 11 th (6 th “ “)	1	18	3	Church Exps.
18 th (7 th “ “)	4	18	7	Wing Prov. Dis.
25 th (8 th “ “)	1	15	5	
(Grove)				

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS.

HOLY BAPTISM.

July 8th.- Dorothy Maud, Emily May, Elsie and Lucy, children of James and Elizabeth Wells.

“ 15th.- Harry Kent, child of Rosa Essex.

MARRIAGE.

July 31st.- Joseph Randall, bachelor, of this parish, and Annie Davey, spinster of Willesden.

BURIALS.

July 21st.- William Rowe (died at Leighton Union), aged 75.

“ 29th.- Mary Ann, wife of James Carter, aged 77.