

Ambrose Dixon Holdrege Grayson – Captain – 1st Brigade Royal Field Artillery



Ambrose was born in Birkenhead on 14th May 1874. He was the son of Henry Holdrege and Margaret Anne Grayson (Lewis).

In 1911 he was living at 1 Grosvenor Road, Birkenhead. He had two servants and was a shipbuilder.

He was educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Royal Artillery in 1894 before being promoted to Lieutenant in 1897. He retired in March 1903 and joined the Reserve of Officers. He rejoined the Royal Field Artillery at the outbreak of the First World War. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on 30th August 1914 and served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders. He was killed in action near Festubert on 13th October 1914 and was buried in Richebourg, Pas-de-Calais, France.

The sad news of the death of Captain Ambrose Dixon H Grayson, R.F.A., who was killed in action on October 13th, will be received throughout Wirral, where he was well known, with the deepest regret.

Captain Grayson was the third son of the late Mr. Henry H. Grayson and of Mrs. Grayson, of 12 Bolton Gardens S.W. In reference to the deplorable news the following wire has been received from the King and Queen by the gallant Captain's brother, Mr Henry M. Grayson, of High Meadow, Claughton :-

"The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the Army have sustained by the death of your brother in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow."

The following telegram was also received from the Secretary of War :-

"Deeply regret to inform you that Captain A.D. H. Grayson, R.F.A., is reported killed on October 13th. No further particulars received. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

The late Captain's knowledge of military affairs was very extensive, and he had rendered good service to his country not only during the war but at other times.

Captain Grayson, who was unmarried resided when in Birkenhead at 6, Beresford Road. He was formerly captain in the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery, and was again gazetted captain on August 22nd last. The captain who was a keen soldier, retired from the Army some years ago to become a director of Messrs. H. and C. Grayson Ltd., the famous shipbuilders and engineers, of Birkenhead and Liverpool.

Captain Grayson was of a most genial disposition and socially was most popular, having a large circle of friends. He was a member of the committee of the Borough Hospital. Out of respect for the late captain the flags flew at half-mast in the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. Grayson and Co., and Messrs. Clover and Co's shipbuilding yards.

Amongst the members of the Grayson family at present serving are Commander Godfrey Grayson, R.N., who is now on H.M.S. Vindictive, the vessel which in the first week of the war captured a German merchantship, and a few weeks later attained further distinction by the capture of a German collier with 5,000 tons of coal on board; Second Lieut. Denys Grayson, Royal Scots Fusiliers (the latter two being sons of Mr. Henry M. Grayson, of High Meadow); and Commander Hugh Mulleneux, R.N., a cousin of Mr. H. M. Grayson, who commands H.M.S. Llewellyn.