

Obituaries of Brasenose men who died in the First World War (mostly reprinted from the *Oxford Magazine*)

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Brasenose Sacrifice

HENRY HALL JACKSON came up to Brasenose from Charterhouse in October 1910, and took his B.A. Degree in 1914 and his M.A. in 1918.

A University Army Candidate, he held during his residence a commission in the West Riding Territorial Artillery; in 1914 he had intended to enter the 2nd Life Guards, but when on the outbreak of war the Guards were not apparently destined for active service, he at once applied for the 15th Hussars or any other cavalry regiment going abroad. He gained his object and was given a commission in the 15th Hussars, and served with them continuously till he was invalided home, in August 1917. He became Captain in June 1916, and was appointed Adjutant in the following July, and held the appointment at the time of his death. In January 1917 he was given the M.C. as recorded in the *Brazen Nose*, Vol. II, No. 6.

He was invalided home as the result of a serious riding accident in which he fractured the base of his skull. It is an accident from which recovery is rare—but he recovered and, after a long and tedious convalescence, he was at last passed fit for Home Service, and was waiting to take up an administrative post under his old C.O. at a School of Aeronautics at Cheltenham when he died at Harrogate, on November 28, 1918; an attack of influenza was followed by pneumonia, which the after-results of gas found him unable to resist. His death is one of the tragedies of the War; his life was one of great promise, and after going through so much seemed just opening out to fulfilment. On every side his life was rich: he was a man of considerable intellectual power with many-sided interests; he read for the Pass Schools, but used them to gain Oxford's peculiar gift, the basis of a liberal education; a thinker, he reached his own conclusions and was content with nothing at second hand. A keen soldier,

he studied his profession seriously, both in theory and practice; he was in particular a considerable Napoleonic student.

His C.O. writes of him: 'I held a very high opinion of him, his was a wonderful personality and he would undoubtedly have done great things had he lived. He was a very fine Adjutant, loved and respected by all, and his influence for good was very marked.'

He was a great lover of the best music, and surprised some at least of his friends by publishing, in 1918, a little volume of verses; they are only little topical sketches of the War, but they possess a delightful quality of old-world whimsicalness, and delicate humour. It is characteristic that the copy presented to the Library has prefixed, as a motto, a couplet from Pindar.

A natural all-round athlete, he might, if he had chosen, have gone very far in more than one direction; at school he had been a fine runner and brilliant football player; here he rowed in the Torpid, his first year, in 1911, and in the Eight in 1911, 1912, 1914; in 1913 he cheerfully took a place in the 2nd Eight. A riding accident prevented him rowing in the Trial Eights. In boxing he was a runner up for the 'Varsity Heavy Weight. A fine horseman, he was a well-known figure on the polo-ground and at Oxford Grinds. A spoilt child of fortune, as far as money went, he used his wealth wisely and generously and never abused it. In character he was peculiarly lovable; his appearance belied him, and he was very reserved, but those who pierced his reserve found an unexpected sweetness of character, and he was gentle as a woman. B.N.C. has lost in him one of her most devoted sons; he loved the College and all connected with it, and especially the P.C.R., of which he became a member after his first year, and in 1912, secretary; under him the Society regained its old vigour and distinction, and one had hoped that he would have been with us to restart it. But that and much else was not to be.

He married on September 19, 1918, and, after an engagement of nine years, his married life lasted just ten

weeks; married at 12.45 o'clock one Thursday, he died at 12.40 o'clock on the Thursday ten weeks later. To the wife who shared the long hopes of that engagement and the short joy of its fulfilment we can only offer our sympathy.

The following memoir is reprinted, by kind permission of the Editor, from the *Oxford Magazine*:

'FRANCIS MINDEN BADCOCK, of Cheltenham College, was accepted for admission to Brasenose in the summer of 1914 and was to have matriculated in the following October. But before the Term began he was already a Second-Lieutenant in the 5th (Territorial) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, and Oxford saw him no more. In 1915 he obtained his second star, in May 1916 he went to France with his Battalion, was wounded on June 20, but returned in October when he was gazetted Captain. In November 1917 the Military Cross was conferred on him "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of a successful raiding party".

[Full particulars of this action were given in the *Brazen Nose* for May 1918.]

'After a fortnight's leave at home in March 1918 he arrived in France just after the opening of the great German offensive, and never got back to his own regiment, being among those who were rushed up to fill the gaps. Thus he was given command of a Company in one of the composite Battalions so formed. His last letter home was written on March 24, and a few days later he was reported "missing". It was not till November that the sad news came that he had been killed by a piece of shell on March 27.'

Notices of Captain T. P. E. Fenwicke-Clelland and Captain L. S. L. Dacres are postponed till the next issue of the *Brazen Nose*.

