

Brasenose Sacrifice

MAJOR JOHN BAYLY, who died at his home at Ivybridge after a few days' illness on February 26, matriculated from Haileybury in October, 1888. He rowed 3 in the second Torpid in 1890, and bow in the first Torpid in 1891, the middle year of the long spell of nine years during which the Boat was Head of the River. While an undergraduate he took a full share in the life of the College and he was ever afterwards most keenly interested in its welfare. Thus in 1908 he wrote to send his congratulations on 'the great success of my dear old College' in the first Torpid and in the University Sports, and the College had no more loyal member on its books.

He joined the North Devon Yeomanry in 1892, and became its Major in 1904. It was recognized that the great efficiency of the regiment, which was said to be 'as good as a regiment of regulars', was largely due to his work. Soon after the outbreak of the war it went into training on the East Coast, and later on, having volunteered for foreign service, was sent to the Dardanelles. There is little doubt that the illness with which Major Bayly was there stricken undermined his strength, and was thus indirectly the cause of his death. After his return to England he was appointed Commandant of the Agricultural Labourer Distribution Centre at Exeter, for which post he was exceptionally well qualified not only by the interest which he had always taken in agriculture, but also by the tact, enthusiasm, and sound judgement which enabled him to surmount the great difficulties of the position to the satisfaction of all.

It would perhaps hardly be fitting in the *Brazen Nose* to enlarge upon his manifold activities in local affairs: it must suffice to say that he was a staunch Churchman, and devoted himself with the utmost zeal to social and philanthropic work as well as to business of various

kinds. It may be added that he was for many years President of the Plymouth Conservative Club.

He was one of the keenest, cheeriest, and most warm-hearted of men, and his loss will be deeply felt. It has been said truly of him that he lived not for himself but for others, and that he was loved by all who knew him.

He was buried in the moorland churchyard of Sheepstor—a spot chosen by himself many years ago—on March 1. Among those present were many non-commissioned officers and men who had served under him, and at the close of the service a bugler sounded the 'Last Post'.

(The following memoirs are reprinted, by kind permission of the Editor, from the *Oxford Magazine*.)

Captain WILLIAM HUMPHREY THOMAS, M.C., son of William Lloyd Thomas, Esq., of Tredilion Park, Abergavenny, who died of wounds in November last, came to Brasenose from Eton in January 1909, warmly commended by the Master of his House, in which he had exercised great influence, and had been Captain both of the Cricket eleven and of the Football team. It was understood when he matriculated that he would probably stay only a short time at Oxford and would then go out to India. Accordingly in the following year he went to Calcutta, where he remained until the war broke out. Returning home he joined the Berkshire Yeomanry, and after six months' training was sent to Egypt in August 1915. He served in the Senussi campaign, and subsequently took part in the first battle of Gaza. In these operations he was twice wounded, and for his gallant and skilful leadership in covering a difficult retirement he was mentioned in Sir A. Murray's dispatches printed in *The Times* of January 14, 1918. When he had recovered from his wounds he rejoined his regiment in the Palestine expedition, and was in the fighting almost up to Jerusalem. In Palestine he was awarded the Military Cross, and was again wounded twice, the second time severely. It was at first hoped that the wound was

not dangerous, but blood-poisoning set in, and he died a few days later, on November 27, 'mourned', as his Colonel said, 'by the whole regiment'.

ALEXIS COWPER HONEY, Second Lieutenant in the Worcestershire Regiment, had been accepted for matriculation at Brasenose in 1917. He brought a most excellent record from Malvern College, where he became head both of his House and of the School, besides being in the School Cricket and Football elevens, and Senior Cadet Officer in the O.T.C. Though he was naturally retiring and modest, his character made a deep impression.

On leaving Malvern in April 1917 he joined an Officer Cadet Unit, and in September obtained his commission and went to the front. He was wounded in December, and died after ten weeks of suffering, on February 10. He gave every promise of a successful career at Oxford, and of valuable work in after-life. He had looked forward to the profession of a schoolmaster, for which he appeared to be in all respects admirably qualified.

LEONARD MAURICE PLATNAUER was educated at the South African College, Cape Town. While there his literary tastes were shown by his editing the College Magazine and winning a prize for an essay on 'Cecil Rhodes and the Northern Expansion'. In 1914 he graduated as B.A. with Honours in History, and in the following year was accepted for admission at Brasenose as a Rhodes Scholar at the end of the war.

When the war broke out he was called up with the Union Defence Corps, and served as a Corporal in the Cape Peninsula Rifles. On the completion of the campaign in German South-West Africa he came to England, and after paying a flying visit to Oxford obtained in January 1916 a commission as Second Lieutenant in the West Yorkshire Regiment. Sent out to the Western front in July 1916 he was last seen wounded, and was reported as missing in May 1917. Though no definite

information has been received, there is reason to believe that he was taken prisoner and died of wounds.

He would have been welcomed at Brasenose as a worthy successor to other South Africans of whom the College is justly proud.

ALARIC PINDER BOOR came to Brasenose in October 1913, the fourth of a strenuous line of Rhodes Scholars from the Christian Brothers' College of Perth, West Australia. All were keen students of medicine, and Boor, like his predecessors, spent his first year in dealing with the various branches of Preliminary Science without having any opportunity of showing what he might have achieved in larger fields of study. Something of the same impression remains in our minds as we think of him in relation to general College life. The special interest which he brought from Australia was concerned mainly with gymnasium competitions. In matters of more general interest to the College he had hardly begun to take his fair share. He had obviously the strength and capacity to do so, and we had hoped that in the revival to which we still look forward he would have one day played his part. At the outbreak of the war he obtained a commission in one of the Oxford and Bucks battalions. His active service was mainly on the Salonika front. He was wounded, and on recovery was transferred to the Flying Corps. His death was the result of an accident in a distant region. Few details have reached us here. We think of him as a strong personality, answering nobly the call of duty, and taken from us before we had learned to know what Brasenose might have done for him or what he might have done for us.

ARTHUR GREEN, who was killed in action on March 26, came to Brasenose from Bromsgrove School in 1902, and took his degree with Honours in Law in 1905. On leaving Oxford he was articled to a firm of solicitors in Manchester, and in due course was admitted as a solicitor. Then, in order to get wider experience, he joined a London firm, afterwards returning to Manchester.

In 1915 he obtained a commission in the Manchester Regiment and was promoted Lieutenant in July 1917.

His commanding officer writes: 'His loss means to me a big gap because he was one of the oldest officers left with the battalion, and his experience now would have been invaluable.'

The medical officer to his battalion, who testifies that he was much beloved by the men under his command, says of him: 'Quiet and retiring and yet with a heart of steel, I knew that he would die fighting, and though not a soldier by instinct, yet he would fulfil a soldier's duties.'

The service in his memory at his home (Whalley) was read by two Brasenose men, the Rev. J. E. W. Wallis, the present vicar of the parish, and his predecessor, the Rev. R. Newman.

Captain JACK ECKERSLEY GREENALL was at Eton in Mr. R. S. Kindersley's house, and at Brasenose from 1907 to 1910. Soon after leaving Oxford he had joined the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, and he went out to France with his regiment in 1915. In 1917 he became attached to the Royal Air Force. He was killed instantaneously by a shot from a German machine while flying with a pilot on Easter Day. There could hardly be a better tribute to his memory than the following, which is reprinted from *The Times*:—

'No short biographical notice can possibly convey what the loss of Jack Greenall means to his many friends. Apart from his charm of manner and good looks, apart from his qualities as a devoted son and brother, Jack Greenall was in a very special degree blessed with a perfectly natural and spontaneous gaiety of spirit which not only made him the happy fellow he was, but infected all those with whom he came in contact. All through his short life this gaiety of spirit radiated from him, at Eton, at Oxford, in the hunting-field, on the cricket-ground, and above all in his own home—that hospitable home of his parents which has been a centre

of happiness to so many who have known and loved him and his. But underlying this gaiety of spirit there was never lacking true strength of character. Well do his friends remember how without a word of complaint he left behind him the joys of Oxford life, and with the self-same gaiety settled down to live laborious days in order to prepare himself for the work which, as all then thought, lay before him. And so, when called to other and greater work, this handsome, merry, lovable fellow brought to the service of his country his two great gifts--unconquerable gaiety and unflinching courage.'

GEORGE KOBERWEIN FULTON came into residence from Marlborough, where he had been in the O.T.C., in the Lent Term, 1903, and coxed the first Torpid in 1904. He left, however, to the regret of the College, in the same year, and was for some time engaged in forestry in the Caucasus, but on the bombardment of Batoum in 1904 he escaped in an oil ship. Soon after reaching England he joined his father as a solicitor, and was in partnership with him at the time of his death. In January 1915, he was gazetted to a commission in the Wiltshire Regiment, and went out on service with that regiment in August 1916. From that time onward he was almost continuously fighting at the front. In 1916 he had a letter of thanks from his General for his bravery in emptying of bombs a burning store, which he did with the help of his sergeant-major only, saving much damage and loss of life. After a short course for Senior Officers at Aldershot in 1917, he was gazetted Major, and soon after was transferred to the Cheshire Regiment, a battalion of which he was commanding as Lieutenant-Colonel at the time of his death. He 'was a cool and fearless officer, beloved by his brother officers and men and a most gallant leader'. He was killed on Sunday, April 14, in doing a dangerous act which would have naturally fallen to a subordinate officer, but, it is said, 'if there was a nasty job to be done, he always wanted to do it himself.'

ERNEST KENNETH MONCREIFF PAUL, Second Lieutenant in the R.G.A., who died of wounds on April 18, aged 20, was elected to a Heath Harrison Exhibition in 1916. He brought with him the highest commendations from Marlborough, where he was Captain of his House, a Prefect, Captain of the School Cricket XI, and a member of the XV.

How great a loss the College has suffered by his death may be shown by the following sentences from his School testimonials:—

‘He is one of the best and soundest boys that I have ever come across—straight, strong, trustworthy . . . with a personality that wins every one’s regard and makes its influence felt always for good.’

Another master wrote:—

‘I never knew a boy of such complete unself-consciousness, combined with such friendly self-assurance; so absolutely unassuming and yet so completely at home when in a position of authority; such a shrewd judge of character, and yet possessed of more friends and acquaintances of all ages than I should have believed possible.’

CYRIL HARCOURT HEMUS was elected to a Natural Science Scholarship in 1916. He was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, of which he eventually became Senior Prefect, Head of the School House, Head of the School, Captain of the Games (being in particular a first-rate cricketer), and a Cadet Officer in the O.T.C. He had great strength of character, exercising an excellent influence in the School, and there is reason to know that he would have been a most useful and public-spirited member of the College.

On leaving school, in the summer of 1916, he joined the Artists’ Rifles, and was afterwards transferred to the R.F.A. as Second Lieutenant. In September 1917 he went to France, and remained there, with the exception of a short leave, until the end. He was awarded the Military Cross for his gallant conduct on March 12 to 13, and died of wounds received a fortnight later, on March 27.

It is said of him and an elder brother, who has also fallen in the war, that 'their loss is a great loss to the country and to all who knew them'.

JOHN MARVIN PATON, Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers (Signal Service) was killed on March 21, the first day of the great German offensive. He was elected to a Mathematical Scholarship at Brasenose in March 1917, and the impression given by his attractive personality and undoubted ability confirmed the high testimonials which he brought from Marlborough. He took a high place among those to whose share in the future developments of life in College we looked forward with the fullest confidence. A memoir of him written by his House Master for the 'Marlburian' speaks of 'the quiet determination which brought him steadily to the front in House affairs, in which he showed the same conscientiousness and ability as House Prefect as in his own work. His charm of manner and keen sense of humour made him an ideal companion, and his influence was always for good'. The record of his School days is confirmed by letters from brother officers—one of whom describes him as 'the most lovable character I have ever met'. Marlborough and Brasenose are sharing in many sorrows, not only for others who have faithfully served them both, but specially at this moment for the two whose work for Brasenose has ended before it had begun.

The notice of Captain R. C. Layton is postponed till the next issue of the *Brazen Nose*.

