

Surname	Simpson
Forename(s)	John Wyckliffe
Initials	J W
Age	24
Honours/Awards	Military Cross
Date died	01/08/1917
Rank	Second Lieutenant
Regiment	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)
Unit/Squadron	9 th Bn.
Service Number	
Cemetery/Memorial	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Grave Reference	Panel 4 and 6.
Further Information	Son of James C. and Florence E. Simpson, of "Sunny Brae," Magazines, New Brighton, Wallasey.



News Report

Gallant New Brighton Officer Killed

We regret to record the death of 2nd Lieut. John Wyckliffe Simpson, M.C., the only son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Simpson, of Sunny Brae, New Brighton, who was killed in action on July 31st. The gallant young officer was awarded the Military Cross in May of this year for deeds of bravery in the field. [An account was written a year before in the Wallasey News]

The writer said:- "It is my luck the other day to be on a ceremonial parade somewhere in France, during which a number of our Brigade were decorated with various medals for valour in the field during the last time we were in action, but quite a gloom was cast over our Company when it was known that "Jocky" (2nd Lieut. J. Simpson), as he is popularly but respectfully known was not included in the honours list, and the only remark I could hear passed on all sides was 'Good luck to the lads who have clicked, but Mr. Simpson should have got something.' However, in the excitement of bullet life one soon forgets big and

small matters alike, but in a few days' time the matter was brought home to me again by one of my own platoon comrades rushing up to me with his face all wreathed in smiles. Panting between each word, he blurted out, 'Have you seen Mr. Simpson's tunic?' My comrade and I said 'No, why, what's the matter with it?' Quite coolly he said 'Nothing, only he has got a Military Cross on it.' That of course made our faces beam, and for the rest of that night everybody was trying to tell everybody else the glad news, and never a platoon went to bed as happy as ours did that night! After that introduction you will have gathered that he was a brave as well as a popular officer, and it would be a task for me to single out one especial deed of bravery from the great number he performed during a week when we were giving the 'Jerries' a very hot time, but on one occasion I think he was instrumental in saving the lives of a lot of our platoon, He dashed forward about 50 yards at breakneck speed and told the platoon to get down, as we were getting in front of time (too anxious). This we did, otherwise we would have been mown down by our own barrage fire. Of his kindness and tenderness to the wounded whilst lying on the field awaiting stretchers. I could tell many incidents but I would be taking up too much of your valuable space, so I had better sum up by saying 'He is a gentleman and an officer who has earned, besides the decoration, the confidence of all the men who are under his control.'

Lieut. Simpson went out with the Liverpool Scottish at the commencement of the war, and was seriously wounded in the famous charge at Hooge. He obtained his commission in November, 1916, and was gazetted to the 9th King's. Returning to France in December, he was attached to the 'Pals.' He was an old Collegiate School boy, and was captain of the football team, and an active worker of Rake Lane Sunday School, Liscard. Like his father, he was a keen yachtsman, and was a member of the West Cheshire Sailing Club. Prior to the war he was in the employ of the Royal Insurance Company.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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