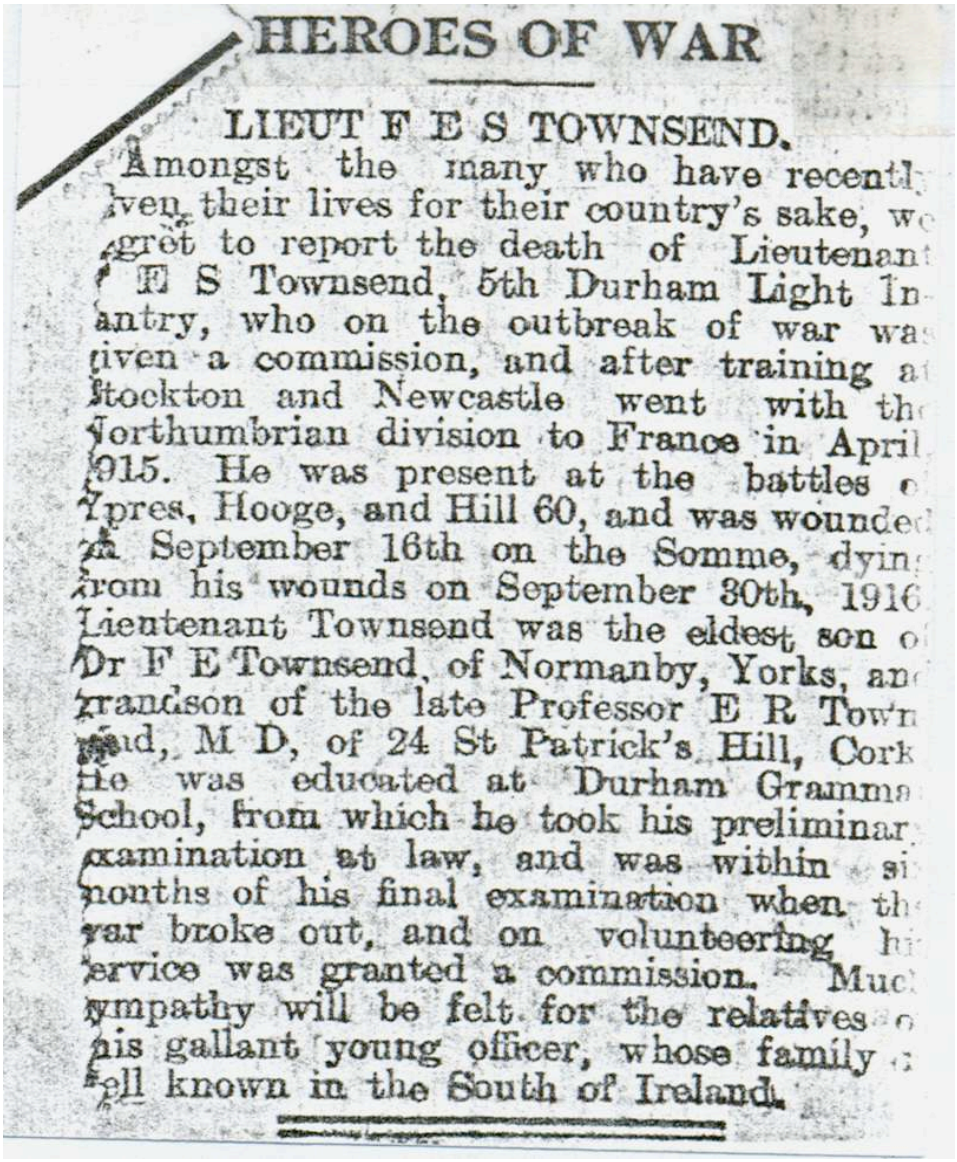
Francis Edward Steavenson Townsend [6C33]

Obituaries



HEROES OF WAR

LIEUT F E S TOWNSEND.

Amongst the many who have recently given their lives for their country's sake, we regret to report the death of Lieutenant F E S Townsend, 5th Durham Light Infantry, who on the outbreak of war was given a commission, and after training at Stockton and Newcastle went with the Northumbrian division to France in April 1915. He was present at the battles of Ypres, Hooge, and Hill 60, and was wounded on September 16th on the Somme, dying from his wounds on September 30th, 1916. Lieutenant Townsend was the eldest son of Dr F E Townsend, of Normanby, Yorks, and grandson of the late Professor E R Townsend, M D, of 24 St Patrick's Hill, Cork. He was educated at Durham Grammar School, from which he took his preliminary examination at law, and was within six months of his final examination when the war broke out, and on volunteering his service was granted a commission. Much sympathy will be felt for the relatives of this gallant young officer, whose family is well known in the South of Ireland.

ESTON OFFICER KILLED.

Residents of the Eston district yesterday heard with regret that Lieut. Francis Ed. Stevenson Townsend, the eldest son of Dr. and Mrs Townsend, had died of wounds received in action with the Durham Territorials on the 16th of September. This officer was only 23 years old, and a few weeks after war broke out he joined the local Territorial unit of the Durham Light Infantry, with which he went to France in April of last year.

At the time of enlistment he was serving his articles as solicitor with his uncle, the Town Clerk of Darlington, and in six months would have taken his final examination. During the recent fighting he was caught in the head by shrapnel, and his condition was so serious that the parents were summoned to the hospital in France. They were by his side when he died, and yesterday they saw him laid to rest.

Lieut. Townsend was popular with all ranks, and was an officer of much promise. In a letter to the parents Col. G. O. Spence, the commanding officer, pays a high tribute to his work. "We have had some heavy fighting," he writes, "and heavy casualties, but I am glad to say that among the officers it is mostly wounded. Your son had a very severe time before he was struck, owing to seven officers being hit, but we got our final objective and more. This was owing a great deal to your son's work in the early part of the battle." The bereaved parents have the sympathy of not only all local medical practitioners, but of a wide circle of friends.