

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN CHALDECOTT, ADJUTANT

Monday evening.

I know that the Colonel has written to you. He never finds it easy I think to write a lot but he was particularly fond of Charles, and had just given Charles in his last Confidential Report the highest praise I have seen any boy get.

It wasn't, I think, until he came to us that Charles really found his feet. I say this because I watched him develop so fast - everything he touched went well. Partly because he had brains, partly because he made friends easily, and partly because he had in him a touch of that quality one cannot define but which results in creating happiness.

We were not a big Regiment and as a result we all knew each other very well. I know what you have lost. I can only say that here too he leaves a place it will be very very hard to fill. Charles had just become my assistant adjutant and I was very fond of him. He loved his work and he was so obviously the right man in the right place, and his loss seems such a stupid waste. But these things do not lie in our hands.

If there is ever anything I can do to help you will you be sure to let me know?

LETTER FROM COLONEL CAMPBELL

Sunday.

I hardly know how to express to you the depth of our sympathy in this dreadful tragedy.

I think you know that we were all very fond of Charles and that he was extremely popular with all officers and men.

I personally had the very highest opinion of him and considered him a brilliant young officer. He had everything, brains enthusiasm and charm, and would have gone very far. It always seems to be the best that have to go.

I think you have heard how the accident happened, just a bit of miserable bad luck.

I think there is no doubt that he did not suffer any pain. Chaldecott was with him very soon and till the end and is quite certain of this.

With my greatest sympathy.

LETTER FROM BRIGADIER ROLLESTON, SCOTTISH COMMAND

24 Sept 1939

I want to send you my most sincere sympathy in the tragic loss you have suffered in the death of your son. His Regiment has been under my command and I have met your son on several occasions and seen him at his work. He showed the very greatest promise and had ability and sound judgment which were distinctly above the average of boys of his age and experience. I feel confident that he would have had a most successful career in the Army. He had a charming personality and I know that he was extremely well liked by his brother officers and all ranks.

I cannot tell you how sorry I am but I wanted to let you know how much we feel his loss and that our thoughts are with you in deepest sympathy.

LETTER FROM COLONEL LAWLER to Charlie

10th July 1939

I had hoped to express my thanks to you personally for the stout work put in for us, but unfortunately did not make contact with you as expected.

Your spontaneous effort in the interests of a new formation struggling to find its feet was incredibly sporting, and the 124th Field Regiment R.A.(T) will remain ever in your debt.

I should like to feel that whenever you are in Newcastle you would regard all our facilities as entirely at your disposal.

LETTER FROM ARMY COUNCIL

22nd September, 1939

I am commanded by the Army Council to state that the news of the death of your son, Second-Lieutenant G.A.O'N. Leith-Hay, Royal Artillery, has been received at the War Office with much regret, and I am desired to convey to you an expression of the Army Council's sympathy.