

HUBERT (HUGH) BLAKE HODSON

SANDROYD 1928-1932



HUBERT was the elder son of the Right Honourable Sir F.L. Charles Hodson MC, a judge, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and a decorated veteran of the Gallipoli campaign in WW1. His mother, Lady Susan Hodson, was the daughter of Major W.G. Blake DL, of Mylnhurst, Sheffield. He was born on June 8th 1919.

He attended Sandroyd from 1928-1932. In his final year he acted in the chorus of the school production of *The Mikado*. He enjoyed playing squash and according to an entry in the *Sandroydian* of August 1932, 'he pulled his weight both in games and in every other way and the school has much to thank him for, not least for his unfailing cheerfulness.'

Hubert's younger brother also went to Sandroyd, Charles Christopher Philip Hodson. From Sandroyd Hubert went on to Mr. Goddard's House, Winchester, in September 1932 and left in April 1938. He was a Commoner Prefect at Winchester and made his mark as a runner. He was also a keen rower. During his time at Winchester, he wrote poetry, and a volume of poems written by him whilst at school was printed for private circulation.

He had a year at Christ Church, Oxford, before the war, and joined the Queen's Westminsters in 1939. He was made 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Lancers, a tank regiment, early in 1941. In the same year he went out to the Middle East as part of 1st Armoured Division.

In December 1941 the British were on the offensive in North Africa and the German forces, at the end of their supply lines, were retreating rapidly back into Libya. By the middle of January the last German garrison at Halfaya in Cyrenaica surrendered, with about 5,500

prisoners taken and on January 20th Benghazi fell. The main German forces had retired to Tripolitania. But fresh tanks had reached Field Marshall Rommel, the German tank commander, and whilst he was close to his supply bases, the British had out-run their own supplies; their tanks were unfit to continue, and they were very vulnerable to counter-attack.

Rommel launched a counter-offensive against Eighth Army on January 21st. The 21st Panzer Division quickly surged forward. Attempts by 1st Armoured Division to stop them failed. On January 22nd German panzers captured Agedabia and trapped part of the British 1st Armoured Division in the Antelat-Sannu area, destroying about seventy of its tanks.

It was here that Hubert was killed in action at the age of only twenty-two. He is buried in grave 2.C.21 of the Benghazi War Cemetery, on which the inscription contains the famous words:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Below is a page from the NINTH QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS citing the names of those who died in battle.

IN MEMORY OF			
THE OFFICERS			
WARRANT OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS OF			
THE NINTH QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS			
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR			
— 1939 - 1945 —			
FRANCE			
MAJOR	THE HON. A. F. PHILLIMORE.	23.	5.40.
LIEUT	T. M. P. TEW.	23.	5.40.
2/LT	R. O. P. STEEL.	24.	5.40.
MIDDLE EAST			
LIEUT	H. B. HODSON.	23.	1.42.
LIEUT	J. MARDEN.	30.	5.42.
LIEUT	L. P. G. KELLY.	30.	5.42.
2/LT	T. JENNER-FUST.	30.	5.42.
2/LT	C. W. HEYCOCK.	30.	5.42.
LIEUT	W. T. CADMAN.	17.	6.42.
2/LT	B. P. HARRIS.	19.	7.42.
CAPT	R. N. KINGSCOTE.	22.	7.42.
2/LT	R. C. O'KELL.	18.10.42.	
LIEUT	H. S. WYNDHAM.	28.10.42.	
LIEUT	T. ZISSU.	3.11.42.	
LIEUT	J. T. MILNE.	4.11.42.	
NORTH AFRICA			
CAPT	A. J. GRANT.	24.	4.43.
LIEUT.	C. HARTLEY-HEYMAN.	26.	4.43.
ITALY			
COL	J. R. MACDONELL, D.S.O.	5.	9.44.
LIEUT	P. H. W. W. BUCHAN.	10.	9.44.
LIEUT	VISCOUNT STUART.	18.	9.44.
LIEUT	G. H. P. HOLT.	25.11.44.	
NORTH WEST EUROPE			
MAJOR	SIR R. D. ARBUTHNOT, BT.	30.	4.44.
INDIA			
LT-COL	E. R. PETTIT, M.C.	4.	8.44.