

LAURENCE SEYMOUR BROCKELBANK

Birth: 21 September 1892 at 9 Eliot Park, Blackheath

He was the youngest son of George Seymour and Julia Brockelbank. His three elder brothers all served during the War.

In 1910 the family moved to Elm Lodge, 6 The Glebe, Lee where they lived until 1926 when they moved to 8a Lee Terrace until 1928.

He was educated at the Blackheath Proprietary School and then Tonbridge School.

He was involved in Church activities and with the Boy Scouts.

He had started to read for Holy Orders at Kings's College London.

"He was a most popular and dashing officer"

Brockelbank's origins went back to Westmorland with Daniel (1702-1773) who was Vicar of Morland. His sons joined together to found the Brockelbank Shipping Line which eventually became the General Steam Navigation Company with yards in Deptford Creek and a flourishing trade taking people up and down the Thames. (This was before railways) Laurence's great grandfather Thomas was one of the sons and he lived in "Westcombe Park", Greenwich.

Laurence's grandfather George lived on Croom's Hill. He and his brothers continued the shipping business and were involved in many local activities. George was one of the founders of the Greenwich and Blackheath Amateur Musical Society in 1843.

Laurence's father George Seymour (1854 –1927), a stockbroker, was one of the enthusiasts in the revival of the Blackheath Amateur Operatic Society and remained with the Club until 1927. He was also a member of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club 1910 - 1916, being re-elected in 1921.

His mother was a District Visitor and subscribed to the Coal Club, and the Schools – the National, the Infant and Northbrook. She was involved in Sales of Work to raise funds for the Church when she was usually in charge of the Art Stalls..

**Second Lieutenant, BROCKELBANK, LAWRENCE SEYMOUR. 3rd R. Bn. / 1st Bn. King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment).
Died 26/08/1914. NAVES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION [I. D. 9] (France).**

War Service:

Second Lieutenant LAWRENCE SEYMOUR BROCKELBANK joined the army in May 1914 as a second lieutenant in the 3rd reserve battalion of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment).

At the time of his death he was attached to the 1st battalion. The 1st Battalion was stationed at Dover when war broke out. On the 22nd August they left for France and arrived in Boulogne the next day. Within three days the 1st Battalion was in action at le Cateau where they were caught in the open by German machine guns while deploying and sustained 400 casualties.

He was reported "Missing Believed Killed" in *The Times* of 12 November 1914.

He is buried in Naves Communal Cemetery Extension near Cambrai. Part of this cemetery was made after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from smaller cemeteries; among the graves brought here were those of many King's Own Royal Lancasters who fell in August, 1914.



Location of Memorial:

He is remembered on the memorials in St Margaret's Church in Lee, All Saints, Blackheath, the UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour and the Roll of Honour of University of London Officer Training Corps.