

ALAN GODSAL was the younger son of Edward Hugh and Marion Grace Godsall, of Blackheath and of Wimmersh Lodge, Wokingham. He was born in New Zealand on May 4, 1894.

Entering the Berrystead in May 1905 he was transferred later to School House and left in 1913.

He was a good gymnast and a keen shot.

In September 1914 Godsall was gazetted to the 7th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade, at Aldershot, and went with them to France in April 1915. They were in the line near Ypres.

He was promoted to the Colonel's Staff as Battalion Machine Gun Officer and his Colonel described him as "quite my most promising Officer."

He fell on July 30, 1915.

The battalion had been relieved but had to return at once in order to retake their trenches, which had been lost. Godsall recaptured one of his machine guns and used it against the enemy until ammunition failed, and he was last seen using his revolver. His body lies in what was the Sanctuary Wood.

One of his men said: "I shall never have such an officer again. All of us loved him."



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