

WILLIAM JOHN MACCOMBIE was the eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. MacCombie of the Manor House, Rothwell, Kettering. He was born on August 19, 1891, and entered Grafton House in May 1906, leaving in July 1910. He played both for the XV and the XI. In the autumn of 1910 he went into residence at Caius College, Cambridge, where he studied medicine. He was in the Cambridge XV in his last year and was also a keen golf player.

When war broke out he was at the London Hospital.

Joining the King's Own Scottish Borderers he was with the 9th battalion at Dorchester in the early days of the war. Later he was transferred to the 6th battalion and with them went to France.

He was killed on July 17, 1916, in the village of Longueval after having gone through heavy fighting at Bernapay Wood.

His rank at the time of his death was Lieutenant (Temporary Captain).

He was mentioned in a dispatch from General Sir Douglas Haig dated November 11, 1916.

His Commanding Officer wrote: "He was a splendid soldier and his company were simply devoted to him."

An officer wrote: "Never for a single moment did he think more of his own safety than that of his men, nor would he ever ask them to do an act he would not do first himself."



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