

Adrian Grant DUFF

29 September 1869 – 14th September 1914

Adrian was the grandson of Hannah Ainsworth (daughter of Richard Ainsworth 1762-1833 and Sarah Noble 1762-1830) who had married Edward Webster. Their daughter Anna Julia Webster married Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff (GCSI – Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India), and Adrian was born in South Kensington, London on 29 September 1869. His father was at one time Under Secretary of State for India and former Governor of Madras.



He was educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military College Sandhurst. Gazetted 2nd Lieutenant Black Watch on 23rd March 1889 he was promoted Lieutenant in 1890, Captain in 1898, Major in 1907 and Lieutenant Colonel in 1914.

His service took him to the North West Frontier of India from 1897-8 (called the TIRAH Expedition). He served with the 2nd Battalion Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) in the 'Boer War' in South Africa and was awarded the Queen's South Africa medal. He was awarded the King's South Africa medal for the same campaign, awarded to those who served after the 1st January 1902.

He had a position in the Intelligence Section of the Department of Military Operations at the War Office from 1905 -1909. In 1910 he was promoted to Military Assistant Secretary in the Committee of Imperial Defence, an appointment which saw the creation of the War Book (specific procedures and policies which were to be followed should Britain find itself entangled in an external conflict.) Winston Churchill was also on this Committee. Grant Duff records in his diary that "Churchill's maverick conduct on the Committee was harmful to co-ordination efforts." 3

He served in the South African War (Boer War) in 1902, and then in France and Flanders as a member of the British Expeditionary Force.



He was killed in action at the battle of Aisne, Picardie (Northern France) on 14th September 1914. This was an Anglo – French counter offensive on the River Aisne from 12 – 15 September 1914, following the first Battle of the Marne. He was awarded the 1914 Star. The National Probate Calendar shows he as being "of Oudenarde Barracks, Aldershot and the

details of his death. Probate was granted to “Arthur Cunningham Grant Duff of His Majesty’s Diplomatic Corps”. His effects were £5539.18s.6p.

Adrian had married in 1906, to the Hon. Ursula Lubbock They had four children – Neill Adrian Mountstuart, Jean, Ursula Fiona and Sheila. The sad irony is that Neill was an Army Captain in the Second World War, and he was also killed in action in France, on the 12 June 1940, aged 29.



Ursula Lubbock was the daughter of John, 1st Baron Avebury, Privy Councillor, and MP. She died on 15th January 1959.

The 4th Baron Avebury is Eric Reginald Lubbock PC, who served as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Orpington from 1962 to 1970, and is now [2012] in the House of Lords.