

'Dixon, JA'

Publication/Creation

1913-1915

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GEBEL MOYA - DIXON, J. A.

'13/'15

17, WOODCRANGE AVENUE,

EALING COMMON, W.

Dec 9th 1915

Dear Mr Wellescome.

I am sending the only photos I have, do take any you like. I fancy yours is a profile one. they might all be better.

I had one of my boys Corporals to see me on Sunday & his description of that g'ling' was too awful! I am thankful he was killed outright as many of the wounded were burnt, no one had a chance, they were just mown down!

Trusting you are feeling in better health

Yrs sincerely

Ely: M Dixon

and
selected
1 by profile & 1 small
full length

12 DEC 1915

11 Woodgrange Avenue
Galung Common Sept 11th
1915.

Dear Mr. Wellcome.

As you kindly ask for
some account of my son
I am enclosing you a copy
of letter (which please return)
that I have had from
one of his men. I am
sure those of them still
at the front will ~~most~~
much appreciate the
comforts you so kindly
sent out. Yours sincerely
Ely M. Dixon

Wigmore Street.

22 November 1915.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 12th inst., Mr. Wellcome asked me to forward you the enclosed note respecting the late Mr. James Dixon's work in Egypt.

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Miss E. Paterson,
Secretary,
Egypt Exploration Fund,
37. Great Russell Street,
W.C.

Mr. James Alfred Dixon who was Second-Lieutenant in the 6th Border Regiment was killed at the Dardanelles on August 10th¹⁵ gallantly leading a charge of his men when he was struck down, shot by a bullet which penetrated his brain.

He took a keen interest in Egyptian Archaeology, and at one time assisted Professor Naville, and afterwards became a member of Mr. Henry S. Wellcome's archaeological staff for two seasons during their excavations at Gebel Moya to the west of Abyssinia in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

Mr. Dixon's enthusiastic temperament made him popular with all with whom he came into contact, and his abilities as an artist were of the greatest use to him in his archaeological work in Egypt.

Mr C.J.S. Thompson

Re the late Lt. Jas. Dixon - Obituary

Enclosed is letter dated 12th Nov addressed to Mr Wellcome at the W.B.S.R., from the Secretary (Emily Paterson) of the Egypt Exploration Fund, 37 Gt Russell Street, W.C. This letter has been referred to Mr Smith who suggests that it should be brought before Mr Wellcome by you.

18th Nov 1915

V. Aspley,
(Estates Dept.,)

to Mr
Russell

TELEGRAMS
USHABTI LONDON.
TELEPHONE
856 MUSEUM.

*Recd - WBSR
13 NOV 15
forwarded to Mr Sm
18 NOV 15
Rec'd back from
Mr Sm & account
to Mr C/S
18 NOV 1915*

RECEIVED
NOV 15 1915

EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND,
37, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, W.C.

12. XI. 1915.

Dear Sir,

Will you be so good as to give us any remarks upon Mr. James
Dixon's work with you in Egypt that we may make our Obituary of
him as full as possible in the Journal of Egyptian Archaeology.

Yours faithfully

Emily Paterson

(Secretary)

- will come by -

*number of manuscripts from same
two years.*

draw it in notice

*[This article is
an article]*

Apologies hereby

Copy.

Birton *Correspondent*

5260 W.A. Forrest,
6th Border Regt.,
Infectious Disease Hospital,
Shoubra,
Cairo, Egypt.

Dear Sir,

At last I have got the opportunity of writing few lines for since leaving England we have been on the move nearly every day with the exception of a fortnight in the Trenches in front of Acha Baba, the renowned hill in Gallipoli. I will give you the news as much as I can. We left Alexandria in company with 2 more Transports on the 20th of July only one Brigade of my Division which included my Reg^t. We arrived at Lemnos Island on the 22nd a bare patch only used by reinforcements and Turkish Prisoners, we left there under escort at night and sailed for the Dardenelles, our point of landing being the renowned Lancashire landing from the Transport River Clyde. We had to transfer on to lighters but the Turks saw us, and of course shelled us, so had to put out to sea again. Eventually we landed about 3 a.m. and marched under cover of the cliffs for about 3 miles when we got into Dugouts until the break of day, and then went and relived the Royal Naval Division in the Trenches where we stopped for 8 days. We were in the front line of Trenches about 20 yds. away from the Turks, and it was good sport watching them trying to throw Bombs at us .

They had no strength, our chaps always managed to reach them. Nothing happened much in the Trenches, only a few casualties on the 1st August. We got orders to join the remainder of the Division on Imbros Island. We stayed there 2 days, and then orders came for a new landing at Sulva Bay which I daresay you have read about. We again sailed at night in Torpedo Boats and Cruisers about 16 in all. We got off the shore when the 34th Brigade was ordered to land first with my Brigade 2nd. Of course the Turks had got hold of the news somehow, and was waiting for us. They simply peppered us. Well we landed and started driving them back behind the hill and then waited for daybreak. We managed to get a small bite but no drink as our water bottles had to last 2 days or more perhaps. We also managed to get one hour's sleep. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon we got orders to advance and take a position on the Australian and New Zealanders' left. The Lincoln Regt^t led. My Regt^t was 2nd. We had to advance round the left of the Salt Lake and take a small hill to cover the Australians. Well we started and of course under fire all the time. It was about 2 miles of open country, and I can assure you it was heart-breaking to see the boys falling like flies, but they had good hearts. We kept advancing in rushes of about 50 yds. or so, and then under cover. Well we had got to the foot of the hill and fixed bayonets ready to charge up the hill. I was just going to give the word of command to my section to keep steady, I suppose a sniper must have seen me.

Anyhow I got hit in the head and knocked over. Another $\frac{1}{2}$ inch I should not have been writing this letter. As I was being carried back I saw lots of poor chaps killed. The time I got wounded was about half-past eight at night, and I can assure you it was a God-send to get a drink of water for as the Turks retired they poisoned all the wells.

Well Sir, to go on, the next morning my Reg^t. advanced again under the same fire and I can assure you suffered terrible loss. When the action was finished on Tuesday night 9th of August or the 10th I forget which, I know it was Tuesday, but not exact as to the date, the roll of the Reg^t. was called, and 1 officer and 16 men out of 23 officers and 870 men answered their names. In that 3 days we lost 17 officers killed including the Colonel, Majors, and Capts. and 6 wounded. So that was a good baptism of fire for one of Kitchener's Army.

Well Sir, as regards myself, I am convalescent and have got the position of Orderly Room Serg^t. in a new Infectious hospital here for Australians and New Zealanders. I don't want to go through another affair like that. It was simply murder. At first we tried to dodge the Shrapnel as it came, but found out if we were going to get hit we would, so we went forward and it was remarkable how the youngsters stuck out so well. We lost a lot of the old

hands that came back the same as I did. It seems hardly true to think they have gone. I think the Turks have had enough. It is the German officers that keep them going.

I am sending you a cutting out of an Egyptian Paper of one of our officers. He was very friendly with me at home when he found out I worked at Burroughs Wellcome & Co. and he always came and spoke to me on the march. Such a fine young man, well-built and tall. Probably you might have heard his name some time.

Well Sir, I must now close. With my kind regards to Dr. Jowett, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Johnson and all enquiring friends,

I remain,

Yours truly,

(signed) W.A. Forrest.

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(signed) W.A. Forrest.

Copy.

September 9th. 1915.

Reply to Ward 15.

Stationed at B.R.C. Hospital

Netley,

Hants.

Dear Mrs. Dixon,

Please accept my best thanks for your kind gift I also tender my deepest thoughts in your sad bereavements your Son died gallantly for his Country's Honour. We got our first baptism of fire in the trenches at Gallipoli we stayed on there for a couple of weeks. Our casualties were very few your son giving courage to his men. All the Officers doing their best to make Tommy's life happy, we then got relieved and went to a rest camp 10 miles from the firing line, we stayed there four days then we got orders to move nobody knew where we (were?) put on destroyers about 5 o'clock on Friday evening we then got told we were going to make a new landing everything went well and we got ashore about 12 o'clock the same night we drove the Turks 3 miles back on the Saturday the Borders being held as reserves. On the Sunday we saw very little fighting that day although the Turks gave us no rest dropping shells all about us, then broke the eventful day. I never want to witness another like it. We made a gallant charge at the Turks but they were too many for us they must have been 40,000 at the very least any way we did not waver I was just in front of your gallant Son, when a bullet struck me above the eye that was the last I saw of him. But while waiting to get on board the Hospital Ship one of Mr. Dixon's boys came along wounded he then told me the gallant way they had charged Mr. Dixon dying a painless death being shot through the brain. I pray to God all the Officers and men got a decent

2.

burial. As my Dear Mother has lost 2 Sons I make the third but God has spared me so far.

Trusting God to keep you in the best of health and spirits during your sad Hours,

I Remain,

J. Hopley.

6th. Borders.

P.S. A photograph of your Son along with his Brother Officers appeared in the Daily Sketch of which I am keeping

August the 10th. your Son got killed.

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JAMES A. DIXON,
Lieutenant, 6th Border Regiment,

AGED 24.

HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS KING
AND HIS COUNTRY
AND FELL WHILST GALLANTLY
LEADING HIS PLATOON INTO ACTION
AT THE DARDANELLES,
On August 10th, 1915.

"TO KNOW HIM WAS TO LOVE HIM."

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS."

Excerpt from his last letter.

"Let my friends know that it was one of my last wishes that they should be told of my death out here, and to thank them for having made a happy fellow, happier still, by their continual kindness."



MRS. JESSE DIXON. S

Kind regards

W.H.M.M.
54A Wigmore Street, W.

3 September 1915.

Dear Mrs. Dixon,

I am obliged to you for your kind letter.

Your son wrote me a few days before his death asking for some comforts for his men and showing concern for their welfare. The things were sent off immediately, but would arrive too late for him to distribute, so I have requested another officer in his regiment to attend to the matter as he would have done.

Your son held an important position as a member of my archaeological staff during two seasons, viz. 1912-13 and 1913-14 at Gebel Moysa to the west of Abyssinia in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan where I am excavating a prehistoric Ethiopian site.

I shall feel grateful if you would send me any account of your son which may appear in the local press or elsewhere.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

H.S.W.

W.H.M.M.

54A Wigmore Street, W.

5 September 1915.

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W. Hist-Med Museum
Paper Reading
Sept 30 1915

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I remain yours sincerely

Hendon Hall

HENDON

3 SEP 1915

~~Draft~~
Dear Mr Dixon

I am obliged to you for your kind letter - Your son wrote me ~~only~~ a few days before his death asking for some comforts for his men ^{and} showing deep concern for ~~his men~~ for their welfare. The things were sent off immediately but would arrive too late for him to distribute so I have requested another officer in his regiment to attend to the matter as he would have done.

Your son ^(held an important position as) was a member of my ~~an~~ archaeological staff during ~~two seasons engaged early~~ during two seasons viz 1912/13 and 1913/14 at Gebel ^{to the west of Abydos and} ~~the west of Abydos~~ Anglo Egyptian Sudan ^{several hundred miles} beyond Khartoum, ~~and to the west~~ where I am excavating an ancient Ethiopian site. If you will send me ^{me} any account of your son which may appear in the local press or elsewhere

3 SEP 1915

Hendon Hall

HENDON

Mr Thompson

or Miss Beale

Hendon N.W.

Kindly have enclosed
draft typed on H.M.M.
paper - and signed for
me per pro.

Retain a duplicate
typed copy for me
T.C.H.

Sept 1st 1915

Dear Mr Wellcome.

Thank you for your very kind letter of sympathy in my deep sorrow, my son always threw himself so thoroughly into everything he undertook in a most conscientious way. a short time ago he was telling me how much he learnt from your system & method in every thing & did his best with regard to his Division in the Border Regt. to make work easier for his men I have had no particulars yet. If not troubling you would you tell me

When ~ for him long, he wanted for
you, a short notice of his work is to go in
our local paper next week

Believe me

Yrs sincerely

Ely: M. Dixon

Mr Wellcome

It is announced in "The Times" to-day that
Lieutenant James Alfred Dixon, 6th Border Regiment,
* of 11 Woodgrange Avenue, Ealing Common, was killed at
the Dardanelles between the 7th and 11th August.
(This was apparently at the time of the operations in
connection with the landing in Suvla Bay).

* son of Mrs Jesse Dixon —

25th August 1915

S.M.

at/

13, GLAZBURY ROAD,
WEST KENSINGTON, W.

1-7-13

Dear Mr Thompson

Thanks for

your letter. /

Just however that

I am engaged all

Thursday. Friday
next. However
next Monday
or any succeeding
day will suit
me - if that
will do for you.

Yrs Truly,
James Dixon.

Mr. Smith.

re: Mr. Dixon.

Mr. Dixon could commence work on July 14th or would prefer to make it July 20th. Mr. King suggested as remuneration £1-1-0 a day and expenses. For further engagements for next season's work in Sudan he would require £30-0-0 a month and would engage until the end of next season. His address until the end of next week will be 13, Graisbury Road, W. Kensington.

10 July 1913.

Wigmore Street.

Mr. Smith.

Herewith letter of acceptance from Mr. Dixon.

C.J.S.T.

PP.

14th July 1913.

Wignore Street.