

CAPTAIN GODFREY LIONEL JOHN CAVENDISH (1895-1901)

Date of Birth	20 March 1884
School Information	Father of Captain Godfrey Herbert Richard Cavendish (1927-30). Descendant of 4 th Duke of Devonshire.
Career Information	Royal Military College, Sandhurst 1902. Manchester Regiment 1903; East Surrey Regiment 1904; Indian Army, 97 th Deccan Infantry.
Date Of Death	22 December 1914
Cause of Death	Killed in action.
Location	Lillers, France
Cemetery	LILLERS COMMUNAL CEMETERY
Rank	Captain
Branch of Service	Indian Army, 97 th Deccan Infantry

Our thanks to Robert Smith for supplying the following photo and biography



Below is a picture of his grave. You will note the two headstones. **Peter Gasgoine-Lockwood (R57-64)** obtained the following explanation :

"Godfrey Cavendish is interesting. It seems to me as if a personal headstone was raised over the grave - highly likely as he was killed early on and his grave is in the original part of Lillers Cemetery, surrounded by French civilians.

It would appear that post war the IWGC raised the standard headstone on the same plot. The original headstone was impossible to read, but I can't see any other explanation for having a CWGC headstone placed in the same grave."

**CAPTAIN GODFREY LIONEL JOHN
CAVENDISH, 97th DECCAN INFANTRY,**

born at Eastbourne on the 30th March, 1884, was the son of Reginald R. F. Cavendish, and grandson of the late Francis W. H. Cavendish, D.L., J.P., of St. Margaret's, Eastbourne. He was a kinsman of the Duke of Devonshire, and a great-grandson of General the Hon. H. F. C. Cavendish, and of the third Earl of Clare.

Captain Cavendish was educated at Framlingham College, Suffolk, where he showed himself a good swimmer and cricketer. He received his commission in April, 1903, being gazetted to the Manchester Regiment, joining the 1st Battalion at Singapore, and later was transferred to the 2nd East Surrey Regiment. After a probationary period with the 83rd Wallajahbad Light Infantry, he was finally appointed to the 97th Deccan Infantry. His own regiment remaining in India, Captain Cavendish was, at his request, attached for active service to the Reserve of Officers for "A" Force; on arrival at Marseilles he was attached 1/9 Gurkha Rifles, and a few days later again transferred to 9th Bhopals, which had lost very heavily, joining them on the 15th December, 1914. He was wounded on the 20th of that month and died two days later in a Field Hospital, after having been about three weeks at the front.

The following account of the circumstances is taken from a brother officer's letter:—

"On the 17th December the half-battalion which Captain Cavendish was commanding was ordered up to support the trenches at Givenchy. He remained in these trenches in support till the 20th, when he was ordered to take his command up to support a regiment in front which was being attacked. On the way up he received an order to halt in the support trenches, and he went a few yards ahead to find out what was wanted when he was hit by a rifle bullet, which entered his neck. His wound was tied up and his comrades and himself thought the wound was not serious, so he walked back about two miles to hospital. His brother officers were much distressed to hear a few days later that the wound had proved fatal. He was always very



Below is a photo of the original headstone presumably erected by his family.



cheery under fire, and helpful by his good spirits."

Captain Cavendish married in March, 1911, Cora Grace Graham Cavendish, and left two sons, Godfrey Herbert Richard, born January, 1912, and Hubert Gordon Compton, born February, 1913.