

GONNER Edward Dermot Ledlie



Second Lieutenant Edward Dermot Ledlie Gonner

The Oundle School records note that Edward Dermot Ledlie Gonner was the only son of Professor Edward Carter Kersey Gonner and Nannie Gonner. He was born on March 9th 1893 in Sefton Park, Liverpool and lived the greater part of his life in West Kirby. After being at school at The Leas, Hoylake he entered Oundle School (School House) in September 1907, leaving in July 1911.

He was a member of the XI in 1911 and was also a keen fives player. After a year in the Architectural School of Liverpool University, he was articled to a surveyor and land agent. At this time he played with Birkenhead Park R.F.C. for several seasons and in 1913 was a member of the Cheshire XV.

In 1914 he enlisted in the Liverpool Scottish but in the Spring of 1915 he was invalided out. After recovering from this illness, Gonner spent some time in a corn merchant's office and in January 1916 married Winfred Olive Twigg of Thingwall Hall, Barnston. Her father was a rice miller. After marriage he lived at The Gables, Mill Lane, Willaston.

Following many attempts to enter the army he was given a commission in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (1917).

While on service with his battalion, he contracted influenza which was followed by pneumonia. Edward died on 2nd July 1918 aged 25 at Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne. He is buried in Willaston Churchyard together with his father who in 1922, also, died of influenza.

Other information

Service Record:

Territorial Force; 10th (Scottish) Btn King's Liverpool Regt

Dermot Gonner age 21 No 3182

Royal Warwicks, 5th Btn

He had been in the OTC, but now a surveyor employed by Mills & Milner
Living at Undercliffe, West Kirby (this was the family home).

His father was Professor of Economics at Liverpool University and was knighted in 1921.

His mother, Lady Ledlie Gonner, died in 1952 in Dorset.

His widow was granted probate of nearly £5,000. In September 1919 she married Norman S. Smith of 14, Kensington Crescent, London.

1901 Census: visitor at boarding house, Conway with Ellen Gonner, b.1861 London, single, own means, & Elena Gonner, b. 1897, West Kirby. 1911: Ellen living West Kirby, single.

1911 Census:

Edward Dermot Ledlie Gonner age 18 born Liverpool pupil at Oundle School, Northamptonshire.

Mother: Ann Ledlie Gonner, married 20 years, 4 children, private means, born Waterford 1876 living at Undercliffe, West Kirby, with 3 daughters.

Father: Edward Carter Kersey Gonner, Professor of Economic Science, Liverpool

Winifred Olive Twigge, age 17, was living at Thingwall Hall, with her brother Frank Twigge, age 25, rice & corn miller, her sister Muriel C. Twigge, age 24 and three unmarried aunts, all described as farmers. Frank died at the age of 29, and the house was then owned by his sister Muriel, who gave it to the Liverpool hospital as a children's convalescent home in the 1920s. The hall was demolished in the 1960s to make way for a council estate.

Professor Gonner was author of a number of works on economics. He served on many local bodies including the sub-committee for "Elementary Education for Cheshire" and was chairman of the Cheshire War Savings Committee for Cheshire. He was later appointed OBE, and was knighted in 1921.

His wife, also, served in WW1

British Red Cross Register of Overseas Volunteers:

Winifred Olive Gonner

Chauffer, certificate number 18491

First Aid Nursing Yeomanry

Destination: St Omer

Passport No. 211653



One of the many Oundle School buildings which Gonner would have known.