

Major Anderson Sutherland, M.C.



Anderson Sutherland was born in Stromness on 15th December 1893. His parents were both Orcadians, George Sutherland from Walls and Mary Sutherland (née Chalmers) from Stronsay, but they married in Durban, South Africa in 1889. Gordon, eldest son of the family, was born in South Africa, but next eldest, Douglas, was born in Stronsay in 1892, after the family had come home to Orkney. Goodwin was born on 19th December 1896 in Kirkwall, and youngest, Norland, there in 1898.

Anderson was an engineering student at Edinburgh University when war started in August 1914. A month later, he had applied for a commission and joined the Scottish Horse as a trooper. Anderson was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery on 24th September. He crossed from Southampton to Le Havre at the end of May 1915, with 65th (Howitzer) Brigade of 12th (Eastern) Division, a K1 division of the New Army.

On 11th June Anderson, with C Battery, 65th Brigade, joined the Regular Army 27th Division, where the battery was renumbered C of 129th Brigade RFA on 6th September. Anderson was granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant on 6th December.

Anderson left Marseilles on 21st January 1916 and landed at Salonika on the 27th. His health failed in the difficult active service conditions in that theatre. Anderson was admitted to 31st Casualty Clearing Station on 6th July with anaemia and haemorrhoids, caused by enteritis. He travelled on 17th July on the hospital ship *Dover Castle* to St Andrews Hospital, Malta. Anderson left Malta on *Llandovery Castle* and transferred to the hospital ship *Britannic* on 26th October to sail to the UK.

A series of medical boards considered Anderson's disability status. He was found fit for light duty on 29th January 1917 and posted to Edinburgh, to join 6 C Reserve Brigade RFA in Redford Barracks. Anderson was classified fit for General Service by a medical board on 21st February.

On 30th March Anderson landed in France and on 27th April joined 30 Battery, 39th Brigade RFA in the Regular Army 1st Division. His younger brother, Goodwin, was killed in action aged 20, on 9th April, the first day of the Battle of Arras. He was serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1st Gordon Highlanders, in another Regular Army Division, the 3rd. Goodwin probably survived his battalion's successful early morning advance just south of Arras, but was killed in its failed evening attack alone, from a track between Feuchy Chapel and Neuville Vitasse. His body was not identified, so Goodwin Sutherland is commemorated in Bay 8 of the Arras Memorial.

Anderson Sutherland was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry in extinguishing burning ammunition, announced in *The London Gazette* of 25th August. However, his health had broken down again in July, when he returned to the UK for hospital treatment. He was again classified fit for General Service on 2nd November and rejoined 39th Brigade RFA in France soon after. Anderson was appointed Acting Captain on 14th January 1918.

Anderson was promoted to Acting Major, in command of 51 Battery, 39th Brigade, on 28th October. He was seriously wounded next day, while his battery was supporting operations to cross the Sambre and Oise Canal. Anderson died of his wounds in 61st Casualty Clearing Station on 7th November, aged 24. Anderson Sutherland is buried in Grave II.C.12 in Premont British Cemetery, 14 miles SE of Cambrai. Brothers Gordon, Douglas and Norland Sutherland survived the war. Douglas served in 6th Lincolnshire Regiment and was awarded a DSO and Bar, also the MC.