

A REMEMBRANCE.

Second-Lieut. Ernest Harrison, Durham Light Infantry, third son of the late Rev. E. W. Harrison and of Mrs. Harrison of Bugbrooke Hall, previously reported missing, is now known to have been killed in action at Hazebrouck, near Dunkirk, on May 28th, 1940.

Mr. Harrison was educated at the Northampton Town and County School and at St. John's College, Oxford. On leaving Oxford he accompanied his mother, Mrs. Harrison, on a world tour. At every port of call he got in touch with all youth organisations and studied their methods in order that he might have a first hand knowledge of how boys of every nation spent their recreational hours. He then went to Oxford House, Bethnal Green, for experience in settlement work in the East End of London. Seven years ago he returned to Northampton to found the Roadmender Boys' and Girls' Clubs. Only a few know the tremendous difficulties that had to be overcome before the clubs were well established but those who have read Michael Fairless' book "The Roadmender" will know that the Roadmender believed in his job. He realised that any work, to be held in the truest perspective, must be regarded as "service." He had a firm belief in God - a quick appreciation of Christianly conduct and a neighbourliness that was shown to all life's wayfarers. In this story lies the philosophy on which Mr. Harrison tried conscientiously to build up the spirit of the club.

His aspirations were always to politics. He served on the Northampton Town Council from 1936-39 and, when he considered that the Roadmender Club was on a firm foundation, he took his activities further afield and was adopted prospective National Conservative candidate for Houghton-le-Spring, near Durham, where his brilliant powers of oratory immediately became apparent. He was always sure that first hand experience was necessary and so, in order to understand the miner's point of view, he lived with the family of a humble miner as one of themselves for several months. In February 1939 he felt that the world was in an unsettled state and that it was his duty to join the Territorials. He became Second Lieutenant in the Durham Light Infantry and went out to France only three weeks before the retreat to Dunkirk.

As he lived his life for others, so did he sacrifice his life for others. Letters from Officers and men who were with him in the last awful days of the retreat when he was cut off from his own Regiment, all bear the most wonderful testimony to his personality and courage. A private who was tramping a road thronged with refugees met and assisted a French woman by carrying her small son for some distance. While he was trying to buy bread for them, the woman and child were machine-gunned to death. The private knelt there crying (he doesn't know for how long) when someone put a hand on his shoulder and said: "Remember you are British." That someone was second-Lieut. Ernest Harrison.

He lived for others gladly, he sacrificed his life for others gladly that a new world might arise and his life truly fulfilled the Harrison motto: "Miseris Succerrere Disco" - I learn to help the unhappy. In one letter received the writer says:- "I think, without any exaggeration, we knew one of the finest young Christian men and saw God working in his wonderful way, in all his boyish enthusiasm, impatience, intolerance and determination to win a place for the underdog."

He was always anxious we should not forget in the heat of