

Oundle School Memorials of the Great War 1914 – 1919

BASIL MONTGOMERY COATES was the only son of the late W. Montgomery Coates, fellow and bursar of Queen's College, Cambridge, and of Mrs. Coates of Sheringham. He was born on September 16 [*sic*], 1893, and entered Oundle (New House) in January 1910, leaving in April 1912.

Leaving school he went to Queen's [*sic*] College, Cambridge, where he studied medicine. On the outbreak of war he received a commission in the Rifle Brigade from the University O.T.C. He went to France in the early summer of 1915 and was killed on September 7, 1915.

His Colonel wrote: "He was out patrolling with a corporal, crawling about in the crops; was seen by the enemy, fired on and killed. He will be an irreparable loss to the battalion, as he was our best scout and absolutely fearless. He had already got valuable information."

Coates was going to the assistance of the Corporal (wounded) when he was shot.

Another letter said: "Coates is a tremendous loss to us, there was nothing in the world to frighten him. He was always in very high spirits and very popular with everyone."