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you of the death of your son, Horace William. He was shot through the head by a German machine gunner and killed instantly. He was endeavouring at the time to lead his line forward across a difficult bit of country, and must have been hit by a machine gun located in an orchard. It is a great blow to his company which he has commanded during the past three weeks most efficiently. He commanded the affection of his men, and his gallant example was greatly appreciated as you will see by enclosed document which was put in by the Sergeants of his Company at the conclusion of about four days' heavy fighting. In this connection I put in a recommendation that he be awarded the Military Cross, but have not yet had time to hear the result, which takes time to come out invariably. In any case, whether my recommendation is approved or not, you will be glad to know that I thought so well of your son that I had not only recommended him as above, but also I was intending to send him to an excellent course of instruction for Company Commanders, with a view to making him a Captain. Your son will be missed by the officers as a pal, by the men as a leader and a pal, and by me as a most efficient officer and loyal friend. He has been buried, and a service is being held in his memory tomorrow. In the same day Captain Briggs, commanding my other leading Co. in fighting, was also killed; both died instantly. My warmest and most sincere sympathy goes with this letter to you all at home, and I speak for officers and men when I say that we feel for you, and we shall cherish and honour the memory of a friend who died in action leading his Company. A fine tradition and climax to a work well done." P.S.—The enclosed is the sort of document I personally should value enormously, coming as it did from the N.C.O.'s under your son's command.—"To the Adjutant.—Sir.—We, the undersigned, respectfully beg to recommend Second-Lieut. Horace William Brooks for gallant work as described below, between the period 11/10/18—18/10/18. (1) For pushing forward reconnoitring on numerous occasions places of obvious danger and difficulty of approach, which were to be occupied by the Company. In almost every instance these places of occupation were of vital importance to the ultimate success of the attack at large. (2) After the Captain had become a casualty, taking command of A Company while the Battalion were advancing. His management of the Company in a very difficult situation, and his coolness and deliberate actions were the mainstay of the Company throughout the engagement.—We beg to remain, your obedient servants, (Signed) Stephen James Martin, Sergt., Albert Henry Kirks, Sergt., G. Collins, Sergt., W. Dolelers, Sergt.

—Mr. and Mrs. Brooks and family desire to express sincere gratefulness to the large number of friends, in all parts of the country, who have so very kindly sympathised with them in their recent bereavement.

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