

More Sutherland connected sailors and soldiers

In the article

The Sutherland Walker grandchildren

it was noted how many of George Mackay Sutherland's grandsons had military careers. But there were more direct Sutherland descendants, and some spouses, who were either soldiers or sailors.

The daughters of William Tudor Sutherland – so granddaughters of Evan Charles Sutherland – both married serving Royal Navy men during the Great War.

Aileen Sutherland (1893 – 1966) married **Surgeon Charles Harley Savory** (1890 – 1956) in 1916. After studying at Cambridge University and qualifying as a doctor at St. Bartolomew's Hospital, London he was commissioned as a probationary surgeon in August 1914 to serve in Macedonia. During 25 years' service with the Royal Navy, he rose through the surgeon ranks being made Surgeon Commander in 1938 when he retired. On the 1939 register he is listed at Chatham as 'Surgeon Commander R.N retired' / 'Civilian Medical Practitioner'.

Lieutenant Arthur Walter Forbes (1892 - 1918) became his brother-in-law in 1917 on marrying his sister-in-law, Eveline Betty Sutherland (1896 – 1961). By then Lt. Forbes had already been awarded the D.S. O. This was for torpedoing a German submarine on 5th April 1917. However, after the war it was discovered that the submarine had not in fact been sunk. But the citation remained as by then Lieutenant Forbes and all his submarine crew had perished as explained below.

On the morning of Saturday 2 March 1918, the submarine was on passage for a patrol in the Irish Sea, when she was sighted crossing the bows of a steamer, the *SS Rutherglen*. The Captain of the *Rutherglen* believed that he had come across a U-Boat and he rammed H5, resulting in the loss of all the crew.



Lt. A. W. Forbes is remembered on Panel No. 28 of Chatham Naval War Memorial.

Their son **Major Arthur Michael Gerald Sutherland Forbes** (1918 – 2003) was born three months later, on 26th June. He was baptised on 20th July 1918 when his abode was 10 Trebovir Road so near his maternal grandmother. After attending Sherbourne School in Dorset he went to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He served in WW2 and the Korean War with the King's Own Scottish Borderers. He died on 20th June 2003 in Wiltshire.

Another Sutherland descendant caught up in WW2 was **2nd Lieutenant Lawrence William Gee** (1912 - 1983) the son of Evan Charles Sutherland's only surviving daughter Marion. He attended Shrewsbury School. In 1934, two years after his father died, he travelled to Bombay, India. He went again in 1939 when his occupation was given as 'Planter'. Whilst still there in May 1940 he was made a 2nd Lieutenant in the Indian Army according to the *London Gazette*. He was recorded as being a farmer on his mother's 1951 probate record. He died in January 1983.

The Sinclair Wemyss family

Elizabeth Mackay Sutherland (21 October 1832 – 10 March 1872) was the oldest surviving child of George Mackay Sutherland and Elizabeth Walker and so the sister of Evan Charles Sutherland. After their mother died at the end of 1844 in Merton, Surrey their father was concerned about her health and that of her older sister Mary. He brought his children, with their aunt Ann Walker, to Shibden Hall where six months later Mary died. Elizabeth married David Sinclair Wemyss (1813 - 1877) in Bower, Caithness on 22nd August 1850 at the home of her maternal grandmother, Jean Sutherland. Some of their sons were military men.

William David Sinclair Wemyss R. N. (1852 – 1870) was their eldest surviving son. There was a previous William who died as an infant just before his brother was born on 24th August 1852. He enrolled as a cadet with the Royal Navy on 2nd May 1866. He was promoted to Midshipman in January 1868 but due to ill health he had to take shore leave in September 1868. He died at his parents' home, Ackergill Tower, Wick in Scotland on 27th June 1870.

His brother **George Sackville Sinclair Wemyss R.N.** (1854 – 1882) seems to have also enrolled as a cadet with the Royal Navy in September 1868 just as William was given shore leave. By 1871 he was a midshipman serving on *H.M.S. Megaera* when it sprang a leak and was beached on an island in the Indian Ocean. An online source suggests that he served for four years on the Australia Station. In March 1875 he was promoted to Sub Lieutenant. Later in October 1875, when he was at the Royal Naval College he was disciplined for 'disorderly conduct' and sent away. By January 1876 he was allowed to return to the Royal Naval College but kept repeating his offences – probably drink related. In April 1876 he was discharged from Her Majesty's Service !

What he did after this is unknown. He was not listed as one of the mourners at his father's funeral in December 1877. He was possibly on his way (back) to Australia. In January 1878 he arrived in Sydney aboard the *SS Lusitania*. It was there on 16th April 1878 that he married Ellen Annie Jones from New South Wales, as announced in *The Sydney Times* on 6th May 1878. On his marriage certificate he was described as a 'Gentleman'.

WEMYSS – JONES April 16, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, George Sackville Sinclair, eldest surviving son of the late Captain Wemyss, 92nd Gordon Highlanders, of Ackergill Castle, Caithness, to Ellen Annie, eldest daughter of R. M. Jones, Glen View, Darlington.

By 3rd April 1881 the couple were in Scotland at Hempriggs House, Wick, Caithness where their two daughters were born. His occupation was recorded as 'Formerly in Royal Navy'. *The Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette* had this announcement on 15th April 1882.

SINCLAIR WEMYSS – On the 30th ult., at Hempriggs House, Wick, N.B., George Sackville Sinclair-Wemyss, Esq., J.P., D.L., of Southdunn, Caithness, late R.N., aged 27, eldest surviving son of the late David Sinclair-Wemyss, Esq.

Apparently, he "had been in weak health for a considerable time".

George Sackville Sinclair-Wemyss 1 June – Confirmation of George Sackville Sinclair-Wemyss of Southdun, County of Caithness, who died 30 March 1882, at Hempriggs House, testate, granted at Wick, to Ellen Anne Jones or Sinclair-Wemyss, his widow, Executrix nominated in Will or Deed, dated 28 September, and 20 October 1880, and recorded in Court Books of Commissariat of Caithness, 1 June 1886. Value of Estate, £3,537, 18s, 7d

The next brother, **Major Robert Dunbar Sinclair Wemyss** (1859 – 1923), was born on 16th August. On 10th December 1877, having already lost his oldest brother in 1870 and then his 39-year-old mother on 10th March 1872, he lost his father. Robert and his younger brother Evan were the chief mourners. Another mourner was their uncle, Evan Charles Sutherland Walker of Skibo.

A few months later in April 1878 Robert became a 2nd Lieutenant with the Gordon Highlanders and then Lieutenant in 1879. Apparently, in February 1881 he was in South Africa at The Battle of Majuba Hill, the final and decisive battle of the First Boer War. But he was home for the 1882 funeral of his brother George when again he and his brother Evan, as well as their uncle Evan Charles Sutherland of Skibo were the chief mourners.

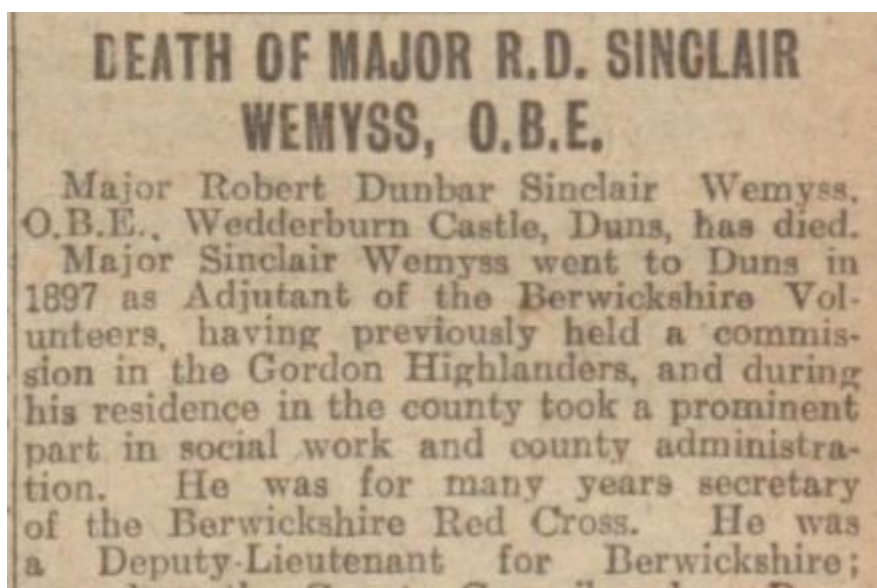


On 11th April 1888 Robert Dunbar Sinclair Wemyss, by then the oldest surviving son, married Edith Wallace as *The Hastings and St. Leonard Observer* announced on 28th April 1888. They would have three daughters.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGE – The marriage of Miss Edith Wallace to Mr. Robert Dunbar Sinclair Wemyss, of the 92nd Gordon Highlanders, was recently solemnised, according to the Scotch formula, in the drawing-room of the bride's mother's house, in Glassinghall, Dunblain.

A year later in 1889 he was made Captain. His final promotion to Major in 1899 was apparently with the Berwickshire Volunteers. In a reported speech at a family occasion in July 1900 it was claimed that he was at the front in South Africa. Before the Great War started, he was recalled to the army and served as an Intelligence Officer at the Wireless Station at Rosyth. For this he received the Order of the British Empire. He was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Berwickshire in December 1922.

Robert Dunbar Sinclair Wemyss died after a long illness on 27th March 1923. *The Dundee Evening Telegraph* had this headline on 28th March 1923.



He was buried in Edrom, Duns in the Scottish Borders where there is this family memorial.



An English probate record from 1923 states that :-

WEMYSS Robert Dunbar Sinclair of The Gordon Highlanders Wedderburn Castle Duns Berwickshire died 27 March 1923 Confirmation of William Whitelaw Wallace Thorneycroft and David Evan Wallace. Sealed London 6 November.

Then very similar two records from the *Scotland, National Probate Index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories)*, 1876-1936 in 1923 and then 1929

WEMYSS, Rober Dunbar Sinclair, Wedderburn Castle, Duns, Major, Gordon Highlanders, died 27 March 1923 at same place, testate, Confirmation Duns, 24 October, , to William Whitelaw, Adamton, County of Ayr, Wallace Thorneycroft, Plean House, Plean, Stirling, and David Euan Wallace, Kildonan, Barrhill, Ayrshire, Capt., 2nd Life Guards, Executors. Will dated 7 December 1915 recorded with another Writ Duns 22 October 1923, Value of Estate, £9520: 4: 4. Original Confirmation granted 24 October 1923. *Eik granted 12 April 1929*

WEMYSS, Rober Dunbar Sinclair, Wedderburn Castle, Duns, Major, Gordon Highlanders, died 27 March 1923 at same place, testate, Eik to Confirmation Duns, 12 April , to William Whitelaw, Adamton, County of Ayr, Wallace Thorneycroft, Plean House, Plean, Stirling, and David Euan Wallace, Kildonan, Barrhill, Ayrshire, Capt., 2nd Life Guards, Executors. Will dated 7 December 1915 recorded with another Writ Duns 22 October 1923, Value of Additional Estate, £419:12:10. Original Confirmation granted 24 October 1923.

The youngest son **Captain Evan Sinclair Wemyss** (1864 – 1928) was born on 20th September 1864. He would have been just seven years old when his mother died and only just a teenager when his father passed away. He stood with his older brother Robert at his father's funeral. Perhaps this was just before he went to Clifton College Bristol where he was a 16-year-old boarder and student there on the 1881 census. A year later he was at another funeral, for his brother George who died aged just 27 years.

Twenty-year-old Evan sailed to New York in December 1884 when he was recorded as being a student living in Edinburgh. He then joined the 3rd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's). This was the same battalion that his cousin William Tudor Sutherland served in. In fact, their names appear on the same page of *Hart's Army List for 1889* where Evan Sinclair Wemyss is listed as a Lieutenant from 24th March 1886 and William Tudor Sutherland is listed as a Captain from 1st April 1886. Evan achieved the rank of Captain in February 1890. Captain Evan Sinclair Wemyss of the 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders was stationed at Fort George Barracks on the Moray Firth on census night 5th April 1891.

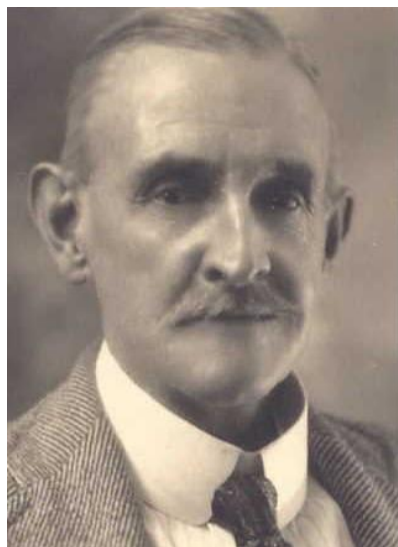
But by September 1891 Mr. Evan Sinclair Wemyss of Thura is recorded as attending a ball after a Highland Gathering in Inverness, having apparently resigned his commission. In October 1894 various newspapers, including the *London Gazette*, recorded that Mr Evan Sinclair Wemyss of Thura was made Deputy Lieutenant of Caithness. Thura was a hunting and shooting lodge near Thurso, Caithness.

The Second Boer War started in October 1899, and according to the already noted family speech Evan Sinclair Wemyss may have gone through the siege of Mafeking. He was recorded as being a 'Clerk' when he enlisted as a trooper with the Commander-in-Chief's Body Guard on 13th June 1901. His sister-in-law, Mrs Wemyss of Southdunn, so the widow of his brother George Sackville Sinclair Wemyss, was named as his next of kin. The Commander in Chief referred to was a former Major, who had served with 91st and 93rd regiments (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), perhaps Evan knew his and this was the reason he signed on again.

After the Boer War ended in 1902 Evan Sinclair Wemyss returned to Scotland once again becoming Deputy Lieutenant of Caithness. What he did after that, both before and after WW1 is not known.

An online biography says that he moved back to South Africa in the early 1920s which probably explains why he has not been found on the 1921 census. He died in Parttown Sanatorium, Johannesburg on 17th November 1928 and was buried in the New Cemetery there.

No probate records have been found for him.



The Stansfeld family

Ann Walker Sutherland (17 September 1837 – 4 November 1917) was the younger sister of Evan Charles Sutherland and Elizabeth Mackay Sinclair Wemyss née Sutherland. Her marriage on 6th November 1858 was announced in several newspapers.

On the 6th last., at St. Mary's-in-the-Castle, Hastings, by the Rev. Harry Tudor, M.A., Henry William Stansfeld, Esq., of the Manor House, Flockton, to Ann Walker, younger daughter of the late George Mackay Sutherland, Esq., 93rd Highlanders, of Aberarder, and granddaughter of the late John Walker, Esq., of Crow Nest, Halifax, Yorkshire.

Just before they married **Captain Henry William Stansfeld** (27 March 1828 – 23 January 1893) had resigned his commission with the West York Rifle Regiment of Militia in August 1858. The Stansfelds would return from honeymoon in Italy to live at Flockton, Thornhill in the West Riding of Yorkshire between Huddersfield and Wakefield. They had three sons including a set of twins born in 1862.

Their eldest son **Captain Logan Sutherland Stansfeld** (29 March 1859 – 28 March 1936), portrait right, was born in Rome, Italy. He joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in July 1872. As he rose through the ranks he served on many ships.



In 1892 his younger brother, Francis William Stansfeld (1862 – 1944) married their cousin Jean Mackay Sinclair Wemyss (1866 – 1955) , a sister of all the brothers mentioned above, at Flockton. Two years later, on 1st September 1894 Lieutenant Sutherland Stansfeld married her younger sister, Mary Sinclair Wemyss. It looks as if one of the brothers Robert Dunbar Sinclair Wemyss and the widow Ann Walker Stansfeld née Sutherland were the witnesses. By then both their fathers had died.

Logan Sutherland Stansfeld was made Commander in 1897. He retired on 21st October 1908 with the rank of Captain. But then during WW1 “he rendered notable service in the Navy commanding the Royal Navy Anti-Aircraft Corps.”

Logan Sutherland Stansfeld and his wife Mary Stansfeld (1869 – 1946) had two children, a son and a daughter.

Their son, thus great grandson of Capt. G.M Sutherland, **Lieutenant Henry William Stansfeld** (before 13 April 1896 – 18 October 1969) served in the Royal Field Artillery in WW1. He sustained a gunshot wound to the head but survived. Later he moved to Victoria, Australia where he married in 1925 and then died there in 1969.

The Guyon family

Two other descendants of Captain George Mackay Sutherland. would be killed in action in the Great War. But their descent comes through the daughter born to his second wife, Mary Elizabeth Haigh (1824 – 1902), who he married on 5th May 1846 in St. John's Church, Halifax. Mary Elizabeth Haigh was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Haigh of Savile Hall, Halifax.

Mary Elizabeth Sutherland was born on the 17th March 1847 just a month before her 48-year-old father, George Mackay Sutherland, died on 22nd April 1847 at Shibden Hall. He was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard in the plot now given the code II*4 on 28th April 1847. She was baptised in St. John's Church, Halifax on 12th August 1847.

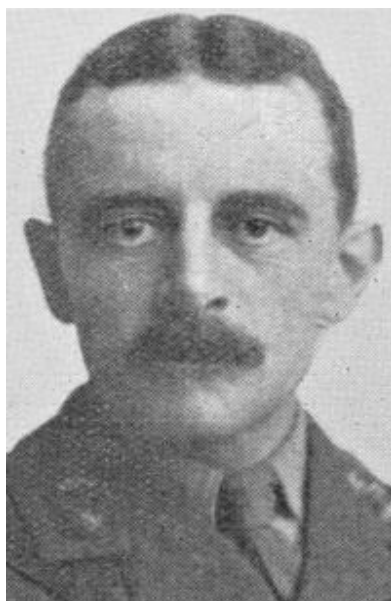
On 23rd June 1868, Mary Elizabeth Sutherland (1847 – 1931) married **Colonel Gardiner Frederic Guyon** (1846 – 1924) in Hastings as reported in many newspapers. The account below is from the *Brighton Gazette* on 9th July 1868. Her half-brother Evan Charles Sutherland Walker gave her away.

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE

On Tuesday in last week a marriage took place at St. Leonards, between Gardiner Frederick Guyon, Esq., 49th (Princess Charlotte of Wales' Regiment), and Miss Mary Elizabeth Sutherland, youngest daughter of the late George Sackville Sutherland, Esq., 93rd Sutherland Highlanders, of Aberarder, Inverness-shire, and only grand-child of the late John Haigh, Esq., of Saville [sic] Hall, Halifax, Yorkshire.

....The bride was given away by her brother Mr Sutherland Walker.

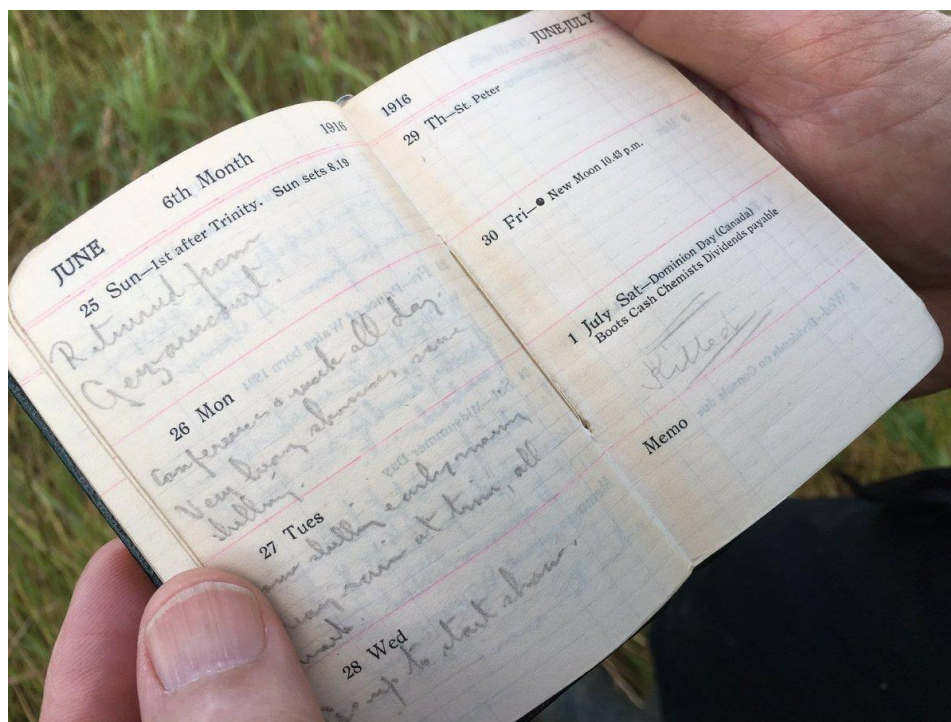
The Guyons had a large family. One of their sons was **Lieutenant-Colonel George Sutherland Guyon** (29 January 1876 – 1 July 1916).



He married Winifred Mary Ryan, the daughter of the late Major C.A. Ryan, Royal Artillery, at the end of July 1909.

Like his father George Sutherland Guyon was a career soldier with the Royal Fusiliers seeing action at Ruidam during the Boer War. Then he was posted to India. In 1915 in the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey he suffered a gunshot wound to the head but made a full recovery and returned to his regiment. He was later drafted at very short notice to lead the 16th Battalion West Yorkshire regiment, better known as the "1st Bradford Pals".

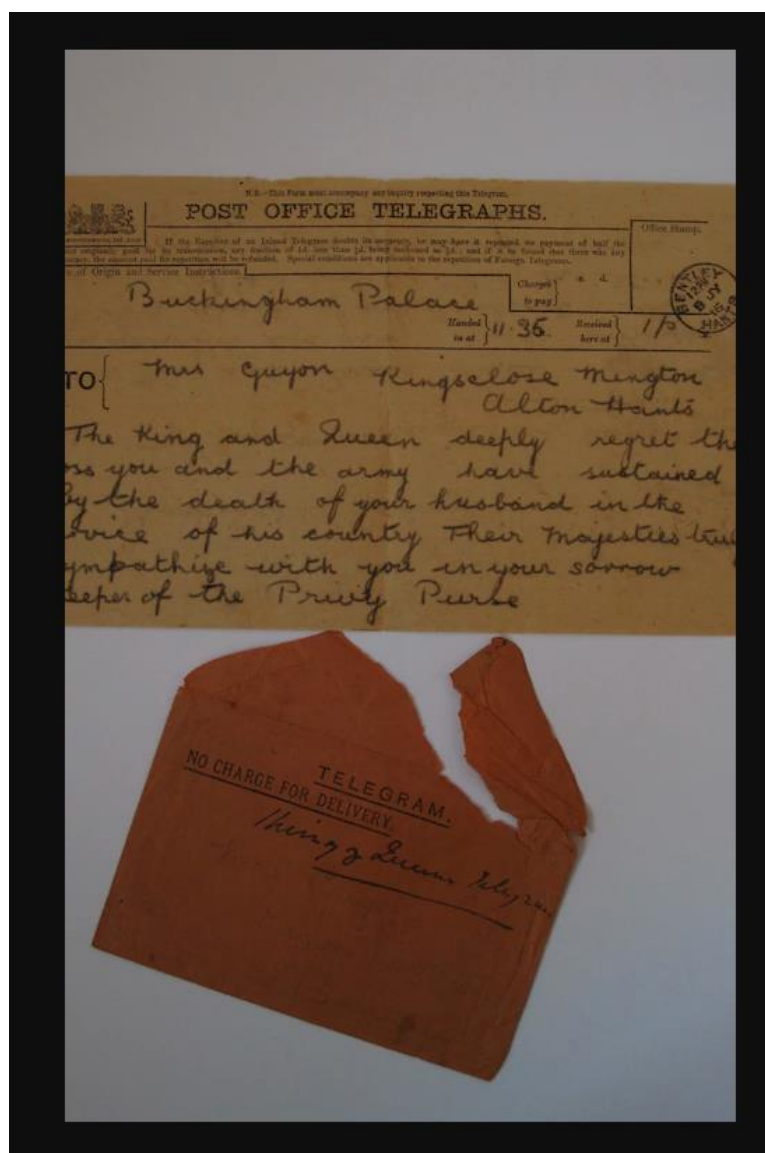
His diary records part of that hectic week at the end of June 1916.



On the 1st July 1916 the Bradford Pals were to capture the village of Sierre in the opening attack of the Somme Offensive. Like hundreds of other men George Sutherland Guyon went over the top and within minutes was shot through his helmet, most probably by a German sniper. His body has never been found and so he is one of the missing remembered on the Thiepval memorial on Face 9a.



His widow Winifred Mary Guton née Ryan received this telegram from Buckingham Palace. She was pregnant at the time.



Their son **Lieutenant George Edmund Guyon** was born on 22nd October 1916, after his father had been killed. He would go on to serve in WW2, first of all, in the Royal Fusiliers, the family's regiment, and then the Parachute Regiment – Army Air Corps. Whilst commanding the Mortar Platoon (HQ Company), 1st Parachute Battalion he was captured at Arnhem and made a prisoner of war. POW (No. 2183) in German captivity (Oflag IX-A/Z, Rotenburg an der Fulda, Hessen)

He passed away in the year 2000 in Norfolk.

One of the Guyon sisters was Mary Haigh Guyon (1869 – 1938). She married **Colonel Edward Horace Lynden Lynden-Bell** (1858 – 1922) – yes that really was his name. See *The Dover Express* report on 18th December 1891.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGE AT DOVER

On Tuesday, December 8th, the marriage took place in the parish church of St. Mary, Dover, of Surgeon Captain Edward Horace Lynden Lynden-Bell, eldest son of Mayor-General T. Lynden-Bell recently commanding the 1st Infantry Brigade, Aldershot, and formerly commanding Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and Mary Haigh, eldest daughter of Major Guyon, Royal Fusiliers, and grand-daughter of the late Captain George Mackay Sutherland (93rd Sutherland Highlanders), of Aberarder, Inverness-shire.

He was an army surgeon who became Assistant Director of Medical Services in the Great War. They had a son, **Lieutenant Colin Sutherland Lynden-Bell** (6 July 1894 – 21 February 1918).



Colin Sutherland Lynden-Bell was born on 6th July 1894 in Bermuda where his father was stationed as a Surgeon Captain with the Army Medical Staff. After attending Harrow School, he went to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst and then received a commission in the Indian Army.

On 8th March 1915 he was wounded at Kemmel, Belgium whilst attached to the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He recovered and was sent to India serving on the Frontier with the 99th Deccan Infantry. After that he was sent to Mesopotamia where he was accidentally killed on 21st February 1918. He was buried in plot V.N.1. of the CWGC Basra cemetery, which is now, very understandably, almost impossible to visit.

LYNDEN-BELL, Lt. Colin-Sutherland. 99th
Deccan Infantry. 21st Feb., 1918. Age 23.
Son of Col. Lynden-Bell, C.B., and Mrs. M. H.
Lynden-Bell, of 3A, Chalcot Gardens, England's
Lane, Hampstead, London. V. N. 1.



In all the above, notice how the name Captain George Mackay Sutherland keeps being mentioned. It is also interesting to see the name Sutherland being used for some of his descendants.

There may well be other direct Sutherland descendants, who followed military careers, yet to be found.

To find out more about Captain George Mackay Sutherland and the Walker family read the many articles in the [People of Interest](#) section of [Lightcliffe Churchyard](#) under the heading

Ann Walker, family & friends

D.M.Barker
November 2019
Updated May 2023
Updated again July 2025