

2nd Lieutenant Robert Emmet Junior



Tragically Robert Emmet's oldest son, also named Robert and who was a second Lieutenant in the 1st Life Guards, died of typhoid on 28th October 1915 in hospital in England at the age of 18. There is no indication that Robert ever left England.

At the outbreak of war, Robert (called Bobby by the family) had only been 16 years of age and special permission had been sought and obtained by the Warwickshire Yeomanry for the Secretary of the War office to agree to him accepting a commission as a second lieutenant in the 1st Life Guards

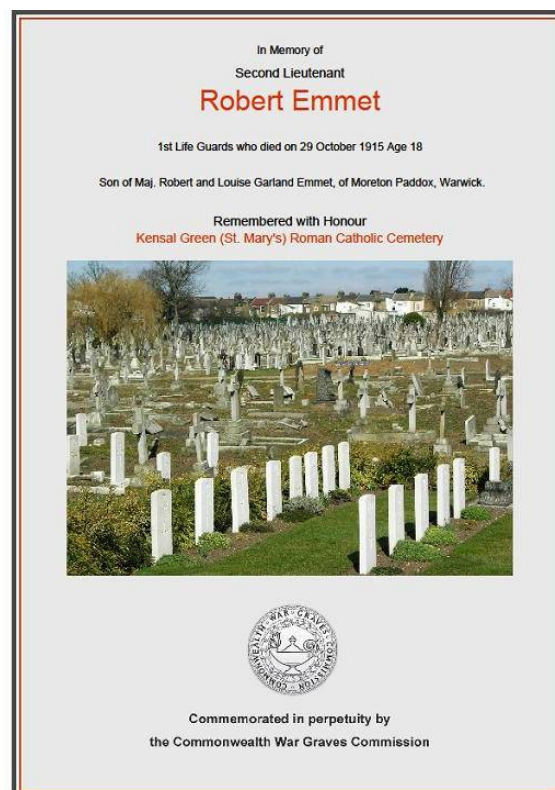
There was international reporting by the press because of the irony of the full military honours awarded to Robert junior.

This article extracted from the Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia was published on the 5 January 1916:

"Lieutenant Robert Emmet, of the 1st Life Guards, whose funeral with military honors took place at Kensal Green in November last, was a collateral descendant of the Irish patriot whose name he bore. Robert Emmet, who was executed for high treason for his share in an abortive insurrection, -will always be remembered for his pathetic love story, immortalised by Thomas Moore in two of his Irish melodies ("She is far from the land" and "O breathe not his name") and by Washington Irving.

Emmet's elder brother, Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, also an Irish rebel, settled in New York, where he achieved fame. His statue stands in one of the great thoroughfares of the city to-day. It was from this Dr. Emmet that Lieutenant Emmet was directly descended, his grand-father, Dr. Thomas Emmet, of New York, being a grandson of the original Thomas Addis. 2nd Lieutenant Emmet's father settled in England, and lived at Moreton Paddox, Warwickshire, and in London. He was till recently fighting in the Dardanelles with the rank of major."

“Young Emmet was a most promising officer, and was accorded a military funeral, 300 officers and men of the First Life Guards being present, including the commanding officer, Sir George Holford, and Major General Sir Francis Lloyd”ⁱ



ⁱ Wairarapa Daily Times 6 June 1916