

# FROM SORROW TO JOY.

## The Mayor's Experience.

The second note of sorrow to which we have referred was only temporary, but nevertheless severe during the brief suspense. It concerned the eldest son of the Mayor of Luton.

During the evening sitting of the local Tribunal at the Town Hall last night, a telegram was received from the War Office, stating that "Lieut. J. W. Staddon is reported missing on Sept. 15th. This does not necessarily mean that he is wounded or killed."

The Mayor at once left the Tribunal, and the Town Clerk subsequently announced to the Tribunal that he had expressed to His Worship their deep regret at the receipt of the distressing news.

Later in the evening the suspense of the Mayor and Mayoress was relieved, for a telegram was received stating that Lieut. Staddon is in hospital suffering from gunshot wound in the back.

The first telegram was received in the afternoon by the Mayoress at their residence in Studley-road, but it was characteristic of her that she should keep the news from her husband as long as possible.

The further news came at 9.30, being an urgent message from the War Office, and it stated:—"Lieut. J. W. Staddon, previously

reported missing, now reported admitted to No. 2 Red Cross Hospital at Rouen, suffering from gunshot wound in the back. Further news will be reported as received in due course." With the family was Miss Hudson, Lieut. Staddon's fiancée, who had been with Mrs. Staddon all the afternoon and evening, and, needless to say, the news was received with great joy, although there is naturally some suspense still concerning the full nature and extent of the injuries.

This morning the Mayor wired to Rouen for further information. He told our representative there was no doubt that Lieut. Staddon was separated from his regiment, and trace of him being lost, he was reported missing when he failed to answer the roll-call. The Mayor expressed his sense of gratitude that the official news was so promptly forwarded when Lieut. Staddon was located in hospital.

Second-Lieutenant J. Wilfred Staddon enlisted in the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps ("The Devil's Own") in May of last year, and after four months' training was commissioned to the East Surrey Regt. Inheriting many of his father's characteristics, he "made good" in civil life. He was articled to Mr. S. F. L. Fox, a former Surveyor of the Borough of Luton, and subsequently held a position under the Watford Urban District Council as assistant engineer. While here he was made an Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and he later held a post at Lewisham.