



## Alan Baird HANDYSIDE (CULLERNE) MC

Second Lieutenant. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. Queen's Own Royal

### At KES:

Alan Handyside had no parents when he came to KES in 1903. His mother had died in 1901 and his father in 1902. He was adopted in 1903 by his guardians Mr and Mrs Cullerne of Guildford. His occupation was Carpenter and he was described as very good. He left in 1908 to continue his education. Later he worked for the Western Telegraph Company. He married in 1917 and his daughter was born at the end of 1918 around the time he was killed.

**Date of Death: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918**

**Place: France**

**Buried: Le Cateau Communal Cemetery, Nord**

Alan Cullerne (he took this name) was awarded the **Military Cross** in 1918, shortly before his death. The citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and enterprise during operations at Bernafay Wood on 27th and 28th August 1918. Keeping close up with the barrage he reached the objective with his company and pressing on he gave the enemy no time to reorganise. Later when the troops on both flanks were driven back, he superintended the defence of the flanks under heavy fire and ultimately enabled the line to be re-established.

At the time of his death his regiment were engaged in the final stages of the war in northern France.

### Obituary KES Magazine

"...was killed in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. He had been in the thick of fighting on the Western Front since April and had been "over the top" many times. He was in command of his company and had orders to cross a certain stream. He had managed to get all his men across and then he followed, but directly he reached the other side he was hit. He was unconscious at once and died in 20 minutes. His Major describes him as one of the coolest fellows he had ever seen in action and his cheerfulness was a tonic. He was absolutely splendid. In the Honours List that arrived at HQ two days after Cullerne was killed it was found he had gained the MC... At School he was known by the name of Handyside, and no boy ever left KES who had more affection for the School than Alan. He was adopted by Mr W.L.F. Cullerne of Guildford, who sent him for a short time to a school in Ripley, after which he joined the staff of the Western telegraph Company. At the outbreak of war he was stationed at Buenos Aires in South America, but he soon came home and offered his services to his Country. He got married about 18 months ago, soon after he gained his commission from the Artist's Rifles. For several years he had given a prize on Inspection day and we understand the Mr Cullerne intends to continue it in his memory. Our deepest sympathy goes to his young wife, to Mr Cullerne and to all his other relatives."