



## **Donald Jones PEEK**

**Private. 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)**

### **At KES:**

Donald was an orphan who, from a very early age, had been in the care of his Aunt. He came to KES in 1898 and he was described as good in the House. When he left in 1903 he went to live with his sister and work as a chocolate moulder. He married Ellen in 1912 and had one son born in 1913.

**Date of Death: 16<sup>th</sup> May 1917**

**Place: France**

**Remembered on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais**

Donald was killed in action and has no known grave. He was killed during the Arras Offensive in the second battle for Bullecourt. The German forces were finally defeated by 16<sup>th</sup> May but at great cost.

The Official History is not known for over-dramatisation. It describes the battlefield at this time: 'By the end, the dead of both sides lay in clumps all over the battlefield, and in the bottom or under the parapets of trenches, many hundreds had been hastily covered with a little earth'. One witness, after speaking of the nauseating stench, expresses his astonishment that any human beings could hold and fight under these conditions. He adds that he 'never saw a battlefield, Ypres in 1917 not excepted, where the living and the unburied dead remained in such close proximity for so long'.

## **Obituary**

### **Obituary KES Magazine**

..laid down his life for King and Country on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1917 at Bullecourt, where he was literally blown to pieces by a shell which burst near him. At School "Fessor" as he was called by his chums, was of a quiet, steady going nature, and deservedly popular. When the Old Boys Football Club was started he was one of its active members, and often played as goal-keeper. He leaves a widow with one little boy, aged 3 years, who bears his father's name, to whom we convey our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.