



Fred COLLYER

Stoker. 1st Class. H.M.S "Queen Mary" Royal Navy

At KES:

Fred was born in Normandy near Guildford in 1890 and his father having died in 1899 he came to KES in 1901. His occupation was "House" and because he was very good when he left in 1904 he went into domestic service as a page. However by 1911 he had joined the Royal Navy and was a stoker.

Date of Death: 31st May 1916

Place: North Sea

Buried: Portsmouth Naval Memorial

HMS *Queen Mary* was the last battle cruiser built by the Royal Navy before World War 1. The sole member of her class, *Queen Mary* shared many features with the Lion class battle cruisers, including her eight 13.5-inch (343 mm) guns. She was completed in 1913. Like most of the modern British battle cruisers, she never left the North Sea during the war. As part of the 1st Battle Cruiser Squadron, she attempted to intercept a German force that bombarded the North Sea coast of England in December 1914, but was unsuccessful. She was refitted in early 1915 and participated in the largest fleet action of the war, the Battle of Jutland, in mid-1916. She was hit twice by the German battle cruiser *Derfflinger* during the early part of the battle and her magazine exploded shortly afterwards, sinking the ship.

Obituary

Obituary KES Magazine

At school Fred was the quiet sort and although not a leading light in sport, he played for his dormitory in their league competitions. We remember him as one who was ever ready to help his chums and took a delight in mending their play boxes and toys. His brother Henry ('04-'09) was home for a few hours' leave when his mother received the sad news. She writes "I am glad to tell you they have both been a help and comfort to me, and we are proud to know that both have helped their King and Country." Our deep sympathy is with her and her family.