



Harold Robin CRAWLEY

Rifleman. 9th Battalion Rifle Brigade

At KES:

Harold was born in 1890, one of 7 children. Their father, a gamekeeper, was killed in 1891 by poachers and his mother died in 1901. He went to live with his sister in Watford and in 1901 he joined his brother, Charles, at KES. His occupation was Bootmaker at which he was described as good. It was no surprise then that when he left in 1905 he became a boot repairer in Watford.

Date of Death: 15th September 1916

Place: France

Remembered on the Thiepval Memorial

Harold enlisted in the Army in 1914. He landed with his Battalion in Boulogne in 1915.

In September he was engaged in the Somme Offensive in the Battle of Fler-Courcelette. Tanks were first used in this battle. Sadly Harold was missing in action on 15th September and declared killed the same day. He has no known grave. His brother had been killed the previous year. Like his brother he was 26 years old when he died.

Harold and his brother Charles's names do not appear on the War Memorial or in the Roll of Honour. Their names have come to light only now (June 2015), after a letter was received from Mrs Jill Fowler. She was researching for the Tring Local History Project that was recording events in World War 1 and she wanted to know about Charles' time at KES.