



John Henry BENNETT

Private. 1/7th Bn. London Regiment

At KES:

Born in London, John had no father and came to KES in 1907, aged 12 years and 5 months. He was very good in the band. When he left, in 1910, he went to be an apprentice in a Brass Foundry.

Date of Death: 8th August 1918

Place: France

Buried: Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais

John was killed in action in the Battle of Amiens and has no known grave.

The 'Hundred Days' was an Allied counter-offensive that finally broke the military stalemate on the Western Front and brought the First World War to a close. Central to this triumph was the Battle of Amiens (8-11 August 1918). This combined air, artillery, infantry and tank offensive was prepared in utmost secrecy, with the aim of driving the German forces away from an area with vital railway links. Ludendorff famously described 8 August, the first day of the battle, as 'the black day of the German army'. By 13 August, British and French forces had advanced up to 11 miles eastwards on a 47-mile front, killing, wounding or capturing 48,000 enemy troops.

Although the offensive, hampered by heavy tank and aircraft losses, slowed down as it reached the old battlefields of the Somme, the psychological damage that it wrought within the German army was immense. Both Ludendorff and Kaiser Wilhelm now concluded in private that Germany could no longer win the war.

Obituary

Obituary KES Magazine

....died on the battlefield in France when serving with the 7th County of London Regt. which he joined soon after the outbreak of war. Bennett who was formally known as "Ginger", was a popular character at School, where he had a host of chums. Both in the schoolroom and the bandroom he earned his reputation as a steady and hard-working boy. His death will be deplored by many, and we sympathise with his sorrowing mother and family.