



Thomas FENNER MC

Captain. 3rd Bn. Rifle Brigade

At KES:

Thomas' father had died when he was 3 years old. He came to KES from his home in Guildford in 1904. His elder brother also came to KES. He was "very good" in the Band. It was therefore apt that when he left in 1907 he became a bandsman with the Rifle Brigade. In 1911 he was at Kneller Hall, the Military School of Music.

On February 13th 1918 he had married.

Date of Death: 22nd March 1918

Place: France

Remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, Somme

The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names. The Rifle Brigade was engaged in the Battle of the Somme 1918. Thomas was awarded the Military Cross in January 1918 the citation reads:-

2nd Lt. Thomas Fenner, Rif. Brig.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his men and handled them in a most efficient manner when they had to form a defensive flank. During intense bombardments he attended to the wounded of three different battalions, and by his skill and splendid devotion undoubtedly saved many lives, keeping up the spirits of his men under the most trying conditions by his own complete indifference to danger.

Obituary

Obituary KES Magazine

...The news of Tommy's loss came as a shock to us at Witley for it was only quite recently that he visited his old School with his fiancée whom he married only a few weeks ago when on leave. He was a band boy during his three years stay at KES and joined the band of the Rifle Brigade on his departure from us. From the commencement of hostilities he served as a stretcher bearer, rapidly winning his promotion and being recommended for a commission. This he obtained and to show the high and confident esteem in which he was held and the proved value of his services, he was sent back to his old battalion. Shortly after his return to France he was again promoted and at the time of his death held a captaincy and had gained the Military Cross.

Like his bother Harry, Tom was a very popular lad both with the staff and boys. He had a happy knack of winning friends and of keeping them. To his widow, mother and family we tender our sincere sympathy.