



Walter Alfred SMITH

**Able Seaman. Royal Naval Reserve. Hood Bn.
R.N. Divn.**

At KES:

Walter came from Lambeth in London and was born in 1896. Having no father he was sent to KES in 1907. He was described as very good at his occupations in both the Band and House. When he left in 1913 he went to work at Liberty & Co.

Date of Death: 23rd April 1917

Place: France

Remembered on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais

The following extract, from the Naval Museum web page, explains how a sailor came to be killed on the Western Front.

The Royal Naval Division was formed in August 1914 from naval reserve forces when warships of the fleet were fully crewed. The tradition of naval personnel serving on land had been long established and a shortfall in infantry divisions in the army led to the formation of the RND to supplement the army. The RND was retained under Admiralty control even though they were fighting on land alongside the army. Reserve personnel from the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Fleet Reserve and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve with a brigade of Marines were assembled at Crystal Palace to form the RND. The battalions were named after famous naval people

Walter was killed in action with no known grave at the age of 20. His Battalion was engaged in the Arras Offensive and he was probably killed in the Second Battle of Scarpe.

Obituary

Obituary KES Magazine

Walter Alfred Smith fell in action whilst serving with the Royal Naval Division in France. Smith was the older of two brothers with the same initials, and his old school fellows will remember him as being in the band, and as one of the leading boys in the woodwork shop. He became quite skilled in cabinet making and found employment at Liberty's when he finished his school career. He was a popular lad and won for himself a host of friends. Our sympathy goes out to his mother and her family.