



Charles Jesse CRAWLEY

Private 2nd Bn Middlesex Regiment

At KES:

Charles was born in 1888, one of 7 children. Their father, a gamekeeper, was killed in 1891 by poachers and so when old enough he and his brother Harold were sent to KES. He came in 1900 from his home in Aldbury. He was described as a very good tailor. Sadly his mother died in 1901 and when he left in 1903 he went to work in the household of the President Sir George Faudel-Phillips. He did not stay there long and returned to Aldbury to be a butcher. In 1907 he joined the Middlesex Regiment.

Date of Death: 2nd June 1915

Place: Belgium

Remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial

Charles was killed in action and has no known grave. In 1907 when he joined up he was described as "honest, clean, intelligent and trustworthy". He was part of the British Expeditionary Force and saw action almost immediately. He was killed during day-to-day trench warfare in the Ypres area. His younger brother was killed in 1916, both men were 26 years old when they died.

Charles and his brother Harold'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 King Edward's.