



George Albert KENT

Private 1st/24th Bn. London Regiment.

At KES:

George was born in 1897 and lived in Peckham. His father had died in 1909 so he came to KES 1910. He was described as "a very good engineer". When he left in 1912 he went to work as an engineer until late 1914.

Date of Death: 26th May 1915

Place: France

Buried: Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais

George has no known grave and so is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial.

His battalion had landed at Le Havre in March 1915 and it is certain that he was killed in action during the latter stages of the Battle of Festubert. He was 18 years old. The 47th Division's attack, using 142nd Brigade, achieved success in advancing 400 yards towards Chapelle St Roch, on a thousand yard front. However, the advance took them into an area that could be covered by heavy German artillery south of the canal near Auchy-les-la-Bassée. This enemy artillery was beyond the range of British guns, and it did great damage to the advancing troops. The Brigade lost some 980 casualties in this shelling, but held on to its position.

Obituary

Obituary KES Magazine

.. fell in action on May 26th whilst serving with the 24th Bn. London Regt. His mother, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy in the loss of her only son, has written:-

"I received the official news of my son's death from the War Office. The Battalion was ordered to make a charge on the 25th and 26th of May. It was successful, but 75 brave lads went down. George's friends say none of them expected to come out of it, their company "B" being practically cut up. I take comfort in the thoughts that George went willingly and that he fully realised what he had to face. He joined the Territorials directly he left KES, was mobilised in August and volunteered for active service. He was proud of his uniform and his regiment. I do not grudge him to his country. He has done his best but it is a hard wrench."

We know Kent was one of the bright, happy and good-natured lads, and his school fellows will ever retain memories of yet another chum who in "the flower of his age", for he was just 18, died for his King and Country.