



Harwood Eldred ANSELL

Acting-Sergeant 2nd Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

At KES: Harwood was an orphan born in Reigate who came to KES in 1899. His occupation at school was the Band and he was described as good. When he left in 1904 he went into the Band of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Date of Death: 16th May 1915

Place: France

Remembered on Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais

He was killed during the Battle of Festubert. The battle was preceded by a 60 hour bombardment that fired about 100,000 shells. This bombardment failed to significantly damage the front line defences of the German forces but the initial advance made some progress in good weather conditions. The attack was renewed on 16 May and by 19 May the British 2nd and 7th Divisions had to be withdrawn due to heavy losses.

Renewed attacks by the Allied forces, between 20-24 May, resulted in the capture of Festubert village itself, a position held until the German advance of spring 1918. Despite having captured Festubert however, the Allied forces had advanced less than a kilometre; consequently the attack was ended on 27 May, with the British having suffered some 16,000 casualties during the action.

Obituary

Obituary KES Magazine

Sergeant in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was reported missing in May and now news has been received that he is regarded as killed in that month. Whilst at school he was one of those boys who took life easily. Nothing seemed to worry him much and he found plenty to amuse him. With an ever ready smile he was more at home in the open air than in the school-room, and was always ready to give a helping hand to his chums who were engaged in any mechanical contrivance. His contemporaries will hear with regret of his death at the early age of 27 years. Our sympathy goes to his relatives in their trouble.