



Albert CLARK

Private 9th Kings Own York Light Infantry

At KES:

Albert was one of 8 children whose father had died and whose mother was in Bow Infirmary. He came to KES in 1903 from the City of London Workhouse. His occupation at School was both in the Bootmaker's shop and in the Office. He was described as good but lazy, and when he left in 1907, he went to work as a clerk in a solicitor's office.

Date of Death: 27th September 1915

Place: France

Buried: Loos Memorial Pas de Calais

Advanced parties embarked for France on 2 September and the main body began to cross the Channel five days later. Units moved to assemble near Tilques, completing concentration on 13 September. The Division's first experience was truly appalling. Having been in France for only a few days, lengthy forced marches brought it into the reserve for the British assault at Loos. GHQ planning left it too far behind to be a useful reinforcement on the first day, but it was sent into action on 26 September, whereupon it suffered over 3,800 casualties for very little gain. Aged only 24, Albert was one of the casualties.

Most of the servicemen named on the Loos Memorial fell in action during the Battle of Loos. Many had died in what was to become the new strip of No-Man's-Land between the Front Lines east of Loos by the end of this battle. After the Battle of Loos the Front Lines changed very little in this sector and it was not possible to recover or bury many of the fallen here until the battlefields were cleared from 1919. In that time, the best part of three years, unburied remains would have been subject not only to natural decomposition, but any means of identifying an individual from his uniform or kit would have been limited, due to exposure to the weather and shellfire.