

KELLY John Edward



Private Kelly – 30187
2nd Btn Grenadier Guards

John Edward Kelly was called up in October 1917 when he was 18 years old. After a period of training, he was drafted to France in April 1918. He was killed on the 20th August that year, before he reached his 19th birthday. He is buried at Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, France.

He was the only son of John and Mary Kelly of 6, Oak Lane, Hooton. He was known as Jack and was very tall. He was educated at Willaston School and was a member of Willaston Scout Troop. There is reference to him in the poem, 'To Our M.M. and Old Scout'. Later on he joined the Eastham Church Lads' Brigade and there attained the rank of Sergeant. Prior to enrolment he became a chief clerk in the office of the Gum Tragasol Supply Co. Ltd, Hooton.

Other information

1911 Census

Thomas Kelly born 1864 Redgate, Ireland, waggoner on a farm

Mary, wife, married for 15 years, born 1864 in Bronington, Shropshire

May Kelly, aged 14, born in Malpas and John Edward, aged 11, born in Threapwood



Gum Tragasol Supply Company works, Hooton

Standing across the road from Hooton station is the works that formerly produced Gum Tragasol by grinding up locust beans. The product was used in a range of products, including as a size in the cotton industry. It was also used at one time in toothpaste and hair cream as well as in bandages.