

Surname	Kelly
Forename(s)	William James
Initials	W J
Age	25
Honours/Awards	
Date died	30/07/1916
Rank	Lance Corporal
Regiment	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)
Unit/Squadron	"C" Coy. 17th Bn.
Service Number	29255
Cemetery/Memorial	Thiepval Memorial
Grave Reference	Pier and Face 1 D 8 B and 8 C.
Further Information	Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, of 36, The Summit, Wallasey, Cheshire. He was educated at Wallasey Grammar School. Joined the army on 1st June 1915.



News Report

Grammar School Boy Killed

The death is announced – killed in action – of Lance-Corporal William James Kelly, of the King's Liverpool Regiment. He was reported missing on July 30th. He is the second son of Mrs E. Hall, 36, The Summit, Liscard. Lance-Corporal Kelly was seen to go over the first line of the parapet, and was last seen jumping into a German trench with two other comrades.

He was educated at Wallasey Grammar School, and played for the school football team which won the Shield, season 1905-6. He also played for the New Brighton Tower Amateurs. He was employed as clerk with the Morris Beef Company, Liverpool, and joined the Colours June 1st, 1915.

Second-Lieutenant C.B. Arnold writes:-

Dear Mrs Hall – Re your letter. I was not in charge of this company at the time,

but have made inquiries after your son, Lance-Corporal W.J. Kelly. The last seen of him, he was well out in the front in the attack on the 30th July, and he, and, in fact, the entire party he was with, were wiped out. Some bodies were eventually identified, but there were a great number of missing in that particular fight. I am afraid the chances of your son still living are nil, and hope that the knowledge that your brave boy went out to his death nobly doing his duty under terrible conditions will help to soften the blow. In his death the company lost a fine soldier, and many people lost in him a good friend.

Mr H.E. Vipian, headmaster of the Wallasey Grammar School, writing to his brother, who is also with the Colours, says:-

My Dear Hall – I cannot tell you how unutterably grieved I am to receive your letter telling me of your brother's death. It is heart-breaking to hear day after day of boys whom one has had under one's charge, crossing the border, and now you tell me of another in your brother. I know how useless mere words are in a trouble such as this must be to your mother, but I feel that I must write just this line to say how deeply and sincerely I sympathise with all in your great grief. With kindest regards and decent sympathy.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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