

ALAN COLLINGWOOD KNIGHT

Birth:

Son of W. Duncan Knight and Agnes Knight originally of "Rapkns", near Horsham, Surrey but they then moved to Stonefield, Kidbrooke Grove.

Alan was educated at The Blackheath Proprietary School.

His great grandfather was John Knight, whose "Castille" soap was once world famous.

John had come from a humble Quaker family. On leaving home in 1807 to find work in London he started as an assistant in a small grocer's shop in one of the poorest parts of London. They sold cheap tallow candles called "halfpenny dips". John felt that they could be improved and was allowed to experiment after hours.

Using discarded candle materials he produced a cheap washing soap known as "Primrose". He branched out on his own and bought a small factory. Over time he moved to larger premises and "Primrose Soap" gained such popularity that he gained a Royal Warrant to supply Buckingham Palace.

He retained his forbears' Quaker concern and care for the poor as did his many relations who were employed in the factory. Eventually a grandson William Duncan Knight bought a house in Kidbrook Gove, Blackheath and Alan Collingwood was his younger son.

The two boys continued the family tradition of care for the poor and organised a club for boys in the deprived area surrounding the factory.

They became interested in the new Boy's Brigade movement (started in Glasgow in 1883) and when the 45 th Brigade was established in Greenwich. William, the elder brother, became its captain.

The company grew and was divided into three detachments. 'B' was made up of boys from the Lee and Blackheath areas and soon split off to form the 46 th Brigade with Alan Collingwood as its first Captain. The two

Brigades were very close enjoying camps, outings and fierce competitions. Joint displays would include manual firing, and sword and bayonet exercises!!

They also formed a Guard of Honour when Queen Victoria passed having visited the wounded in the Herbert Hospital, Greenwich.

In 1911 they moved to Belmont Hall, a large drill hall off Belmont Park (possibly in Dacre Street, now Fludyer Street). The company flourished and won many Awards. Alan Knight's leadership of the 46th came to an end when he enlisted in 1914.

Alan was a Sunday School teacher at the Congregational Church in Independent's Road.

Lieutenant, KNIGHT, ALAN COLLINGWOOD. Enlisted into the 14th Battalion, Rifle Brigade and was soon commissioned into 1st Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Died 28/06/1915, Aged 39. At Gallipoli. PINK FARM CEMETERY, HELLES [IV. A. 7] (Turkey).

Memorials:

He is remembered on the memorial of the Blackheath Congregational Church and the Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles