

George Kewley

1895 - 1916

Methodist minister's son

Educated at Kingswood School, Bath, and Pembroke College Oxford

Died at Vimy, aged 21, on 20 May 1916

Family and Education

George Raymond Kewley was born on 30 March 1895 at Paulton in Somerset. He was the son of a Wesleyan Methodist minister, Rev Joseph Kewley, who had been born in the Isle of Man. George was the younger brother of John Tasker Kewley, who is also listed on the war memorial. Their mother was Elizabeth and there was another brother and two sisters. In 1901 the family were in Loughborough, and in 1911 at Alsager in Cheshire. At some point they moved on to Warrington in Lancashire.

Both John and George attended Kingswood School in Bath, a Methodist foundation. In 1912 George played Miranda in the school's production of *The Tempest*, and was selected for the school's first eleven cricket team. The following year he was captain of the second rugby fifteen and gained the 1st Classical scholarship at Pembroke College Oxford. He joined the University Officers' Training Corps, and achieved Second Class in his course exams in 1915.

War Service: 8th (Service) Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

George interrupted his studies in June 1915 to become a Second Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, the same regiment as his brother John. The unit landed at Boulogne in September, and saw its first action at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which started on 21 May 1916 with a German advance. But George died the day before, killed by a German sniper whilst relieving a post on the lip of a crater. This was only a week after the death of Noel Morris, who is also on the Wesley Mem memorial and had been wounded nearby.

George was aged 21, and is remembered on the Arras Memorial. The Kingswood Magazine described him as 'one of the brightest and most promising boys we have had at Kingswood in recent years With an attractive disposition he was always a general favourite'. The day before his death he had written to his father saying his values had changed: if he survived the war his aim would be to serve others.

This is the story of one of the men who appear on a war memorial at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Oxford, UK. These stories were compiled in 2018-19 from a variety of family history and military sources. In particular, Chris Baker's site, 'The Long, Long Trail' has provided valuable details of the men's experience of battle:

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>

George Kewley's story incorporates details from Kingswood Magazine, kindly provided by the Kingswood School Archivist.