

LIONEL DRUMMOND KYRLE COLLINS (1907-10)

He was born on 21 August 1893 and is the brother of **Captain Stratford Justly Kyrle Collins (1906-08)**.

The www.roll-of-honour.com website and De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour contain the following information :-

2nd Lieut., 3rd (Reserve), attached. 13th (Service), Battn. The Royal Scots (Lothian Regt.), 2nd son of the late Lionel Beale Kyrle Collins, Solicitor, by his wife, Lallie Reed.

At the College he was a Colour-Sergt. in the O.T.C.. He was also Secretary of the Debating Society and in 1910 was in 1st team for Cricket, Football and Hockey. He was a senior prefect and obtained medal and certificate for life-saving in swimming.



He entered the Stock Exchange as a Clerk in Messrs. Wilkinson's office in 1912; volunteered for foreign service, and joined the Old Public Schools and Universities Corps (18th Fusiliers) in Sept. 1914, after the outbreak of war, quickly attaining the rank of Sergt.-Instructor. He was recommended by his Colonel for a commission in the 3rd Royal Scots, and gazetted 2nd Lieut. 12 May, 1915; went to France in the following Oct.; was offered the post of Bombing Instructor to the Brigade, but preferred to remain with his battalion as Battn. Bombing Officer.

He was reported missing after the German attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt on 12 May 1916, when the Colonel and most of the senior officers were either killed or wounded and a week afterwards his body was found at the entrance to a communication trench leading to a trench held by the enemy, his servant lying beside him.

He is buried at Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, Plot IV, Row D, Grave 25. Lord Henry Scott, Colonel of the 18th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, wrote : "*He was with my battalion for many months, and I had a very high opinion of him; in fact, I offered him a commission in the battalion. He did his duty for his country and died a noble death. He secured the love of all those in the 18th Fusiliers who knew him, and from what I could hear he was equally beloved when with the Royal Scots. I thought you might like to know the feeling we had for him in his old Regiment.*" A brother officer in the Royal Scots wrote "*Your son came out at the beginning of October to the 13th Royal Scots (attached from the 3rd), with whom I then was, and continued to be till November. During that time I saw quite a lot of him, and found him a most charming fellow-officer. He was only with us six weeks, when I was invalided, but by then it was recognised on all hands that the battalion had had few so popular or conscientiously loyal officers.*" The senior partner in Messrs. Wilkinson's also wrote : "*I am writing on behalf of us all. We have felt great pride in your son's gallant conduct and excellent progress at the front, of which we have frequently heard. His work while with us was full of promise for a successful business career, and we have missed him sadly since he left this place to fight for his country. Later on, will you let us have a photo of him to hang in a place of honour in the office?*"

Here are picture of the Bedford Park War Memorial with his name shown, with thanks to David Beresford.



See next page for picture of grave in Vermelles British Cemetery.

