

JOHN SUNDON FYSON (1897-1901)

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| Date of Birth | 26 June 1883 |
| School Information | Brother of William Fyson (1897) |
| Career Information | None |
| Date Of Death | 16 May 1917 |
| Cause of Death | Blackwater fever in the British General Hospital |
| Location | Nairobi, Kenya |
| Cemetery | Nairobi South VI. A 4 |
| Rank | Pioneer |
| Branch of Service | East African Pioneers |

We are indebted to Jamie Robertson for his research into the names on his local WW1 war memorial at Chevington near Bury St Edmunds. One of those he researched was John Sundon Fyson and a possible connection to the College. After further research we are convinced that this is our OF even though we have no knowledge of his dying during WW1 and he had not been included on the Chapel war memorial. We will arrange for his name to be added. Jamie has discovered the following :

He lived at Ruffins Lodge Farm in Chevington Suffolk. His father was a farmer. He joined the colonial service and worked for the Public Works Dept in Kenya supervising road construction from a place called Londiani from 1910. In 1915 he joined the East African Pioneers, a kind of engineering/construction/fighting unit. He died of Blackwater fever in the British General Hospital on 16 May 1917. He is buried in Nairobi. The only evidence I have of him having been at Framlingham is some local press cuttings that mention JS Fyson having played in the 2nd XI and winning a cross country Under 15s at the College.

I attach a short obituary from the Kenya Gazette from 1917

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No 242]

OBITUARY.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Acting Governor deeply regrets to report the death in the British General Hospital from Blackwater Fever on May 16th, 1917, of MR J S Fyson, who joined the East Africa Pioneers on November 3rd, 1915 Prior to the war he had worked in the Public Works Department as a Sub-Overseer from July 1st, 1910 He was principally employed on roadwork and by his death Government loses a vigorous and promising Officer

I am also attaching two clippings from the Framlingham Weekly News and the Ipswich Journal. One has him playing in cricket match and another as "JG Fyson" coming second in an Under 15 steeplechase. I have described him in my brief summary of his life as having been "a useful cricketer and cross-country runner" at Framlingham, which I think can best be described as not inaccurate.

On the Pioneer regiments - I know something about the Indian Pioneer battalions and I imagine they were run on the same lines in Africa. They were certainly not smart, and the rank and file were pretty tough and uneducated. But they were extremely versatile and did everything from road and trench construction to front line fighting. The Sikh Pioneers in Flanders were vital in withstanding the German advance in late 1914 and early 1915. I imagine most of the work on road construction that John had been doing was being done by army Pioneers as the war progressed, so it was a natural thing for him to move over into the army. There is no reference anywhere to him having been an officer. It may well have been that his whole Public Works Department was shifted over under army control, and he became a sort of de facto officer. I know very little about the WW1 campaigns in East Africa but I think in about 1915 the British colonies were under a fair amount of pressure from a relatively small but effective German force.

Jamie also supplied the following press cuttings which pre date our earliest digitised magazines.

and Dr. Adcock. Details are appended:—
Steeplechase (Open), Two Miles.—1 A. C. Vidal, 2 A. W. Upcher, 3 H. Rutherford, 4 D. G. Hervey. Time, 12 mins. 54 sec.
Steeplechase (under 15), 1½ Miles.—1 T. R. Lucas, 2 J. G. Fyson, 3 F. Lacroix, 4 H. Boby.
Half-mile Handicap (1st prize given by Mrs. Inskip).—1 J. S. Cavalier, 2 J. K. Kendall, 3 D. G. Hervey and A. R. Mills dead heat.
300 Yards Handicap (1st prize given by the Assistant Staff).—1 D. G. Hervey, 2 A. Andrews

Framlingham College 2nd XI v. Debenham.—
 Played on the College ground on Saturday, the boys winning by nearly a century. Scores:—

| FRAMLINGHAM. | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| C. S. Griffiths, c Abbott, b Turner | 36 |
| F. J. Willans, b Lloyd | 0 |
| A. Boa, c Gooding, b Turner | 11 |
| G. J. Willans, b Turner | 1 |
| W. A. Stewart, c Gooding, b Turner | 2 |
| J. S. Cavalier, c Burch, b Lloyd | 23 |
| S. LeMay, b Abbott | 15 |
| F. C. Butcher, c Lloyd, b Abbott | 24 |
| C. Tennant, c Pain, b Chevallier | 2 |
| J. S. Fyson, run out | 3 |
| D. Rutherford, not out | 4 |
| Extras | 15 |
| Total | 136 |
| DEBENHAM. | |
| H. Gooding, c Griffiths, b Boa | 10 |
| H. Burch, b Boa | 5 |
| F. B. Chevallier, b Tennant | 14 |
| E. Cutting, b Boa | 0 |
| R. E. J. Lloyd, b Boa | 0 |
| H. Frith, c LeMay, b Boa | 0 |
| D. Abbott, b Boa | 9 |
| L. B. Pain, b Cavalier | 4 |
| H. Turner, run out | 1 |
| — Routh-Clarke, b Boa | 0 |
| — Moulton, not out | 0 |
| Total | 43 |

Debenham in a second innings scored 48 for 4 wickets.

We have now searched our historic Framlinghamian Magazine which start in 1900 and he represented the College at 1st XI football in 1901 – see report below

1ST XI. v. LEISTON.

Played at Leiston on March 16th. Nothing much need be said about this match, except that we were beaten by a better team than we were by 6-1. Our forwards were fairly good. Boa was the best of the halves, but the backs were very weak, especially Allerton, who practically gave away 3 goals.

School Team:—A. B. Cross (goal); C. S. Allerton, G. F. Spashett (backs); S. LeMay, E. P. Adnams, A. Boa (halves); J. S. Fyson, R. H. Mills, D. Rutherford, D. Somerville, R. S. LeMay (forwards).

In April 1901 he won the consolation 300 yards event

CONSOLATION RACE.
 300 Yards.—1 J. S. Fyson, 2 E. T. Lugar. Time 42 3-5th secs.

Below are pictures of the memorial in Chevington, Suffolk showing his name.



Below is a picture of Nairobi Cemetery from CWGC website

