

## Southern Grammar School Roll of Honour (1914-1918) Biographies

### REGINALD ARTHUR CLARKE (1909-11)

In February, 1909, R. A. Clarke brought with him from Colfe's Grammar School a particularly good report, and on the strength of this was admitted directly to the Third Year Course of this School. In July, 1910, he passed sufficiently well in Honours at the Oxford Senior Local Examination to secure Matriculation at London University. Probably, however, he will be best remembered for his effective rendering of the part of Richard II. in the scenes from Shakespeare's play which were given at the Christmas Concert of that year.

From the Secondary School he proceeded to the Municipal College with a Scholarship, but he was unable to take full advantage of this opportunity for a little later the family moved to Sydney, Australia.

Then came the war and, being unable to resist the call of the Motherland for help, he and a younger brother, also a past pupil of the School, returned to take their places with the fighting forces. The little that is known of what happened to the elder is from a letter which the other sent to an old boy who himself made the great sacrifice in the last phase of the war. It seems that the two brothers, who had both specialised in signalling, found it necessary to send back a message from the front line when no means of doing so remained but to come out into the open. Realising fully the hazard to themselves, but knowing also the vital necessity for getting the message through, they did not hesitate, with the result that Reginald was brought down by the enemy.

<http://www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk/others/sgs/1914-1918-biograph01.htm>



The **Southern Grammar School** existed in various guises and in several locations from its foundation in 1888 as a Higher Grade School based initially above the shops of Messrs Pink at the junction of Commercial Road and Sultan Road in Portsmouth. Within four years however it had moved to purpose built premises on land between Victoria Road North and Fawcett Road (now occupied by Priory School)



In 1904 the school was designated a Boys Secondary School, but in 1914 the building was taken over for use as a military hospital and the boys were moved to Lyndhurst Road Elementary School. At the end of the Great War it was decided that a fitting memorial should be erected to those former members of the school who had given their lives. The Memorial took the form of a bronze tablet and a book containing photographs and short biographies of the fallen.

**Reginald Clarke** is 11<sup>th</sup> from the top in the far left column.