

ROBERT FRANCIS COOPER BALLARD was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Ballard of Surbiton, where he was born on July 19, 1896.

He was for a time at Elm House, Surbiton, before entering Oundle (Dryden House) in January 1911. He remained at school until December 1913.

In August 1914 he joined the Artists' Rifles and went to France in October of the same year. In November 1915 he obtained a commission in the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was killed in action on the Western Front on August 30, 1916.

His Commanding Officer wrote: "He was loved by all, officers and men, and a better young officer never stepped."

His Platoon Commander wrote: "He did exceedingly good work when we were in action on July 11 and 12, and I sent in his name for a recommendation for an award of some sort."



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