

Rev C H Bell MC

Charles followed his father, a canon at Lincoln Cathedral, into the church. As a 4 year old he had typhoid fever, which was probably why he was not passed fit for foreign service in 1916, although he was on 29th January 1918. The past alumni of Christ's College gives an excellent record of his life.

From 'List of Past and present members of Christ's College Cambridge with Annual Report to 30 December 1920'

CHARLES HENRY BELL, M.C., M.A., Priest, was killed in action 23 Aug. 1918. He was the elder son of the late James Bell, Canon of Lincoln, and Mrs Bell, and was born at North Somercotes in Lincolnshire, 1888. He went to Aysgarth School and later to Charterhouse. In 1907 he came into residence at Christ's and lived for three years on T staircase in the 3rd court. He was prevented by a slight weakness of the heart from doing much in sport; and though he began to row he was not able to carry it on. He took his B.A. degree in the summer of 1910; spent two years at Wells Theological College, and was ordained Deacon, and later priest, by the Bishop of Ripon. He served as a Curate at Armley, Leeds, for a year, and at St Mark's, Woodhouse from 1913 to 1916. In August 1916 he received a Commission as Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, but was not passed as fit for foreign service, and worked in England with the London regiment at Winchester, and the 348th Brigade, R.F.A. In Jan. 1918 he was passed as fit, and sent to France and attached to the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was with them during the retreat in March, and was awarded the M.C. for gallant

work helping wounded men under heavy fire. In August 1918, during the advance, they were a few miles south of Arras; and while he was doing the same work near the headquarters of a front line company in an attack, he was killed by a piece of shell. He was buried in a cemetery at Douchy les Alette.

Since his ordination he had given himself without reserve to the work of his ministry, and he made all other interests in life subordinate to it; therefore he worked with considerable success both in the Leeds parishes and in the Army. And in that spirit he insisted, though dissuaded, upon being in as far forward a position as possible in the attack, saying that he thought it was the Padre's duty to be with the men in their danger. And he was fortunate in dying quickly and painlessly in the middle of his work.

The cemetery at Douchy les Alette is South of Arras in the Pas de Calais department. His Grave reference is 11.G.10.