

= Lou Phillips =

Louis Augustus " Lou " Phillips (24 February 1878 ? 14 March 1916) was a Welsh rugby player , who played half @-@ back for Newport RFC , and won four caps for Wales . He was also a talented amateur golfer .

Born in Newport , Monmouthshire , Phillips was educated at Monmouth Grammar School , leaving to become an architect . He played rugby at school and then at Newport , earning a place in the 1st XV after several players retired or defected to rugby league . He made 90 appearances for Newport , during which he developed a famous half @-@ back partnership with Llewellyn Lloyd . His debut for Wales , playing alongside Lloyd , was against England in 1900 , when Wales won the Triple Crown . He earned selection again in 1901 but was forced to retire from rugby after incurring an injury playing Scotland .

Phillips enlisted in the 20th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers at the start of the First World War . He was deployed to the Western Front in November 1915 . He was shot dead while out on a wiring party on the night of 14 March 1916 , near Cambrin , France .

= = Early life = =

Louis Augustus Phillips was born at Stow Hill , Newport , Monmouthshire on 24 February 1878 . He was educated at Monmouth Grammar School . After serving his articles with Huberston and Fawcner , architects , he began practising in 1907 .

= = Rugby career = =

Phillips began playing rugby while at Monmouth Grammar School . He went on to play for Newport RFC , earning selection for the first team in 1897 . His first season at Newport was disappointing for the club , which lost seven games , after the previous six consecutive years of success . Several players had moved to Yorkshire to play rugby league , while others had married and retired . Nevertheless , Phillips was one of four new players in the team to ' make an impact ' , alongside George Boots , Jehoida Hodges and Reg Skrimshire .

= = = Half @-@ back partnership with Llewellyn Lloyd = = =

The 1897 ? 8 season at Newport saw the beginning of a ' historic ' partnership at half @-@ back between Phillips and Llewellyn Lloyd that lasted till 1901 . Phillips and Lloyd were thought of as a pair , both playing along similar lines and sharing the work of scrum @-@ half and outside @-@ half . While Lloyd was a smarter runner , Phillips was a better kick , but both of them could drop goals , and were remarkable in their kicks to touch .

In the 1898 ? 9 season , Newport suffered from further retirements : Boots and Phillips were the only 2 players to appear in all 24 matches of the season . During the following season , 1899 ? 1900 , with Lloyd as captain , the club was reinvigorated and scored 416 points compared with 192 in the previous season . Phillips and Lloyd were adjudged to be the half @-@ back pair of the season at both club and international level , even if there were some more brilliant individuals . In total , Phillips appeared 90 times for Newport , scoring 9 tries , 2 drop goals and 1 penalty . Townsend Collins remarked : ' He had no tricks or subtleties , but he played the orthodox game of the day with supreme success.'

= = = Wales = = =

Phillips , who was a strong runner and tackled well , made his international debut for Wales against England on 6 January 1900 at Gloucester . His initial selection was principally due to his partnership at Newport with Lloyd , who also made selection for Wales . Lloyd had already played in 1896 against Ireland , and against Scotland and Ireland in 1899 . During the game , which Wales won 3 ?

13 , Phillips displayed ' special smartness ' and used ' the acme of judgment ' in his first international appearance , proving also to be a ' splendid defender ' . He was reckoned to be amongst the best of the backs , and the combination with Lloyd was excellent . In the following match , against Scotland at Swansea on 27 January , the half @-@ back partnership of Phillips and Lloyd continued to perform : their defensive play was ' sound ' , and in attack , Phillips ' ' splendid ' fielding and kicking to touch , matched Lloyd 's ' cleverness ' and ' dodging ability ' . Wales was again victorious , 12 ? 3 . For the next game , away to Ireland at Belfast on 17 March , Lloyd was replaced by Selwyn Biggs of Cardiff . The half @-@ back combination was not as good as with Lloyd but worked better than pundits had expected . The 0 ? 3 victory over the Irish earned the Welsh the Triple Crown .

Phillips missed the opening match of the 1901 international season against England due to an injury to his knee : he was replaced at the last moment by Bala Jones of Aberavon RFC . Thinking that he had recovered , Phillips was back for the following match , against Scotland on 9 February at Inverleith , but within ten minutes he was almost helpless . He played on , and ' his last match was a tragic end to a great if short career . ' The Scottish half @-@ backs , Jimmy Gillespie and Frank Fasson , outplayed Lloyd and Phillips , and prevented the Welsh backline from receiving much ball . Scotland beat Wales 18 ? 8 , and the Welsh defeat was blamed on the half @-@ backs .

= = = International appearances = = =

= = Golf = =

In 1907 and again in 1912 , Phillips was Welsh Amateur golf champion . He was also runner @-@ up for the Irish Amateur Open Championship in 1913 , and in the following year , 1914 , he was beaten in the sixth round of The Amateur Championship . Phillips also represented the Wales golf team , facing Ireland in August 1913 .

= = Military service and death = =

At the start of the First World War , Phillips enlisted in the 20th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers , and after refusing a commission , served as a Sergeant . The 20th Royal Fusiliers was one of four battalions of the regiment raised in 1914 by the Public Schools and University Men ? s Force . Phillips was deployed to France with his unit on 16 November 1915 . On the night of 14 March 1916 , while out on a wiring party , he was shot through the chest and killed , near Cambrin , France . He is buried in Cambrin Churchyard Extension (Grave L1 10B) .