

= Arthur James Dingle =

Arthur " Mud " James Dingle ( 16 October 1891 ? 22 August 1915 ) was a rugby union centre and wing , who won three caps for England , and played for County Durham , Hartlepool Rovers and Oxford University .

He was born and raised in County Durham , attending Durham School , where he was head boy and excelled at many sports , especially rugby . He went on to study at Keble College , Oxford , playing rugby for the college and captaining the team in his final year . He played in the 1911 Varsity Match , in which he scored a try . He was first selected for England in February 1913 , against Ireland , although he had not been picked for Oxford that year . After graduating , he returned to Durham School as a master . He played for Hartlepool Rovers , scoring 55 tries in the 1913 ? 14 season , as well as four hat @-@ tricks for County Durham , helping them reach the County Championship finals . He was picked for England against Scotland and France in the last international matches before the outbreak of the First World War .

Dingle , who had been a member of the Oxford Officers Training Corps , was gazetted second lieutenant in the 6th Battalion , East Yorkshire Regiment , which took part in the Suvla Bay Landing of the Gallipoli Campaign on 6 August 1915 . His battalion took Scimitar Hill on 9 August , with great loss of life , only to be forced to make a tactical withdrawal . On 21 August , the Battle of Scimitar Hill ensued , a disaster for Britain and her allies : Dingle was killed the following day , defending a trench that had earlier been captured . He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial to the missing dead .

= = Early life = =

Arthur Dingle was born on 16 October 1891 at Hetton @-@ le @-@ Hole , County Durham , the eldest son of Beatrice ( née Robson ) and Reverend Arthur Trehane Dingle , Rector of Egglecliffe . He had a brother , Hugh John Dingle . Arthur attended Bow School in Durham and then Durham School , where he was head of school , and displayed an aptitude for cricket , gymnastics , rowing and rugby . He then went up to Keble College , Oxford in 1910 , where he read theology in anticipation of being ordained .

= = Rugby career = =

At Oxford , Dingle played for his college , Keble , and captained the team in his final year . He also played on Saturdays for Rosslyn Park , joining a school friend , Nowell Oxland at the club . He was soon selected to play for Oxford , at centre , winning his Blue in the 1911 Varsity Match . In front of 10 @,@ 000 spectators at Queen 's Club on 12 December , Cambridge were the clear favourites to win : Oxford had lost 5 of the previous 13 games . Under the leadership of Ronnie Poulton , however , Oxford won a decisive victory , leading 11 ? 0 already at half time . In the second half , a further two tries ? one from Dingle , which Poulton described as " magnificent " ? sealed the victory , 19 ? 0 .

The following season , on 6 November 1912 , Oxford hosted the South African team touring the United Kingdom and France . Dingle played at centre . It was a close contest , with South Africa coming through to win 6 ? 0 . After the Springboks ' convincing victory over Cambridge a little later , Oxford were favourites to win the Varsity Match and to add to their winning series . Dingle was unable to play due to injury , missing a game that went against the odds .

Dingle got his first call up to the England national team to face Ireland on 8 February 1913 , playing centre alongside Poulton , although he had not been selected to play for Oxford . The Times described his debut performance as ' strong in defence , but ... not altogether a success ' , while The Aberdeen Journal described him as ' fair ' , amongst a backline that was ' lacking in finishing power ' , with Poulton , ' poor ' . England gained an ' easy ' victory 15 ? 4 but failed to turn their opportunities into points . Dingle was not picked for the next match , against Scotland on 15 March .

= = = 1913 ? 14 season = = =

After he graduated , Dingle played for Richmond RFC and Surrey then , returning to Durham to become a master at his old school , he played for Hartlepool Rovers , and captained the team . At county level , he played for Durham , and had a significant part in helping the team reach the finals of the County Championship Tournament , scoring in each of the seven matches . In total , he scored 55 tries in the season , 39 for Hartlepool and a further 16 for Durham .

Early in the season , England played The South at Twickenham , winning 21 ? 12 , with outstanding performances from Dingle , as well as Johnson and Poulton . Dingle then played in the third and final trial against the Rest of England , which England won 42 ? 27 . His selection for the Five Nations came up for the match against Scotland , replacing Roberts on the left wing , who had had a poor game in the prior encounter against Ireland . Before the Scotland match on 21 March , Bill MacLagan described the English team as one of the best to visit Scotland . Having already defeated Wales and Ireland , England beat Scotland 15 ? 16 in a close @-@ fought game . Scotland , with the wind behind them , opened the scoring in the first half with a try but England equalised just before half time . After the break , England got up a lead of 6 ? 16 and victory seemed certain . Scotland responded and closed the gap to one point . After Cherry Pillman 's leg was broken in a tackle , England were playing with fourteen men , but they managed to hold on , thereby winning both the Triple Crown and the Calcutta Cup , as well as the Five Nations Championship . Dingle , in the opening minutes , missed a try @-@ scoring opportunity when he knocked @-@ on a pass from Poulton . Yet he had a positive impact in other parts of the game . It was England 's last international test on British soil before the First World War : 11 of the 30 players went on to be killed in it , including the Scotsman William Middleton Wallace , who died the same day as Dingle .

Dingle was kept on for the final match of the tournament against France . England overwhelmed France in a 13 ? 39 defeat , in which the French crowd 's behaviour towards the visiting team was ' disorderly ' . The Times was once again critical of Dingle 's performance : ' AJ Dingle was the weakest of the four [ threequarters ] . He failed to take the passes and was very slow getting into his stride.'

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 , competitive rugby matches were suspended . Despite this , Edgar Mobbs , the captain of the Barbarians invitation side , organised a match against the Royal Army Medical Corps ( RAMC ) on 10 April 1915 . The Barbarians team on that day was made up of military personnel , including Dingle , who contributed a try towards a 10 ? 3 victory . Of Dingle 's team @-@ mates on that day , both Mobbs and another England international Billy Geen , would also die in action during the war .

= = = International appearances = = =

= = Military service = =

Since Dingle was a school master , he was exempt from military service , but having been a member of the Oxford University Officers Training Corps ( OTC ) , and having set up the OTC at Durham School , he sought permission to enlist from the headmaster , Canon Budworth . He was commissioned on 29 August 1914 temporary second lieutenant into the 6th Battalion , East Yorkshire Regiment . He was promoted to temporary lieutenant on 8 December .

Dingle 's regiment was sent to Gallipoli and took part in the Suvla Bay landings on 6 August 1915 . His battalion soon took the small hill at Lala Baba , with the loss of many lives . Three days later , with Dingle made temporary captain , his battalion captured Scimitar Hill , once again with great loss of life , but then made a tactical withdrawal . On 21 August , with Dingle as acting commanding officer of the 150 men of B Company , the battalion was involved in the Battle of Scimitar Hill , a major assault to recapture the hill , which ended in disaster . Dingle was shot through the temple and killed at dawn on 22 August 1915 , while defending a captured trench " against overwhelming odds " . It was not possible to recover his body . Of his England team @-@ mates who played Scotland in the final Calcutta Cup match in 1914 before the start of the war , three had already died :

Bungy Watson , Francis Oakley and Poulton .

The Ballad of Suvla Bay by John Still , has these lines about Dingle :

He is commemorated on panels 51 to 54 of the Helles Memorial to the missing . Other rugby internationals commemorated on the monument include the two Scotsmen William Campbell Church and Eric Templeton Young , and the Englishman William Nanson . There are also memorials to him at Durham School , St Margaret 's Church in Durham , Keble College , Richmond , Rosslyn Park , Hartlepool Rovers and Oxford rugby club . There is also a tournament played amongst some of the first schools to adopt rugby , the Veterrimi IV , the winning team being awarded the AJ Dingle Cup .