“The Xaverian” 1917 p. 22

From the “Looking Backwards” section by Michael Gibney-Roche

“You remember the old pond with the raft made from portion of the fence, where Hubert bride used to steer himself around and Donough O’Leary (R.I.P.) walked in one day and pulled him off. What sights when they got out! On another occasion, George Rouse (“Gerogie Rousie, caught a mousie” How this did annoy him!) was standing on the edge of the pond, watching Donough O’Leary steering around, when, from behind, came Norman Dendhv’s arm, which reached the middle of George’s back, and, oh! George’s glasses flew into the air, and he came up spluttering, while the old horse, “Koko,” looked alarmed over the fence. I wonder is “Koko” still alive?

From “The Xaverian” 1918 p. 59

Private George Rouse. — Poor George was killed in action on 31st March (Easter Sunday), at the early age of 32. he enlisted in the 39th Battalion in 1916, saw many a hard fight, and fell just when the goal was in view. May the 31st have been for him, too, a resurrection morn. The School’s sympathy to his sorrowing parents and family, bereft of two sons in the one year.

From George Rouse’s Red Cross Files

Eyewitness account: “I was beside Rouse when he was killed at Merricourt, on the Somme front, on the evening of March 31st last. He was one of my men. The Russians brought up our tucker in petrol tins, while it was light, which was an unusual and dangerous thing to do. We were taking up rations to the front line, he was holding the tin and I was serving them out when he was killed by a bullet. He was shot through the lung and died almost immediately, never spoke. He was buried in Merricourt cemetery. I fixed the grave myself.

Informant: Sgt. Chas. Storey 6638

A military cemetery in Mericourt-sur-Somme, France, where some of the men of the 39th Battalion were laid to rest.