

Date: 22nd September 2017

Remembering the Rugbymen of WW1

Firwood Waterloo U16 tread the same soil as 51 fallen Waterloo soldiers.

What a privilege for the successful Waterloo U16 team to be selected to represent the UK at the World Rugby Memorial and remembrance event, designed to recognise the contribution and sacrifice of rugby players from around the world during WW1. It is worth mentioning here that no less than 51 members of Waterloo F.C. lost their lives during the conflict, no small wonder that their home ground is still known as the memorial ground....lest we forget and repeat the horrific mistakes of years gone by.

A large touring party travelled to Laon in Northern France for the event, representing the club, Lancashire and the North fantastically well on and off the pitch. They were honoured to be joined on tour by the club President Mark Flett, Chairman George Moore and Lancashire President Steve Blackburn, during the event the party spent time with senior figures from the Rugby and Military world as well as meeting young soldiers and learning about their roles. Whilst this was of course a solemn event with acts of remembrance undertaken it was also a rugby tour, so the port was cracked open at 0430 hours as the coach rumbled out of the car park and there were visits to the local Carrefour to stock up on champagne!

The rugby consisted of a game against a Flanders Select XV in the marvellous athletics stadium, top players had been selected from the best clubs in Northern France to take on 'Loo but it was our boys who ran out 10-3 winners in a fantastically competitive game. Between youth matches the boys had the opportunity to see a superb performance from the UK Army XV, emphatically beating a French Pacific Army XV in preparation for the Inter Services games at Twickenham in 2018.

Next up for our boys were Trojans, another British Club, based in Hampshire and representing the South of England. A tight game again, with the 'Loo boys running out 19-15 winners. This game was followed by a dinner for 500 during which some whiskers were wetted for the first time in advance of a final game the next morning against Epernay, a town from North East France and the capital of the Champagne region. This game resulted in a handsome 57-7 win to round off a fantastic trip...memorable in more ways than one, but most importantly to honour the sacrifice of 100 years ago.

Please feel free to download and distribute to your members or print and display in your club.

NEWS ALERTS should be sent to:-

websitenews@lancshirerugby.com