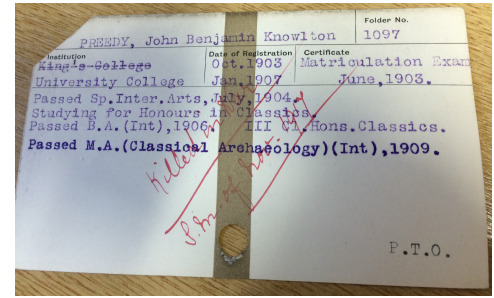


Early life

John Benjamin Knowlton Preedy was born in the Hampstead District of London. He was the son of John Knowlton Preedy, a hat maker, and Emily Elizabeth Preedy of Highgate. In 1891, the family boarded for a time with a family friend at Chequers Lane in Walton on the Hill. He attended Dulwich College from 1895-1900 and by 1901, aged 17, he was attending boarding school in Cowley, Oxfordshire.



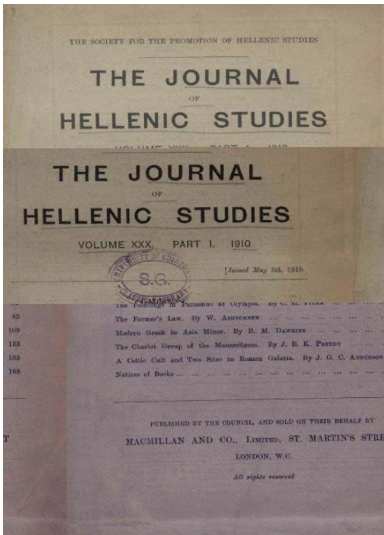
Photograph, c. 1916.
Found in Senate House Library Archives, University Library series (ref. UoL/UL 12/23)



University of London matriculation card, found in Senate House Library registration details

University of London

Joining the University of London, Preedy took his matriculation exam in June 1903, and registered at King's College in October 1903. He studied for Honours in Classics, in the Faculty of Arts. He passed his B.A. in 1906, gaining a Third Class Honours in Classics. He left King's College after gaining his degree, but returned to his studies at M.A. level and registered at a different college, University College, in January 1907. His M.A. was in Classical Archaeology. The title of his thesis was "The Chariot Group of the Mausoleum". This title was accepted (although it was late) on Jan 25th, 1909 and was approved a week later on February 1st. He passed his M.A., and left University College in 1909. In 1910, his thesis was published in *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*, one of the foremost periodicals in the Classical scholarship field. In 1911, aged 27, Preedy was boarding with the Smith family, a wife and daughter living in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. He was working as an Assistant Schoolmaster there, at the County Grammar School of King Edward VII. Here, Preedy organised sports games and the school's first Scout troop. Because of his time here, Preedy was later honoured as one of the former masters of the school who gave their lives in the Great War, and a plaque bearing his name was installed in the main reception of the school. Later in 1911, he returned to London and was employed by the University of London as a Secretary in the Extension Department.

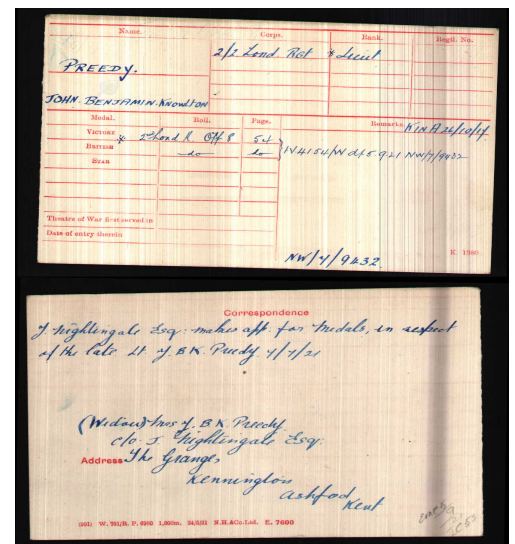


Journal in which his thesis was published. Found at Journals.Cambridge.org, *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Vol. 30, Issue 1. (1910)

The Great War

Preedy joined the University's Officer Training Corps on 1st November 1914. The School of Instruction for Officers was formed for 100 officers in 1915, and held courses at various London locations throughout the year. Preedy assisted at the school and to the end of 1915, eight monthly courses were held and more than 900 officers passed through the school. He remained with the University until 1917, and married Florence Annie Nightingale in Pancras on 31st March of that year. They had a son together, John Robert Preedy. Preedy left London in 1917, serving as a Lieutenant in the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), 2nd Battalion. His unit was involved in fighting on many fronts, including The Battle of the Scarpe, the Battle of Langemarck, and The Battle of Broodsiende, fought around the Ypres Salient. In late 1917, the small town of Poelcappelle formed part of the Third Battle of Ypres. Preedy was killed in action on 26th October 1917, at Poelcappelle. He was awarded a Victory Medal and a British War Medal. The application for these medals was made in 1921, by the Nightingale family. He is buried at the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

The Preedy Memorial Library is a trust fund established in his memory. In July 1922, Mrs. Emily Preedy provided a loan to the University of London, the annual interest of which was to be applied to the purchase of some works on archaeology and art to be kept in the University Library, in memory of her son. He was particularly interested in those subjects and the collection also includes some volumes from his own library, presented by Mrs. Preedy in 1924. His name appears on the memorial at Senate House, in Leicestershire where he had been a schoolmaster, and on the Horsforth Cenotaph in Yorkshire.



Preedy's medal card, found in Findmypast.co.uk War Records



Memorial at County Grammar School of King Edward VII, Melton Mowbray. Found at LeicestershireWarMemorials.co.uk