Geoffrey Hugh Goodhall





Rank: - Bombardier

Number: - 940062

Regiment: - Royal Artillery, 53 Heavy Regt**.**

Died: - Killed in a motor accident in Colchester 08/12/1940 Age: 22 years.

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery, Section G. Grave 78.

Batley News, 14 Dec 1940 (photo)

Geoffrey Hugh was born in Batley in 1918 the youngest son of Hugh and Jessie Goodall nee Kemp who had married in 1911, registered Pocklington of Batley. Twins Mary Irene and Charles Henry were born in September 1912, the family lived at 19, Bath Street, Batley.

Geoffrey attended Batley Grammar School and was for four years a clerk at the Midland Bank, City Square, Leeds. He obtained a Diploma of the Institute of Bankers. At Hanover Street Congregational Church, he took an active part in the Dramatic Society and Tennis Section and was a Sunday School teacher.

GEOFFREY GOODALL KILLED.

Double Road Fatality in Colchester.

SON OF A WELL-KNOWN BATLEY BUILDER.

We regret to announce the death early on Monday of Bombardier Geoffrey Hugh Goodall (R.A.), youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Goodall, 19, Bath Street, Batley, who was killed in a motor accident in Colchester.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodall received a telegram on Monday telling of their son's tragic death. On the same day a letter arrived in which Geoffrey said he was fit and well and looking forward to a leave in a fortnight's time.

Bombardier Goodall was an extremely bright young man, with a lovable disposition. He joined the Army with the first batch of militia a year last July and since his transfer to another Unit had won two stripes in under ten months. At the time of his death he was a technician for his battery. He stood al-



The Late Bombardier G. H. Goodall.

most 6ft. 2 inches. An "old boy" of Batley Grammar School, he was for four years a clerk in the Midland Bank, City Square, Leeds. At Hanover Street Congregational Church, he took an active part in the Dramatic Society, and Tennis Section, and was a Sunday School teacher.

He was 22 years of age.

His father and a brother, Mr. Henry Goodall, are associated with the firm of Messrs. Goodall Bros., builders, Batley. There is also a sister, Miss Mary Irene Goodall.

A Double Fatality.

It is understood that Bombardier Goodall had been to the home of a soldier friend and that the pair were returning to their billet when their car collided with an army lorry. They were removed to a Colchester hospital and Mr. Goodall died on the way. His friend has died since.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodall have received many letters of sympathy. Major Woodhouse writes appreciatively of Geoffrey's abilities and says he had the affection of every member of the battery. His place would be difficult to fill because he held very high ideals and was reliable in all details of his work. His death was a great personal loss.

Mr. C. A. Andrew, manager of the Midland Bank, City Square, Leeds, says every member of his staff feels very deeply the loss of one who was very popular on account of his charming personality and disposition.

Mr. F. E. Roberts has written on behalf of the minister and members of Hanover Street Congregational Church, and Mr. J. W. Alderson on behalf of the Sunday School and Finance Committee. Another friend writes: "He was the best chap I have ever known."

The funeral takes place at Batley Cemetery this afternoon, cortege leaving the house at 1 p.m. for service in Hanover Street Church at 1-15 p.m.

His father and brother were associated with the Batley firm of Messrs. Goodall Bros., builders, Batley. Geoffrey was described as being an extremely bright young man, with a lovely disposition. He joined the Army with the first batch of militia in July 1939 and since his transfer to another Unit had won two stripes in under 10 months. At the time of his death, he was a technician for his battery. He stood at almost 6 feet 2 inches.

It was understood that Geoffrey had been to the home of a soldier friend and the pair were returning to their billet when their car collided with an army lorry. They were taken to Colchester Hospital but Geoffrey died on the way and his friend died later.

Major Woodcock wrote to his parents to say that he had the affection of every member of the battery and how appreciative he was of his abilities. His place would be difficult to fill because he held very high ideals and was reliable in all details of his work. His death was a great personal loss.

The funeral took place at Batley Cemetery on Saturday 14 December 1940 after a service at Hanover Street Congregational Church.

Geoffrey is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group