Allen Jackson





Roll: - Despatch Rider

Service: - Civilian National Fire Service

Died: - Crashed into fallen branch of a tree 06/10/1943 Age: 32 years

Cemetery: - Dewsbury Cemetery F.519.

Allen was born on the 26 September 1911 the son of Kitson and Clara Jackson nee Allen who had married on 16 May 1903 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall, Ivy was born in 1904 followed by John 1906, Herbert 1915 and Marjorie 1920 the family lived at 5 Farfield Avenue, Carlinghow, Batley.

Allen attended Batley Grammar School and became a part time fireman before the war.

Allen married Jean Roberts in 1938 and they lived at 19 Kertland Street, Savile Town before moving to 7, Orchard Street, Savile Town. Glyn B was born in 1939.

Allen was a despatch rider for the National Fire Service and had attended a fire at Horbury and left there at about 1.30 am to return to his station at Heckmondwike. Clifford Sykes said he was driving his car from Dewsbury to his home at about 1.50 am on Wednesday when his attention was drawn to a red light in the road near the junction of Birkdale Road. He pulled up, but not before the front of his car was in the leaves of the fallen branch, which was lying right across the road. He found a motor-cyclist and his machine lying with the fallen branch. "*Had it not been for the red light of the motor-cycle I too would have crashed into the branch, which was about one foot thick."* said Mr. Sykes.

Column Officer W. Faulkner NFS said Jackson had been to a fire at Horbury and left there at about 1.30am to return to his station at Heckmondwike.

Mr J S Normanton, Parks Superintendent said the branch was partly decayed at the point where it had broken from the tree. He understood it was a windy night and this would have twisted the branch out of the tree. He examined the tree at its base last April and could see nothing wrong. He was told by Mr. A. Anderson, for the relatives, that he understood the tree had been condemned by Mr. Daniels a previous Parks Superintendent and if this was the case would he not have thought it was dangerous? Mr Normanton replied that he had never examined at the part that broke away.

Police evidence was that the fallen branch was 10 yards long and weighed 8 cwt. Dr. G.H.L. Hammerton said death was due to shock and fracture of the back bone.



BATLEY N.F.S. RIDER'S TRAGIC DEATH

Hit Fallen Branch at Night on Road

How a Savile Town man, who was an old boy of Batley Grammar School, crashed into the fallen branch of a tree in Halifax Road, Dewsbury, while acting as N.F.S. dispatch rider was told at Thursday's inquest on Allen Jackson (32), 7, Orchard Street, Savile Town, when the Coroner (Mr. C. J. Haworth) recorded a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

Clifford Sykes, accountant, of Heckmondwike and Dewsbury, told the Coroner that as he was driving his car from Dewsbury to his home at 1-50 a.m. on Wednesday his attention was drawn to a red light in the road near the junction of Birkdale Road. He pulled up, but not before the front of his car was in the leaves of the fallen branch, which was lying right across the road. He found a motor-cyclist and his machine lying with the fallen branch.

Allen Jackson.

"Had it not been for the red light of the motor-cycle I too would have crashed into the branch, which was about a foot thick," added Mr. Sykes.

Column Officer W. Faulkner, N.F.S., said Jackson had been to a fire at Horbury and left there about 1-30 a.m. to return to his station at Heckmondwike.

Weighed 8 Cwt.

Mr. S. J. Normanton, Parks Superintendent, said the branch was partly decayed at the point where it had broken from the tree. He understood it was a windy night and this would have twisted the branch out of the tree. He examined the tree at its base last April and could see nothing wrong.

Mr. H. Anderson, for the relatives: I understand this tree was condemned by a Mr. Daniels, a former parks superintendent. Supposing it had been condemned would you say it was dangerous?

Mr. Normanton: I could not say. I never examined the tree at the part that broke away.

Police evidence was that the fallen branch was 10 yards long and weighed eight cwts.

Dr. G. H. L. Hammerton said death was due to shock and fracture of the backbone.

Sympathy with the relatives was expressed by Divisional Officer B. Jones, N.F.S.

Mr. Jackson joined the Fire Service as a part-time fireman before the outbreak of war. He was born in Batley, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kitson Jackson, of Carlinghow Lane. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Jean Jackson, and a son, Barry.

Batley News, 9 Oct 1943

Allen is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School; Civilian War Dead Roll of Honour, located near St. George's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, London, and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group