John Reginald “Reggie” Stubley





Rank: - Worker

Number: - N/A

Unit: - Section Sanitaire Anglaise No. 1 (attached French Red Cross Society) No 1 Convoy, British Ambulance Committee

Died of Meningitis, at Nancy Civil Hospital: - 27/12/1915 Age: 30 years

Cemetery: - Nancy Southern Cemetery, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France J 226

Batley News, 1 Jan 1916 (photo)

Family Details

John Reginald "Reggie" was born in Batley in c.1885 the son of John and Adeline Stubley nee Taylor. Adeline was the daughter of Joshua Taylor and sister of Theodore Cooke Taylor. She married John Stubley in 1875. Charles Henry was born in May 1876 but sadly only survived two days, Lilian Alice was born in January 1878 but died aged two years in February 1880.

In 1881 they were living at Grange Villa, Batley Field Hill, Batley with their daughter Sarah Constance born April 1880 and a cook and nurse housemaid. Both John and Adeline came from mill owning families. James Joshua was born in 1882 followed by John Reginald, Christabel Marguerita in September 1888 who only survived eight days and Cyril Theodore in December 1889.

In 1891 the family were in Grange-over- Sands when the census was taken but not all staying at the same address.

Before 1901 the family moved to Carlton Grange, Batley and John was described as a woollen manufacturer but John Reginald and Cyril were staying at 25, East Parade, Rhyl with a nurse, Alice Richardson when the census was taken and were both school boys.

The family moved to "The Uplands", Batley which was a 13 roomed home and the three boys had all followed their father to become woollen cloth manufacturers.

His father, John died on the 21st April 1911 at St. Mary's Hall, Wiggenhall Saint Mary the Virgin, Norfolk and in his will, he left £200,000.

Reggie was a director in the family firm Messrs. G, & J. Stubley, woollen manufacturers, Batley and Wakefield who was highly respected and esteemed by the work force. He was principally responsible for the management of the Wakefield branch.

Service Details

After the outbreak of hostilities, Reggie demonstrated his practical patriotism by offering his services to the French Red Cross Society for the benefit of those stricken in battle, and at Christmas 1914 he left for France. An expert on automobiles he took with him his 30 h.p. Austin motor car and was attached to

No.1 Convoy of British Ambulance Committee. He usually drove the commandant of the Convoy and assisted in the transport of the wounded from the battle areas. For some time, he also drove General Condonnier. Reggie's work lay principally in the Vosges and he had some exciting experiences being several times under shell fire. He came home for a fortnight's leave in July and spent time with his relatives and friends in Batley.

A young man of fine character and great promise who was educated at Silcoates School and Leeds University and was a member of Hanover Street Congregational Church and Sunday School would be sadly missed. He was an accomplished tennis player and was formerly a secretary of Dewsbury Lawn Tennis Club and was the president at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Yorkshire Tennis Association and of Wakefield Tennis Club, and a well-known player and winner at Ilkley, Scarborough and other tennis tournaments. He was a capable cricketer and an excellent game shot.

Ardently fond of natural history, Reggie, was a keen entomologist and had a remarkable collection of moths and butterflies. He also had a deep love of orchid culture.

About five weeks before he died Reggie contracted pneumonia and his brother James went to France two weeks later and was able to send back reassuring messages home but there was a sudden turn for the worse near Christmas. Letters arrived home to say he was progressing well but an operation had been performed a few days before and meningitis set in. He died in the early hours of Monday 27th December at the Civil Hospital, Nancy, with his brother by his side.

John Reginald was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group