

Leonard Stubley



Rank: - Sapper

Number: - 1910167

Regiment: - Royal Engineers 658 Gen. Constr. Coy

Died: - Died as the result of a road accident 26/12/1940 Age: 25 years.

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery Sec. T. Grave 734.

(photo)

Leonard was born on the 8 December 1914 the son of Herbert and Elizabeth A Stubley nee Tasker, who had married in 1912, registered Dewsbury. Charlie was born in 1912 followed by Leonard, Marion 1917 and Doreen 1921. In 1939 the family lived at 89 Mill Lane, Batley. Before the war Leonard was employed as a joiner.

He was an excellent rugby player and in mid December 1940 played in a game against an R.A.F. team and scored two tries. He was also a keen cyclist and belonged to the Batley Cycling Club. He attended Batley Carr Parish Church.

He joined the Royal Engineers in December 1939 and served with distinction as a dispatch rider in France and escaped Dunkirk in 1940.

Leonard married Hilda Westbury at Batley Carr Parish Church in June 1940 and they lived at Victoria Street, Batley Carr.

Since June 1940 Leonard was stationed with his unit in Scotland. On Christmas Day he relieved a colleague who had gone home to visit his family and was motor cycling at Corstorphine, Edinburgh when the machine ran out of control and collided with a wall. He was taken to hospital suffering from severe head injuries and wrote that his death was a tragedy to all.

"Leonard was that type who is universally popular and his splendid spirit in this war had won the admiration of us all. He died doing his duty and no greater or better epitaph can be written of anyone. Words cannot express the loss we feel, nor can anyone hope to fill his place."

Captain Hook also wrote in sympathy and on behalf of the Transport Section of the Unit: -

"It came as a terrible shock to us who had lived with him, as brothers, in France and later in this country. He was known to all as a fine soldier."

The funeral service, which was conducted by the Vicar of Batley Carr was held at Batley Carr Parish Church before interment at Batley Cemetery. The coffin

KILLED IN CHRISTMAS DAY ROAD CRASH.

Batley Carr Sapper's Death in Scotland.

CAPTAIN'S HIGH TRIBUTE TO "HIS SPLENDID SPIRIT."

Sapper Leonard Stublely (25), whose wife lives in Victoria Street, Batley Carr, was fatally injured while motor cycling at Corstorphine, Edinburgh, Scotland, on Christmas Day.

Rounding a bend in the road the machine ran out of control and collided with a wall.

Sapper Stublely had relieved a colleague, who went to visit his family for Christmas. He was taken to hospital in an A.R.P. Ambulance, suffering from severe head injuries and died on Boxing Day.

The military funeral at Batley Cemetery on Monday took place just a year after he joined the Army.

Sapper Stublely was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stublely, Mill Lane, Hanging Heaton, and before joining the Forces was a joiner.



Married Last June.

Last June he married Miss Hilda Westbury, Batley Carr, at Batley Carr Parish Church, following his escape from Dunkirk. He served with distinction as a dispatch rider in France. Since June he had been stationed in Scotland, and had done good work with his unit.

Sapper Stublely was an excellent Rugby player and only a fortnight since he was in fine form in a game against an R.A.F. team, scoring two tries.

He formerly attended Batley Carr Parish Church, where Mrs. Stublely is a member. He was also a cycling enthusiast being a member of Batley Cycling Club and had many friends in Batley Carr.

Batley News, 4 Jan 1941

which was draped with the Union Jack was borne by soldiers and members of the Home Guard who were also his friends. The hymns were “The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended” and “Lead Us Heavenly Father, Lead Us”. Among the many mourners was Lance Corporal Jackson who served with Leonard in France and accompanied Mrs Stublely to the inquiry in Scotland.

Leonard is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul’s); Holy Trinity, Lychgate Memorial at Batley Carr and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group