

Sapper Ernest Victor STUBLEY



Ernest was the only son of Robert and Annie Stubley and was born at Halifax on 12 July 1897. He moved to Lincolnshire before the war and served an apprenticeship as a wheelwright with Mr J G Cocks of Martin. In 1916 at the age of 19 he enlisted at Sleaford into the Royal Engineers and was posted out to the Western Front. Ernest came home on leave in February 1918 and returned to duty on 4 March. Two weeks later on 19 March 1918 he was tragically killed by a German shell at Steenwerck in France and was buried in Croix-du-Bac British Cemetery. He was only 20 years of age and news of his death came as a great shock to his relatives and friends.

Dear Mr Stubley,

You will by this time have received the official notification of the death of your son, Sapper Stubley. I am writing to you as I was his Section Officer, to give you some details which you will no doubt be anxiously awaiting. Our billets were suddenly shelled by the enemy and several of our men were killed and wounded, unfortunately your son was among them. He was picked up at once and was quite unconscious. He died at once and I think you can feel quite certain that he suffered no pain at all. The shell fell quite close to him and he must have been unconscious at once. I had only been in charge of the Section for a few weeks and so did not know very much of your son, but he always seemed cheerful and popular with his fellow soldiers and we are all very sorry to lose him. On behalf of the Section I send you our sincere sympathy in your loss. Yours etc, J T Hicks, 2nd Lieut RE.

