

STANLEY GEORGE MARRIOTT

Chris James writes: I am sure that by now you are all aware that I am writing William Marriott's Biography. What you may not know is that the 21st October was the 100th anniversary of the death of his youngest son on the Somme.

Stanley George Marriott was born in Melton Constable in 1894, the fourth son of William and Gertrude. He was baptised as George Stanley but changing names around like this was common practice in Victorian times. He was first educated at Bracendale School in Norwich and went on to Gresham School in Holt after winning a county scholarship. Here he took the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificate. Entering Glasgow University, and after a pupilage with his father on the M&GN, passed the whole Associated Member examination of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and was recommended for a commission in the Royal Engineers.

Having been a keen sportsman and an excellent scholar, a brilliant future had been hoped for him.

However on the outset of the war, he was most anxious to join up, but it was pointed out to him that he should wait, as he had so nearly finished his Engineering course, until he was fully qualified. He could then take a position of greater usefulness befitting his position and education.

He was often the subject of slighting remarks on this account, but said, "I am going to obey father, it is coming out all right, and will come out all right in the end."



Having passed the Members Exam in 1915 and pending his appointment, he left the Great Northern Railway Company's District Engineer's office, Leeds, where he was a junior assistant and joined in the army in December 1915. Receiving his commission at the end of January 1916, and going to Newark for his training at the R. E. training centre. He left for France early in July 1916. He was attached to the 2nd Field Company in July 1916 and was in the front line until he was killed in action on October 21st.

A letter from his CO states

"He was in charge of a working party of 100 infantry, digging a trench which resulted in success the following day. He was talking to Lieut. A. D. B Doe when a heavy shell pitched right on them and killed them both instantaneously.

*A memorial service was held on 3rd November 1916 in the Brinton Parish Church on Sunday afternoon. The Rev J Kaye led the service with Mr George Owen at the organ.

Stanley is buried in an unmarked grave in the Guards Cemetery in Lesboeufs France, 16 Kilometres North East of Albert. The grave is unmarked as he was originally buried in the field and his body, along with others of his regiment, was later removed to the cemetery. His name appears on the Special Memorial Stone no 10 in the cemetery behind the War Stone.