

**Messages to his father re the death in action of Private Herbert Edward Stedman, RAMC, on 3 September 1916**

**Publication/Creation**

1916

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HERBERT EDWARD  
STEDMAN

RAM C 1739



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

I join with my grateful people  
in sending you this memorial  
of a brave life given for others  
in the Great War.

George R. I.

9<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Mr. Newman

I expect you have heard that your son was killed in action on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. I am writing to tell you on behalf of my unit how sorry we all are for you. Your son was a favourite amongst the men, always so cheerful & full of humour. It might console you a little to hear he was killed whilst actually conveying a wounded man off the field the place being shelled the whole time. The opinion is shared by the Beaver party that he was a perfect hero for he went about his duty smoking his pipe as though in camp absolutely indifferent to his surroundings. Men like him leave a worthy example behind assuring you of our deepest sympathy.

Believe me

Yours truly

H. C. H. de la Motte Col

O.C. of his unit <sup>R.A.M.S.</sup>  
1347<sup>th</sup> Am.

You may like to hear that the O.C. of his party personally went out & brought in his body which was buried at our advanced dressing station by the Divisional Chaplain.

NCH



France

Sept 6-1916

Dear Mr. Steedman,

You will have heard by this time of your son's death in action, and I cannot let the occasion pass without writing you a few lines in sympathy and expressing my appreciation of him. I was his officer and I was in the valley with him when he was killed on Sept 3.

Throughout the whole day. From the time the

attack started at 5 am. till he was  
hit he kept on working with the  
greatest cheerfulness and courage.  
Nothing seemed to disturb him, and  
I don't think he knew what fear  
was. You would have been proud of  
him if you could have seen him  
calmly and steadily carrying the  
wounded down the valley bed  
road under very heavy shell fire.  
His coolness was a splendid example  
to the men. and a great assistance  
to me. - so much so that I  
suggested him as one of the bearers  
to come with me with the first  
case. I knew I could rely upon  
him.

a shell burst behind him  
about 3 pm. - and wounded him  
badly. He did not suffer any  
pain. I think for he was most  
cheerful until the last. and smoked  
his pipe in his usual manner. I  
dressed his wounds and made  
him comfortable.

His comrades feel very badly  
about it. because he was the  
life of the ambulance. and I share  
in their loss because I have lost

one of the best workers.  
His personal effects have  
been collected and  
forwarded through the  
usual official channel  
and will reach  
you in due course.

He seemed to be  
with his comrades in a  
pleasant little cemetery  
not a mile from the place  
he was killed in. You  
can look across the valley  
from it and  
see Sheepfold Wood. He  
had put flowers on his  
grave and are making  
a cross to put over it.

I cannot express how  
much I sympathize with  
you in your loss.

Yours sincerely

A Harris - Lieut Genl.

RAMC 1739

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ARMC 1739



T.764

## Director of Graves Registration & Enquiries.

Begs to forward as requested a Photograph of  
the Grave of:—

Name *Stedman*

Rank and Initials *Private H*

Regiment *Royal Army Medical Corps*

Position of Grave *Haavel Military  
Cemetery*

Nearest Railway Station *Haavel*

All communications respecting this Photograph should quote  
the number ( *17/5613* ) and be addressed to:—

Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries,

War Office,

Winchester House,

St. James's Square,

London, S.W., 1.

Owing to the circumstances in which the photographic work is carried  
on, the Director regrets that in some cases only rough Photographs can  
be obtained.

RAMC 1739



Joseph Albert Stedman was  
**BAPTIZED** June 10<sup>th</sup> 1897.  
 At Ed. Ed. Co. Southwold.  
 By G. C. W. Pembury Curate.  
 Date of Birth Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1897

**PRAYER**

**Merciful Father** WE BESEECH THEE TO GRANT, THAT THIS CHILD, BEING DEAD UNTO SIN, AND LIVING UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND BEING BURIED WITH CHRIST IN HIS DEATH, MAY CRUCIFY THE OLD MAN, AND UTTERLY ABOLISH THE WHOLE BODY OF SIN, AND THAT AS HE IS MADE PARTAKER OF THE DEATH OF THY SON, HE MAY ALSO BE PARTAKER OF HIS RESURRECTION; SO THAT FINALLY, WITH THE RESIDUE OF THY HOLY CHURCH, HE MAY BE AN INHERITOR OF THINE EVERLASTING KINGDOM, THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. **AMEN.**

## THE GOSPEL

SAINT MARK, CHAP. X. VER. 13.

**T**HEY brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeas'd, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

## PRAYER

**A**Lmighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble thanks, for that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace, and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to *this Infant*, that *he* may be born again, and be made *an heir* of everlasting salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. AMEN.

## EXHORTATION TO GODFATHERS AND GODMOTHERS

**F**ORASMUCH as *this child* hath promised by you *his* sureties to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; ye must remember, that it is your parts and duties to see that *this Infant* be taught, so soon as *he* shall be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession *he* hath here made by you. And that *he* may know these things the better, ye shall call upon *him* to hear sermons; and chiefly ye shall provide that *he* may learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, in the vulgar tongue, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health, and that *this Child* may be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life; remembering always, that Baptism doth represent unto us our profession; which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him; that, as he died, and rose again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die from sin, and rise again unto righteousness; continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

**Y**E are to take care that *this Child* be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as he can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, in the vulgar tongue, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism set forth for that purpose.