

REGINALD LLOYD



20th February 1919

1888-1918 Aged 30

Private M/321900 Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport.

In the Varsity Match played on 12th December 1908 Reginald Lloyd played in the back row of an Oxford pack that was thoroughly outplayed by the Cambridge forwards. However, the light blue backs were unable to turn possession and field position into points and so the match ended in a five-all draw. Lloyd went on to play first class rugby for London Welsh.

Reginald was born on 21st April 1888 near Pontypridd in South Wales to Daniel and Dinah Lloyd. He would be followed by a sister and a brother. Daniel was an elementary school teacher employed by Glamorgan County Council. Although the family were all Welsh born they were not Welsh speakers. Reginald went to Llandovery College, and then in 1907 he went up to Keble College, Oxford where he read Greats. He played rugby for the college from his first term and was captain for the 1909-10 season. Nor was rugby his only accomplishment—he was renowned as a singer at the piano and as 'excellent company'. Reginald achieved a Second Class in Moderations and a Third in Greats. In January 1912 he took up an Assistant Mastership at the Bradford Grammar School to teach Classics and English, and to assist the boys with rugby. He reinforced the First XV in a match against the Old Boys Company ('H') of 6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment, running in 'several tries' before his opponents learned to mark him closely.

Lloyd's photograph hanging in the Masters Corridor shows a bespectacled man which perhaps explains why he did not volunteer when the war began. When it was clear conscription was likely, on 10th December 1915 Reginald attested his willingness to serve. He was assigned to Group 41 which was to be mobilized at the end of May 1916. At the time he lived at Marlborough Road in Manningham, later moving to Grove House, Bolton Road, where he lodged with Edgar Cohen and his wife Florence. Cohen was a cloth merchant born in Hamburg who became a naturalized British subject in 1902.



Reginald was called up in May 1917 and was posted to the A.S.C. Depot at Grove Park as a learner lorry driver. His medical inspections disagree about his height, one stating he stood 5' 7 1/2" and the other 5' 10"; they agree his chest was 40" at full expansion, and he weighed in at 171 lbs. Was it only a coincidence that the A.S.C. had a crack rugby team assembled by Major R.V. Stanley? However this may be, in September he was sent to France as a motor driver. Early in 1918 he was re-classified from Category A to B1 fit for 'Garrison Service Abroad' on account of deficient eye-sight. Reginald served as a 'Motor Driver' with 2nd Advanced Mechanical Transport Depot until early 1919 when the process of demobilizing him began. When examined on 23rd January he was fit, and at the end of the month he went on demobilization leave passing through Clipstone Camp. Two forms in his Service Record note that he was discharged 'for Cough' and this may be the first sign of his fatal illness. He returned to Bradford and clearly his return was noted for on 15th February the Yorkshire Rugby Union selection committee picked him to play as a three-quarter against the New Zealand team at Bradford on 8th March, alongside F.E. Steinthal O.B., of the Ilkley club and a pre-war England international. Sadly Lloyd may already have been too ill to be aware of this selection. The doctor who attended him stated 'my opinion is that this condition was undoubtedly brought about by his service in the army.' He died from cardiac failure brought on by influenza and pneumonia and was buried at Scholemoor. The funeral was attended by representatives of both masters and boys the school. Neither Llandovery nor Keble have yet included him in their rolls of honour.

Old Bradfordians—'We will remember them'



Acknowledgements:

Lloyd's death was reported in *The Bradfordian* April 1919, vol. xxiii no.133, 1. It is mentioned in Tony Moxon's *Hoc Age: Bradford Grammar School 1818-1996* (published by Tony Moxon, Bradford, 1999), 188. The photo of Lloyd used here is from the Masters' Corridor courtesy of B.G.S. I used Ancestry.co.uk to research his family and his military service.

I am very grateful to Faye McLeod, Archivist and Records Manager, Keble College, for providing me with material from the College's *Centenary Register* (1970). I am also grateful to Peter Owens of the Welsh R.F.U. It appears that Keble have conflated Reginald Lloyd's rugby career with that of Robert George Lloyd who played for Pontypool and Wales on the eve of the war. A photo of the Oxford XV for 1908, appeared on <<https://www.greatwarforum.org/topic/220495-2014-varsity-rugby-match-commemoration-of-55-fallen-blues/?page=4&tab=comments#comment-2730054>>. The match report in *The Sporting Life* was accessed using findmypast.co.uk. Lloyd's selection for the Yorkshire XV was reported in the *Yorkshire Post* Monday 17th February 1919. Lloyd played in the forwards in the Varsity Match, but seems to have played his first-class rugby as a three-quarter. *The Bradfordian* reported that he played for London Welsh

For Major R.V. Stanley's A.S.C. rugby team, see Stephen Cooper, *After the Final Whistle. The First Rugby World Cup and the First World War*, (The History Press, Stroud, 2015), passim; Tony Collins, *A Social History of English Rugby Union*, (Routledge, Abingdon, 2009), 58.

The fact that Lloyd died from influenza a few weeks after he was discharged meant that he was not included in lists of war dead for Llandoverly College and Keble College. Teachers were not included on the B.G.S. war memorial when it was erected in 1922.

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