

William Arthur T. Stapley

Stapley was born 1891 in Gravesend, Kent. There, his father worked as a carpenter. In 1911, 19-year-old William was a reporter for a local newspaper, the *Kent Messenger*. He lived with his parents and 17-year-old sister, a dressmaker, at 265 Old Road West, Gravesend.



265 Old Road West, 2022



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Later, he relocated to Manchester and there, in 1916, was drafted into, or joined, the Cheshire Regiment. Pvt. Stapley served in India from October 1917 through the end of the war. What Stapley did in India is not known as none of the Cheshire Regiment's battalions were stationed there during the war. For his Indian service, Stapley received the British War Medal.

After the war, Stapley worked for Empire News, Ltd. as a sports reporter for its flagship Sunday weekly and sub-editor of a sister, sporting newspaper. Immediately prior to his marriage, he lived in Walter Hudson's boarding house at 35 Albert Road, Levenshulme, 5 kilometers southeast of central Manchester.

35 Albert Road, 2020



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Sources: Birth Registrations, England & Wales, Gravesend, 1891; Stapley Household Return, Census of England & Wales, 1911; *Kent Messenger & Gravesend Telegraph* - October 20, 1917, February 9, 1918; WW1 Medal Cards, UK National Archives WO 372/19/21754; Hudson Household Return, Census of England & Wales, 1921.