



**Stephen Lacy Reiss was born in Kensington on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1889. He was killed in action 26 years later, on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1915 near the Hohenzollern Redoubt.** This 20 foot high slagheap with 360 degree views across the flat Loos battlefield was considered to be an important

strongpoint and both sides made repeated attacks. The Western Front Association notes 'The Germans gradually gained the upper hand...and all that the British attackers had to show for it was one piece of a trench attached to the Redoubt plus thousands of casualties. This comment from a surviving soldier's diary records 'It was absolute hell with the lid off. Dying and wounded all over the place. Shall never forget this day.' It was 'Stephen and his Major who led the attack gallantly. He was over the trench first, his platoon following to a man, but was hit quite early and killed instantaneously.'



Stephen volunteered for military service at the outbreak of war and obtained a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1914. Later that year he was promoted to Lieutenant. In July 1915 he was at home on sick leave and joined the BEF from 9 August. Sadly, Stephen would only have two more months to live. His body was never found.

Stephen was the third son of a wealthy and very well connected family. His mother, Florence, was the daughter of the Right Hon. Sir Richard Baggallay. Stephen was educated at St Andrews School in Eastbourne, moving on to Marlborough College. In 1907 he read Modern History at Balliol College Oxford – the year that his father Charles A Reiss died (also 'an old Balliol man' and an East India & China Merchant). Stephen's older brother, Capt. Richard Leopold Reiss served with The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and survived the war. He also went to Oxford, studied Maths and became a barrister. Richard was instrumental in the development of the first 'new town' of Welwyn Garden City. Middle brother, Horace, became a highly respected and much loved vicar - The Reverend Horace Baggallay. During the war, Horace served as a chaplain in Cawnpore India and also served as a combatant in the Indian Cavalry until 1919. In 1922, Stephen's sister Sylvia married the highly decorated doctor, Major Lancelot Gerard Bourdillon DSO M.C..

The Balliol College War Memorial Book records that Stephen 'was deeply religious and beneath a quiet manner had great determination and a clear idea as to his aims. He was interested in the 'social problems' of the day and was very supportive of the Boys' Club in the St Ebbe's area of South Oxford which was started with Balliol support in 1907. 'His practical wisdom and sympathy made him a very real friend to the boys.' **After finishing his degree he studied for the Diploma in Education and took up the post of History Lecturer at Borough Road Training College, hence his connection to Isleworth.** Stephen is commemorated on the Loos Memorial Panel 93-95 and also in All Saints Church and the Borough Road memorials in Isleworth.

