

Surname	Chester
Forename(s)	James Leslie
Initials	J L
Age	19
Honours/Awards	
Date died	06/07/1915
Rank	Lieutenant
Regiment	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)
Unit/Squadron	1st/9th Bn.
Service Number	
Cemetery/Memorial	Cambrin Churchyard Extension
Grave Reference	D.46.
Further Information	Son of first Wallasey's Mayor, James T. and son of Sarah E. Chester, Of 86, Penkett Rd., Wallasey.



News Report

Wallasey's First Mayor Bereaved

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Lieutenant James Leslie Chester, of the 9th King's Liverpool Regiment, the only son of Mr. J.T. Chester, J.P., and Mrs. Chester. He was killed in action in France on Tuesday, dying within half an hour of receiving his wounds.

Lieutenant Chester, though only in his twentieth year, was acting-captain at the time of his death. He joined the 6th King's Liverpool Regiment at the outbreak of war as a private. Soon afterwards he was invited to apply for a commission, but he declined to do so on the ground that experience in the ranks formed the best preliminary training for an officer. It was pointed out to him that commissions were being granted to young men, and it was fully recognised that he would make a very good officer. On the invitation being repeated he accepted a second-lieutenant's commission in the 9th King's Liverpool Regiment, and he was gazetted in November.

He proceeded to France with his regiment on March 13, and had since seen much active service; notably he was in the important engagement at Auber's Ridge on May 9 in comparison with which Neuve Chapelle has been described as a picnic.

After the fight Lieutenant Chester was placed second in command temporarily, and only three weeks ago his promotion to a first-lieutenancy was announced. His senior officer, who had previously informed Mr. and Mrs. Chester in regard to their son's conduct at Auber's Ridge and other engagements that "there was none braver than he," in a letter received by Mr. Chester on Thursday writes :- "This is a dreadful business, and I cannot find words to express my grief, but you know how deeply I sympathise. He was a first-class officer, and we are all terribly down at his loss."

The commanding officer had greatly appreciated his work, and his first words were these :- "We could not have suffered a greater loss."

Lieutenant Chester was educated at Birkenhead School, which he left two years ago to study architecture with Mr. Taleisin Rees, of Liverpool, with whom he remained until he enlisted.

Towards the end of his school career he was captain of the cricket and football teams and head of the "house." He was a keen footballer, and played three-quarters in the New Brighton Rugby Club, being chosen for first team matches whenever available, even in his school days.

In 1912, a year before he left school, he was awarded the prize for the boy of outstanding character and influence of the year.

The heartfelt sympathy of his many friends in the borough of which he was first Mayor, will be extended to Mr. J.T. Chester, and also to Mrs. Chester, in their cruel bereavement.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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