

Surname	Davies
Forename	John
Initials	J
Age	34
Honours/Awards	
Date died	05/10/1915
Rank	Private
Regiment	Cheshire Regiment
Unit/Squadron	No. 1 Coy. 13th Bn.
Service Number	W/29
Cemetery/Memorial	Tancrez Farm Cemetery
Grave Reference	I.C.13
Further Information	Son of William and Susannah Davies, of Greasby, Cheshire; Husband of Mary Jones (formerly Davies), of 6, Big Yard, Wallasey Village, Cheshire.



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Chronicle News

[Wallasey Pals](#)

[Their Baptism Of Fire](#)

[The First To Fall](#)

Within two months of their *confreres* of the 4th Battalion (T.F.) of the Cheshire Regiment being placed in the firing line at the Dardanelles, the members of the 13th Battalion, have had their baptism of fire. Some weeks ago we intimated that they were about to leave the shores of England, and this took place quite recently. To the surprise of man, the men were drafted to the trenches within a few days of landing. Then followed their first experience of being within the danger zone, with bullets whistling around and shells screeching overhead. It was not very pleasant, and to make matters worse they had hardly got settled down when one of their number fell mortally wounded. Nevertheless, they

were determined to do their bit, and were almost glad of the opportunity of showing the kind of stuff they are made of. Wallasey is proud of them.

The first victim referred to above was Private Jack Davies, of 6, Big Yard, Wallasey Village, "a gallant and promising soldier," as his colonel wrote to Mrs. Davies. Thirty-four years of age, he was born at Greasby, and came to Wallasey about eleven years ago. For nine years he was employed as a plasterer by Mr. Hoyland, builder, of New Brighton. When the call went out for men and the Wallasey Battalion of Pals was formed, he was amongst the first to enlist, and he put in twelve months of strenuous training at several places and under varying conditions. Some time after the battalion had been formed a band was got together, and Pte. Davies, who was previously a prominent member of the Wallasey Village Silver Band, played second cornet in this. Just before leaving for the front he wrote to his wife saying that on account of his position he would not have to do duty in the firing-line, but this was apparently all altered, and he again took to the ranks. The sad incident occurred about breakfast time, and although nothing is known beyond the fact that he fell victim to a German sniper, it has been stated that he was waiting for rations, while another account is to the effect that he had just been for tea and was returning. It is a strange coincidence that his photograph appeared in a group of the 3rd Platoon in the *Chronicle* the day following his death, which occurred on October 5th.

Chaplain's Condolence

The Rev. Halstead L. Connor, chaplain attached to the battalion, wrote a touching letter, in the course of which he said:-

"Your husband was killed yesterday morning while on duty in the trenches, and we laid him to rest in a little cemetery by the trenches yesterday morning. A little wooden cross marks the spot where he is buried. The words are – 'Killed in action, October 5th, 1915, J. Davies.'

"It will be some consolation that he fell while doing his duty for his King and country, and may God grant you His peace in this time of sorrow."

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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