

Surname	Ledsham
Forename	James
Initials	J
Age	22
Honours/Awards	
Date died	13/11/1914
Rank	Private
Regiment	Scots Guards
Unit/Squadron	1 <sup>st</sup> Bn.
Service Number	7740
Cemetery/Memorial	Les Gonards Cemetery, Versailles
Grave Reference	2.19.
Further Information	Husband of Chrissie Ledsham, of 16, Derwent Drive, Wallasey, Cheshire.



[www.historyofwallasey.co.uk](http://www.historyofwallasey.co.uk)

#### Chronicle News

##### Dies Of Wounds In France

The relatives of Private James Ledsham, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Scots Guards, have received intelligence from the War Office that he has died from the effects of wounds he sustained in a sharp engagement in Belgium. They had some days previously been informed that he was lying wounded in one of the base hospitals, and hopes were then expressed that he would recover, so that the news came to them as a much heavier shock than would otherwise have been the case. General sympathy will be extended to his relative, and more particularly to his painfully bereaved young widow, who is left with a baby girl 11 weeks old. He married the fourth surviving daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Corlett, 16, Derwent Drive, Liscard.

The late Private J. Ledsham, who had not quite attained his majority, was a stalwart young fellow who was extremely well known in Wallasey Village. He was a native of the ancient village, and as a boy attended St. George's Road Council

School. He served his apprenticeship as a blacksmith with Mr E. Rogers, Wallasey Road, and subsequently joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Scots Guards. He completed his service in that corps early last summer, and returned to work with his former employer. He was a reservist, and was amongst the first to return to the colours when his country's call to arms was sounded in August last.

#### Chaplain's Kind Letter

In the course of a letter, dated November 26<sup>th</sup>, from the acting chaplain to the British Forces at the General Hospital, Versailles, the writer states:- "Private James Ledsham came here on November 5<sup>th</sup>, having been wounded in the right shoulder two or three days earlier in the fighting near Ypres. At first he progressed favourably, but on Wednesday unfavourable symptoms and complications set in, and, in spite of all the doctors could do, he passed away on Friday evening, November 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be some comfort to you to know that he received every care and attention nothing could exceed the devotion of the nursing sisters to him. He suffered very little, and the end came as he slept. He was buried this afternoon in the part of the cemetery here set apart for British soldiers, and his funeral was attended by a French guard of honour and by many French people. His grave will be marked by an oak cross, bearing his name, and it will be reverently cared for. May I express my own sympathy with you in your great sorrow, and I pray God that He will give you the comfort of His own presence, and that you may find Him a very present help in your time of trouble."

#### "Splendidly Brave"

The Sister of the No.4 General Hospital also wrote to Mrs Ledsham, informing her of the sad occurrence. She added:- "I thought you would be glad to know that he died amongst English people, and that he had every comfort that it was possible to give him. He was splendidly brave and so patient; said he did not want to be a burden to anyone. He told me he had a baby girl whom he has not yet seen. You will have to tell her as soon as she grows old enough to know that she had a very brave, good father whom she will meet and know some day. I trust you will be comforted in this your sorrow."

#### References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission  
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

[back](#)