

Surname	Owens
Forename(s)	John Philip Edmund
Initials	J P E
Age	
Honours/Awards	
Date died	13/10/1915
Rank	Second Lieutenant
Regiment	North Staffordshire Regiment
Unit/Squadron	6 th Bn.
Service Number	
Cemetery/Memorial	Loos Memorial
Grave Reference	Panel 103 to 105
Further Information	Resided at 4, Beresford Road, Wallasey.



Chronicle News

Wallasey Officer Killed

Doing his duty in the face of danger, Second-Lieutenant John Phillip Edmund Owens, 1/6th North Staffordshire Regiment, of 4, Beresford Road, Wallasey, was killed on October 14th. Such is the news that Mr. P.R. Owens has received from his younger son's friend and an orderly, and it has brought renewed sorrow to him who only two years ago lost his wife by death. Sympathetic reference was made to the sad event at the Liscard Congregational Church, Rake Lane - of which deceased was a member - on Sunday by the Rev. George A. Hamson (minister), and the loss of this popular young man is deeply mourned.

Shot Through The Mouth

In a letter to Mr. Owens, one of the late Lieut. Owens' friends - Arthur Gould, also of Wallasey - having referred to the death and stated that Lieut. Owens was his dearest friends, adds:-

"He died doing his duty, shot through the mouth - it ended quickly. Very few officers came out of it. They were either badly wounded or killed. He seemed to have an idea that he might be killed by one or two things he said to me. His men all loved him, and I have spoken to them since they came out of the trenches. They gave him such a good name."

A description of the manner in which death came is contained in the following letter of sympathy from Pirat E.H. Wilson, Lieut. Owens' orderly:-

"I am your late son's servant, and it is with deep regret that I write these few lines to you to share your sorrow. He was well loved by his platoon and company, and I am asked to convey their deepest feelings and thoughts in this sad time of sorrow. I was with him unto the end, but he never spoke. It was only one minute before God had called him home to the better land. I stayed with him for two hours, wishing I could only call him back to life, but maybe his Master wanted him to be by His side... "

His Career

The late Lieutenant Owens was born in Egremont, and for many years lived with his parents in Clarendon Road. His father was a deacon of the Seacombe Congregational Church, with which church his early life was associated. About four years ago the family moved to Beresford Road, and two years ago the mother died. Lieut. Owens, who was twenty-seven years of age at the time of his death, was educated at the Wallasey Grammar School, and afterwards entered the employ of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company in Liverpool, being engaged in the Custom's department. He was a well-known member of the Warren Club as a lawn tennis player, and his interest in military matters was shown by his joining the 10th Liverpool Scottish upon the inception of the Territorial Force. He retired at the end of three years, but again took his place with the colours in this war, obtaining a commission in the 1/6th North Staffordshire Regiment. After three months training at Harpenden, near London, he went to Flanders on July 11th. The news from the headquarters of his regiment was that he had been wounded, but the letters point clearly to his death.

The Roll Of Honour

The Rev. G.A. Hamson said that Lieut. Owens' death made the fourth name of men from the church whose name had to be transferred from the Roll of Honour to the Roll of Triumph - a greater roll still. He wanted to ask the congregation not only to enter into the sorrow of those to whom they were dear, but also to enter into the joy of those four, and realise what a privilege it was to have them there. The church only had one hundred and forty-six men and women serving their country on earth, but it had four who had finished their task and gone with God - a further link between the congregation and Heaven, between them and the world of eternal spirit. Surely, in view of that, they should again dedicate themselves to the completion of the task to which they had set their hands.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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