

Surname	Sheriffs
Forename(s)	James Henry
Initials	J H
Age	
Honours/Awards	
Date died	10/08/1917
Rank	Master
Regiment	Mercantile Marine
Unit/Squadron	S.S. 'War Patrol'
Service Number	
Cemetery/Memorial	Tower Hill Memorial
Grave Reference	
Further Information	Son of Robert Chisholm Sheriffs and Margaret Sheriffs; husband of Isabella Sheriffs, of 2, The Mount, Wallasey, Cheshire.



#### News Report

##### Liscard Captain's Heroic Self Sacrifice

Details have been received at Liscard of the heroic self-sacrifice of Captain James Henry Sheriffs, of 3, The Mount, Martins Lane, Liscard, who, true to the highest traditions of the British seaman, went down with the vessel, standing at the post of duty on the steamer's bridge, giving orders to the other members of the crew as the waves closed over him. Captain Sheriffs was in charge of a steamer, and about midnight some two days after leaving port his ship was struck, it is presumed, by a mine, a heavy explosion ensuing, precipitating some of the crew into the water. Captain Sheriffs, who was on the bridge, ordered a boat to be lowered, and gave orders for the crew to save themselves, and as a consequence quite a number of the crew were rescued. Unfortunately the brave captain, who had from the first thought of others, before himself, was cut off from the boat and sank beneath the waves to a hero's grave. Owing to war exigencies it is advisable to give fuller details of the disaster by which Captain Sheriffs lost his

life, but his name will be honoured in the long list of Merchant Service officers who have given their lives on behalf of their King and country.

Captain Sheriffs, prior to joining up for active service some months ago, had passed through a very successful career as officer and master with several large shipping lines, including the Clan Line, with which he had served for some years. On last New Year's day he and his crew spent three days and nights on a desolate island exposed to the inclemency of mid-winter cold and gales, after his vessel had been wrecked. The whole of the crew were subsequently rescued, and Captain Sheriffs returned to his home at Liscard where, however, he fell a victim to a severe attack on pneumonia as the result of the exposure and privations he had suffered during the time of the wreck. On his recovery and after a period of convalescence, Captain Sheriffs joined up some three months ago. He was a most experienced and capable seaman and navigator, and very conscientious in everything he undertook. He was well-known in the Wallasey district, and the announcement of his death has been received with profound regret. He leaves a widow and two children.

#### References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission  
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

[back](#)