

# DAVIES

# Percy

## Service No: 2674



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Percy Davies

Service Number: 2674

Date of Enlistment: 6/10/ 1916

Age at Enlistment: 18 yrs 1 month

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 ft. 10 inches

Weight: 152 lbs

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Light Brown

Father: James Davies

Mother: Anne (Nee Hitchcock)

Siblings: Frederick John, Reginald

Clarence Thomas, Pearl Matilda Eleanor, Victor Ernest (Percy's Twin), Edith Irene, Albert George, Vera Myrtle, Olive Dorris Annie

Married: No

Children: None



### Life Story

Percy's parents, James Davies and Anne Hitchcock, married in 1894 and lived in York, where James had a tannery business. In 1902, James' application for 282 acres of land in the Gwambygine Estate was approved, and it was here that Percy was brought up.

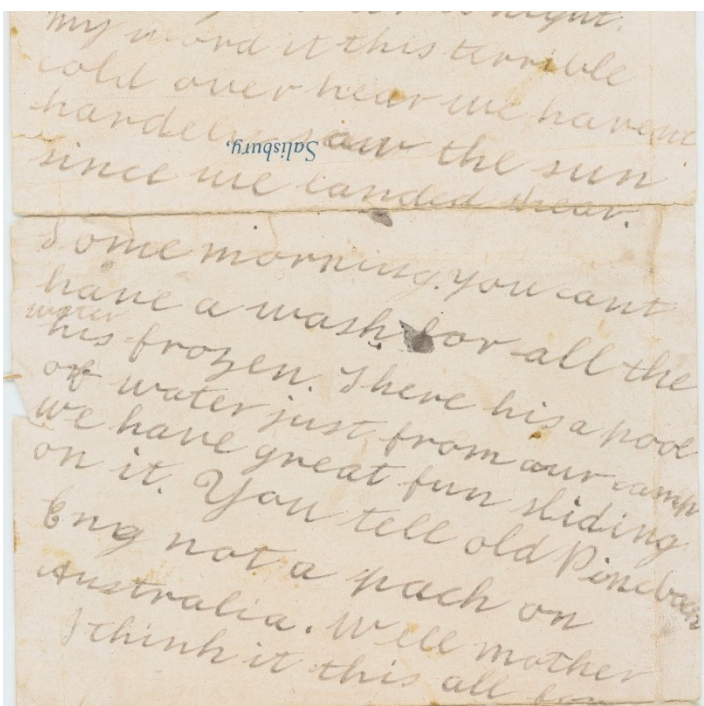
Percy James was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1898, the second son to his parents, James and Anne. He had an older sister, Pearl, three younger sisters and two younger brothers. His twin brother, Victor Ernest, died in infancy on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1898. Percy attended Qualen Primary School then worked with his father on the family farm at "Hillside." In 1916, as soon as he turned eighteen, Percy enlisted with the 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the A.I.F. He stated his occupation was farm hand.

After initial training, Percy embarked at Fremantle in November 1916 on the HMAT *Argyllshire*, disembarking at Devonport, England, in January 1917. A month after arriving in England, Percy was admitted to the Fargo

Military Hospital in Durrington suffering from influenza.

It appears that Percy spent the next two months in and out of hospital before he fully recovered.

In June 1917, Percy attended a course at the School of Farriery, in Romsey, and qualified as a Cold Shoer.



Excerpt from an undated letter written on back of a post card sent by Percy to his Mother Anne

Percy did not seem very impressed with his time in England. In a letter written to his mother, he mentioned that he hadn't seen the sun and it was so cold that the water had frozen, so he couldn't even have a wash.

## KILLED IN ACTION.

**DAVIES** – Killed in action, on October 4th, 1917, Shoeburyness Percy J. Davies, 44th Battalion, D Company; Age 19 years and 3 months. Dearly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Davies, of "Hillside," York.

Our darling boy from us is gone,  
He answered his country's call,  
He bravely fought he nobly fell,  
Now in foreign lands he lies.  
His loving face will for ever in our  
memories be,  
His soul is at rest with God,  
In peace for ever more to dwell.

Inserted by his sorrowing father,  
mother, brothers and sisters.

Notice from The Eastern Districts Chronicle

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 1917

By August 1917, Percy was in Rouelles, France, with the 11<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion. He was then Taken on Strength with the 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the Field.

A few months later, on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917, Percy was Killed in Action near Ypres in Belgium.

Many years later, Percy's sister (Pearl) contacted the Red Cross asking for more information on Percy's death. Two short accounts from fellow soldiers were received.

*"Percy was one of three soldiers killed instantly when a shell dropped into the hole in which six of them were waiting for the signal to go over the line."*

*"It was not quite light – about 5.30am when the attack happened. The three killed had only recently joined the line."*

Photo Courtesy: Heather Harvey



One report stated that Percy had done some farrier work with the military in England before joining them. It commented that *"There was not a mark on his body."* The other soldier said: *"He was a mate of mine"* and *"We sent out burial parties later and he was probably buried where he lay."*

A photograph of a wooden cross on a grave with Percy's name on it was all that his many nephews and nieces knew of him. Percy's remains were later re-interred at the Tyne Cot Cemetery.

## Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

Bev Penny

Silhouette artwork created by

Students of York District High School

## References

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