



Percy James Davies (Q1 1892 – 31 Dec 1915)

Percy was the son of William and Alice Maud Mary Davies (nee Hockaday) who married at Woolwich Parish Church in August 1887. William was born in Aberystwyth, Wales and his wife Alice in Islington, London. In 1891 they were running a grocery shop in Gainford Street, Islington. However by 1901 they had moved to

Isleworth and were

running the Half Moon and Crown public house in London Road, Isleworth. William continued working as a publican and by 1911 he was in charge of the Ailsa Tavern in St Margaret's Road, Isleworth.

William and Alice had just 2 children, Percy and his older brother John Hockaday Davies. John was born in Islington in 1888 and Percy in Isleworth four years later in 1892. Percy was a pupil at the Blue School. By 1911 both John and Percy, then aged 23 and 20 respectively, were assisting their father in the business of running the Ailsa Tavern.



Ailsa Tavern, St Margaret's Road, Isleworth

Percy enlisted in Camden Town into the 1/19th London Regiment of the British Army. He did so on 4 September 1914 at the age of 22, right at the start of World War I. He initially held the rank of Private and joined the British Expeditionary Force in March 1915. Percy's brother John also enlisted. He survived the war.



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In September/October 1915 Percy's regiment took part in the Battle of Loos and subsequent actions of the Hohenzollern Redoubt in France. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 9 December 1915.

Just three weeks later Percy was killed in action on 31 December 1915 at the age of 24. It happened near the village of Vermelles in northern France when part of the the 19th Battalion were being led out of the front line trenches by their Sergeant. In the confusion of the trenches they got lost trying to get back to their billets. Percy climbed up on to the parapet seeking a safe route back for his men. While he was standing, he was shot and killed by an enemy sniper. His regimental Captain said "He died as he lived amongst us, trying to do something to help others in difficulty... He was one of the best fellows that ever stepped."

Percy has no recognised burial place but is remembered at the Loos Memorial, Loos en Gohelle, Pas de Calais, France.