

Remembering the sacrifices of those with SC connections who served their country 100 years ago.

Published in the Timaru Herald 6 May 2017

By Ted Hansen

Private Arthur James Davies No.3/492

Arthur Davies was born in Christchurch on 30 June 1883, third son of George (1855-1939) and Annie Jane (1861-1931 nee Reece) Davies. His father, born in Staffordshire, England, was at one time a senior partner in the firm of Davies & Lamb, hairdressers and tobacconists of Christchurch. From 1907 to 1911 he farmed at Blair Athol, Clandeboye, before moving to the Waikato, where he continued farming. Arthur served his time as an engineer with the firm of P & D Duncan, Christchurch, and later spent several years in Melbourne with McKay's Sunshine Harvester Co.

He later returned to New Zealand and took up farming with his father, before enlisting into the NZ Field Ambulance on 14 December 1914. His military file described him as being aged 31, 5 foot 6½ inches tall, single, Methodist, weighing 136 pounds, chest measuring 33 – 35 ½ inches, of fair complexion, blue eyes, light brown hair, fair teeth and a tattoo on each forearm. He nominated his father George, who was then farming at Ohaupo Road, Rukuhia, Hamilton, as his next of kin.

Private Davies embarked from Wellington on 13 February 1915 aboard HMNZT 18 SS Tahiti with the third reinforcements, and arrived at Alexandria, Egypt, on 26 March 1915. After further training in Egypt, he embarked on 5 May 1915, for service on the Dardanelles. Taken seriously ill with dysentery he was admitted to the 15th Stationary Hospital Mudros on 11 July, where he died on 17 September 1915. Arthur was buried in the East Mudros Military Cemetery on Lemnos Island, Greece, by Chaplain J. Stirling, in grave 11.O.260. After the war his medals, the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, along with a scroll and plaque, were sent to his father. His parents had by this time, moved to 506 Queen Street West, Hastings.

Arthur's name is commemorated on the Temuka War Memorial. Two other brothers also served in World War 1 - 59509 Private Allan Westerfield Davies (1891-1931) served with the Otago Regiment, his name is on the Hastings War Memorial Library Roll and 45671 Corporal Percy Silvester Davies (1889 – 1917) served with the NZ Rifle Brigade and was killed in action on 12 October 1917, at Ypres, Belgium. Percy's name is on the Hastings War Memorial Library Roll and The Hawkes Bay Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

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