

**DAVIES
WAR
GRAVES**

Photographs and notes by John Kilpatrick

**In Memory of
Air Mechanic 2nd Class F W DAVIES**

**103977, 4th Sqdn., Royal Air Force
who died age 20
on 12 September 1918**

Son of Mrs. M. E. Davies, of 19, Park End St., Oxford.

Remembered with honour

TROIS ARBRES CEMETERY, STEENWERCK



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Frederick William Davies was one of two cousins of the same name who died in the war. He was the only child of Fred Meech Davies and Mary Eleanor Durant who were married in Basford, Derbys., but who had settled, like his father, in Oxford. The father Fred was the third son (second surviving) of Frederick Davies and Eliza Meech, and died only three years later in the Acland Home in Oxford.

19 Park End St was a newsagents and tobacconists shop, and still is, to this day.

Grave Reference

II. E. 25.

Cemetery

TROIS ARBRES CEMETERY, STEENWERCK



103977 2ND AIR MECH
F W DAVIES
ROYAL AIR FORCE
12TH SEPTEMBER 1918 AGE 20

NONE KNOW THE DEPTH
OF MY REGRET
I REMEMBER
THOUGH OTHERS FORGET

**In Memory of
Private F W DAVIES**

**46295, 1st Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
who died age 20
on 15 November 1918**

**Son of Alfred George and Sarah Ann Davies, of Meech House,
Ollerton Rd., Retford, Notts.**

**Remembered with honour
ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Frederick William Davies was the second of two cousins of that name to die in the war (actually a week after the end of it). He was the second son of Alfred George Davies and Sarah Ann Burns, who were both born in Burton-on-Trent, had married in Ashbourne, were in Hitchin when Frederick was born, but had settled in East Retford. Alfred George Davies was the second (first surviving) son of Frederick Davies and Eliza Meech.

Grave Reference

S. III. V. 22.

Cemetery

ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN



46295 PRIVATE
F. W. DAVIES
KING'S OWN YORKSHIRE L. I.
15TH NOVEMBER 1918 AGE 20

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

**In Memory of
Private A E HOWGATE**

**25499, 2nd Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment
who died
on 15 April 1917**

**Husband of Mrs. E. E. Howgate, of 22, Northfield Way, Retford,
Notts.**

**Remembered with honour
ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Mrs E E Howgate was born Edith Eliza Davies, in Idle (Yorkshire), but settled in East Retford, being the third daughter of Alfred George Davies who was the second son of Frederick Davies and Eliza Meech (whose first son died in infancy). She married Arthur Edwin Howgate in mid-1916 on short leave in war-time, but never saw him again. She subsequently married Ernest Hemmaway and had three children.

Grave Reference

O. VIII. D. 3.

Cemetery

ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN



25199 PRIVATE
A. E. HOWGATE
LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT
15TH APRIL 1917 AGE 23

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

**In Memory of
Airman 2nd Class C C D PLAYLE**

**10776, 4th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps
attd. 62nd Siege Bty.
who died
on 22 August 1916**

**Remembered with honour
WARLOY-BAILLON COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Clifford Charles D Playle was the second son of Charles Frederick Playle and Elizabeth Ann Davies, Elizabeth being the first daughter of Frederick Davies and Eliza Meech. Clifford's elder brother Frederick Meech Playle had died aged 19 in 1915, but not because of the war. There were two younger sisters and two younger brothers all of whom survived and married. The parents had met and married in Oxford, but the family lived in Woolwich and all were born there.

Grave Reference

VII. D. 43.

Cemetery

WARLOY-BAILLON COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION



10766 2ND AIR MECH.
C.C.D. PLAYLE
ROYAL FLYING CORPS
22ND AUGUST 1916 AGE 19

HE FOUGHT THE FIGHT
CHRIST WAS HIS STRENGTH
AND CHRIST HIS LIFE



Private L J Davies

Leonard John Davies
1898-1969

First son of John Joseph Davies and Alice Mary Taylor; born in Oxford.

Wounded in the war and thereby survived.

Married Kathleen Helen Bennett and had two daughters, Mary and Celia.

Became Director of Research, AEI Rugby, and was awarded the CBE.

The Davies War Graves

(notes by John Kilpatrick)

Three grandsons, and one grandson-in-law, of my great-grandparents Frederick Davies and Eliza Meech were killed in action in World War I, or died of injuries. They are commemorated on the internet by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Two from Retford have their names inscribed on the East Retford war memorial. All four are buried in cemeteries in France.

Two of the grandsons shared the same name: Frederick William Davies; they were born within the same quarter in 1898, and died 2 months apart in 1918. An uncle of the same name had died in infancy, and the father of one of these cousins, Fred Meech Davies, died comparatively young leaving no other children; furthermore a further grandson, Frederick Meech Playle, died in 1915 but of ill-health rather than war reasons. These events led my mother to declare that Frederick was an unlucky name, and it has been avoided since.

Another grandson, Leonard John Davies, son of John Joseph Davies (brother of Alfred George & Fred Meech Davies) was injured by shrapnel near the end of the war, was invalided out, and made a full recovery; he obtained a scholarship at Jesus College, Oxford, went on to become Director of Research at AEI Rugby, and was awarded the CBE.

Of the above-mentioned grandparents(-in-law), Frederick Davies was born in Ashbourne but lived at the time of marriage (1867) in Burton-on-Trent; and Eliza Meech came from Beaminster but was at the time also in Burton. On the marriage certificate Frederick is given as Confectioner in Burton, and Eliza as Bar Maid. Frederick's father was named as John Davies, Solicitor, and Eliza's as Joseph Meech, Shoemaker.

An interesting feature of the recent Davies family history is the recurrence of the name Meech, which appears as follows;

- middle name of Fred Meech Davies (1874-1921)
- middle name of Frederick Meech Playle (1895-1915)
- a middle name of Florence Mabel Meech Davies (1893-1972)
- possibly the middle name of Margory M Gibson née Howgate, Florence's daughter (1923-)
 - [I lack evidence for her middle name]
- the name of the Davies family home in Retford: Meech House (still standing, in Ollerton Road)
- the middle name of Sheila Meech Reubinson née Hemmaway (1930-) of Stroud, Gloucestershire, granddaughter of Edith Eliza Davies

So far as I know there are no other Davies relatives who were WW1 casualties. I have now visited all four of the war graves in France, and took the photographs of the headstones. The cemetery photographs are from the Commission's web-site.