

**Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire,
England
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1638 CORPORAL

F. W. DAVIES DCM.

44TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 21

Frederick William DAVIES

Frederick William Davies was born on 10th July, 1897 in London, England to parents William & Nellie Davies (nee Webb).

Nellie Davies, mother of Frederick William Davies, died in 1901, in England.

William Davies, father of Frederick William Davies, remarried in 1902 to Kate Lavington in England.

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour - Frederick William Davies came to Australia when he was 14 years old.

Frederick William Davies was a 19 year old, single, Shop Assistant from Albany Road, Cannington, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 29th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1638 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Davies, of Albany Road, Cannington, Western Australia. Frederick Davies stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 1 year with 88th Infantry.

As Frederick William Davies was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australia Imperial Force for active Service abroad. W. Davies & K. Davies (stepmother) signed their consent.

Private Frederick William Davies was posted to “1 Area” on 15th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Reinforcements of 44th Battalion on 1st March, 1916.

Private Frederick William Davies embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 6th June, 1916 with the 1st Reinforcements of 44th Battalion & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21st July, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Frederick William Davies was written up for a Crime while posted with 13th Training Battalion in England – Absent without leave from 1 am on 16th October, 1916 to 10 pm on 16th October, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Camp by Major Dougalls on 19th October, 1916 & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Frederick William Davies was taken on strength of 1st Reinforcements of 44th Battalion on 18th November, 1916 in England.

Private Frederick William Davies proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 25th November, 1916.

Private Frederick William Davies was wounded in action on 3rd June, 1917 but remained on duty.

Private Frederick William Davies was due 2 Blue Chevrons on 6th June, 1917.

Mr W. Davies, Albany Road Cannington, W.A., father of Private Frederick William Davies, was advised on 15th June, 1917 that his son had been wounded but remained at duty.

Blue Chevrons

The A.I.F. approved the wearing of the overseas service chevrons which had been adopted by the British Army. These were embroidered or woven inverted chevrons worn above the cuff on the right arm. Due to a shortage of supply, some men had chevrons privately made. For each year of war service a blue chevron was awarded and those men who had embarked in 1914 received a red chevron to indicate that years' service.



Private Frederick William Davies was recommended for a medal:

"No. 1638 Private Frederick William Davies.

44th Bn., Australian I.F.

This man was a member of the Company during the attack on the GREEN LINE beyond BETHLEEM FARM on the 8th June 1917.

During the fighting he acted as platoon Quartermaster, and carried food and water over the open under heavy fire to his men, and when his Officer and Platoon Sergeant were killed he took charge and handled the platoon with much skill.

He held on to an important tactical position until relieved. Throughout he showed great bravery, coolness and devotion to duty."

Private Frederick William Davies was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 4th July, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Casualty Clearing Station on 4th July, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left hand & chest. Private Davies was transferred to Ambulance Train 21 on 4th July, 1917 & admitted to 32nd Stationary Hospital at Wimereux on 5th July, 1917.

War Diary – 44th Battalion

July, 1917:

1st to 5th inst Battalion engaged on working parties in front line, MESSINES sector. Night of the 5th/6th July Battalion relieved 42nd Battalion in front line.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr W. Davies, Albany Road Cannington, W.A., father of Private Frederick William Davies, was advised on 17th July, 1917 that Private Frederick Davies had been wounded – second occasion.

Private Frederick William Davies was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 28th August, 1917. (*The London Gazette* – 25 August, 1917 & *The Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 20 December, 1917)

Distinguished Conduct Medal

The Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.) was established as a decoration for gallantry in the field by other ranks of the British Army. It is the oldest British award for gallantry and was a second level military decoration, ranking below the Victoria Cross until its discontinuation in 1993 when it was replaced by the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross. The medal was also awarded to non-commissioned military personnel of the Commonwealth.

During the First World War, concern arose that the high number of medals being awarded would devalue the medal's prestige. The Military Medal was therefore instituted on 25 March 1916 as an alternative and lower award, with the Distinguished Conduct Medal reserved for more exceptional acts of bravery. (*Wikipedia*)



Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.)

44th Battalion

The 44th Battalion was raised at Claremont, Western Australia in February 1916. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, and soon became known as "Old Bill's Thousand" after its first commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel William Mansbridge. The battalion left Australia on 6 June and proceeded to Britain for further training. It arrived in France on 27 November and entered the front line trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 29 December.

The 44th spent the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between service in the front line, and training and labouring in the rear areas. This routine was broken by only one major raid, an ill-fated effort involving almost half the battalion on 13 March 1917. The battalion fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7 and 10 June. In the months that followed it was heavily employed in the Ypres sector, taking part in another major battle to capture Broodseinde Ridge on 7 June, and participating in costly defensive operations in horrendous conditions. Of the 992 men from the battalion who were involved in the Ypres operations, only 158 emerged unwounded when it was relieved for a rest on 21 October.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frederick William Davies was transferred from 32nd Stationary Hospital at Wimereux on 17th September, 1917 & admitted to No. 1 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne the same day. He was discharged to Base Depot on 18th September, 1917.

Private Frederick William Davies was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles on 24th September, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit from 3rd A.D.B.D. on 5th October, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 9th October, 1917.

Private Frederick William Davies was appointed Lance Corporal on 24th October, 1917.

Private Frederick William Davies was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 1st November, 1917 vice Corporal Currie sick. He reverted to the rank of Lance Corporal on 29th December, 1917 on the return of permanent N.C.O. to the Battalion.

Lance Corporal Frederick William Davies was appointed Corporal on 21st January, 1918 vice Corporal Tait transferred to England.

Corporal Frederick William Davies proceeded on leave to UK from 14th February, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 2nd March, 1918.

Corporal Frederick William Davies was wounded in action (3rd occasion) on 22nd August, 1918. He was admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd August, 1918 with G.S.W. to leg & knee then transferred to Ambulance Train 22. Corporal Davies was admitted to 12th USA General Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th August, 1918 with G.S.W. left leg, knee (severe). He was invalided to England on 29th August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*.

Mr W. Davies, Albany Road Cannington, W.A., father of Private Frederick William Davies, was advised on 6th September, 1918 that Corporal F. W. Davies (D.C.M.) had been wounded – 3rd occasion.

44th Battalion

Belgium remained the focus of the 44th Battalion's activities for another five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

With the Germans' last effort defeated the Allies began planning their own great offensive. The 44th took part in the preparatory battle of Hamel on 4 July 1918, and was part of the first wave when the offensive itself was launched on

8 August. Its involvement continued during the long advance that followed throughout August and into September. The 44th's last major action of the war was fought between 29 September and 3 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. By this stage, the 44th was just about spent. It had crossed the Hamel start-line approximately 600-strong, but just on 80 men were relieved on 3 October. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended, and was disbanded in May 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Frederick William Davies was admitted to The War Hospital, Clopton, Stratford on Avon on 31st August, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) shrapnel wounds to left thigh amputated & wounds to right leg. He was reported as dangerously ill.

Corporal Frederick William Davies died at 6 am on 5th September, 1918 at The War Hospital, Clopton, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire, England from wounds received in action – GSW thigh, shrapnel wounds to right leg.

A death for Frederick W. Davies, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England .

Corporal Frederick William Davies was buried on 9th September, 1918 in Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England – Plot number 978 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal Frederick William Davies - *Coffin was polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin, draped with the "Union Jack", was borne to the graveside surmounted by several beautiful wreaths, sent from friends, and comrades of the hospital. A large party of wounded followed the remains to the cemetery, and many other Australians attended. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Mrs Bott (Friend), from Finchley, London attended the Funeral.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Frederick William Davies contains a letter from A. Dickinson, The War Hospital, Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon which reads: *"I am sorry to have to report to you the death of Pte F. W. Davies, 1638, 44th Battn, A.I.F. in this hospital yesterday morning. He was very severely wounded when he arrived on Saturday morning. We telegraphed to his Aunt in London on Tuesday but unfortunately she could not come till Thursday and so was too late to see him. Everything was done that could be done and the Nurses and men in the ward were very good to him, but unfortunately suffered a good deal. He is to be buried here on Monday."*

Private Frederick William Davies stated on 5th June, 1917 "Somewhere in France" that *"I hereby inform you that my Will is made out to my mother Mrs Kate Davies, Albany Road, Cannington, Western Australia and the Will is in her safe keeping."*

Mr W. Davies, Stratford, Kings Point, Manjimup, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records in March, 1923 stating he was enclosing a receipt for the Victory medal issued in favour of his late son No. 1638 Corporal F. W. Davies, D.C.M. & also asked if there were any other medals due to him.

Base Records replied on 10th April, 1923 stating that Corporal F. W. Davies was entitled to the British War Medal & it had been forwarded to Headquarters, 5th District Base, Perth, *"some considerable time ago."* They advised Mr Davies if he had not received the Medal that he should contact Headquarters quoting Serial No. 42813.

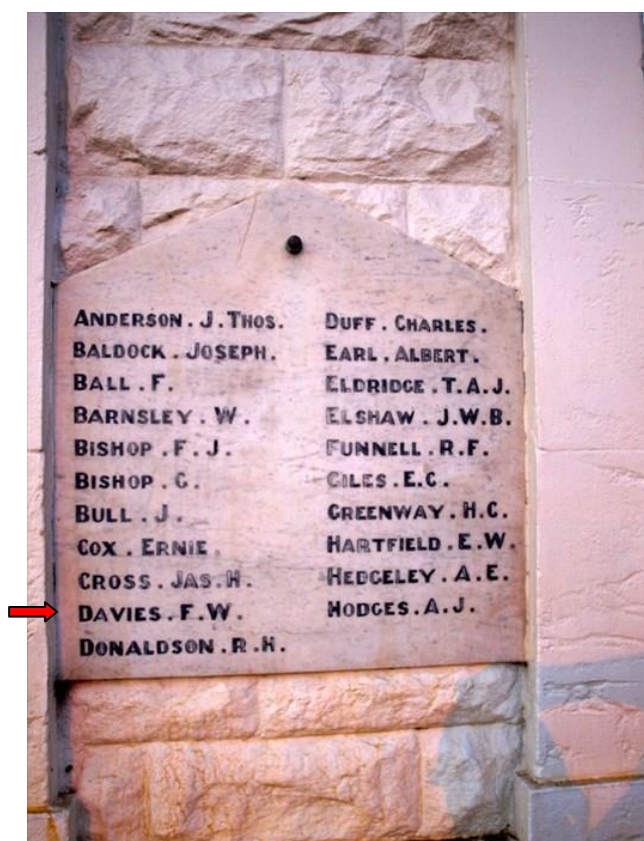
Corporal Frederick William Davies was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Davies' father – Mr W. Davies, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Frederick William Davies – service number 1638, aged 21 years, of 44th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Kate Davies.

F. W. Davies is remembered on the Cannington War Memorial, located in War Memorial Park, Albany Highway & Manning Road, Cannington, Western Australia.



Cannington War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



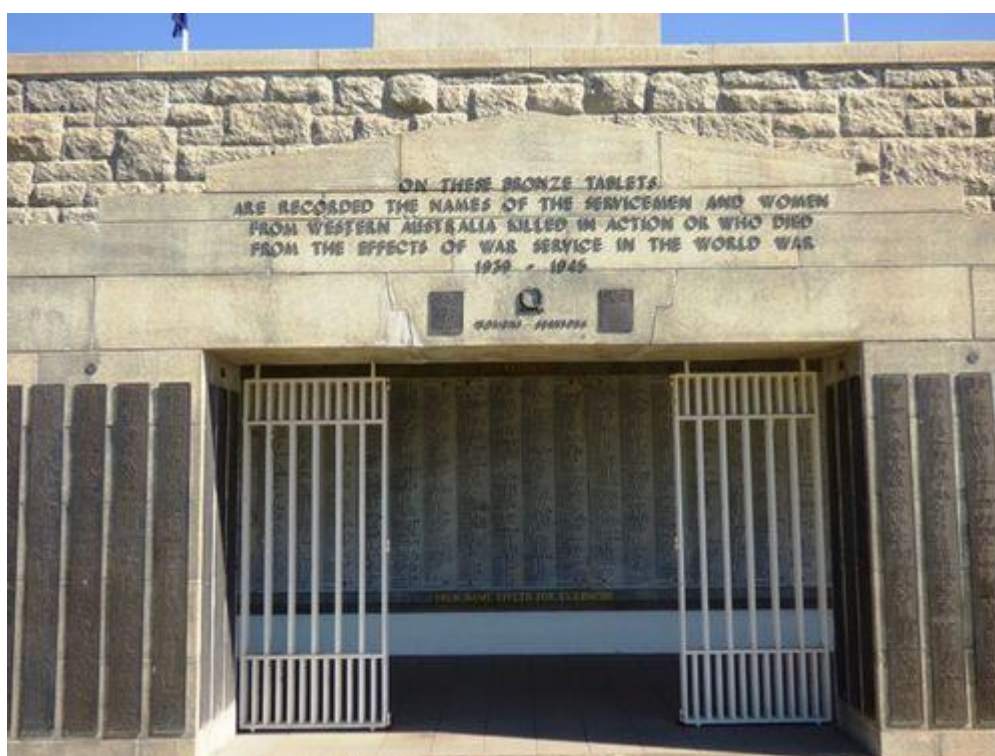
F. W. Davies is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





44th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Corporal F. W. Davies is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 137.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(82 pages of Corporal Frederick William Davies' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Corporal Frederick William Davies



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05663.001

Corporal Frederick William Davies



An "In Memoriam" card is part of a collection held by the State Library of Western Australian. The card contains a photograph of Corporal Frederick William Davies along with the following brief biographical note:

In Loving Memory of

CPL. FREDERICK WILLIAM DAVIES, D.C.M.

No. 1638, of the 44th Battalion

He was the son of Mr. William and Mrs. Kate Davies, of Albany Road, Cannington. This young hero heard the call of his comrades early in 1916, and sailed on the 6th June, 1916, for Salisbury plains, where he completed his training. He saw all the heavy fighting of the war and whilst acting Quarter-Master to his platoon, he carried food and water under heavy fire to his men, and, when his officer and platoon-sergeant were killed, he took charge and held on to an important tactical position until relieved, showing the greatest gallantry possible. For this great deed he was awarded the D.C.M. The above hero who was wounded at Bray, on 30th Aug., 1918, and died from the effects on 5th Sept., 1918, at the War Hospital, Stratford-on-Avon. Before enlisting he was employed by Messrs. Bethell and Thurstan, by whom he was held in the highest esteem. He was 21 years of age, and besides his parents, leaves six brothers and two sisters to mourn his loss.



Newspaper Notices

327th CASUALTY LIST

5th MILITARY DISTRICT

WOUNDED

Fredk. Wm. Davies (Cannington), second occasion, previously reported returned to duty.

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 3 August, 1917)

KILLED IN ACTION

DAVIES – Corporal Frederick William Davies, D.C.M., of Albany-road, Cannington, died of wounds September 5, 1918, after two years and three months' active service; dearly loved brother of the late William Joseph Davies, late of Wilson and Johns, A good son and brother.

In the bloom of youth God claimed him,

In the pride of manhood days,

None knew him but to respect him,

None spoke his name but with praise.

We are lead to believe that he was a gallant soldier.

Bravely he fought and fell

His duty nobly done.

Up to time of enlisting he was employed at Messrs Bethell and Thurston's, William-street, where his death will be deeply regretted. Two dear brothers united in such a short time.

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

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 15 September, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

DAVIES – Corporal Frederick William Davies, of Albany-road, Cannington, died of wounds September 5, 1918, dear brother of the late William Joseph Davies, who fell asleep May 4, 1918.

A painful shock, a blow severe,

To part with two I love so dear.

My loss is great, I'll not complain,

But trust in Got to meet again.

And the mother gave in tears and pain

The flowers she most did love,

She knew she should find them both again

In the happy home above.

Both safe in the arms of Jesus.

Inserted by their sorrowing sister Edie.

(*The West Australia*, Perth, Western Australia – 18 September, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

DAVIES – Corporal Frederick William Davies, of Albany-road, Cannington, died of wounds September 5, 1918, dear brother of the late William Joseph Davies, who fell asleep May 4, 1918.

Inserted by their sorrowing sister Edie.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 20 September, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs W. Davies and Family, of Albany-road, Cannington, wish to THANK their many kind friends for their letters, cards and personal sympathy for the sad loss of their dearly loved son Corporal Frederick William Davies, died of wounds, September 5, 1918. We especially wish to thank Mr Alday and members of the Queen's Park Roads Board, also Mr W. D. Robinson and Messrs. Bethell and Thurston (his late employers).

(The West Australia, Perth, Western Australia – 25 September, 1918)

At the Fighting Fronts

434th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Corporal Davies, Fredk. Wm., D.C.M., Cannington, previously reported wounded.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 15 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DAVIES – In loving memory of our dear boy, Corporal Frederick William Davies, D.C.M., 44th Battalion, who died of wounds at Stratford on Avon War Hospital, England, September 5, 1918.

Loved in life, honoured in death. Always remembered

Inserted by his sorrowing parents.

DAVIES – In loving memory of my dear brother, Fred, who died of wounds September 5 1918.

With aching heart I shook his hand
Tears glistened in my eyes,
I wished him luck, but never thought
It was my last good-bye.

Inserted by his sorrowing brother George.

DAVIES – In loving memory of my dear brother, Fred, who died of wounds September 5, 1918.

He lies in a grave like many more
But his memory shall never fade,

And I hope to meet you, dear Fred
In that glory beyond the grave.

Inserted by his sorrowing brother Wallie.

DAVIES – In loving memory of my dear brother, Fred., who died of wounds September 5 1918.

In our home you are fondly remembered,
Sweet memory clings around your name
True hearts that have always loved you
Will always be the same.

A hero's reward is heaven.

Inserted by his sorrowing sister Edie.

DAVIES – In loving memory of my dear brother, Fred., who fell asleep September 5, 1918.

We, cannot, Lord, Thy purpose see,
But all is well that's done by Thee.

Inserted by his sorrowing sister-in-law Doris.

DAVIES - In loving memory of our dear comrade, Corporal F. H. Davies, D.C.M., who died through wounds received at Bray, September 5, 1918.

Inserted by his loving comrades, H. E. and C. J. McIntosh.

(The West Australia, Perth, Western Australia – 5 September, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

A letter from Base Records, dated 7th July, 1921, to Mr W. Davies, Albany Road, Cannington, W.A., advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 1638 Corporal F. W. Davies, "DCM", 44th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Corporal F. W. Davies does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England

Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery contains 22 First World War burials, made mainly from the hospital at Clopton House. During the Second World War, there was a contingent of the Royal Canadian Air Force based at nearby Wellesbourne Mountford and of the 137 Second World War burials (most of them forming a war graves plot), 97 are of Canadian airmen. The cemetery also contains 14 war graves of other nationalities. *(Information & photos from CWGC)*



Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery



Photo of Corporal F. W. Davies' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Matthew Lucas)

