

**Normanton Cemetery,
Normanton, Derbyshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



851 PRIVATE

G. DAVIES

67TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH JUNE, 1917 Age 21

"Thy Will Be Done"

George DAVIES

George Davies was born at Ardwick, Manchester, Lancashire, England in 1896 to parents George and Mary Jane Davies (nee Dunn). (George Davies, widower, had married Mary Jane Dunn on 12th January, 1891).

The 1901 England Census recorded George Davies as a 5 year old, living with his family at Carlton Road, Aston upon Mersey, Cheshire, England. His parents were listed as George Davies (Postman, aged 47, born Whitchurch, Salop) & Mary J. Davies (aged 34, born Derby). George (jnr) was the youngest of seven children listed on this Census - John W. Davies (Tile Fixer (Road Labourer), aged 20, born Openshaw, Lancashire), Rose Catherine Davies (Cook, aged 17, born Openshaw, Lancashire), Sarah Agnes Davies (General Domestic Servant, aged 15, born Openshaw, Lancashire), Lilian Maria Davies (aged 13, born Openshaw, Lancashire), Winifred M. Davies (aged 11, born Openshaw, Lancashire), Harold Davies (aged 7, born Openshaw, Lancashire) then George.

The 1911 England Census recorded George Davies as a 15 year old Little Piecer (Cotton Spinning Mill) living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at 27 Bury Street, Mossley, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as George Davies (Postman, aged 57) & Mary Jane Davies (aged 44). George & Mary Jane Davies had been married for 20 years, & had 12 children in total, 8 having since died. George was one of four children listed on this Census – Harrold Davies (Tyler & Mason Fixer ??, aged 17) then George, Lawrance Herbert Davies (School Boy, aged 6, born Sale, Cheshire) & Jenny Davies (aged 4, born Mossley, Lancashire). Also listed was Lilly Davies, a visitor (Servant, aged 23).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – George Davies came to Australia when he was 18 years old.

George Davies was a 20 year old, single, Farm Labourer from c/- Mr J. D. Reid, Springhurst, Victoria when he enlisted at Wangaratta, Victoria on 17th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 851 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Davies, Derbyshire, England.

Private George Davies was posted to 37th Battalion on 27th February, 1916 for recruit training.

Private George Davies embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 3rd June, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 37th Infantry Battalion, "C" Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th 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 George Davies proceeded overseas to France from 2nd Training Battalion on 15th September, 1916 to join 5th Battalion. He joined 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 17th September, 1916.

Private George Davies was transferred to & joined 5th Battalion from Reinforcements on 1st October, 1916.

Private George Davies was written up on 25th November, 1916 in France for leaving a Parade without permission 15.00 to 15.15 hours. He was awarded 1 day Field Punishment No. 2.

Private George Davies was written up on 1st January, 1917 for "*conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military discipline*". He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private George Davies was sent to 1st A. R. R. Station on 10th January, 1917 with Trench Feet then sent to Field Ambulance on 11th January, 1917. He was transferred to A.C.R. Station on 23rd January, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 4th February, 1917. Private Davies was transferred & admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 11th February, 1917. He embarked for England on 12th February, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

Private George Davies was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Brighton, England on 12th February, 1917 with I.C.T. feet (slight). The Hospital Admissions form states – Bunion right foot – "*Bunion seems very slight disability. It is hardly more than a corn over metatarsal phalangeal joint.*" He was discharged to furlough on 24th March, 1917 until 9th April, 1917 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset, England.

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Private George Davies was written up for an Offence at No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham – AWL (Absent without Leave from 3.30 pm on 9th April, 1917 till 11 am on 10th April, 1917. He was awarded 2 days Field Punishment No. 2. In custody awaiting trial for 1 day. Total Forfeiture – 5 days' pay.

Private George Davies was medically classified at No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham as B1 A3 (unfit for service for 1 or 2 weeks) then B1 A4 (Medically fit – awaiting dental completion).

Private George Davies was transferred to 67th Battalion on 27th April, 1917 & joined the battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 28th April, 1917

Private George Davies was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 5th June, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*cause intestinal obstruction. Operation obstruction removed.*"

Private George Davies died at 8.15 pm on 9th June, 1917 at Delhi Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from inflammation of "Michels Diverticulum" (Meckel's Diverticulum). Private Davies' mother was present at the death.

A death for George Davies, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

The body of the late Private George Davies was sent to his home for burial – 54 Newdigate Street, Old Normanton, Derby. Private George Davies was buried in Normanton Cemetery, Normanton, Derbyshire, England – Plot number B. 498 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Mary Jane Davies, mother of the late Private George Davies, of 54 Newdigate Street, Old Normanton, Derbyshire, England in the sum of 7/6d per fortnight from 14th August, 1917. A War Pension claim was made by George Davies, father of the late Private George Davies, but was declined as the "Claimant had adequate means of support."

Private George Davies was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Davies' father - Mr G. Davies, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England).



Memorial Plaque for Private George Davies (also known as Death Penny)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Davies – service number 851, aged 21, of 67th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Mary Jane Davies, of 54, Newdigate St., Old Normanton. Born at Ardwick, Manchester.

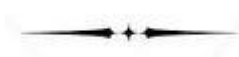
Private G. Davies is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 43.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(29 pages of Private George 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 324

Victoria

DIED OF ILLNESS

DAVIES, G., England, 9/6/17

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 July, 1917)

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)

Private G. Davies does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

“Thy Will Be Done”

Normanton Cemetery, Normanton, Derbyshire, England

Normanton Cemetery, Normanton contains 31 Commonwealth War Graves – 18 from World War 1 & 13 from World War 2.



Normanton Cemetery

Photo of Private G. Davies' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Normanton Cemetery, Normanton, Derbyshire, England.



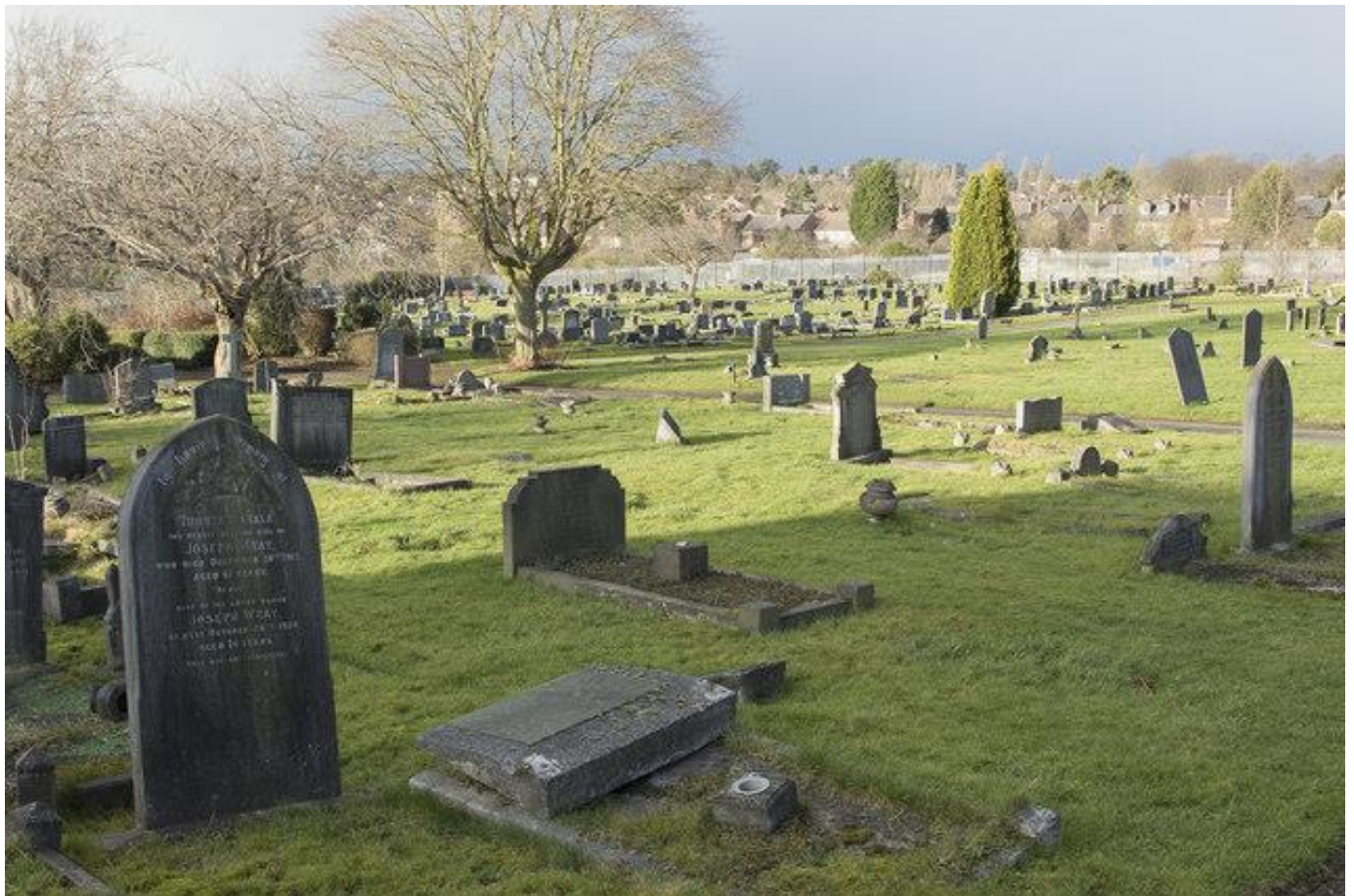
(Photo Kevin Cameron)



(Photo by Nicky Armstrong – Find a Grave 2020)



Normanton Cemetery (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Normanton Cemetery (Photo by Malcolm Neal)