



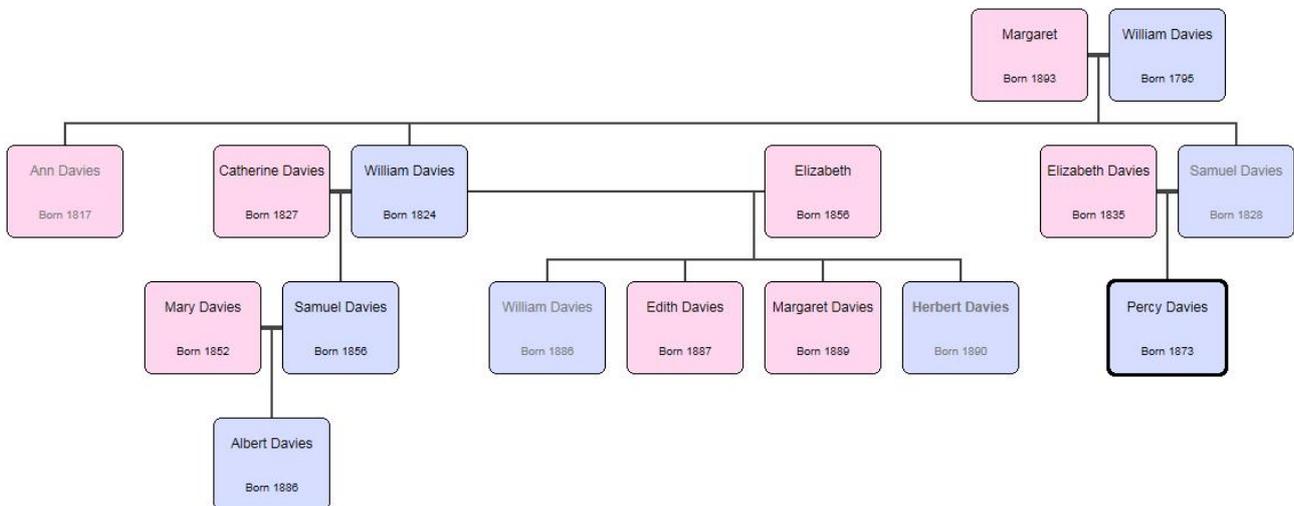
FARNDON DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Remembering the Men of Farndon

Driver 131609 HERBERT DAVIES

**82nd Small Arms Ammunition Col. Royal Field Artillery
Died 28 November 1917 aged 28**

Herbert Davies was the son of William Davies and his wife Elizabeth of Farndon. He was born in 1890 in Rowley Hill, a farm in Kings Marsh, just to the east of the village, and was baptised on 13 July 1891 at St Chad's in Farndon. Sadly, he never knew his father, as William died at home aged 67 on 21 January 1891. Poor Elizabeth, aged only 35, was left to run the farm of 180 acres, with four children all aged under five. Samuel, William's son from his first marriage, was a close neighbour at The Wetreins Farm, just a few hundred yards south of Rowley Hill, and probably gave her support during this difficult time. However, into the new century, life had just become too tough. In 1903, Elizabeth began suffering from a form of paralysis, and was cared for full time by her daughter Edith, while Herbert, who was still at home, was working as a domestic general labourer for George Harding at Belmont House in Churton Road. (where the Strettons also worked – see Joseph James Stretton). They couldn't possibly support a working farm, and they had to give up Rowley Hill, moving into Mount Villa in Farndon village. (Mount Villa at one time was the first Post Office in the village, run by the Ince family).



Brief ancestry tree of the Davies family of King's Marsh

Administrative County of <u>Chester</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 22						
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District				
of <u>Kempshay</u>		of		of		of		of <u>Kempshay</u>		of <u>Serwin</u>		of <u>Edlebury</u>		of <u>Farnham</u>				
Col. 1	2	3			6	7	8	9	10	11			12	13	14	15		16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Number of rooms occupied if less than five	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot					
138	Barton Rd	1		4	Mary Berry	Head	Wid	68	Living on her own means			Chester Farnham						
139	Barton Rd	1		4	Elena Parker	Head	Wid	67	Living on her own means			Do Chester						
140	Rowley Hill	1		4	Elizabeth Davis	Head	Wid	55	Farmer	X		Donkeshire Salton Green						
					William A Do	son	S	5				Chester Kempshay						
					Edith A Do	Daughter	S	4				Do Do						
					Margaret Do	Daughter	S	3				Do Do						
					Herbert Do	son	S	11mo				Do Do						
					Margaret Owen	Serv	M	28	Visitor			Donkeshire Salton Green						
					John Roberts	Serv	S	18	Ag Farm Servant		X	Chester Strath						
					Hannah Morris	Serv	S	17	General Servant (Domestic)		X	Donkeshire Ruabon						
141	Rowley Hill Farm	1		4	Richard E Hudley	Head	S	59	Farmer		X	Gloucestershire Oxton						
					Thomas Do	son	S	33	Assistant on Farm		X	Do Do						
					William Do	son	S	29	Do		X	Do Do						
					Levi Do	son	S	27	Do		X	Do Do						
					Mary Lewis	Niece	S	21	General Servant Domestic		X	Staffordshire Stafford						
					Jessie Do	Do	S	5	Visitor			Gloucestershire Hooke						
142	Marsh House Farm	1		4	George Parker	Head	M	64	Farmer	X		Chester Farnham						
					John S Do	son	S	27	Farmer		X	Do Do						
					Lucy E Do	Daughter	S	20	Ag Dairy Maid		X	Do Do						
					Thomas Ryan	Serv	S	26	Farm Servant Domestic		X	Ireland						
					Andrew Do	Serv	S	23	Do Do Do		X	Do						
					Elizabeth Davis	Serv	S	19	General Servant Domestic		X	Donkeshire Hoot						
					Mary A Morris	Serv	S	18	Do Do Do		X	Bornham Donkeshire						
143	Marsh Lane	1		4	John Lloyd	Head	M	57	Labourer Agricultural		X	Chester Chorlton						
					Emma Do	Wife	M	55				Donkeshire Chorlton						
					Henry Do	son	S	24	Labourer Agricultural		X	Chester Kempshay						
					John Do	son	S	15	Farm Labourer		X	Do Do						
					Annie Hughes	Gr Daughter	S	5				Do Do						
6	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	6		30	Total of Males and Females...			14	14									

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Census 1891 (above) and 1901 (below)

Administrative County of <u>Chester</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 4				
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet				
of <u>Farnham</u>		of <u>Farnham</u>		of		of		of <u>Serwin</u>		of <u>Edlebury</u>		of <u>Farnham</u>				
Col. 1	2	3			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Number of rooms occupied if less than five	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded			
18	Barton Rd	1		4	Elizabeth Davis	Head	Wid	45	own account			Donkeshire Hoot				
					Edith Alice Davis	Daughter	S	14	General Domestic Servant			Donkeshire Hoot				
					Margaret Davis	Daughter	S	12	Do			Do Do				
					Herbert Davis	son	S	10	Do			Do Do				
19	"	1		4	Alfred Sinclair	Head	M	26	Do's assistant			Donkeshire Bolton				
					May Elizabeth Sinclair	Wife	M	55				Chester Farnham				
20	"	1		4	William Hints	Head	M	43	Shopkeeper			Donkeshire Hoot				
					Mary Hints	Wife	M	48				Donkeshire Hoot				
					Edith Hints	Daughter	S	19	Shopkeeper			Donkeshire Hoot				
					Thomas Hints	son	S	18	Shopkeeper			Donkeshire Hoot				
					John Hints	son	S	14	Do			Chester Farnham				
					Sarah Hints	Daughter	S	9	Do			Do Do				
21	"	1		4	Sarah Parnumpton	Head	Wid	45	Farmer			Chester Farnham				
					Mary Ann Parnumpton	Daughter	S	14	General Domestic Servant			Do Farnham				
					William James Parnumpton	son	S	15	Do			Do				
					Mary Louisa Parnumpton	Daughter	S	7	Do			Do				
					Edith Parnumpton	Daughter	S	5	Do			Do				
22	"	1		4	Edward Bowden	Head	M	34	Sergeant of Police			Chester Farnham				
					Matilda M Bowden	Wife	M	40				Donkeshire Farnham				
					Marian Bowden	Daughter	S	9				Chester Farnham				
					Mary Bowden	Daughter	S	9				Do Do				
					Charles Bowden	son	S	7				Do Wallasey				
					Edith Bowden	Daughter	S	5				Do Do				
					William Bowden	son	S	5mo				Do Farnham				
23	"	1		4	Joseph Thomas	Head	M	75	Gen'l Labourer			Chester Farnham				
					Elizabeth Thomas	Wife	M	73				Do Serwin				
6	Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	6		11	Total of Males and of Females...			9	14							

NOTE.—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedules 105
(To be filled up by the Enumerator and collector.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.						PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—						Personal Occupation.							
<p><i>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</i></p> <p><i>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</i></p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>																
<p><i>State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."</i></p> <p><i>For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.</i></p> <p><i>Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," against the names of all persons aged 16 years and upwards.</i></p> <p><i>Complete years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write under one.</i></p> <p><i>Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)</i></p> <p><i>Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)</i></p> <p><i>Children who have died.</i></p> <p><i>The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.</i></p> <p><i>If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.</i></p> <p><i>(See Instructions 1 to 3 and Examples on back of Schedule.)</i></p>																
1	Elizabeth Davies	Head	60	Widow	2	2	2	250	100	0	0	0	0	Denbighshire, Isyced	British	Paraplegic
2	Edith Davies	Daughter	24	Single	—	—	—	House Keeper	at home	at home	at home	at home	at home	Denbighshire, Farnndon	Do	Do
3	Herbert Davies	Son	20	Single	—	—	—	General Worker	at home	at home	at home	at home	at home	Denbighshire, Farnndon	Do	Do
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																
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13																
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15																

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—

(1) All the persons on this Schedule are entered in the proper columns.

(2) I have counted the males and females in Column 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: *J. E.*

Males	Females	Persons
1	3	3

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

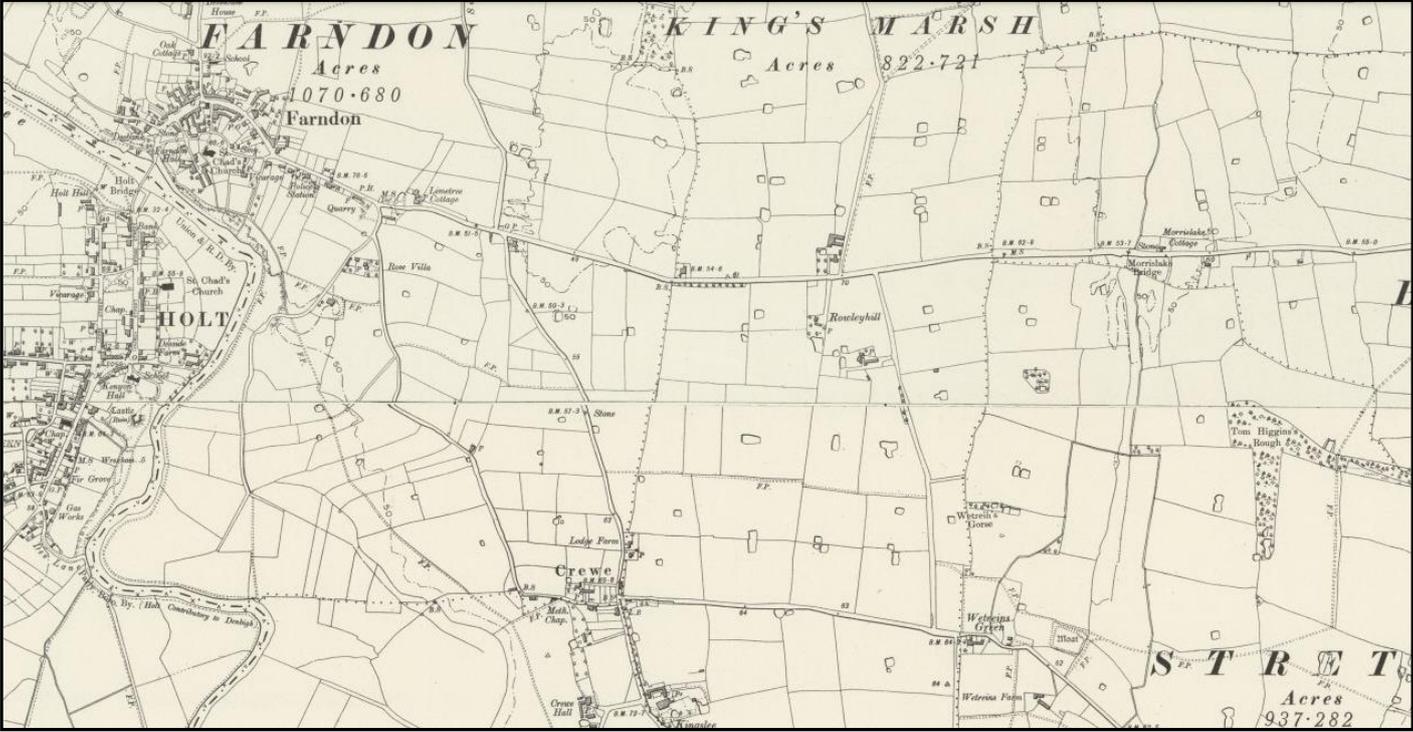
I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Elizabeth Davies*

Postal Address: *Mount Villa Farnndon, A. & B. Street*

(See) 5 rooms

Census 1911



Farndon and King's Marsh c.1895
 Rowley Hill is in the centre on Barton Road, while The Wetrens Farm is to the bottom right.



King's Marsh

Top: The Wetreins Farm

Bottom: The site of Rowley Hill to the right of Barton Road, while King's Marsh Farm to left was run by the Parker family (see article on Arthur Parker ('The Parker Brothers')).

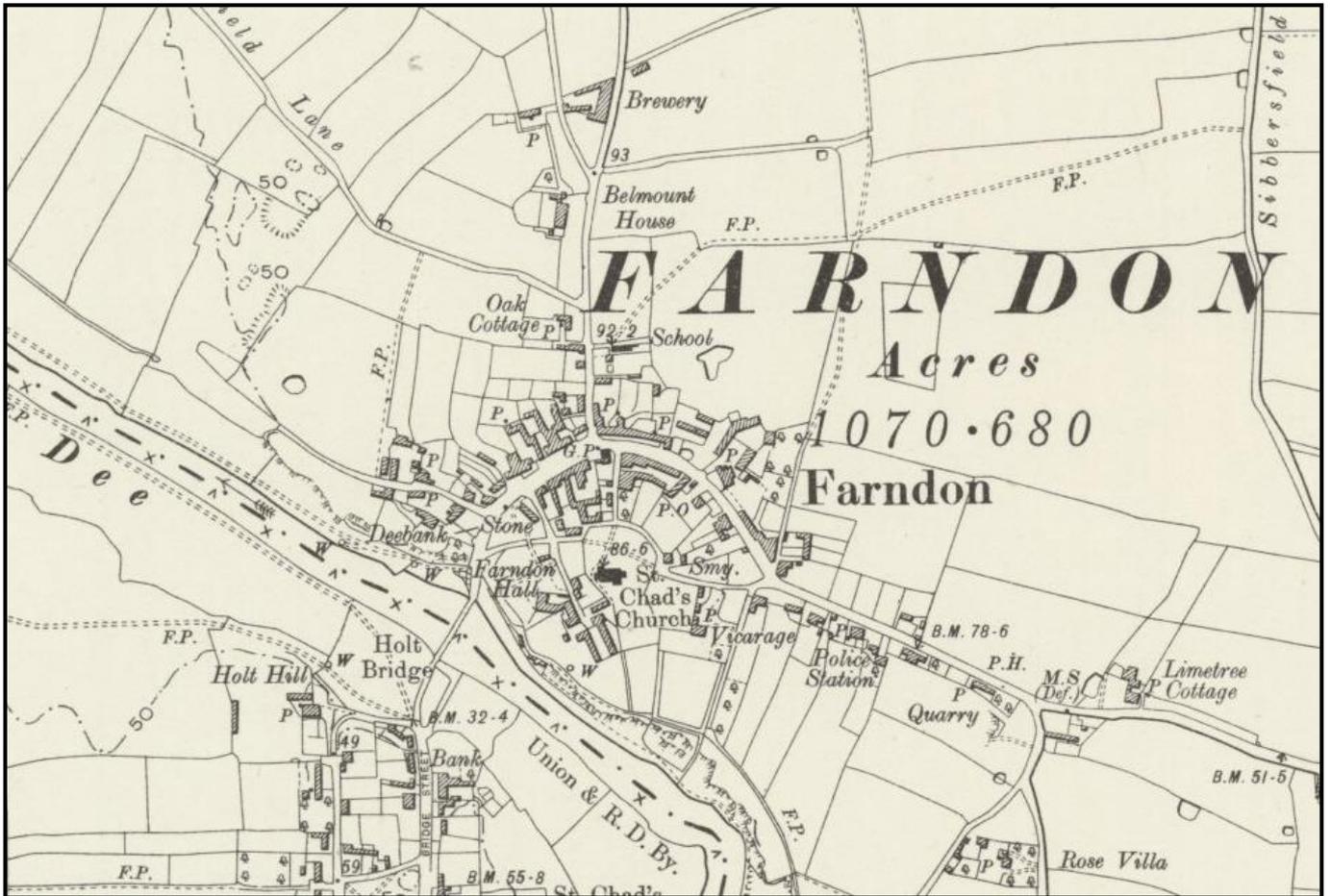


Mount Villa, Farndon High Street





Above: Belmont House, Churton Road
Below: Belmont House marked on the map of 1895



The Coming of War

Driver 131609 HERBERT DAVIES

82nd Small Arms Ammunition Col. Royal Field Artillery (part of 27th Division)

In the early months of the war, 27th Division were serving on the Western Front in France and Belgium, but was ordered to Salonika in November 1915. Embarkation began on 17 November, but it was not until 13 February 1916 that the last of the Division finally arrived. It is not known when Herbert enlisted during the First World War as his war record has not survived, which has made impossible to discover his precise movements. However, the 82nd Small Arms Ammunition Column of the Royal Field Artillery were in Egypt in mid-1916, then moved into Greece on 28 September 1916 to support the Allied campaign there, but again, it isn't known if Herbert was among them.

The Macedonian Front of the First World War (also known as the Salonika Front) evolved as the Allies came to the aid of Serbia in the Autumn of 1915, primarily to give support against the combined armies of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria. However, it was too late, without sufficient strength, and was unable to prevent the fall of the country. This was made all the more complicated due to the internal political wrangling in Greece, nevertheless, a stable front was achieved. This ran from the Albanian Adriatic coast to the Struma River, where the Allies were faced with forces consisting of the Bulgarian Army and various smaller units of the Central Powers. There were numerous local actions but the front held, until the final great Allied offensive in September 1918, which resulted in the capitulation of Bulgaria and the liberation of Serbia.

Many historians look at this campaign as 'the forgotten front', especially as the Serbs were a defeated force even as the British were moving in. Nevertheless, thousands of British and Commonwealth forces served here, in a trench system that resembled the Western Front. Yet the greatest killer was disease, mainly malaria, which proved to be a serious drain on Allied forces. In total, the British forces suffered 162,517 cases of the disease of out 505,024 non-battle casualties.

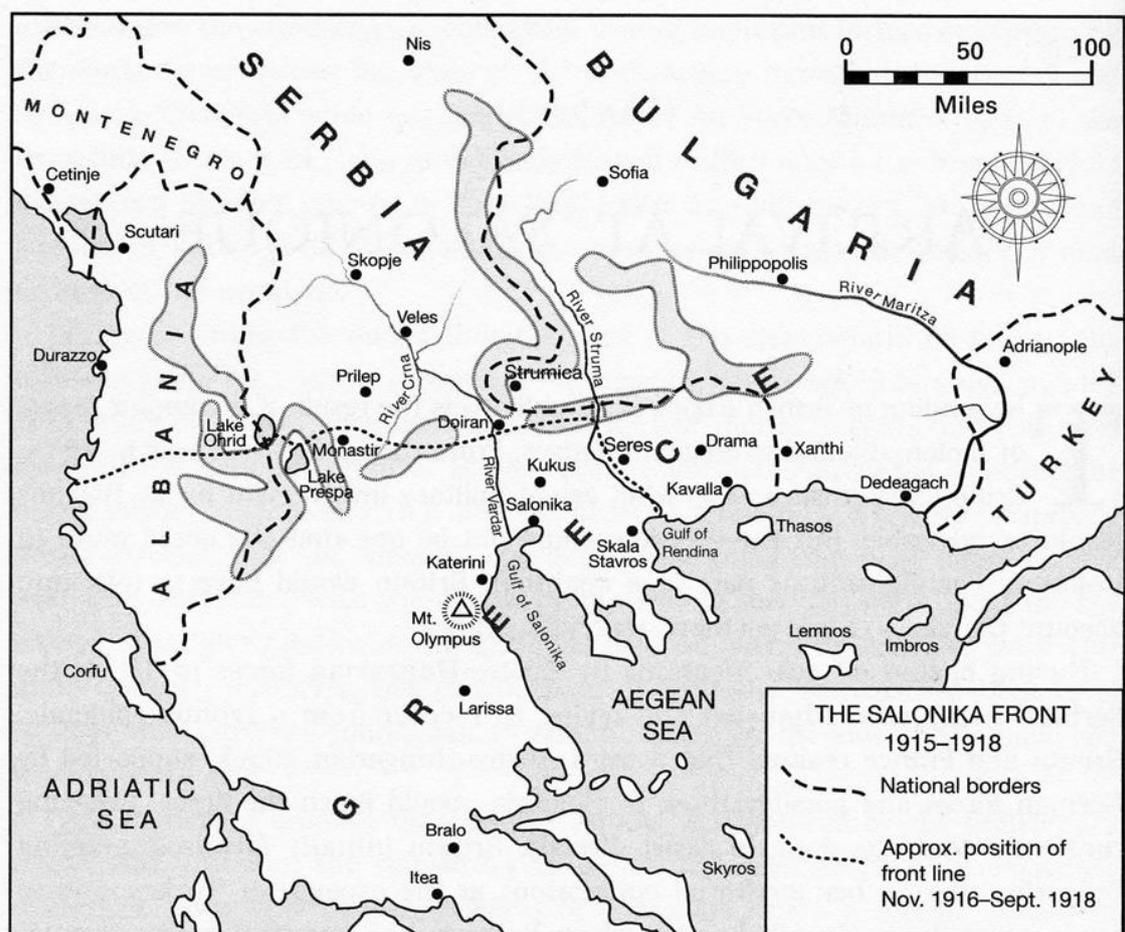
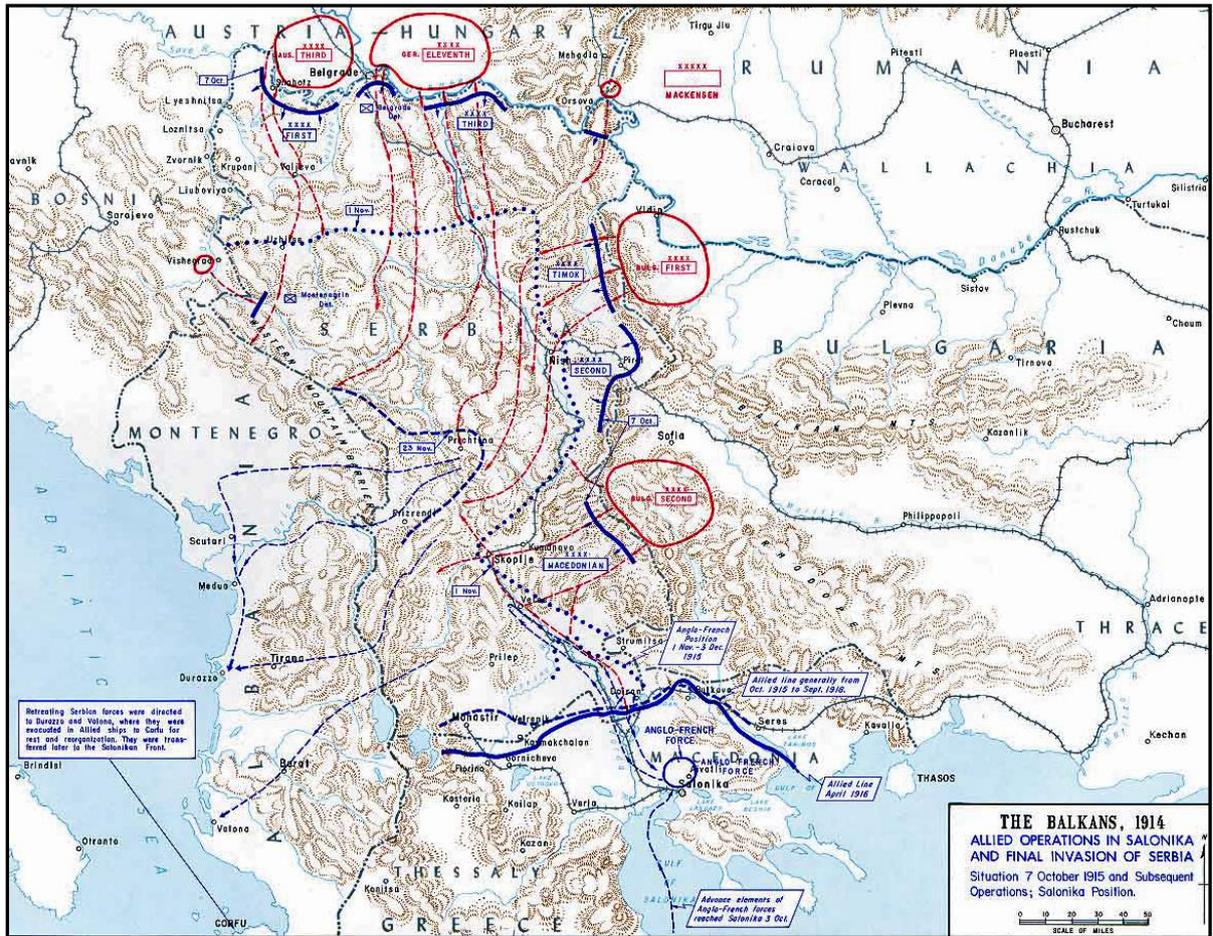


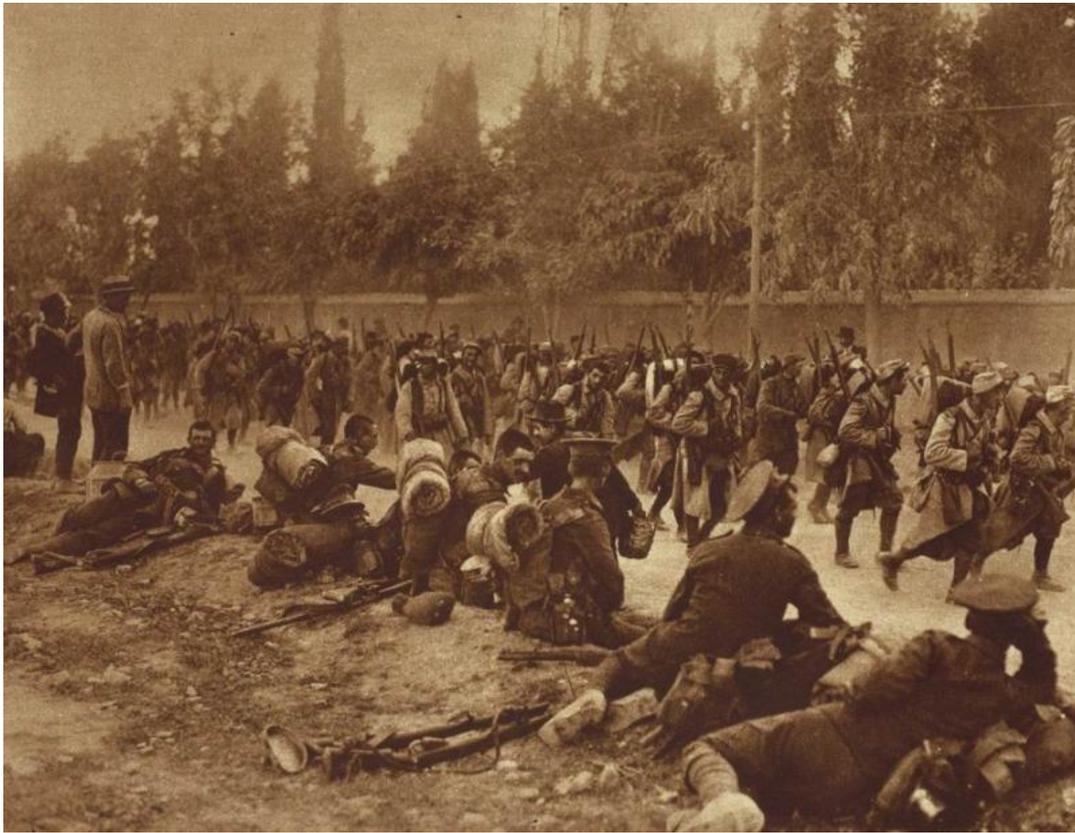
In circumstances that will probably be never known, Herbert died aged 28 on 28 November 1917 in the Greece. Although exchanges of fire would have gone on throughout this action, there was no specific battle at the time of his death. He may have been a casualty of malaria. He is buried in Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, grave/memorial reference 1294.

BRITISH FORCES IN THE SALONIKA CAMPAIGN 1915-1918

Left: Men of a British Yeomanry regiment move down a winding dirt track into the Struma Valley during the summer of 1916.

Private Henry L Ince, a neighbour of Herbert Davies on Barton Road, was also in Salonika, serving with the Cheshire Regiment. He died of wounds received in action on 1 October 1918 aged twenty-three and is also recorded on the memorial.

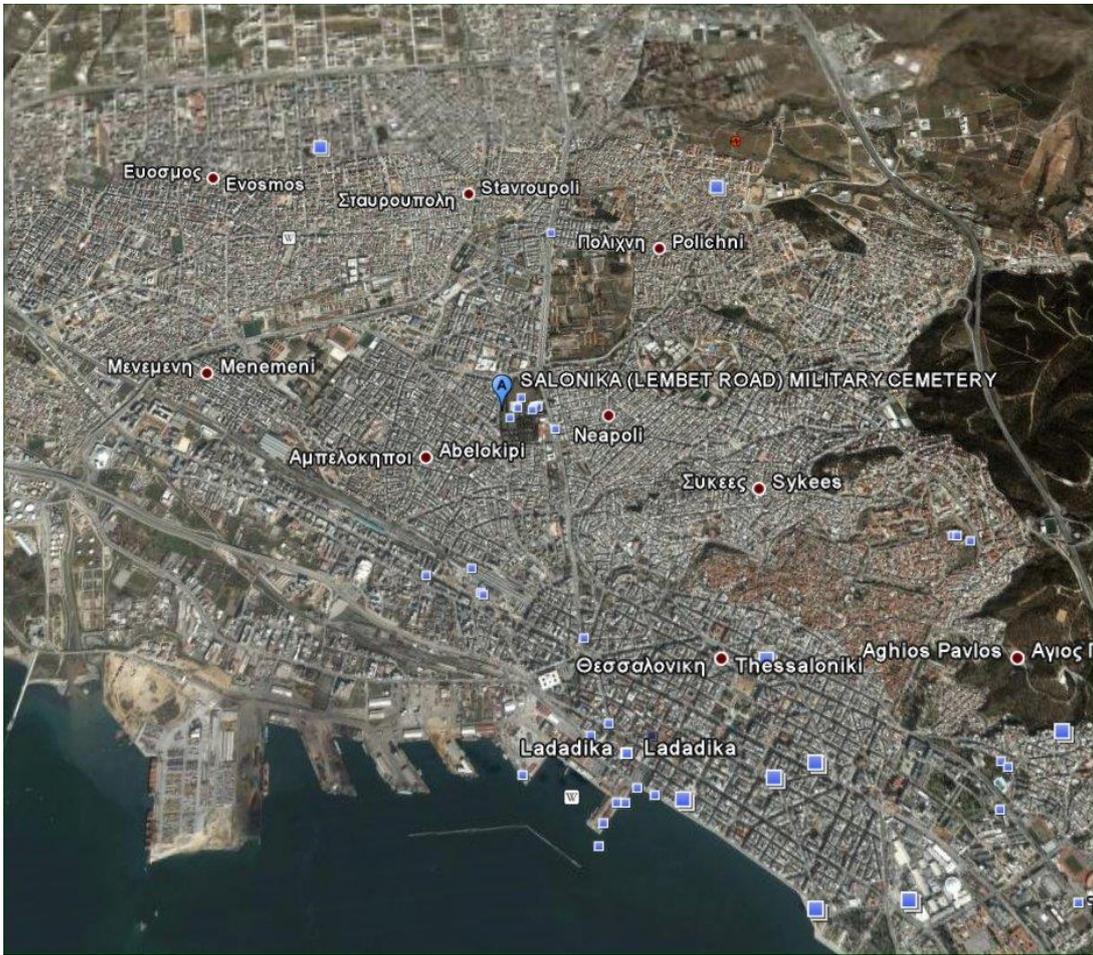




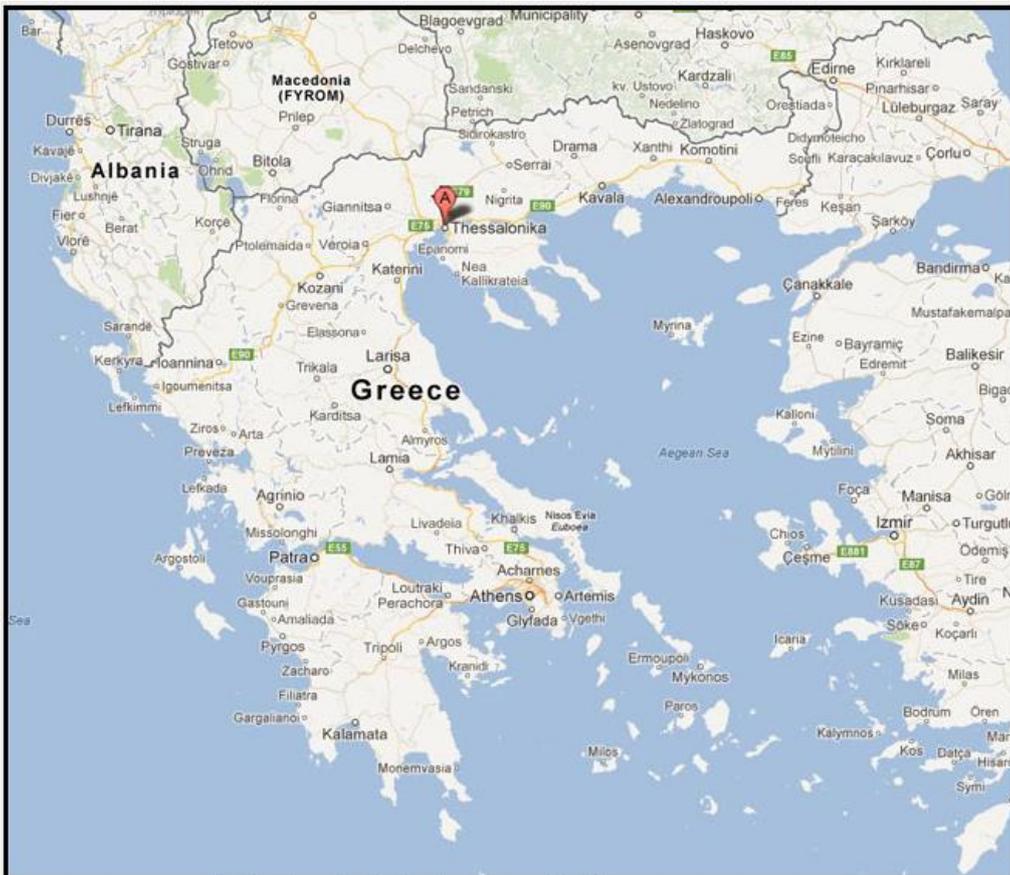
BRITISH FORCES IN THE SALONIKA CAMPAIGN 1915-1918
British troops rest at a roadside as French troops march by during the Balkan offensive.

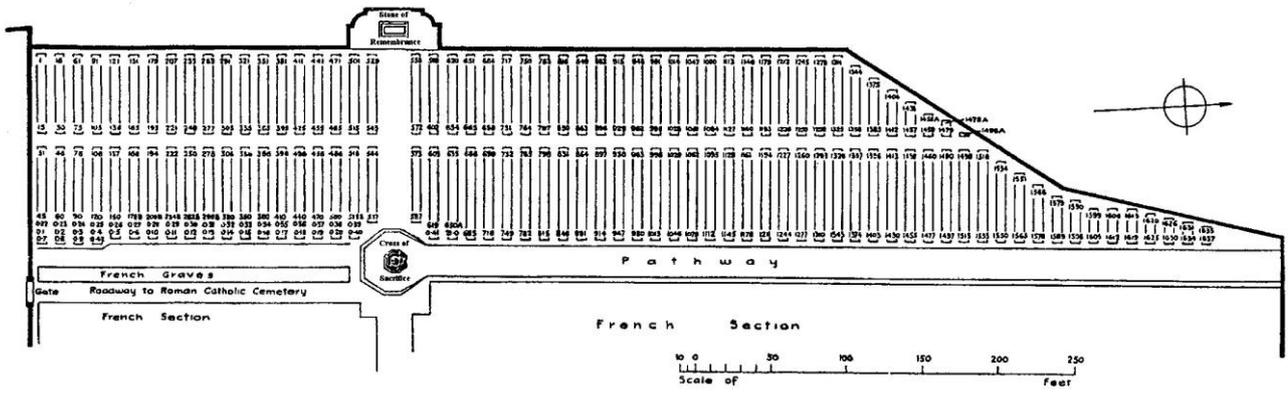


Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery

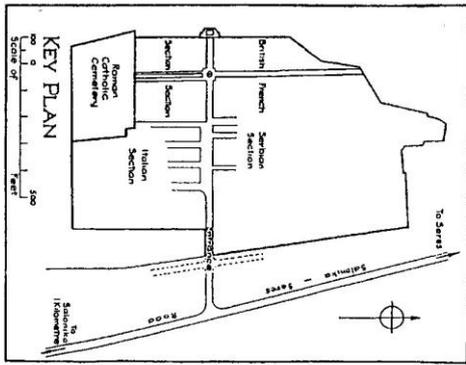


Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery location





SALONIKA (LEMBET ROAD) MILITARY CEMETERY



Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
DAVIES. Herbert.		R-F-A.	Dr.	131609
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORIAN	RFA/257B	31494		
BRITISH	"	"		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				
				K. 1280



Herbert Davies' Medal Card, Medals and Memorial Plaque

In Memory of

Driver

Herbert Davies

131609, 82nd Small Arms Ammunition Col., Royal Field Artillery who died on 28 November 1917 Age 28

Son of the late William and Elizabeth Davies, of Farndon, Chester.

Remembered with Honour
Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Researched and written

by

Mike Royden

www.roydenhistory.co.uk