



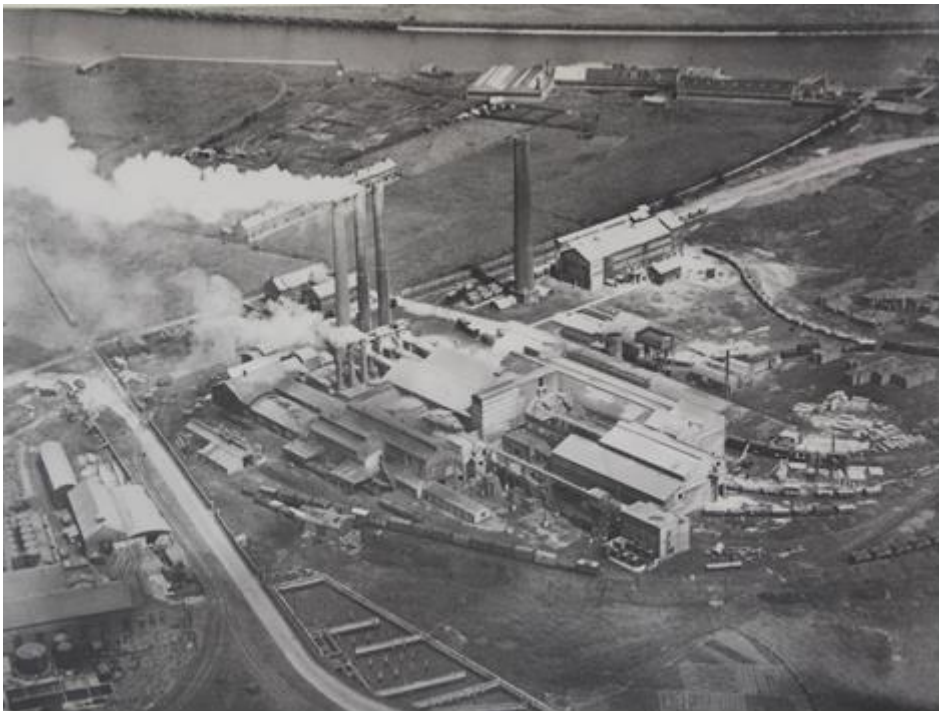
ELLESMERE PORT WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

3839 Private FREDERICK DAVIDSON
8th Battalion Kings Liverpool Regiment
Killed in Action 30 May 1915 Aged 21

30 May – A Painful Anniversary

Frederick Davidson was born in Buckley, Flintshire, in 1893 into a family of brickworkers and colliers. Young Frederick began working life as a brick worker before moving into colliery work in his late teens. By twenty he was married to Minnie Killemede, a girl from his home village, the marriage taking place 30 May 1914. * They moved to 54 Oldfield Road in Ellesmere Port, close to where Fred had secured work in the local cement works. The Portland cement factory was built in

c1910, with a deep water wharf on the Ship Canal and direct access to the Shropshire Union Canal and railway sidings. As it expanded it attracted dozens of worker into the growing town. The factory prospered until the early 1930s, and was the second largest independent factory in the country.



Left: Ellesmere Port Cement Works.

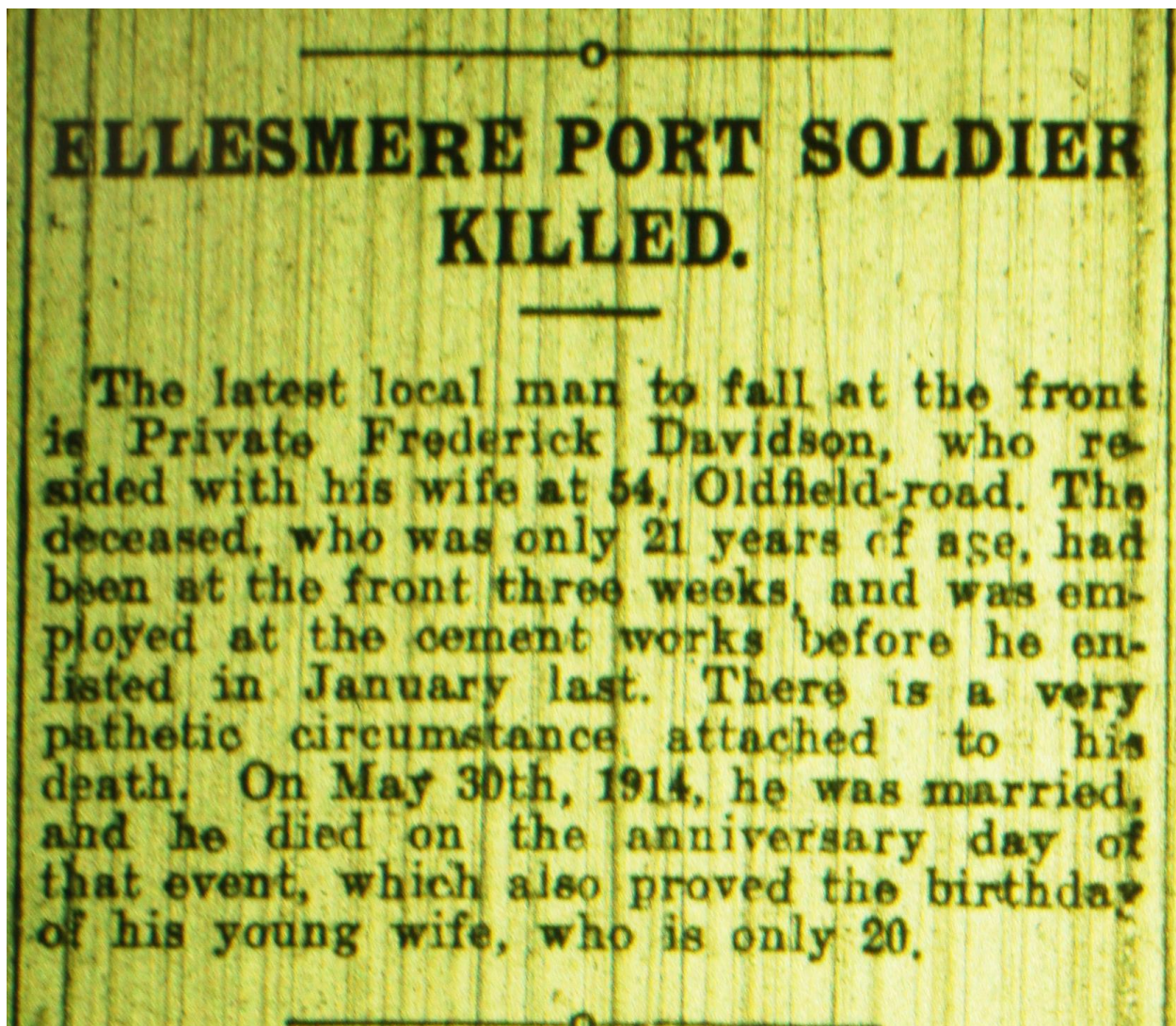
Below: Cap badge, 8th (Irish) Battalion, K.L.R.

After the war broke out, Frederick joined up with the wave of volunteers who signed up in January 1915, once it was clear that the war wasn't over by Christmas. He travelled to Liverpool and attested on 26 January, joining the 8th (Irish Battalion) King's Liverpool Regiment. Although his own parents had Welsh ancestry, his wife's ancestry was Irish, which may be a reason for him attesting for that battalion. After three months training in Kent and Bedford, the Battalion were in Boulogne on 3 May 1915.

The first real action for the Liverpool Irish was the Second Action of Givenchy (15–16 June), but Fred Davidson was already dead, killed in action on 30 May. He had been in France for just three



weeks. Private Frederick Davidson was buried in Pont Du Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, Plot VI, Row E, Grave 33. By an unbelievable coincidence he had died on his young wife's twentieth birthday – which was also their first wedding anniversary.



He also left an infant, as on 10 January 1916 a pension of 15 shillings a week (75 pence) was awarded to his widow and child. Towards the end of the war Minnie Davidson married again, becoming Mrs George Tattum and moved to her new husband's home in The Smelter House, Bagillt in Flint.

[*NB. The first paragraph is based on the estimation regarding Frederick's identity on the census, but this is unreliable. Sight of the marriage certificate of Frederick and Minnie needs to be seen before this is confirmed. Peter Kelsall, researcher for the Flintshire War Memorial Project has also been delving into Frederick's past and his work can be found here; flintshirewarmemorials.com]

In 1919 the Infantry Record Office were trying to trace the next of kin so that the memorial plaque and scroll could be forwarded, and were having little success, even contacting the office of the Chief Constable of Chester. By 1921, she was finally tracked down to Howell's Terrace, New Brighton, Bagillt, where she and her husband George were running the General Stores (and would come to have a family of six sons and two daughters). Minnie Tattum admitted to ignoring four separate communications over the previous couple of years, as she had remarried and had clearly 'moved on'. Very sad to read such words a century later, but at the time Minnie clearly had a new life with a new man, and obviously wanted to put the past and any painful reminders behind her. But of course, this would be difficult given the three anniversaries every 30 May.

Right: 54 Oldfield Road, (also highlighted on 1910 map following).

Below: Correspondence between the police and Army records, revealing that Minnie did not want to be contacted.



Telephone No. 19.

From Superintendent's Office,

In any future communication on this subject, please quote E.80/4

Your Ref. LD. 4348

Flintshire Constabulary.

14th June, 1921.

To Office in Charge, Infantry Records, Fulwood Barracks, Preston.

Rbvl.

Dear Sir,

16 JUN 1921 re Late No. 3839 Pte F. Davidson, The King's Regiment (L'pool).

With reference to your enquiry dated the 7th inst., I beg to inform you that Mrs Tattum, widow of the above named, is residing with her present husband at Howell's Terrace, New Brighton, Bagillt, near Chester.

She admits having received your communication, but did not feel disposed to answer it in consequence of having re-married.

Yours faithfully,

914541 A. E. Lindsay, Sgt.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

4 years' Service in the United Kingdom.

ROLL ~~DISPATCHED~~

DATE 14-6-21

ATTESTATION OF

No. 3839

Name

Frederick Davidson

8th (IRISH) BATT. KING'S L'POOL. REGT.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address 1. Frederick Davidson
64 Aldfield Road
Willesmere Port
2. Are you willing to be enlisted for service in the
Territorial Force for the term of 4 years (provided His
Majesty should so long require your services) for
the County of to serve
in the 8th (IRISH) BATT. KING'S L'POOL. REGT. 2. Yes
3. Have you received a notice stating the liabilities you are
incurring by enlisting, and do you understand them? 3. Yes
4. Do you now belong to or have you ever served in the
Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia
the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Im-
perial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve,
the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If
so, state which unit, and, if discharged, on what date
and in what capacity 4. No

1914-15. STAM.
Victory Medal.

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 99 of the Army Act, if a person knowingly makes a false answer to any question contained in the attestation paper, he renders himself liable to punishment.

I, Frederick Davidson do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to
the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Frederick Davidson SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

St Oswald (Ch) Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Frederick Davidson swear by Almighty God, that
I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I
will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and
Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

I, L. A. Murphy do hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing Questions were
put to the Recruit, above named, that the Answers written opposite to them are those which he gave to me, and that he
has made and signed the Declaration, and taken the oath at Swanpool on this 26 day of

Jan 1915. L. A. Murphy Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer,
or other person authorized to attest Recruits.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and
initial the alteration under Section 30 (6), Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E 501a.

• Here insert County.

† Here insert Corps.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.

and the following number quoted:

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.

1st Feb 1916

No. 213-2400 (S. 3.)

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the widow of No. 3839

Pte Frederick Davidson

8th Irish Bn Lpool Regt

has been awarded a Pension of 15/- a week, for herself

and one child, with effect from the 10th Jan 1916

The Officer issuing Separation Allowance has been informed of the award.

The Pension will be paid from the Central Army Pension Issue Office.

The certificates received in support of the application have been returned to the widow.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Chambers

Assistant Financial Secretary.

T.F.
The Officer in charge of Records,

Preston.

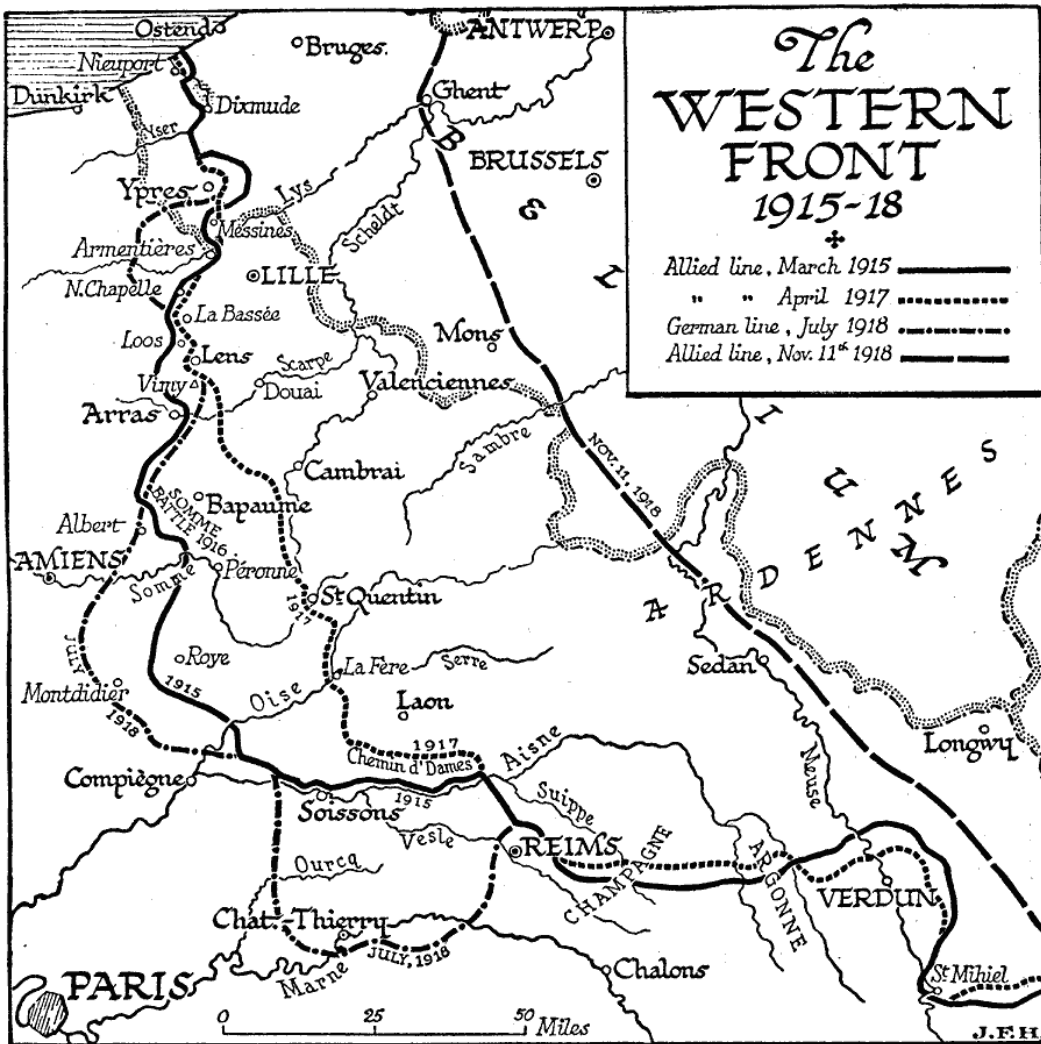
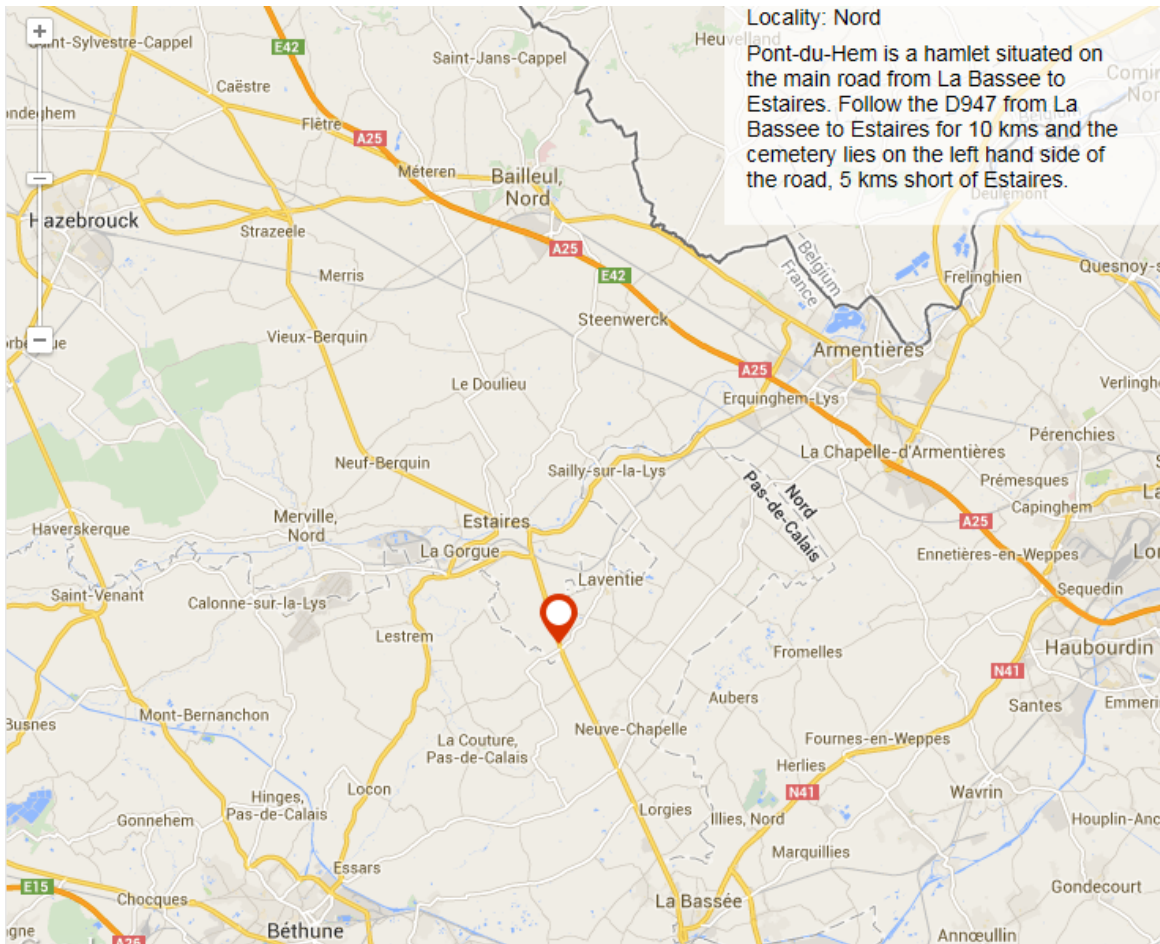
Pension award to Minnie Davidson and her child.

PONT DU HEM MILITARY CEMETERY, LA GORGUE

Pont-du-Hem is a hamlet situated on the main road from La Bassee to Estaires. Follow the D947 from La Bassee to Estaires for 10 kms and the cemetery lies on the left hand side of the road, 5 kms short of Estaires.

The Cemetery was begun, in an apple-orchard, in July 1915, and used until April 1918, by fighting units and Field Ambulances; these original burials are in Plots I, II and III, and Rows A and B of Plot IV. In April and May 1918, German burials were made in Plots III and IV. After the Armistice, 426 German graves were removed to other cemeteries; the Portuguese graves of 1917-1918 were removed to the Portuguese cemetery of Richebourg-L'Avoûe; and British graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from smaller burial grounds.





Frederick Davidson
 lost his life on the
 Front somewhere near
 La Bassée (south west
 of Lille)

Campaign :— *1914 - 15*

(A) Where decoration was earned.

(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)
(A) <i>DAVIDSON</i>	<i>L'pool R.</i>	<i>Pt.</i>	<i>3839</i>	<i>H/2/2B/33.</i>
(B) <i>Frederick</i>	<i>-/-</i>	<i>-/-</i>	<i>-/-</i>	

Action taken

deceased

MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
VICTORY	<i>H/2/102^B/2</i>	<i>48.</i>
BAR	<i>26</i>	<i>60</i>
STAR		

Theatre of War (i.) France.

Qualifying date 3. 5. 15.

(6 34 46) W3138—RP433 50,000 12/17 HWV(P798) K608
1264—RP2020 60,000 5/13

[OVER.]

Medal Card



Researched and written

by

Mike Royden

www.roydenhistory.co.uk