

PERCIVAL David ✓



KLEIN-VIERSTRAAT BRITISH CEMETERY

Private David Percival – 45145 - 9th Btn of the Cheshire Regiment

David was born in Willaston. Before the war, he was an oil spill carter working for the Anglo American Line. In 1913 he married Maggie Davies and they had a son, Joey, who was later to be a casualty in World War 2. When David was recruited on 4th July 1916 he was living in Cherry Brow, Willaston. He was only 5' 3" tall. At his conscription medical on 29th July 1916 he was graded C1, thus initially only required for home service. However, as the need for replacement troops grew, he was posted to the 9th Battalion Cheshire Regiment. He sailed from Southampton on 29th April 1917. On 7th June the Battalion made a frontal attack on the Germans which was preceded by the Royal Engineers setting off mines. The Cheshires had been issued with a tot of rum before going over the top at 03.10 and the Battalion lost about 100 casualties. David died of wounds on 7th June 1917 aged 34. After his death, his wife was awarded a pension of 18s 9d per week for herself and their son. David is buried in Klein - Vierstraat British Cemetery, Belgium.

Unique among the Pals battalions raised early in the war, the Cheshire Bantams, with an average height of just five foot, comprised small men from all over Britain. They fought and suffered heavy casualties at the Somme, Ypres and helped stop the 1918 German offensives. Some 900 Bantams died in the Great War.

