



Petty Officer 145335

Walter John (Jack) Davies

The Royal Navy

1914-1940



At the time of the Census in April 1911, his father(Walter Davies aged 25) was employed as a Limestone Quarryman at John Davies & Company. In August 1913 his father, then aged 27, married Ethel Agnes Lucy Theobald, aged 22, at St Peter Church Llandevaud. Walter John (Jack) Davies was their first child born on 27th March 1914 and christened 10th May 1914. Jack's brother, Bernard William Edward Davies, was born on 16th Feb 1915 and christened 3rd June 1916. Both Christenings were at St Peters Church Llandevaud.

The family moved to 6, Livingstone Place, Maindee, Newport.

His father, [Walter Davies](#), was reported "Killed in Action" on 31st July 1917. His mother died on July 31, 1932, in Llandevaud at the age of 41.



Walter John (Jack) Davies was educated at St Julian's High School and joined the Royal Navy on 10th July 1933 aged 19. He married Elizabeth Mary Friend in March 1938 at Chepstow and they lived at Shepherds Cottage, Coed-y-Caerau. Their daughter, Ruth, was born in 1939.

Walter was serving on HM Submarine Phoenix which was a Parthian-class submarine of the Royal Navy, launched in 1929. She was the eighteenth warship of the Royal Navy to use the name Phoenix and had a displacement of 1,475 Tons but when fully loaded 2,040 Tons, a surface speed of 16.7 knots and 9 Knots submerged speed. Her armament was One 4 -inch Gun Two 20mm Oerlikon Machine Guns and Eight 21 inch Torpedo Tubes (Six in the Bow and two in the Stern). Her normal crew compliment was 53.

She served on the China Station from her commissioning as part of the 4th submarine flotilla until the start of the Second World War. Ships of the China Station were tasked with trade protection and were used as a symbol of British power. In April 1940, the flotilla, along with HMS Medway their supply ship, was ordered to the Mediterranean Sea to support naval operations there and the 1st submarine flotilla was established.

Phoenix was stationed in Alexandria and patrolled the Aegean Sea and waters around the Dodecanese from 14 June to July 1940 (Ionian Sea patrol). In July 1940, Phoenix, under the command of Lt. Commander Gilbert Hugh Nowell RN were given the task of screening a convoy of British ships bringing supplies from Malta to Alexandria. Phoenix made a contact report on 8th July after

sighting the Italian battle fleet. Admiral Andrew Cunningham ordered his ships to cut off the Italian fleet from their base at Taranto, which led to the Battle of Calabria. Phoenix fired torpedoes at two Italian battleships, Giulio Cesare and Conte di Cavour, but missed both targets.

Nothing more was heard from the submarine after a wireless message transmitted on the night of 14th/15th July. A submarine, possibly Phoenix, attacked an escorted Italian tanker the Dora on 16th July off Santa Croce Sicily, the submarine was counter attacked with depth charges and sunk by the Italian Torpedo boat Albatros off Augusta, Sicily, Italy in position 37°15'N, 15°15'E. All crew were lost .

Walter John (Jack) Davies died on HM Submarine Phoenix and the deaths of the crew are recorded as 21st July 1940 he was aged 27.

Walter is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 36, Column 3; the War memorial at St Julian's High School; and a plaque in Langstone Village Hall.





1939	1940	1940
ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE	ROYAL NAVY LIEUTENANT (E)	ROYAL NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
PETTY OFFICER WRITER	DORRIS W. P.	BROOKS D.
SMERICAN H. H.	HOLLOWAY A.	JUDE H. D.
ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER (WIRELESS) RESERVE	HOLLY A. T.	LEAH GIBB A. C.
TELEGRAPHIST	STRIBY E. S. M.B.E.	MILTON G. P.
ABBOTT A. R.	WELLMAN E. S. D.S.C.	NGAD W. J.
ADSON A. W.	WOODHEAD B. H.	POPE W. J. J. C.
HARRISON A. W.	CHAPLAIN	SALT W. H.
HOLLOWAY R. W.	KING REV. J. B.	SLAD J. P.
HUGHES J. J. S.	INSTRUCTOR LIEUT.	SMITH J. S.
SKINNER	STEEL C. B. S.	SUTTON G. A.
TUNMER R. C.	SURGEON COMMANDER	TOWSE A. F.
ROYAL NAVAL AUXILIARY SICK BERTH RESERVE	EGAN C. H. M.B.E. R. L.R.C.P.	PETTY OFFICER
SICK BERTH P.O.	SURGEON LIEUTENANT	WIRD H.
SCHOFIELD E.	MAUNGILL T. A. M. C. B.	BIRMSOME S.
SICK BERTH ATTDE	SURGEON LIEUTENANT	BURTON R. C.
ILLIS A.	STARRS G. P. L.D.S.	CLAYMOTHY U. W.
SACCHETT G. W.	COMMANDER (S)	SCOWPER E.
PARALL K.	BISHOP C. S.	CUNNINGHAM J.
N.A.A.E.I. STAFF	YATES W.	DAVE W.
CANTEEN MANAGER	LIEUT. COMMANDER(S)	DEWANE P.
COPLEY W. H.	ELLIOTT C. C.	DUFFY C. G. H.
CANTEEN ASSISTANT	SUB LIEUTENANT(S)	DUNN C. T.
BISHOP E. C.	JACOBSON B. H.	ENGLISH W. J. M.
MAYNARD H. C.	WRIGHT E. J. L.	GEORGE W. C.
CHURCH	MIDSHIPMAN (S)	GRIFFIN F. W.
WALLACE E. P.	ATKINSON A. J.	NADFIELD E. R.
ROYAL NAVY CAPTAIN	COMMISSIONED GUNNER	HERNIMAN M.
DOVLY HUGHES C.	SCOTT M. P.	HOGAN C. W. A.
LEO DOUGLAS B.S.C.	WERRAN J. L.	HUGHES A. H.
GARSDIE F. R. C. R.C.	GUNNER	JACOBSON B. H.
COMMANDER	MEADOWS E. C.	SCOTT M. P.
STEWART J. T.	GUNNER(T)	SCOTT M. P.
GIBSON A. P.	COOMBE J. H.	SCOTT M. P.
ROBINSON C. E. G.	MOLLS H. C.	SCOTT M. P.
LIEUT. COMMANDER	BOATSWAIN	SCOTT M. P.
BARRIE A. F. S.C.	CADY P. A.	SCOTT M. P.
BLAIRBY W. G. G.	SIGNAL BOATSWAIN	SCOTT M. P.
CHURCHILL D. L. C. H.	ROGERS C.	SCOTT M. P.
WELLS G. H. R. W. J.	W.T. TELEGRAPHIST	SCOTT M. P.
LEITCH W. J. B.	CLARK B. D.	SCOTT M. P.
LEITCH W. J. B.	WARRANT SHIPWRIGHT	SCOTT M. P.
MALCOLM A. B. A. H.	COLE	SCOTT M. P.
NEWMAN J. B. F.	HOPKINS J. H.	SCOTT M. P.
BRINGLE-HUGHES R. W. J.	COMM'D. ENGINEER	SCOTT M. P.
WELLS G. H. R. W. J.	CLYMER R. E.	SCOTT M. P.
LIEUTENANT	WARRANT ENGINEER	SCOTT M. P.
CROSS C. P. W.	COGGE F. B. E. W.	SCOTT M. P.
REID J. H. F.	LONGMAN J. H.	SCOTT M. P.
BALLET H. B. G.	WATSON J. H.	SCOTT M. P.
SMITH P. D. S.C.	COMM'D. ELECTRICIAN	SCOTT M. P.
WHINNEY P. V.	REIDMAN F. J.	SCOTT M. P.
WATERMAN R. J. M.	SCHOOLMASTER (W.O.)	SCOTT M. P.
SUB LIEUTENANT	MALLEN H. C. H.	SCOTT M. P.
EVY G. I.	W.T. WRITER OFFICER	SCOTT M. P.
WHITNEY M. E. L.	ROBERTS	SCOTT M. P.
STANLEY R. K. P.	W.T. STORES OFFICER	SCOTT M. P.
ROBERTS	FRISBY J. E.	SCOTT M. P.
FRISBY J. E.	CHIEF PETTY OFFICER	SCOTT M. P.
COMMANDER (E)	COOPER	SCOTT M. P.
LIEUT. COMMANDER (E)	DOUGLAS B. S. P.	SCOTT M. P.
HOWEN T. C.	DOUGLAS B. S. P.	SCOTT M. P.
ROBERTSON W. V. P. R.S.M.	FRASER I. V. P. R.S.M.	SCOTT M. P.
ROBERTSON W. V. P. R.S.M.		SCOTT M. P.

In Memory of
Petty Officer
Walter John Davis

D/J 145335, H.M. Submarine Phoenix, Royal Navy who died on 21 July 1940

Remembered with Honour
Plymouth Naval Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

IN MEMORY OF
THE MEN OF LANGSTONE
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
IN WORLD WAR 1939-1945

W. J. DAVIES.
W. W. DEAN.
NOEL WHITE.
G. W. PHILLIPS.
D. P. BOAG-JONES.
R. J. W. McALLEN.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Davies.—Cherished memories of my dear husband, P.O. Walter J. Davies, lost his life on H.M. submarine Phoenix, July 21, 1940. "Beautiful memories are all I have left, Of one I loved and shall never forget; A loving smile, a happy face, A broken link I can never replace." Always in the thoughts of his loving wife, Betty, and little Ruth. S

Davies.—Treasured memories of our dear son-in-law Walter J. Davies, lost his life at sea, July 21, 1940. Always remembered by Mr. and Mrs. C. Friend and family. God's greatest gift, remembrance. S



The Newport cenotaph was unveiled by Lord Tredegar in June 1923, to commemorate the local people who died in active service in the First World War. It now also commemorates people who died in subsequent wars. There are no names on the memorial but Petty Officer 145335 Walter John (Jack) Davies's name appears on the listing together with the names of his father [Private 33029 Walter Davies](#) and his uncle [Lance Sergeant 17082 Edward George Theobald](#).