

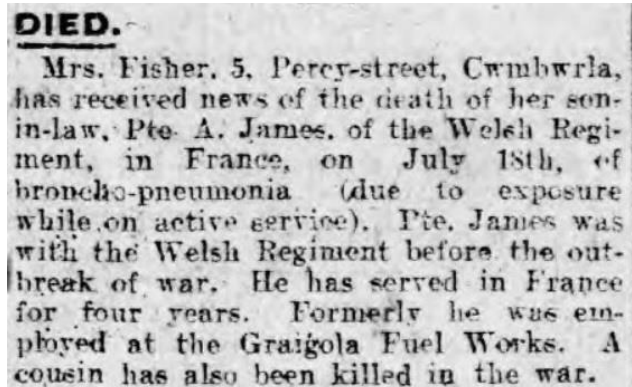
**Private Arthur J. James**  
**Regimental number: 265338**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Welsh Regiment**

**born: probably in about 1889 - died: 6 July 1918**

Private Arthur J. James was the husband of Sarah E. Fisher.<sup>1 2</sup> They were married in Swansea, Wales in 1913<sup>3</sup> and had a daughter, Dorothy E., born in late 1913 or early 1914.<sup>4</sup> In 1918, Arthur and Sarah were living at 5 Percy Street, Swansea, where Arthur was included in the 1918 electoral register.<sup>5</sup> He was identified as an absent voter. Unfortunately, the 1918 election was held in December and, while votes from soldiers overseas were counted, Arthur had died five months earlier.

Before enlisting, Arthur worked at the Graigola Fuel Works on the Swansea Docks<sup>6</sup> – a company making briquettes from coal dust.<sup>7</sup> He enlisted in the Welsh Regiment before the war.<sup>8</sup> During the war, he served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Glamorgan). He left for the Western Front early in the war – leaving when his Battalion left on 29 October 1914<sup>9</sup> and landing in Le Havre.<sup>10</sup> The Battalion immediately began work on communication lines and later took part in many major engagements on the Western Front.

Arthur survived four years in France but, on 26 June 1918, he was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with broncho-pneumonia. His unit had been stationed in the same billets in Saily La Bourse for the months of June and July and were engaged in maintenance work, digging cable trenches and burying cables and training.<sup>11</sup> The weather had been wet – too wet for most outdoor recreational activities. It is perhaps not surprising that Arthur came down with broncho-pneumonia. However, he survived for ten days, only succumbing to his illness on 6 July. He was buried the same day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row D, Grave 39) with the chaplain J. K. Tibbitts presiding. His wife, who was still living at 5 Percy Street, was notified of his death and received the monies owing to him by the army after his death.



**DIED.**  
Mrs. Fisher, 5, Percy-street, Cwmbwrla, has received news of the death of her son-in-law, Pte. A. James, of the Welsh Regiment, in France, on July 18th, of broncho-pneumonia (due to exposure while on active service). Pte. James was with the Welsh Regiment before the outbreak of war. He has served in France for four years. Formerly he was employed at the Graigola Fuel Works. A cousin has also been killed in the war.

*Cambrian Daily Leader*, 29 July 1918 Welsh Newspapers Online  
(<http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>)

Arthur J. was born in Wandsworth, Surrey<sup>12</sup> and was probably Arthur John James, the son of William George and Elizabeth (formerly Elizabeth Hawkins) James.<sup>13</sup> If so, he was born on 3 October 1889 and baptised at St Peter's in Battersea, Wandsworth on 22 December of the same year.

Arthur was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>14</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 12 May 2015), entry for Arthur James
- <sup>2</sup> Sarah was probably Sarah Jane Fisher, born in about 1892 in Swansea, the daughter of Ebenezar and Ann Fisher. "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 20 May 2015), entry for Sarah Jane [Fisher], Registration district: Swansea, Registration District Number: 594, Sub-registration district: Swansea, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Household schedule number: 313, Piece: 32772
- <sup>3</sup> "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk), accessed 19 May 2015), entry for Arthur J. James, District: Swansea, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A Page: 1694
- <sup>4</sup> "England & Wales births 1837-2006," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 19 May 2015), entry for Dorothy E. James, District: Swansea, County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11A, Page: 2470
- <sup>5</sup> Register of electors 1918, Brynmelyn Ward.
- <sup>6</sup> "Died," *Cambrian Daily Leader*, 29 July 1918 (<http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/title/view/4095380>; accessed 19 May 2015)
- <sup>7</sup> "English Historical Documents, 1874-1914," edited by David Charles Douglas, W. D. Handcock (ebook: <https://books.google.ca/books?id=Dy20ERSQcs0C&pg=PA221&lpg=PA221&dq=Graigola+Fuel+Works&source=bl&ots=-lmGfEfXjZ&sig=o9cSWINUsMEDjTuJSZdYi3HgnCQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ppxbVZjWMSqayATWxoKoBA&ved=0CCoQ6AEwAjqU#v=onepage&q=Graigola%20Fuel%20Works&f=false>; accessed 19 May 2015)
- <sup>8</sup> "Died," *Cambrian Daily Leader*, 29 July 1918
- <sup>9</sup> "Welsh Regiment 6th (Glamorgan) Btn," The Wartime Memories Project (<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/alliedarmy-view.php?pid=1032>; accessed 19 May 2015)
- <sup>10</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Arthur James
- <sup>11</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 20 May 2015), entry for Welsh Regiment, Sub Unit: 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Piece Description: Piece 1256/3: 6 (Pioneer) Battalion Welsh Regiment (1916 Jun - 1919 Aug), Piece Number: 1256
- <sup>12</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 12 May 2015), entry for Arthur James
- <sup>13</sup> "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 19 May 2015), entry for Arthur John James; "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 14 May 2015), entry for William George James, Parish: St Peter, Battersea, Borough: Wandsworth, Register Type: Parish Register
- <sup>14</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Arthur James