

## SAPPER VICTOR CHARLES DAVIES

*Service Number: 4856318*

*Enlisted: 275 Field Company Royal Engineers*

*Born: 6<sup>th</sup> April 1915, Birkenhead*

*Died: Killed in action 6<sup>th</sup> March 1943, Aged 28*

*Memorials: Sfax War Cemetery Tunisia*

*Plot VII, Row B, Grave 16*

*Burbage War Memorial*

*Burbage Liberal Club Memorial*

*St Catherine's Church Memorial*

*Holy Trinity Memorial, Hinckley*



Victor was born whilst his father was serving in the First World War on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1915 at 2 Cardigan Road, New Brighton, Birkenhead. By 1919, whilst Victor and his sister Iris were children the family separated and came to live with their maternal grandparents "The Morants", at 7 Strutt Road and then later 24 Windsor Street, Burbage.



Victor as a baby with his parents and sister

On 11<sup>th</sup> July 1919, Victor and his sister Iris were admitted into the Burbage Church School, the register states their former School was in Newport. The later registers show they left Burbage in 1926, but came back in 1927. After leaving school Victor eventually trained to be a bus driver, firstly working for Robinsons Buses of Burbage.

In the mid-1930's, he met and married Burbage girl Kathleen Amelia Morris and set up home in Hinckley to be near his work with the Birmingham and Midland Red Bus Company.



Victor and Kathleen

Victor had served in the Territorials from 1931-1935 and he knew with that experience as a reservist he would be called up early in the conflict. On 28 September 1939, two weeks after war was declared he enlisted with the Royal Engineers leaving his wife and two small sons, Peter and Michael at 40 Strathmore Road, Hinckley.

On enlistment his army record, at the age of 24 years and 6 months states:

Height 5 feet 9½ inches

Weight 151 pounds

36½ inches chest

Complexion fair

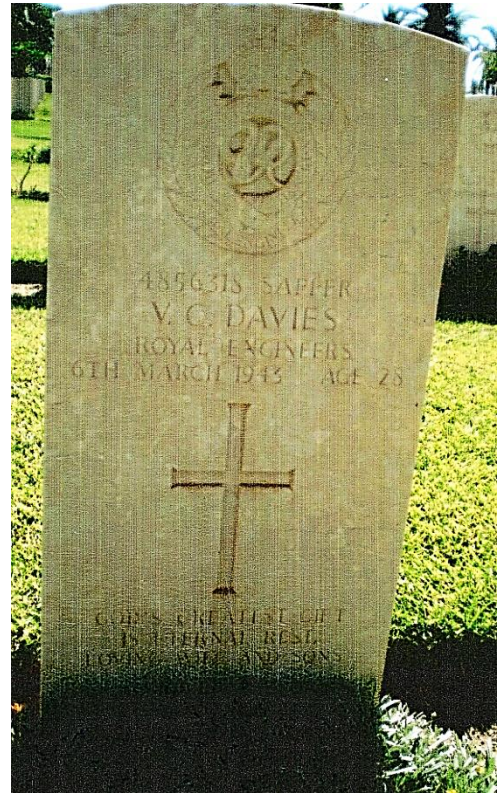
Eyes Blue

Hair Brown

On 10 December 1939, he was with the forces in France. The evacuation of Dunkirk started on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1940 and continued until 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Victor was one of the many successfully evacuated on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1940.

On 9<sup>th</sup> January 1942, he left his wife and two young sons for the last time arriving in Suez on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1942 to join the war in North Africa.

At the second battle of El Alamein, which resulted in victory for the Allied Forces on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1942, the enemy were pushed in to Tunisia. Most of the attacks with the Eighth Army took place at Medenine, the Mareth Line and Wadi Akarit in March and April 1943. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 1943, at the 176 Field Ambulance in Southern Tunisia Victor died of his wounds.



Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia

When Burbage WW2 War Memorial was unveiled in 1948, the family were living at 31 Thirlmere Road, Hinckley, but the family decided that because Victor had spent some of his childhood and married in Burbage that his name should also be on the Burbage War Memorial, his mother lived on Church Street. His name is also commemorated on the Holy Trinity Memorial.

Kathleen Davies received a War Widows Pension, which in 1943 was £1, 15 shillings per week and sixteen shillings for the two sons. Victor's sons grew up in Hinckley, they are very proud of their fathers' sacrifice, and some years ago, Peter made the long journey to visit his father's grave at the Sfax War Cemetery in Tunisia.



Sfax War Cemetery Tunisia

Date of birth or first attestation. 6. 4. 1914

Army Form E 531

**ORIGINAL**  
**DUPLICATE**

TERRITORIAL ARMY

TESTATION OF

No. 4 956318 Name DAVIES V.C. Engineers

To be filled in by O. i/c Records

Registration Number 29 SEP 1939

Duration of the period of embodiment

**PART I.**

**Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment**

1. What is your full name and permanent postal address?  
 (Christian Name) Victor Charles  
 (Surname) Davies  
 (Address) 7 Eskdale Road, Hinckley
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?  
 In or near the Parish of New Brighton  
 In or near the Town of New Brighton  
 In the County of Warwickshire
3. (a) Are you a British Subject?  
 (b) Nationality of parents at their birth.  
 (a) Yes  
 (b) (Father) Motor Driver  
 (Mother) 1931-1935
4. What is your trade or calling?  
Motor Driver

YOU ARE HEREBY WARNED THAT IF AFTER ENLISTMENT IT IS FOUND THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN A WILFULLY FALSE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS YOU WILL BE LIABLE TO PUNISHMENT.

5. (a) What was your age (in years) last birthday?  
 (b) Day, month and year of birth.  
 (a) 27  
 (b) 4/11/15
6. (a) Are you married?  
 (b) How many children are dependent upon you?  
 (a) No  
 (b) Two
7. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Supplementary Reserve, the Territorial Force (or Army), the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Auxiliary Air Force, the Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force, or any O.T.C. or Cadet Unit? If so state particulars of all engagements.
8. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?  
Yes
9. Are you willing to be vaccinated or to be vaccinated?  
Yes
10. (a) Are you willing to enlist for General Service?  
 (b) Are you willing to serve outside the United Kingdom?  
 (a) Yes  
 (b) Yes
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions until the end of the period of embodiment of the Territorial Army, provided His Majesty should so long require your services, which means that you will be required to serve for so long as His Majesty should require your services in connexion with the present emergency for which you are enlisting, and that if you are still serving at the termination of the period of embodiment you will be discharged as soon as your services can be dispensed with thereafter?  
Yes
12. Are you in receipt of a disability pension?  
No
13. Have you received a notice paper stating the disabilities you are incurring by enlisting and do you understand and are you willing to accept them?  
Yes

I, Victor Charles Davies 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; also that I understand that, should my health fail or should I sustain an injury during military service, I shall not be eligible for consideration for pension or gratuity on account of disability unless the disability is directly attributable to the conditions of Military Service.

V. C. Davies SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
G. J. Jacobson Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.


I, Victor Charles Davies swear by Almighty God that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty the King George the Sixth, His Heirs and Successors, and Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey His Majesty's lawful Commands, and will be true to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me.

CERTIFICATE OF  
Charles King do hereby certify that, in my presence, all the foregoing questions were put to the recruit above-named, that the answers written

ADH001262164

Army Attestation Form

## DIED OF WOUNDS IN MIDDLE EAST



**The Late Sapper Vic Davies**

His many friends and acquaintances throughout the Burbage and Hinckley districts will regret to learn that Sapper Vic Davies, a former Burbage youth, whose wife and two small boys live at 7, Eskdale Road, Hinckley, has died of wounds sustained while serving with the Eighth Army in Tunisia.

He was 28 years of age, and had been in the Army since a fortnight after the outbreak of war. He successfully came through the evacuation of Dunkirk, and had been in the Middle East for about 15 months.

He was in the Leicestershire Territorials before being called to the Forces.

He was, in pre-war days, a bus conductor, being employed first by Robinsons, of Burbage, and afterwards by the Birmingham and Midland Red 'Bus Co.

His mother lives in Church Street, Burbage.

Hinckley Times, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1943



Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia