

PEMBREY & BURRY PORT MEMORIALS



WORLD WARS

Pembrey & Burry Port Memorials



This ledger contains 186 memorial entries for servicemen from Pembrey and Burry Port who served and died in various locations around the world.

<https://tinyurl.com/PBP-Memorials-Ledger>



Pembrey & Burry Port - Memorials

World War I & II



This article is dedicated to remembering the men from Pembrey and Burry Port who served and gave their lives in World War I, World War II, and other conflicts. These individuals — soldiers, sailors, airmen — were sons, brothers, fathers, and neighbours.

Some rest in war cemeteries far from home; others lie in local churchyards, and some are named on memorials because they were never found.

To honour them, each name has been carefully researched and linked to its memorial location using an interactive Google MyMap.

This map allows readers to explore where each person is commemorated, whether on a headstone, a plaque, or a distant battlefield. It transforms remembrance into connection making their stories visible, accessible, and enduring.

<https://tinyurl.com/Pem-BP-War-Memorials-WW1-WW2>



United Kingdom

St Illtyd Church, Burry Port

PO John Raymond Baldock (1953)
PO Spencer Rhys Bevan-John (1940)
SGT David Jack Blair (1940)
SGT George Warden Brown (1940)
3rd Eng William Lewis Christie (1917)
SGT John Douglas Laing Cooper (1940)
Cpt Ralph Picton Daniel (1917) (M)
Steward Joseph Emery (1918)
2Lt Thomas George (1918) (M)
L Aircraftman Harold George (1942)
Lt Montague Beaumont Glover (1941)
Lt R.H.R Arthur Charles Gravelle (1941) (M)
Gwynfryn James Griffiths (1940)
Kapitan Roman Grzanka (1943)
WCom John Harvey Hutchinson (1940)
PO Frederick William Rupert V Jacques (1957)
Pvt William James (1917)
Gunner William Thomas Jones (1943)
Porucznik Olech Antoni Kawczynski (1941)
Kapral Jacek Zygmund Fran Kinel (1944)
LA George Alfred Layton (1942)
MG Montagu Stanley Melliss (1919)
LA Wilfred Leonard Morris (1941)
Gun Robert Noble (1942)
SL Stephen John M Ogilvie (1943)
Sgt Elwyn Rees Owen (1991)
St Si Waclaw Oyrzanowski (1943)
PO Stanislaw Piatkowski (1940)

AC 2nd Class Alec Frederick Prior (1941)
Pvt Albert Rees (1915)
Sgt William Leyson Rhys (1942)
WO Bernard James Skelly (1945)
PO Basil York Sowter (1940)
Gun David George Roderick Thomas (1941)
RAF Huw Thomas (1939)
Sgt John Thomas (1913)
FO Berverley John Wentworth Thomson (1945)
Unknown Airman (1943)
Sgt Charles Albert Venn (1941)
PO William Richard Aelwyn Walters (1941)
Pod Leon Jan Waterowski (1944)
Flt O David Howard Williams (1971)

[Bethel Chapel](#)

Able Seaman Daniel Charles Bevan (1918) (M)
Pvt Owen Richards (1942)

[Bethlehem Chapel](#)

Driver Gwilym Lewis (1917) (M)

[Brookwood Military Cemetery](#)

Pvt Benjamin Griffiths (1940) (M)

[Burry Port Cemetery](#)

L Aircraftsman Ieuan Jenkins (1944)
OS Thomas King (1942)
Pvt Thomas Luttrell Morris (1945) (M)

[Danygraig Cemetery](#)

Stoker 2nd Class Evan Jones (1942)
Mary Fitzmaurice (1918)
Edith Ellen Copham (1918)

Hermon Wesleyan Chapel

Pvt Gwyther Barclay Thomas (1918)

Llanelli District Cemetery

L-Cpl Victor James Cole (1918)

Tabernacle Baptist Chapel

Pvt Albert Owen Davies (1917)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

3rd Eng Brinley Colwill (1941) (M)

4th EO John C Knowles (M)

David Gwynne Edmunds (1917) (M)

2nd Mate Thomas Llewellyn McFadden (1916) (M)

2nd Engineer David Edmunds Rees (1917) (M)

Deck Hand John Patrick Collins (1943) (M)

Able Seaman Olaf Dahle (1940) (M)

Junior Engineer Officer Joseph Elved Daniel (1942) (M)

Second Engineer Officer John Jones (1941) (M)

Donkeyman Stanley Jones (1940) (M)

Second Radio Officer Vernon John Martell Lewis (1940) (M)

Assistant Cook Edwin Henry Persson (1940) (M)

Second Radio Officer Albert Leslie Putz (1942) (M)

Fireman & Trimmer Leslie Glyndon Williams (1943) (M)

Ship's Surgeon Trevor Mattias Owen Williams (1941) (M)

Plymouth Naval Memorial

Ship's Steward George Bargewell (1918) (M)

Able Seaman Raymond Bowen (1942) (M)

Able Seaman David Owen Davies (1941) (M)

Able Seaman William David Davies (1942) (M)

Able Seaman Frederick Gravell (1941) (M)

Lieutenant R.H.R Arthur Charles Gravelle (1941) (M)

SBA Henry James Jones (1942) (M)

Ld Stks Thomas Frederick Styles (1915) (M)
Writer Gordon Ashton Twyford (1942) (M)
Ordinary Seaman Sidney Bowen (1917) (M)
Able Seaman David James Thomas (1918) (M)

France

Abbeville Communal Cemetery

Pvt Samuel John Davies (1916)

Arras Memorial

Able Seaman Daniel Charles Bevan (1918) (M)
Pvt John Owen Griffiths (1918) (M)
Pvt John Gwyfor Rowlands (1918) (M)

Bernafay Wood British Cemetery

Corporal Henry Bannell (1916)

Bethune Town Cemetery

Lieutenant Colonel David Brynmor Chiles-Evans (1917)

Bois-des-Angles British Cemetery

Pvt William John Morgan (1918)

Braine Communal Cemetery

Pvt Thomas John Hawkins (1914)

Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery

Pvt Isaac Lewis (1916)

Cambrai Memorial

Pvt John Edwards Zachariah (1917) (M)
Capt David Gwynne Edmunds (1917) (M)
Pvt John Williams (1917)

Caterpillar Valley Cemetery

2Lt Thomas George (1918)

Cimetière Saint Sever

Pvt James Davies (1916)

Dive Copse British Cemetery

Pvt Willian Frank Howe (1918)

Fienvillers British Cemetery

Pvt Cadvan Francis Jones (1918)

Gavres Communal Cemetery

Flt Lt Evan Arthur Davies (1943)

Gorre British & Indian Cemetery

Pvt Reginald Lingard William Collins (1917)

Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery

Capt Hume Buckly Roderick (1917)

Guillemont Road Cemetery

Pvt Thomas Smith (1916)

Haringhe Military Cemetery

Pvt Joseph Bulcock (1918)

Harponville Communal Cemetery

Pvt Archie Styles (1918)

Haspres Coppice

Pvt Andrew Barbour (1918)

Houdetot Church

2Lt Alexander MacDonald Smith (1940)

La Gorgue Communal Cemetery

Sapper Adam Gillespie (1917)

Le Cateau Military Cemetery

Pvt Herbert Wallis (1918)

Louveral Military Cemetery

Pvt Frederick G Hallet (1918)

Marcoing British Cemetery

Able Seaman John Mycock (1917)

Puchevillers British Cemetery

Pvt Thomas Power (1916)

Ration Farm Annexe

Pvt Martin Tierney (1916)

Rocquigny-Equancourt Road Cemetery

Pvt Lemuel Price (1917)

Pozieres Memorial

Sec Lt Frederick Arthur Campbell (1918)

Pvt Joseph Henry James (1918) (M)

Pvt Thomas George Williams (1918)

Terlincthun British Cemetery

Pvt Walter Camp (1918)

Tincourt New British Cemetery

Pvt Edwin Thomas (1918)

Wimereux Communal Cemetery

Pvt Tom Charles Fuller (1914)

Belgium

Artillery Wood Cemetery

Cpt Ralph Picton Daniel (1917)

Brandhoek Military Cemetery

Pvt George Albert Lewis (1916)

Serjeant Joseph Robert Taylor (1915)

Brandhoek New Military Cemetery

Pvt Ivor Idris Lewis (1917)

Canada Farm Cemetery

Sapper Frank Gibson Griffiths (1917)

Dadizeele New British Cemetery

Cpt Francis Percy Campbell Pemberton (1914)

Dickebusch New Military Cemetery

Driver Gwilym Lewis (1917)

Ferme-Olivier Cemetery

Second Lt John David Vaughan, MC (1917)

Pvt Evan Thomas (1916)

Hop Store Cemetery

Gunner John Erasmus Rowlands (1917)

Menin Gate Memorial

Pvt William Fanning (1917)

Pvt Herbert Samuel James Owen (1917)

LCpl William Eric Thomas (1917) (M)

Menin Road South Cemetery

Gunner Trevor Griffiths (1917)

Mill Road Cemetery

Pvt David Walter Hughes (1918)

New Irish Farm Cemetery

Sgt William Henry Winstone (1917)

Noeux-les-Mines Cemetery

Gunner Frederick Thomas Randell (1917)

Ploegsteert Memorial

Pvt Alfred James Holt (1918) (M)

Pvt John Thomas (1918) (M)

Thiepval Memorial

Pvt Robert Jones (1916) (M)

Pvt Sidney Isaac (1916) (M)

Pvt George James Rees

Tyne Cot Memorial

Pvt Ernest Newton Cole (1918) (M)

Gunner William Henry Perrin (1917) (M)

Vis-en-Artois Memorial

Pvt Joseph Gower (1918) (M)

Corporal Richard Bevan, MM (1918) (M)

Pvt William Roberts (1918) (M)

Pvt Robert Frederick Tate (1918) (M)

Netherlands

Jonkerbos War Cemetery

Cpl David Ronald Thomas (1945)

Venray War Cemetery

Pvt Luttrell Thomas Morris (1945)

Groesbeek Memorial

Pvt George Leslie Arthur (1944)

Trooper Harry Welby Bone (1944)

Italy

Florence War Cemetery

Gnr John S Moss (1944)

Forli War Cemetery

Pvt David Edward Reynolds (1945)

Gradara War Cemetery

Pvt Lawrence Winson Gange (1944)

Magnaboschi British Cemetery

Pvt George Bradley (1918)

Greece

East Mudros Military Cemetery

Pvt Richard Price (1915)

Doiran Military Cemetery

Pvt W Webber (1918)

Green Hill Cemetery

Sapper Alan Cuthbert Calvert (1915)

Turkey

Helles Memorial

Lt Allan Whitlock Nicholl Roderick (1915) (M)

Pvt George Edward Scott (1915) (M)

India

India Gate, Delhi

Gunner W. R. Rees (1918) (M)

Imphal War Cemetery

Lance Corporal Arthur Allen (1944)

Ranchi War Cemetery

Leading Aircraftman Michael Denis (1943)

Myanmar (Burma)

Rangoon Memorial

Fusilier Vincent Howell Davies (1944)

Singapore

Kranji War Cemetery

Flying Officer John Mansel-Lewis (1941)

Egypt

Kantara War Memorial Cemetery,

Staff Sergeant William Richard Rees (1944) (M)

Private Robert Scott (1917)

Ramleh War Cemetery, Egypt

Signalman Thomas Henry Williams (1943)

Iraq

Amara War Cemetery,

Lance Corporal William Evans (1916)

Private Charles Edward Hewitt (1916)

A New Approach to Memorial Research

In developing this ledger, I've followed a methodology that goes beyond traditional documentation. What began as a project of record-keeping evolved into something more profound — a quiet revolution in memorial research.

Rather than simply cataloguing what was already known, I sought to uncover what had been forgotten, overlooked, or never recorded. This included identifying individuals absent from the Pembrey and Burry Port memorials and tracing those commemorated only on headstones in scattered cemeteries. In doing so, I've aimed to restore names to history that might otherwise have remained invisible.

My approach integrates updated biographies, geo-mapped locations, and the logging of missing entries into platforms such as *Find A Grave*. This isn't just a dataset — it's a network of remembrance: accessible, interactive, and emotionally resonant.

The strategy blends:

- **Fieldwork:** Visiting and documenting grave sites and memorials in person
- **Archival Research:** Cross-referencing historical records, military archives, and local sources.
- **Digital Mapping:** Creating spatial narratives through virtual cemeteries and interactive maps.
- **Community Collaboration:** Building upon the work of others and fostering shared remembrance.

This framework is designed not only to record history but to heal it — by restoring dignity, identity, and connection. It's a model that others may adopt, but its depth and sensitivity reflect a personal commitment to legacy and truth.

It's a way of saying: you were here, and you are not forgotten.

Pembrey & Burry Port War Memorials

Arthur A Allen

Service No.: 3971158

Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders

Brigade/Division: 23rd Indian Division

Date of Death: 15 April 1944

Age: 32

Burial: Imphal War Cemetery, Burma (Plot 8. K. 11)

Lance Corporal Arthur Allen was from Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. He served with the 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, which was attached to the 23rd Indian Division during the Burma Campaign of World War II.

In early 1944, his battalion was part of the besieged Allied garrison at **Imphal**, a critical strategic point in Northeast India. On **15 April 1944**, Arthur was killed during a counterattack against Japanese forces attempting to infiltrate Allied positions. The fighting around Imphal was characterized by intense jungle warfare, harsh conditions, and determined enemy resistance.

He is buried at **Imphal War Cemetery** in Burma (now Myanmar), which holds over 1,600 Commonwealth graves. His sacrifice reflects the global reach of Welsh servicemen in World War II, far from the familiar landscapes of home. Though not commemorated on local memorials, his role in defending Imphal—a turning point in the Asia-Pacific theatre—underscores the courage of those who fought in often-overlooked campaigns.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21618887/arthur-a-allen#add-to-vc>

George Leslie Arthur

Service No.: 14796673

Rank: Private

Regiment: 4th Battalion, Welch Regiment

Brigade/Division: 53rd (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 28 March 1945

Age: 19

Memorial: Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

Private George Leslie Arthur was the son of George and Doris Arthur of Burry Port. He served with the 4th Battalion, Welch Regiment, a territorial unit attached to the 53rd (Welsh) Division during World War II.

The division landed on the Normandy beaches in June 1944 and fought through the breakout from Normandy, advancing through France and Belgium into the Netherlands. George was killed in action on **28 March 1945** during fierce fighting around the Dutch town of **Bocholt**, as Allied forces pushed toward Germany.

Aged just 19, he has no known grave and is commemorated on the **Groesbeek Memorial** in the Netherlands, which honours over 1,000 Commonwealth soldiers lost during the liberation of the country. His sacrifice reflects the courage of young Welsh soldiers in the final stages of the war in Europe, contributing to the freedom of the Netherlands.

Though not listed on local memorials, his service remains a proud part of Burry Port's history.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12905502/george-leslie-arthur>

Private Hugo Robert Arthur

Service: 43rd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Service Number: 4745

Born: Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Died: 11 August 1918, Somme, France (aged 32)

Family:

- Son of Robert John Arthur and Emma Lucy Arthur (née Hart)
- Husband of Gladys Blodwen Arthur
- Emigrated to Australia in 1914, settling at Kensington, New South Wales

Hugo enlisted at Adelaide on **1 January 1917** and joined the 13th Reinforcements of the **43rd Battalion, Australian Infantry**. On 23 June 1917, he embarked from Adelaide aboard *HMAT Borda* for England, before transferring to France in December 1917.

His unit formed part of **11 Brigade, 3rd Australian Division**, which had just endured heavy losses during the **Third Battle of Ypres**. Shortly afterwards, Hugo suffered a broken ankle and was sent to **Edmonton Military Hospital** in England, missing the ferocious fighting of the **German Spring Offensive** in March–April 1918.

Recovered, Hugo returned to his battalion on the **Somme front** on 21 July 1918, as the Australian Corps prepared for a decisive assault near **Villers-Bretonneux**. This would form part of the great **Battle of Amiens**, launched on 8 August 1918, which marked the turning point of the war.

Just days later, on **11 August 1918**, Hugo was **killed in action** during the continuation of this offensive. He was 32 years old.

Burial:

Private Arthur lies in **Heath Cemetery, Harbonnières, Somme, France**, among many of his comrades who fell in the same battle.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56555380/hugo-robert-arthur#add-to-vc>

John Raymond Baldock

Rank: Pilot Officer (1953)

Unit: 233 Operational Conversion Unit, RAF

Date of Incident: 9 October 1953

Location: West slope of Fan Hir, Brecon Beacons, Powys, Wales

Aircraft: De Havilland DH.100 Vampire FB.Mk.5 (VZ106)

Outcome: Aircraft destroyed, pilot killed

Details of the Crash

Vampire VZ106 was the lead aircraft in a pair returning from a training navigation exercise when it crashed into the west side of Fan Hir in low cloud. The two aircraft had descended rapidly through poor weather. While the second aircraft pulled up in time after breaking through the cloud layer, VZ106 continued descending and struck the mountainside at approximately **620 metres elevation**.

Pilot Information

- **Name:** John Raymond Baldock
- **Age:** 21
- **Born:** 4 January 1932, Portsmouth, England
- **Burial:** Pembrey, Carmarthenshire

Although the aircraft was officially recovered and struck off charge on **26 October 1953**, large sections of wreckage remain at the site due to its remote location. The crash site is at **grid reference SN826201** (approx. **51°51.9725'N, 3°42.2997'W**) on the slopes of Fan Hir, a subsidiary summit of Fan Brycheiniog in the **Brecon Beacons National Park**.

Over time, visitors have arranged some of the debris to resemble the outline of the aircraft, creating an **informal memorial** to the young pilot and the early jet era.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230201275/john_raymond-baldock

Corporal Henry Bannell

Wiltshire Regiment

- Birth: Unknown
- Death: 8 July 1916
- Age: Unknown
- Burial: Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, Montauban-de-Picardie, Somme, France
- Plot: G. 45
- Memorial ID: 56420518

Henry Bannell, Corporal, Service No. 7006, Wiltshire Regiment.

Henry was born in Salisbury and later resided in Pembrey before the outbreak of war. He enlisted at Salisbury into the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, part of the 21st Brigade, 7th Division.

The Division was formed in September 1914 and landed at Zeebrugge on 6 October 1914. As the city was already falling, they were moved to Ypres, becoming the first British Division to defend the city. They fought with distinction during the First Battle of Ypres, playing a key role in halting the German advance through Belgium.

In March 1915, they took part in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, followed in May by heavy fighting at Aubers Ridge and Festubert. Later that year, they were engaged in the Battle of Loos. During the assault north of the Vermelles–Hulluch road, the Division advanced under difficult conditions—gas released by the British was caught by a light breeze, drifting back towards their own men, while German machine-gun fire and artillery caused severe losses. Despite this, the Division captured the Quarries, only failing to break through the third German line due to depleted numbers.

By the summer of 1916, the Division was transferred to the Somme. On 1 July, during the opening of the Battle of Albert, they successfully captured Mametz—one of the rare victories of that first day. The Division then advanced to the Battle of Bazentin, where Henry was killed in action on 8 July 1916.

Corporal Henry Bannell now rests at Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, Montauban, France. His sacrifice is remembered with honour.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56420518/henry-bannell>

Andrew Barbour

Service Number: Not provided

Rank: Private

Unit: 19th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers

Date of Death: 13 October 1918

Age at Death: 32

Burial Location:

- **Cemetery:** Haspres Coppice Cemetery
- **Location:** Haspres, Departement du Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
- **Plot:** A. 41

Memorial ID: 56139112

Personal Background

- **Parents:** William and Jane Barbour
- **Hometown:** Springwell Place, Stewarton, Ayrshire, Scotland
- Haspres Coppice Cemetery is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) site, primarily commemorating casualties from World War I.
- The 19th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, was part of the British Army's "Pals" battalions, often composed of volunteers from specific communities.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56139112/andrew-barbour>

George Bargewell

Service Number: 130104

Rank: Ship's Steward

Service: Royal Navy (Merchant Marine, S.S. *Romeo*)

Date of Death: 3 March 1918

Age at Death: 48

Birth Year: ~1870

Birthplace: England

Memorial Location:

- **Memorial:** Plymouth Naval Memorial
 - **Location:** Plymouth, Devon, England
 - **Plot/Panel:** 28
- Memorial ID:** 13286436

Personal Background

- **Spouse:** Mary L. Bargewell
- **Residence:** 61, Station Rd., Keyham Barton, Devonport, England

Circumstances of Death

George Bargewell died **at sea** on 3 March 1918, likely due to enemy action (common for merchant mariners in WWI, as ships were targeted by U-boats). The S.S. *Romeo* was a merchant vessel, and its crew were often civilian mariners supporting the war effort.

Commemoration

- The **Plymouth Naval Memorial** honors sailors of the Royal Navy and merchant marine who died at sea and have no known grave.
- His name is inscribed on **Panel 28**, ensuring his service is remembered.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13286436/george-bargewell>

Able Seaman Daniel Charles Bevan

Service Number: R/6216

Regiment & Unit: Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Anson Battalion, Royal Naval Division

Date of Death: 24 March 1918 (Killed in Action)

Age at Death: 20

Family Background

- **Parents:** John Bevan (d. 17 November 1946, aged 73) and Margaret Bevan (d. 24 March 1968, aged 94)
- **Siblings:** Bessie (died in infancy) and Lillie (d. 29 May 1968, aged 64)
- **Family Home:** Croft Cottages, Ashburnham Road, [likely Sussex or nearby region]

Service and Sacrifice

Daniel Bevan served in the **Anson Battalion** of the **Royal Naval Division (RND)**, a unique unit composed of sailors and marines fighting as infantry on the Western Front. His death on **24 March 1918** coincided with the German Spring Offensive, a massive assault that marked some of the war's fiercest fighting. As his body was never recovered, his name is inscribed on the **Arras Memorial**, which honors over 35,000 Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave.

Family Memorial Inscription

The Bevan family's epitaph, likely from a shared gravestone, poignantly commemorates their losses:

"In beloved memory of John Bevan, Margaret Bevan's husband, Croft Cottages, Ashburnham Road. He died Nov 17 1946, aged 73 years.

Also Daniel Charles their son, who lost his life in France March 24 1918 at 20 years old.

Also Bessie their daughter, [who] died in infancy.

Also Margaret Bevan above, she died March 24 1968 at 94 years old.

Also Lillie their daughter, she died May 29 1968 aged 64 years.

We will rest in heaven."

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/252258434/daniel_charles-bevan

Pilot Officer John Bevan-John

Service Number: 81933

Rank: Pilot Officer (Probationary)

Unit: 53 Squadron, RAF Volunteer Reserve

Aircraft: Bristol Blenheim IV (Serial: T2044)

Date of Death: 30 September 1940

Age: 19

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire

Commemorated:

- Pembrey War Memorial
 - Hereford Cathedral School War Memorial
 - Brasenose College, Oxford Roll of Honour
-

A Life Cut Short: The Story of a Young Welsh Airman

John Bevan-John was born on 11 March 1921 in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, the youngest son of Dr. Rhys Bevan-John, a respected physician and World War I veteran, and Katharine (née Spencer). The family resided at Hook House, Pembrey, a testament to their standing in the community.

Educated at Hereford Cathedral School, John displayed academic promise that earned him a place to read History at Brasenose College, Oxford. His time at Oxford was cut short by the outbreak of war, when he made the decision to volunteer for the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1939.

Wartime Service

After completing his pilot training, John was posted to 53 Squadron, part of Coastal Command, flying the versatile Bristol Blenheim IV from RAF Thorney Island. The squadron's early war service included a tense deployment to France in 1940, conducting vital reconnaissance missions during the German Blitzkrieg.

Following the fall of France, 53 Squadron returned to England, transitioning from reconnaissance to bombing operations as the RAF took the fight to enemy-occupied Europe. John's abilities were recognized with a commission as Pilot Officer on 11 July 1940.

The Final Mission

On the night of 30 September 1940, John and his crew - Sergeant Stanley MacQuire (Observer) and Sergeant Harold Arthur Shaw (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) - took off from RAF Detling on a hazardous night bombing raid targeting German shipping in Rotterdam harbour.

Tragically, their Blenheim failed to return. Subsequent investigations revealed the aircraft had crashed into the North Sea off Sheerness, likely due to the notorious challenges of night navigation combined with enemy action. John's body was recovered the following day on Dead Man's Island, Isle of Sheppey.

John was laid to rest in his hometown of Pembrey, where his grave in St. Illtyd Churchyard stands as a permanent memorial. His name appears on multiple commemorations, including his school and college memorials, ensuring his sacrifice is remembered by future generations.

The loss of this promising young man - barely 19 years old - encapsulates the terrible cost of war. From the halls of Oxford to the skies over Europe, John Bevan-John's brief but courageous life serves as a poignant reminder of the many young lives cut short during Britain's darkest hour.

Sources: CWGC, London Gazette, RAF Operations Record Books, Hereford Cathedral School Archives, Brasenose College Records.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180494/spencer_rhys-bevan-john

Sergeant David Jack Blair

Service: Royal Air Force (Unit not specified)

Date of Death: 17 September 1940 (Battle of Britain)

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Location: Row 1, Grave 7 211

Memorial ID: 98180495

Family: Son of William Blair and Margaret Blair (née Wood)

Sergeant David Jack Blair died on **17 September 1940**, during the height of the Battle of Britain—a pivotal conflict where the RAF defended the UK against sustained Luftwaffe attacks. While his specific squadron remains unrecorded, his death aligns with the period when RAF pilots faced relentless sorties to protect British airspace.

His burial at **St. Illtyd Churchyard** in Pembrey reflects a local connection, though his birthplace is unknown. The church, a historic site in Carmarthenshire, holds multiple war graves and memorials, underscoring its role in commemorating wartime losses.

Family Background

David was the son of **William Blair and Margaret Blair (née Wood)**. The Blair surname has Scottish roots, often linked to territorial origins in Ayrshire and Perthshire.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180495/david_jack-blair

Able Seaman Raymond Bowen

Service Number: D/JX 188772

Regiment/Service: Royal Navy, HMS *Thanet* (S-Class Destroyer)

Date of Death: 26 January 1942 (Killed in Action)

Age: 23

Commemoration:

- **Memorial:** Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England
- **Panel:** 64, Column 2
- **Memorial ID:** 13287502

Birth: 10 February 1918, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Residence: 147 Colby Road, Burry Port

Raymond Bowen was born in the coastal town of **Burry Port**, Wales, a community deeply tied to maritime heritage. Enlisting in the **Royal Navy**, he served aboard **HMS *Thanet***, a World War I-era destroyer repurposed for Pacific operations at the outbreak of World War II. The ship's duties included **minelaying near Hong Kong** and patrols to disrupt enemy advances ¹⁴.

Final Mission: The Battle of Endau On **26 January**

1942, *Thanet* and **HMAS *Vampire*** were ordered to intercept Japanese landings at **Endau, Malaya**. Unaware of the overwhelming Japanese naval presence, the outgunned Allied ships engaged in a desperate battle. *Thanet* was **struck by torpedoes and shellfire**, sinking rapidly. While some crew survived the initial attack, evidence suggests they were later **captured and executed** by Japanese forces. Raymond's exact fate—whether he perished with the ship or in captivity—remains unclear, but he was officially declared dead that day ¹⁴.

Legacy and Commemoration

- **Plymouth Naval Memorial:** Raymond's name is inscribed among 23,000 sailors with no known grave, a testament to the Royal Navy's sacrifices in distant waters.
- **Local Ties:** Burry Port's war memorials likely honor his service, reflecting Wales' contribution to the war effort.
- **Historical Context:** The **sinking of *Thanet*** marked one of the early naval losses in the Pacific, underscoring the Allies' dire straits in 1942.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13287502/raymond-bowen>

Ordinary Seaman Sidney Bowen

Royal Navy

- Birth: 26 September 1898
- Death: 18 September 1917 (aged 18)
- Monument: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England
- Panel: 21
- Memorial ID: 13287510

Sidney Bowen, Ordinary Seaman, Service No. J/71871, Royal Navy.

Sidney was born on 26 September 1898, the son of Mary Bowen of 99 Pencoed Road, Burry Port.

At a young age, Sidney enlisted into the Royal Navy, where he was posted aboard H.M.S. Contest, a K-Class Destroyer attached to the Grand Fleet. The Grand Fleet was the main striking force of the Royal Navy, tasked with keeping control of the North Sea and containing the German High Seas Fleet. Destroyers such as the Contest played a vital role in patrolling these waters, protecting larger ships, and countering the increasing threat from German U-boats.

On 18 September 1917, while operating in the North Sea, H.M.S. Contest was struck by a torpedo fired from a German submarine. The explosion caused devastating damage, and the destroyer sank rapidly with heavy loss of life. Among those who perished was Sidney, who died just days before his nineteenth birthday.

As his body was never recovered, Sidney has no known grave but the sea. He is remembered with honour on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, which bears the names of sailors who gave their lives but rest beneath the waves.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13287510/sidney-bowen>

Private George Bradley

Service Number: 306557

Regiment: 1/8th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Brigade/Division: 143 Brigade, 48th (South Midland) Division

Date of Death: 15 June 1918 (Killed in Action)

Age: 30

Burial: Magnaboschi British Cemetery, Roana, Veneto, Italy

Grave Reference: Plot 2, Row D, Grave 6

Memorial ID: 21543108

Honors: Mentioned in Despatches (9 April 1917)

George Bradley was the son of **Mr. and Mrs. George Bradley of Lincoln**, though he resided at **Derwyd Bungalow, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire**, prior to the war. He enlisted at **Pembrey on 10 December 1915** into the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment**, a unit with deep ties to the Midlands.

- **Deployment:** Arrived in France on **25 July 1916** with the **1/8th Battalion**, part of the **48th (South Midland) Division**.
- **Major Engagements:**
 - **Somme Offensive (1916):** Fought in one of the war's bloodiest campaigns.
 - **German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line (March 1917):** Pursued enemy forces during their strategic withdrawal.
 - **Third Ypres (1917):** Battled through **Langemarck, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, and Poelcapelle**—a grueling series of clashes in Flanders' mud ¹².
- **Recognition:** **Mentioned in Despatches (9 April 1917)** for distinguished conduct, a rare honour for an enlisted soldier.

Italian Campaign and Death

In **November 1917**, the 48th Division was redeployed to **Italy**, where it:

- Fought on the **Asiago Plateau**, including the **Battle of Asiago (June 1918)**.

- Participated in the **Advance from Asiago**, with **143 Brigade** becoming the **first British troops to enter Central Powers territory**.
- **Final Action:** Killed on **15 June 1918** during the **Battle of the Piave River**, a critical Allied offensive that shattered Austro-Hungarian forces.

Burial and Commemoration

- **Magnaboschi British Cemetery:** Resting place for 194 Commonwealth soldiers, many from the 48th Division's Italian campaign.
- **Local Legacy:** Despite his Burry Port residence, George is **not listed on the town's memorial**, an omission possibly due to post-war record discrepancies
- **48th Division's Reputation:** Nicknamed the "**Territorial Force's finest**", it was among the few British divisions to fight on both major fronts.
- **Italian Front:** Often overshadowed by France, this theatre saw brutal mountain warfare and extreme weather.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21543108/george-bradley>

Sergeant George Warden Brown

Service Number: 970851

Rank: Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner)

Unit: 14 Operational Training Unit (OTU), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Date of Death: 17 September 1940

Age: 20

Burial: St. Iltyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Reference: Row 1, Grave 6

Memorial ID: 98180496

Family: Son of Robert and Mary Brown of Dundee, Scotland

George Warden Brown served as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, assigned to 14 OTU based at RAF Pembrey, Wales. On 17 September 1940, he was part of the four-man crew of Handley Page Hampden Mk I (Serial P4311) during a training flight.

The aircraft stalled and crashed on the Gwendraeth Marshes near Kidwelly Quay after experiencing engine failure, killing all aboard.

Crew and Aircraft Details

- **Pilot:** Pilot Officer Basil York Sowter (42083)
- **Navigator:** Sergeant David Jack Blair (754538)
- **Wireless Operator/Air Gunner:** Sergeant John Douglas Laing Cooper (971470)
- **Wireless Operator/Air Gunner:** Sergeant George Warden Brown (970851)

The Hampden was one of 120 delivered to the RAF by English Electric in 1940 and had previously served with 7 Squadron before being reassigned to training duties.

George was buried at St. Iltyd Churchyard in Pembrey, a site with 22 Commonwealth WWII burials, including other RAF personnel. His grave lies in Row 1, Grave 6, marked by a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

RAF Pembrey initially served as an anti-aircraft training base before becoming a Battle of Britain fighter station in 1940. The crash occurred during intense wartime training, reflecting

the risks of preparing aircrews for Bomber Command operations. Operational Training Units like 14 OTU were critical for converting recruits into combat-ready crews, though accidents were tragically common due to technical failures and inexperienced pilots.

George's parents, Robert and Mary Brown, resided in Dundee, Scotland. His name appears on the Dundee Roll of Honour and the Pembrey War Memorial, though his connection to Wales beyond his burial remains unclear.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180496/george-warden-brown>

Private Joseph Bulcock

Service Number: 63064

Regiment: 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (formerly Pembroke Yeomanry)

Date of Death: 20 April 1918 (aged 39)

Burial: Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium (Plot V. C. 21)

Memorial ID: 12725135

Born in **1880 in Burnley, Lancashire**, Joseph was the son of **Joseph and Elizabeth Bulcock** of 16 Fir Street. A gifted footballer, he played as a **right-back** for **Crystal Palace** (146 appearances) and **Swansea Town FC**, where he captained the team to a historic **FA Cup victory over Blackburn Rovers in 1915**. After football was suspended due to WWI, he worked as a **plumber's mate in Llanelli**.

- **Enlistment:** Joined the **Pembroke Yeomanry** on **11 December 1915** at Pembrey, later transferred to the **Welsh Regiment**.
- **Western Front:** Deployed to France in **September 1917** with the **9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment**, part of the **19th (Western) Division**. The division fought in:
 - **Battle of the Somme (1916):** Captured Ovillers-la-Boiselle at heavy cost.
 - **Third Battle of Ypres (1917):** Brutal engagements at Messines and Menin Road.
 - **Spring Offensive (1918):** Survived Operation Michael but was wounded during **Operation Georgette** near **Messines Ridge**.

Joseph sustained a **gunshot wound to the head** during the Battle of the Lys and died at the **36th Casualty Clearing Station in Watten, France**, on **20 April 1918**. He is buried in **Haringhe Cemetery**, Belgium, alongside 1,500 Commonwealth casualties. **Swansea City FC's memorial plaque** (unveiled in 2014).

- **Living memorial trees** planted at Swansea's training ground.
- **Footballers in WWI:** Like many athletes, Bulcock transitioned from sports to service. His Swansea teammates **Spencer Bassett** and **Ted Mitchell** also perished.
- **19th Division's Legacy:** Dubbed the "Butterflies" for its insignia, the division suffered **9,000+ casualties** in 1918 alone.
 - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12725135/joseph-bulcock>

Sapper Alan Cuthbert Calvert

Service No.: 586

Regiment: 1/1st Welsh Field Company, Royal Engineers

Date of Death: 8 September 1915

Age: 25

Burial: Green Hill Cemetery, Gallipoli

Memorial: Carmarthen County War Memorial

Sapper Alan Cuthbert Calvert was the son of Charles James and Elizabeth Calvert of 1, Belgrave Villas, Bath. Prior to the war, he worked as a surveyor in Burry Port and enlisted in Llanelli into the Royal Engineers. He was posted to the **1/1st Welsh Field Company**, part of the **53rd (Welsh) Division**.

The division landed at **Cape Helles, Gallipoli**, on **8 August 1915** and was immediately thrust into heavy combat during the Gallipoli Campaign. Alan was killed in action just one month later, on **8 September 1915**, during the **Defence of Helles**. He was 25 years old.

Though not commemorated on the Burry Port Memorial, Alan is honoured among the fallen of Burry Port on the **Carmarthen County War Memorial**. His grave is located at **Green Hill Cemetery** on the Gallipoli Peninsula, a testament to his sacrifice in one of the First World War's most challenging theatres.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56414750/alan-cuthbert-calvert>

Private Walter Camp

Service Number: G/21235

Regiment: 10th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)

Brigade/Division: 123 Brigade, 41st Division

Date of Death: 19 November 1918

Age at Death: 20

Cemetery: Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

Walter Camp was the son of John and Dina Camp of Pwll, Llanelli. He enlisted at Llanelli on 11 May 1916, initially joining the Monmouth Regiment before being posted to France on 23 September 1917, where he transferred to the 10th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment.

His battalion saw extraordinary service across multiple fronts, being among five British divisions sent to reinforce the Italian Front following the disastrous defeat at Caporetto. After holding the line on the River Piave from November 1917, the division was rushed back to the Western Front in March 1918 to help stem the German Spring Offensive. Private Camp fought through the subsequent battles of St. Quentin, Bapaume, and Arras during the great retreat.

The division was then moved to Flanders, where it participated in the Advance in Flanders and the final battles of Ypres and Courtrai. Walter was wounded during the Action of Ooteghem in the war's closing days. Evacuated to the 2nd Australian Hospital at Wimereux, he sadly died of wounds on 19 November 1918, eight days after the Armistice. He is buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery, a tragic casualty of the war's final hours.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55974499/walter-camp>

Second Lieutenant Frederick Arthur Campbell

Regiment/Service: 2nd Battalion, Tank Corps

Date of Death: 22 March 1918 (Killed in Action)

Age at Death: 34

Memorial: Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France (Panel 94)

Memorial ID: 16082011

Family: Husband of Frances Mary Campbell (née Harries) of Sunny Bank, Gws-cwm Road, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire

Born in **1884 in London** to Robert Andrew and Eliza Campbell, Frederick pursued a military career from his youth. He initially served with the **Seaforth Highlanders** before transferring to the revolutionary **Tank Corps** in 1917. This experimental branch operated the first armoured vehicles under perilous conditions, marking a turning point in modern warfare.

While on leave from the Western Front, he married **Frances Mary Harries** of Pembrey in 1917, establishing a Welsh connection that would posthumously honor his memory.

Final Battle: Operation Michael

On **21 March 1918**, the Germans launched their **Spring Offensive (Kaiserschlacht)**, aiming to split Allied forces before American reinforcements arrived. Frederick's **2nd Tank Battalion** was deployed the following day near **St. Quentin** to counter the breakthrough.

During the chaotic fighting:

- His **Mark IV tank** was one of **four destroyed** in a desperate counterattack.
- Tank crews faced **ruthless treatment**; many were killed rather than captured.
- His body was **never recovered**, like thousands of others swallowed by the Somme's churned battlefields.
- On the **Pozieres Memorial**, which lists over **14,000 missing Allied soldiers**.
- In the **Tank Corps' storied history**, where his sacrifice exemplifies the bravery of early armoured warfare pioneers.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16082011/frederick_arthur-campbell

Lance Corporal William Johnston Campbell

Regiment: Gordon Highlanders (formerly Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders)

Service Number: Not recorded

Date of Death: 20 November 1917 (Battle of Cambrai)

Age at Death: 25

Burial: Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquières, France (Plot I. C. 17)

Memorial ID: 56051123

Family: Son of William and Margaret Campbell of 8 Dunlop Street, Stewarton, Ayrshire

Born in **1892 in Stewarton, East Ayrshire**, William was the second son of a Scottish working-class family. A **skilled joiner**, he apprenticed with the firm **Boyd & Forrest** before relocating to **Swansea, South Wales**, where he continued his craft in the years leading up to the war.

- **Enlistment:** Joined the **Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders** in June 1916, drawn by Scotland's proud military traditions.
- **Deployment:** Arrived on the **Western Front in January 1917**, later transferring to the **Gordon Highlanders**—a regiment famed for its service in colonial and European conflicts.
- **Final Battle:** On **20 November 1917**, during the **opening day of the Battle of Cambrai**, William's company faced a ferocious German counterattack near **Flesquières Ridge**.

Circumstances of Death

While defending his position against overwhelming odds, William was **mortally wounded by a grenade (referred to as "a bomb" in contemporary accounts)**. He died of his injuries that night, one of **4,000 British casualties** sustained in the battle's first 48 hours.

Burial and Legacy

- **Orival Wood Cemetery:** His grave lies among 150 Commonwealth burials, many from Cambrai's tank-and-infantry clashes.
- **Remembered:** By family as a **dutiful son and craftsman**, and by comrades as a **steadfast soldier** during one of history's first major armoured offensives.

- **Battle of Cambrai:** Marked the **first mass use of tanks** (476 deployed) and innovative artillery tactics. Though initially successful, gains were lost to German counterattacks.
- **Gordon Highlanders' Role:** The regiment's 1st Battalion helped secure **Flesquières Village**, a key strongpoint where German artillery famously targeted advancing tanks.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56051123/william_johnston-campbell

Ronald David Charles Cant

Service No.: 7943166

Rank: Corporal

Regiment: 5th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps

Attached to: 22nd Armoured Brigade, 7th Armoured Division

Date of Death: 22 December 1944

Age: 23

Burial: Sittard War Cemetery, Netherlands (Plot VI. D. 2)

Corporal Ronald David Charles Cant was from Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. He served with the **5th Royal Tank Regiment (5th RTR)**, part of the **Royal Armoured Corps**. His regiment saw extensive action across multiple theatres of World War II:

- **1940:** Evacuated from Dunkirk after serving in France with the 1st Armoured Division.
- **North Africa:** Fought throughout the desert campaign (1941-1943).
- **Italy:** Deployed with the 7th Armoured Division in 1943.
- **Normandy:** Returned to Britain in early 1944, re-equipped with **Cromwell tanks**, and landed in Normandy on **7 June 1944 (D-Day+1)**.

Ronald participated in the **breakout from Normandy**, the advance through France and Belgium, and the liberation of the Netherlands. He was killed in action in Holland on **22 December 1944**, during the gritty winter operations near the German border.

Aged 23, he is buried at **Sittard War Cemetery** in the Netherlands. His grave, attended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is a testament to the courage of Welsh tank crews who served in one of Britain's most storied armoured regiments.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13895941/ronald-david_charles-cant

Private John Charles

- **Service Number:** 5549
- **Regiment/Service:** 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
- **Brigade/Division:** 22nd Brigade, 7th Division
- **Date of Enlistment:** 18 August 1914
- **Place of Enlistment:** Tonypany
- **Date of Death:** 16 May 1915
- **Age at Death:** 20
- **Memorial:** Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg-l'Avoué, France
- **Memorial Panel:** 13 and 14

John Charles was the son of John and Catherine Charles of 11, Carroway Street, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. He enlisted just days after the outbreak of the Great War, joining the 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

His battalion was among the first British forces deployed to the Continent, landing at Zeebrugge on 6 October 1914. With the city already falling, the division was moved to Ypres, where they became the first British Division to hold the city. John joined the battalion as a reinforcement on 23 November 1914 during the First Battle of Ypres, where the division played a vital role in stopping the German advance through Belgium.

After wintering in the trenches of Flanders, his division fought at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915. The following May, they were engaged in the Battles of Aubers Ridge and Festubert. It was during the latter engagement that Private John Charles was killed in action on 16 May 1915.

His body was never recovered from the battlefield. With no known grave, he is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, which honours over 13,400 British soldiers who fell in this region of northern France and have no known resting place.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15273580/john-charles>

Lance Sergeant Cecil Richard Trevor Chard

Service Number: 8791

Regiment: 1/5th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment (Territorial Force)

Brigade/Division: 137 Brigade, 46th (North Midland) Division

Date of Death: 13 October 1915

Age at Death: 31

Memorial: Loos Memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle, France

Memorial Panel: 74

Cecil Richard Trevor Chard was born in Burry Port in 1884 to Harry and Kate Chard. He married Bertha Winifred Govier in 1908, after which the couple resided in Cardiff. He enlisted in Walsall into the territorial forces. His battalion deployed to France in February 1915. On 13 October 1915, the 46th Division saw its first major action in a costly assault on the heavily fortified German position known as the Hohenzollern Redoubt near Loos. The attack resulted in severe casualties for the division. Lance Sergeant Chard was killed in action during this battle, aged 31. With no known grave, he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, which stands on the battlefield where he fell.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15341748/cecil-richard_trevor-chard

Third Engineer William Lewis Christie

Service: Mercantile Marine

Ship: S.S. *Malda* (British India Steam Navigation Co.)

Rank: Third Engineer

Date of Death: 25 August 1917 (Killed in Action)

Age at Death: 28

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales (South East section)

Memorial ID: 98180497

Family: Son of Alexander and Alison Turnbull Christie of "Denholm," Victoria Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham

Born in **1889 in Warwick, England**, William Lewis Christie trained as a marine engineer, joining the **British India Steam Navigation Company**—a major colonial-era shipping line. His technical skills earned him the role of **Third Engineer** aboard the **S.S. *Malda***, a modern 7,884-ton cargo-passenger vessel built in 1913.

Final Voyage and Sinking

On **25 August 1917**, while en route from **Boston to London** with a general cargo, the *Malda* was torpedoed without warning by **German submarine U-70** (commanded by Kapitänleutnant Otto Wünsche). The attack occurred **130 nautical miles west-southwest of Bishop Rock**, Scilly Isles:

- Initial reports claimed **7 fatalities**, including:
 - 4 killed instantly by the explosion.
 - 1 who died of exposure in lifeboats.
 - 2 swept overboard.
- Later revisions confirmed **64 lives lost**, highlighting the chaos of wartime sinkings.

Burial and Commemoration

William's body was recovered and interred at **St. Illtyd Churchyard** in Pembrey—an uncommon fate for torpedo victims, most of whom were buried at sea or listed on **Tower Hill**

Memorial, London. His grave suggests a local connection, possibly through crewmates or recovery efforts.

- **U-Boat Menace:** 1917 was the deadliest year of the **First Battle of the Atlantic**, with 3,000+ Allied ships sunk. Unrestricted submarine warfare targeted all vessels, neutral or belligerent.
- **S.S. *Malda*:** A typical casualty of Germany's campaign to starve Britain into surrender. Her wreck lies at **49°30'N 10°30'W**, a relic of total war.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180497/william_lewis-christie

Private Ernest Newton Cole

Service Number: 14479

Regiment: South Wales Borderers, 5th Battalion

Rank: Private

Born: 1888, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, Wales, United Kingdom

Died: 11 April 1918, Belgium (aged 29)

Family:

- Son of George and Elizabeth Martha Cole
- Husband of Ellen Wright (married 1918)
- Family home: 2 Tyle Leg, Garden Suburb, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire

Ernest enlisted at Llanelli into the 5th Battalion, South Wales Borderers, which was attached to 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division. He crossed to France with the Division in July 1915, moving to positions near Loos, and fought in the opening attack of the **Battle of Loos**.

In 1916, the Division took part in the **Battle of the Somme**, where Ernest's battalion joined the second wave of the attack on Ovillers-La Boiselle on 1 July, capturing the village at heavy cost. They went on to fight at **Poizieres** and the **Ancre** later that year.

The Division then moved north to Ypres, taking part in the **Battle of Messines (June 1917)**, and fought in the battles of the **Menin Road**, **Polygon Wood**, **Broodseinde**, **Poelcapelle**, and **Passchendaele Village** during the Third Battle of Ypres.

In 1918, during the German Spring Offensive, the Division suffered terrible casualties near **St. Quentin** and fought at the **Battle of Bapaume**. Shortly afterwards, they moved again to Ypres, where they were caught in the renewed German assault at Messines. It was here that Ernest was **killed in action on 11 April 1918**, aged 29.

Commemoration:

Ernest has no known grave. He is remembered with honour on the **Tyne Cot Memorial**, Passchendaele, Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders, Belgium.

- **Memorial Reference:** Panel 65 to 66
- **CWGC Memorial ID:** 11970043

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11970043/ernest_newton-cole

Lance Corporal Victor James Cole, MSM

Service Number: WR/178798

Regiment: Royal Engineers (Railway Division) | Formerly Pembroke Yeomanry

Date of Death: 27 September 1918 (Died of Wounds)

Age at Death: 28

Burial: Llanelli District Cemetery, Carmarthenshire (Plot II. 21. 24)

Memorial ID: 24254676

Awards: Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)

Family: Son of George and Elizabeth Cole of Burry Port; husband of Margaret Cole

Service and Sacrifice

Victor James Cole enlisted at Carmarthen into the Pembroke Yeomanry before transferring to the Royal Engineers' crucial Railway Division. As a sapper, he maintained vital supply lines on the Western Front during pivotal battles including Cambrai (1917) and the Hundred Days Offensive (1918). His exceptional service earned him the Meritorious Service Medal.

Wounded in 1918, Victor was evacuated to Bagphale Hospital in Nottingham where he succumbed to his injuries on 27 September 1918 - just six weeks before Armistice. His grave in Llanelli Cemetery bears witness to his sacrifice.

Legacy

Victor is commemorated by:

- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Local memorials in Carmarthenshire
- The West Wales War Memorial Project

His story represents the often-overlooked contributions of railway engineers whose work was as vital to victory as frontline combat.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24254676/victor_james-cole

John Patrick Collins

Rank: Deck Hand

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Brinkburn* (Sunderland-registered coal carrier)

Date of Death: 21 June 1943

Age: 20

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Deck Hand John Patrick Collins was the son of John and Christina Collins of Burry Port. He served aboard the SS *Brinkburn*, a merchant vessel tasked with transporting essential wartime supplies.

On **21 June 1943**, the *Brinkburn* was part of convoy **TE-22**, en route from Swansea to the Mediterranean with a cargo of ammunition and government stores. Off the coast of Algiers, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **U-73**. Only two of the crew survived; John was among those lost.

SS *Brinkburn* in 1943

- **Sinking:** The SS *Brinkburn* was sunk on **21 June 1943** by the German submarine **U-73** (commanded by Horst Deckert) while part of Convoy TE-22. The attack occurred west of Algiers, Algeria, at position 36°53'N, 2°22'E [146](#).
- **Casualties:** Of the 31 people on board (including crew and gunners), **29 died** (21 crew members and 7 gunners, including the master, Norman Johnsen). Two survivors (one crew member and one gunner) were rescued by a landing craft and a fishing vessel and landed at Algiers [110](#).
- **Cargo:** The ship was carrying **2,500 tons of government stores**, including **800 tons of ammunition** [1](#).
- **Route:** It was en route from Swansea to Gibraltar and then to Philippeville (now Skikda, Algeria)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15224998/john-patrick-collins#add-to-vc>

Private Reginald Lingard William Collins

Service Number: 282352

Regiment: 2/7th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers

Date of Death: 1 April 1917

Age at Death: 23

Cemetery: Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Gorre, Pas-de-Calais, France

Grave Reference: VII. A. 1.

Reginald Lingard Collins was born in Tully, County Galway, Ireland.

He was the son of William and Elizabeth Collins, who later resided at 57 Pencoed Road, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. In 1915, he married Lilian Edwards.

Collins enlisted in the British Army and served with the 2/7th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, a territorial unit that saw extensive service on the Western Front².

The battalion participated in several key engagements, including the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and the subsequent operations leading into 1917.

Private Collins was killed in action on 1 April 1917, during the period of ongoing operations in the Pas-de-Calais region of France².

His burial at Gorre British and Indian Cemetery reflects the area's significance as a sector where British and Indian forces operated, particularly during the earlier stages of the war.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56488061/reginald-lingard_william-collins#add-to-vc

Michael Denis Collins

Service No.: 1381769

Rank: Leading Aircraftman

Regiment: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Squadron: 55 Squadron (likely attached to another unit in India)

Date of Death: 15 August 1943

Age: 22

Burial: Ranchi War Cemetery, India (Plot 3. C. 8)

Leading Aircraftman Michael Denis Collins was the son of John and Christina Collins of Pantglas, Burry Port. He served with **55 Squadron, Royal Air Force**, which was equipped with **Martin Baltimore IV** light bombers and operated in North Africa in support of the **Eighth Army**.

While 55 Squadron was primarily engaged in Mediterranean operations, Michael was likely attached to another RAF unit in **India** by mid-1943, possibly involved in training, logistics, or support roles for the Burma Campaign. He died in India on **15 August 1943**, aged 22. The exact circumstances of his death are not detailed, but may relate to illness, accident, or enemy action.

He is buried at **Ranchi War Cemetery** in Jharkhand, India, which contains graves of over 1,700 Commonwealth servicemen from World War II. His service reflects the global reach of Welsh personnel in the RAF, from the deserts of North Africa to the challenging theatres of Southeast Asia.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21620696/michael-denis-collins>

Third Engineer Brinley Colwill

Service: Merchant Navy

Vessel: *S.S. Treverbyn* (St. Ives)

Date of Birth: 12 May 1918

Place of Birth: Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Date of Death: 21 October 1941 (aged 23)

Place of Death: At sea, southwest of Cape Clear

Commemorated: Tower Hill Memorial, London (Panel 111)

Memorial ID: 15225063

Family: Son of Leonard Henry and Margaret Elizabeth Colwill of Glanymor, Llanelli

Brinley Colwill grew up in the coastal community of **Pembrey**, raised by his parents at **Glanymor, Llanelli**. He joined the **Merchant Navy** as a **Third Engineer**, serving aboard the *S.S. Treverbyn*, a cargo steamship vital to Britain's wartime supply lines.

Final Voyage and Sinking

Brinley served as a **Third Engineer** in the **British Merchant Navy**, assigned to the steamship *S.S. Treverbyn*, registered in St. Ives.

In October 1941, the *Treverbyn* was part of **Convoy SL-89**, which had departed **Freetown, Sierra Leone**, on 5 October en route to Britain with vital wartime supplies. On **21 October 1941**, at approximately **22:31 hours**, the ship was struck amidships by a single torpedo fired from the German submarine **U-82**, under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Siegfried Rollmann.

The attack occurred southwest of **Cape Clear**, off the Irish coast, at the coordinates **51°00'N, 19°00'W (Grid AL 9818)**. The *Treverbyn* **sank within three minutes**, giving the crew little chance to escape. Tragically, **all 48 men on board were lost**, and **there were no survivors**. Brinley Colwill was just **23 years old**.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15225063/brinley-colwill>

Sergeant John Douglas Laing Cooper

Service Number: 971470

Rank: Sergeant

Service: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Date of Death: 17 September 1940

Age: 22 years old

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Wales (Row 1, Grave 5)

Parents: James D. Cooper and Robina M. Cooper of Giffnock, Renfrewshire

Crash Report: Handley Page Hampden P4311

Incident Date: September 17, 1940

Location: Gwendraeth Marshes, near Kidwelly, Wales, UK

Aircraft: Handley Page Hampden I, P4311

Unit: 14 Operational Training Unit (OTU), RAF Cottesmore

Crew Fatalities:

- Pilot: Basil York Sowter
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180517/basil-york-sowter>
- Sergeant: David Jack Blair
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180495/david-jack-blair>
- Co-Pilot: Sgt George Warden Brown
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180496/george-warden-brown>
- Op/Ag: John Douglas Laing Cooper

Incident Summary:

Hampden P4311, assigned to 14 OTU, was returning to RAF Pembrey from an air-to-air firing exercise. While approaching to land near Kidwelly, the starboard engine failed. A strong, gusting crosswind further compromised the aircraft's control. The pilot was unable to retract the lowered undercarriage due to the hydraulic system being powered by the failed engine.

The aircraft subsequently lost altitude and crashed into the Gwendraeth marshes. Upon impact, the aircraft burst into flames, resulting in the tragic loss of all four crew members.

Contributing Factors:

- Engine failure
- Strong crosswind
- Inability to retract undercarriage.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180498/john_douglas_laing-cooper

Edith Ellen Copham

Service Role: Process Worker, Munitions

Unit: Ministry of Munitions - Pembrey Munitions Factory, Llanelli

Date of Death: 18 November 1918

Age at Death: 19

Memorial: Swansea Cenotaph, Glamorgan

Edith Ellen Copham was born in Swansea, Wales, in 1899 to parents Harry and Edith Copham. She resided at 55 Matthew Street, Swansea, and worked as a munitions process worker at the National Filling Factory in Pembrey, which produced explosives and shell components for the war effort. On 18 November 1918, one week after the Armistice, Edith was tragically killed in an explosion while disassembling an 18-pounder high-explosive shell. The incident occurred when a shell fell to the floor without its safety cap, triggering a detonation that also claimed the lives of two colleagues, Mary Fitzmaurice and Jane Jenkins.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228658461/mary-fitzmaurice>

Edith sustained severe injuries and died shortly after being transported to a hospital in Llanelli.

Her funeral, held at Danygraig Cemetery in Swansea, was a public event attended by over 200 munitions workers and mourners. The procession included a brass band, women patrols, and bearers from among her colleagues, reflecting the community's profound respect. Edith was buried alongside Mary Fitzmaurice, with both Protestant and Roman Catholic services conducted to honour their backgrounds. Although not officially recognized as a war casualty by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Edith is commemorated on the Swansea Cenotaph. Her death underscores the dangers faced by munitions workers, who contributed critical labour to the war effort under perilous conditions.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228656734/edith-copham>

Olaf Dahle

Rank: Able Seaman

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Rydal Force* (Whitehaven-registered cargo ship)

Date of Death: 24 April 1940

Age: 20

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

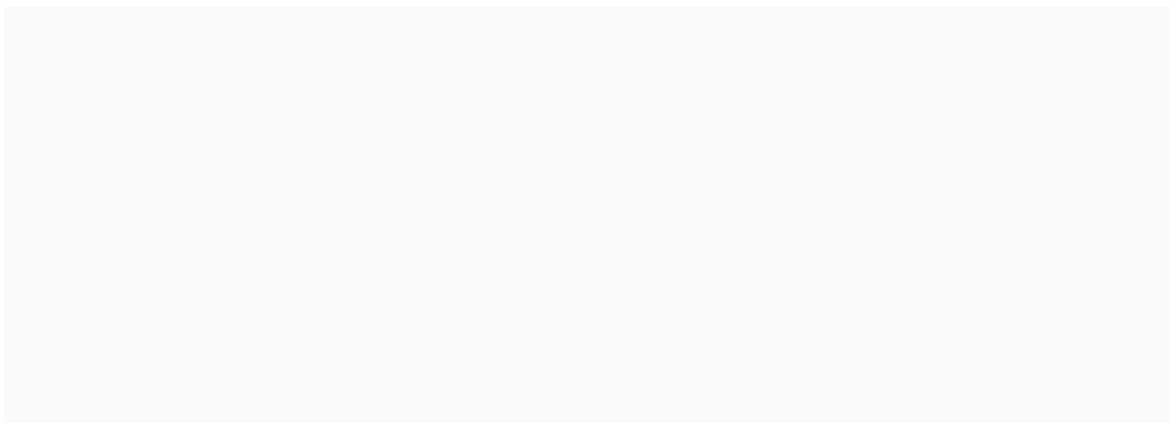
Able Seaman Olaf Dahle was the son of August and Margaret Dahle of Burry Port, and the grandson of Mrs. R. A. Thomas, also of Burry Port. He served aboard the SS *Rydal Force*, a cargo ship tasked with transporting essential goods during the early stages of World War II.

On **24 April 1940**, the *Rydal Force* struck a mine and sank in the North Sea. Olaf was among those lost in the tragedy, aged just 20. The exact location of the sinking and the mine's origin (whether German-laid or otherwise) are part of the broader maritime hazards of the war.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen and fishermen who have no known grave. His sacrifice highlights the perils faced by civilian sailors from the earliest days of the conflict, ensuring Britain's supply lines remained open.

Though his family's roots in Burry Port and his tragic loss reflect the town's connection to the maritime war effort.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15226236/olaf-dahle>



Bombardier Frederick Daniel

Service No.: 120565

Regiment: 24th Battery, 38th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Attached to: 6th Division

Date of Death: 1 October 1917

Age: 28

Burial: Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No. 3, Belgium

Bombardier Frederick Daniel was the stepson of Lewis Williams and the son of Emily A. Williams of 65, Stepney Road, Burry Port. He enlisted in Finsbury into the Royal Field Artillery and was posted to the 24th Battery, 38th Brigade, attached to the 6th Division.

The 6th Division landed at St. Nazaire, France, on 10 September 1914 and quickly moved to reinforce the British Expeditionary Force on the Aisne. After the army shifted north into Flanders, the division saw action at the **Action of Hooge** in June 1915. In 1916, they were deployed to the Somme, participating in the **Battles of Flers-Courcelette, Morval, and Le Transloy**.

The following year, the division fought at Arras, including the **Battle of Hill 70**. It was during this period that Frederick was killed in action on **1 October 1917**, aged 28. He is buried at **Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No. 3** in Belgium.

Though his sacrifice is not commemorated on local memorials in Burry Port, his grave stands as a permanent testament to his service and dedication.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12321431/frederick-daniell#add-to-vc>

Joseph Elved Daniel

Rank: Junior Engineer Officer

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: MV *Narragansett* (London-registered tanker, British Petroleum)

Date of Death: 25 March 1942

Age: 26

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Junior Engineer Officer Joseph Elved Daniel was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Daniel and the husband of Ivy Daniel of Burry Port. He served aboard the MV *Narragansett*, a British Petroleum tanker vital for transporting fuel during World War II.

On **25 March 1942**, at 06:09 hours, the *Narragansett* was struck by a single torpedo from the German submarine U-105, approximately **400 miles east of Hampton Roads, Virginia**. The torpedo hit the stern, causing the vessel to sink rapidly with all hands. Joseph was among the 49 crew members lost, aged 26.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen who perished at sea and have no known grave. His sacrifice underscores the relentless dangers faced by civilian mariners in the Battle of the Atlantic, where U-boats targeted Allied shipping to disrupt vital supply chains.

His wife Ivy remained in Burry Port, and his legacy is a testament to the courage of those who kept wartime Britain fuelled.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15226322/joseph-elved-daniel#add-to-vc>

Captain Ralph Picton Daniel

17th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Service Number: 22121

Born: Pembrey, Carmarthenshire – Brynymor, Brick Row

Died: 31 July 1917 (aged 35)

Buried at: Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge, Belgium (Grave Ref: IV. C. 10)

Also commemorated on:

Burry Port & Pembrey War Memorial and Porthcawl War Memorial

Captain Ralph Picton Daniel was born in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, the son of Philip and Naomi Daniel, and lived at Brynymor, Brick Row. He began his military service as a Lance Sergeant in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was commissioned as an officer in March 1915.

He was posted to France in September 1916, serving with the 17th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which was part of 115th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The division had previously fought at Mametz Wood and was later moved to the Ypres Salient in preparation for the Third Battle of Ypres.

On 31 July 1917, during the opening phase of the **Battle of Pilckem Ridge**, Captain Daniel was killed in action while leading his men under intense fire and difficult terrain conditions. He had returned from leave specifically to take part in the offensive. He was 35 years old.

His name is also inscribed on the war memorials at **Porthcawl** and **Burry Port & Pembrey**, and he is remembered with honour for his leadership, courage, and devotion to duty.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56464615/ralph-picton-daniel>

Private Albert Owen Davies

Service Number: Wales Z/1094

Rank: Signaller

Branch: Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Unit: H.M.S. *Paladin*

Born: 1888, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Died: 2 December 1917 (aged 28–29), Woolwich, England

Burial: Tabernacle Baptist Chapelyard, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Albert Owen Davies was born in Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, in 1888, the son of William and Jane Davies.

He enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and served as a Signaller with **H.M.S. *Paladin***, an M-class destroyer of the Royal Navy involved in convoy protection and coastal defence during the First World War.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144041682/albert_owen-davies

Able Seaman David Owen Davies

Service Number: D/JX 214757

Branch: Royal Navy (HMS *President III*, attached as DEMS Gunner)

Date of Death: 25 September 1941

Age: 21

Memorial:

- **Plymouth Naval Memorial**, Devon (Panel 46, Column 3)
- **Aberporth War Memorial**, Cardiganshire
- **Yr Hen Gapel**, Llanbrynmair, Powys

Memorial ID: 13290647

Parents: John Thomas Davies and Martha Davies of Aberporth, Cardiganshire

David was posted as a **Defensively Equipped Merchant Ship (DEMS) Gunner** aboard the steam merchant *SS Erna II*. On 25 September 1941, the ship was torpedoed by **German submarine U-562** while en route from **Swansea to Montreal**, carrying vital wartime cargo. The attack claimed David's life along with other crew members. His body was not recovered, leading to his commemoration on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, which honours sailors with no known grave.

Additional Notes:

- **Name Discrepancy:** The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) erroneously records him as *Edward Owen Davies*, though all other archival and local memorials confirm his correct name as **David Owen Davies**.
- **DEMS Role:** As a DEMS Gunner, David was part of a critical naval initiative arming merchant ships to defend against U-boat attacks during the **Battle of the Atlantic**, one of WWII's deadliest campaigns.
- **Local Ties:** Aberporth's war memorial and Yr Hen Gapel chapel ensure his sacrifice remains remembered in his Welsh homeland.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13290647/david_owen-davies

Flight Lieutenant Evan Arthur Davies

Service Number: 101537

Branch: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Rank: Flight Lieutenant (Pilot)

Unit: No. 50 Squadron, RAF

Date of Death: 13 February 1943

Age at Death: 32

Flight Lieutenant Davies was piloting Lancaster III bomber ED484 (code VN-Q) during a night mission to attack the German U-boat base at Lorient, France. The aircraft failed to return from the operation and was later confirmed lost at sea with all seven crew members. The exact circumstances of the crash remain unknown, but it likely occurred due to enemy action or mechanical failure during the hazardous bombing run.

Family:

Son of Evan Jenkin Davies and Catherine Davies.

Husband of Elizabeth Lilian Davies of Pembrey, Carmarthenshire.

Memorials:

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial (Panel 129) as having no known grave.

Also remembered on local memorials in Carmarthenshire.

Additional Information:

- The mission was part of the intensive Allied bombing campaign against German naval bases.
- Lancaster ED484 had completed 12 successful operations prior to this fateful sortie.
- No. 50 Squadron suffered heavy losses during this period of the war.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68284795/evan_arthur-davies

Private James Davies

Service Number: 17075

Regiment: South Wales Borderers, 6th Battalion

Division: 25th Division (Pioneer Battalion)

Date of Death: 10 July 1916

Age: 23

Burial: St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France

James Davies was the son of **David and Mary Davies**, of **Penstar Farm, Pembrey**, Carmarthenshire. Prior to the war, he worked locally before enlisting at Llanelli into the **6th Battalion, South Wales Borderers**.

The battalion served as a **Pioneer unit** with the **25th Division**, providing crucial engineering and battlefield support on the Western Front.

The 25th Division landed in France on **26 September 1915**, and was initially posted to the Vimy sector.

There, they held the line and **repelled a German assault on Vimy Ridge in May 1916**. Soon afterward, the Division redeployed south to the Somme sector in preparation for the major Allied offensive.

On **3 July 1916**, just two days after the launch of the **Battle of the Somme**, the Division took part in a **frontal attack near Thiepval**—a heavily fortified German stronghold. During the fighting, James was **seriously wounded**, likely during this early and costly phase of the battle.

He was evacuated to a **base hospital in Rouen**, one of the main medical centers behind the lines. Despite medical care, **he succumbed to his wounds on 10 July 1916**, just a week into the Somme campaign.

Private James Davies was **23 years old**. He is buried in **St. Sever Cemetery**, Rouen—where many soldiers who died of wounds at the Rouen medical facilities are laid to rest.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55944827/james-davies>

Private Samuel John Davies

Service Number: 20061

Regiment: 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Brigade/Division: 114th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 21 July 1916

Cemetery: Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Abbeville, Somme, France

Grave Reference: IV. G. 3.

Samuel John Davies was born in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire. He enlisted into the 15th (Carmarthenshire) Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was raised by the Carmarthenshire County Committee in October 1914 as part of the Welsh Army Corps.

After initial training near home and at Rhyl, the battalion joined the 38th (Welsh) Division, undergoing final preparation at Winchester before landing in France in December 1915. The division held sectors in the Givenchy and Festubert areas during the winter and spring of 1916, enduring frequent shelling and harsh conditions.

In June 1916, the division moved to the Somme area in preparation for the major offensive. Private Davies was likely wounded during the division's first significant actions on the Somme, particularly in the period leading up to or during the Battle of Bazentin Ridge in mid-July 1916.

He died of his wounds on 21 July 1916 and was buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery. Abbeville served as a major headquarters for the British lines of communication and housed several stationary hospitals, which explains his burial there.

The 15th Battalion suffered severe casualties in July 1916 during the attack on Mametz Wood, a defining and costly action for the 38th (Welsh) Division.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56467952/samuel-j-davies>

Fusilier Vincent Howell Davies

Service Number: 4198779

Regiment: Royal Welch Fusiliers

Date of Death: 6 May 1944

Commemorated On: Rangoon Memorial, Rangoon War Cemetery, Yangon Region, Myanmar (Burma)

Fusilier Vincent Howell Davies served with the Royal Welch Fusiliers during the Burma Campaign of the Second World War — one of the most challenging and intense theatres of the conflict. The campaign saw British and Commonwealth forces engaged in a long, gruelling effort to repel the Japanese Army from Burma (now Myanmar), often in harsh jungle terrain and extreme conditions.

On 6 May 1944, Vincent was killed in action during the fierce fighting in Burma. His battalion was likely engaged in operations connected to the Battle of Kohima and Imphal, pivotal actions in halting the Japanese advance into India and turning the tide of the war in the Far East.

As he has no known grave, Fusilier Davies is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, which honours more than 27,000 men of the Commonwealth land forces who died during the campaign in Burma and whose remains were never recovered or identified.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17775086/vincent_howell-davies

Able Seaman William David Davies

Service Number: D/JX 291205

Branch: Royal Navy

Unit: H.M.S. *President III*

Date of Death: 2 December 1942

Age: 21

Able Seaman William David Davies served with the **Royal Navy** during the Second World War and was assigned to **H.M.S. *President III*** — a shore-based accounting establishment responsible for personnel assigned to the **Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships (DEMS)** programme.

These were merchant vessels fitted with defensive armaments and manned in part by Royal Navy gunners to help protect vital convoys from enemy attack.

William's posting suggests he was serving aboard a **merchant or transport ship under the DEMS scheme** when he lost his life on **2 December 1942**, a period marked by intense submarine warfare and heavy losses at sea.

He was **21 years old**, the **son of David and Sophia Jane Davies**, of **Pembrey, Carmarthenshire**. His name is commemorated by the Royal Navy among the many sailors

who served in silence and at great risk aboard the merchant convoys that were the lifeline of Britain during the war.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13290598/william_david-davies

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Service Number: D/JX 291205

Branch: Royal Navy

Unit: H.M.S. *President III*

Date of Death: 2 December 1942

Age: 21

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https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13290598/william_david-davies

Lieutenant Samuel William Dunn

Service: Royal Navy

Date of Birth: 24 September 1876

Date of Death: 10 July 1918

Age: 42

Burial: Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy

Lieutenant Samuel William Dunn was born in Penarth on 24 September 1876, the son of John and Margaret Dunn. His father, a Boatswain in the Coastguard, relocated the family to Burry Port upon taking a new post there. Samuel followed his father's maritime footsteps, joining the Royal Navy and forging a career at sea.

By the time of the Great War, Samuel was serving aboard **HMS Topaze**, an armoured cruiser operating in the Mediterranean and Red Sea. While stationed in the Mediterranean, he fell ill and died on **10 July 1918**, aged 42. As Taranto served as a critical Royal Naval base with a dedicated Naval Hospital, he was laid to rest at **Taranto Town Cemetery Extension** in Italy.

Though not commemorated on the Burry Port Memorial, Samuel's story and sacrifice were preserved through the efforts of his great nephew, Stephen Dunne, ensuring his legacy endures. His grave stands as a quiet testament to the often-overlooked toll of service away from the front lines.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21624445/samuel-william-dunn>

Captain David Gwynne Edmunds

Service: Captain, 18th Battalion, Welsh Regiment
Attached to: 119 Brigade, 40th (Bantam) Division
Died: 25 November 1917, Cambrai, France (aged 21)

David originally enlisted into the **Pembroke Yeomanry**, later serving with a Motor Despatch unit before receiving a commission in the Welsh Regiment. His Battalion formed part of the 40th (Bantam) Division, raised in 1915 and composed of a mix of regulation-height and shorter men. Training was delayed while unfit or undersized recruits were weeded out, but by spring 1916 the Division was ready for active service.

In June 1916, the Division moved to France, taking up positions near **Loos**, and later that year shifted to the Somme where they fought in the **Battle of the Ancre**. They remained in the sector through the winter. In March 1917, they advanced as the Germans withdrew to the **Hindenburg Line**, before taking part in the **Battle of Cambrai** later that year, playing a crucial role in the assault on **Bourlon Wood**.

It was during this fighting, on **25 November 1917**, that Captain David Gwynne Edmunds was **killed in action**, aged just 21.

Personal Background:

David was the son of William Price Edmunds and Elizabeth A. Edmunds, of Anchor House, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire.

Commemoration:

He has no known grave and is remembered with honour on the:-

[Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France.](#)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56026107/david-gwynne-edmunds>

Master David Edmunds

Service: Master, Mercantile Marine

Vessel: *SS Tangistan*

Born: 1871, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Died: 9 March 1915, at sea, off Flamborough Head (aged 44)

Family:

- Son of Joseph and Mary Edmunds
- Married Elizabeth Ann Randell in 1902
- Lived at Kidwelly with their daughter

David Edmunds served in the Mercantile Marine and became Master of the *SS Tangistan*, a 3,738-ton British merchant ship built in 1906 at Hartlepool by William Gray.

On **9 March 1915**, while on passage from Benisaf, Algeria, to the River Tees, *Tangistan* was torpedoed without warning by the German submarine **U-12** (commanded by Arno Spindler) and sunk about nine miles from Flamborough Head, Yorkshire.

Out of 38 men aboard, only one, J. O'Toole, survived. David was among those lost, aged 44.

Commemoration:

With no known grave but the sea, David is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial, London**, which honours the men of the Mercantile Marine lost in the Great War.

- **CWGC Memorial ID:** 15228114
- **Memorial Reference:** *SS Tangistan* panel

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15228114/david-edmunds>

Steward Joseph Emery

Birth: 1867

Death: 2 January 1918 (aged 50–51)

Rank: Steward

Service: Mercantile Marine

Vessel: S.S. *Kingsley*

Date of Death: 2 January 1918

Joseph Emery was a devoted sailor and loving husband to Elizabeth Emery, daughter of Anne Evans of Burry Port. His life was marked by dedication, courage, and an unwavering commitment to duty.

As a seasoned mariner, Joseph was serving aboard the S.S. *Kingsley* when disaster struck off the coast of Cornwall on 2 January 1918.

The *Kingsley* came under attack from a German U-boat, which opened fire with its deck gun, causing severe damage to the ship. Despite the ferocity of the assault, the crew managed to steer the vessel to safety at Penzance.

Tragically, Joseph Emery was one of four brave men who lost their lives during this perilous engagement. At the age of 50, he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

Joseph's remains were returned with honour and laid to rest with full military rites at St. Illtyd Churchyard in Pembrey.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180499/joseph-emery>

Lieutenant Colonel David Brynmor Chiles-Evans, DSO

Regiment: Royal Army Medical Corps, 3rd (Welch) Field Ambulance

Awards: Distinguished Service Order, Mentioned in Despatches (three times)

Post-Nominals: M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Date of Death: 23 April 1917

Age at Death: 40

Cemetery: Bethune Town Cemetery, France

Grave Reference: III. K. 59.

David Brynmor Chiles-Evans was born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in 1877, the son of Reverend David Evans and Elizabeth Anne Evans (née Chiles). He studied medicine at Aberystwyth University but interrupted his studies to volunteer as a dresser with the Welsh Hospital during the Boer War (1899–1902). Upon returning to Wales, he qualified as a doctor and worked at the Swansea Workhouse Infirmary. He also served with the Army volunteers, initially as a Lieutenant in the Gloucester and Somerset Bearer Company, Royal Army Medical Corps, and later with the 3rd Welsh Ambulance RAMC after the Territorial Army was formed in 1908. In 1910, he established a medical practice in Landore, Swansea. A keen sportsman, Chiles-Evans was a well-known rugby player for Swansea Rugby Football Club and the London Welsh. At the outbreak of World War I, he was mobilized and volunteered for overseas service. Promoted to Captain, he served as Medical Officer to the 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment, and deployed to France in September 1914. He was wounded multiple times, including at Hoge in August 1915 and during the Battle of Loos in September 1915, where his gallantry earned him the Distinguished Service Order. After recuperating from wounds sustained at the Somme in September 1916, he returned to duty in March 1917 as a Lieutenant Colonel, assuming command of the 18th Field Ambulance. During the Battle of Arras, he was severely wounded by shell fragments while on duty near Hill 70 on 23 April 1917 and died later that day. Chiles-Evans is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery and commemorated on multiple memorials, including the Burry Port & Pembury War Memorial, Swansea Cricket and Football Club War Memorial, and the London Welsh Rugby Football Club War Memorial². His name also appears in the Welsh National Book of Remembrance.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56164673/david-brynmor-chiles-evans#add-to-vc>

Lance Corporal William Evans

Service: 8th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Service Number: 39848

Born: c.1895 (exact birth date unknown)

Died: 15 July 1916, Mesopotamia (aged 21)

Family:

- Son of John and Ann Evans
- Family home: 41 Pencoed Road, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire

William enlisted at Swansea into the **8th Battalion, Welsh Regiment**, which was attached to **40 Brigade, 13th (Western) Division**.

The Division embarked for service overseas in June 1915, sailing first to Alexandria before moving on to the **Gallipoli Peninsula** in July. They endured months of heavy fighting and hardship until the evacuation from Suvla on 19 December 1915. After a brief rest, the Division was sent to the **Helles bridgehead**, where they resisted the final Turkish attacks before evacuating on 8 January 1916.

By 31 January 1916, the Division was concentrated at Port Said and manned forward positions along the **Suez Canal defences**. On 12 February 1916, they were ordered to Mesopotamia to join the **Tigris Corps** in the effort to relieve the besieged garrison at Kut-al-Amara. Despite heavy fighting, Kut fell before relief could be achieved.

Amidst the gruelling conditions of Mesopotamia, William **died of sickness on 15 July 1916**, aged only 21.

Burial:

Lance Corporal Evans is buried at **Amara War Cemetery**, Al-‘Amarah, Maysan, Iraq.

- **Grave Reference:** VII. C. 9
- **CWGC Memorial ID:** 56324833

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56324833/william-evans#add-to-vc>

Private William Fanning

Service Number: 10868

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards

Date of Death: 31 July 1917

Commemorated On: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium — **Panel 11**

Place of Birth: Ballymony, County Wexford, Ireland

Residence Prior to Enlistment: Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Enlistment Location: Llanelli

Private William Fanning was born in Ballymony, County Wexford, Ireland, and was living in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, at the time of his enlistment. He joined the British Army at Llanelli and was posted to the **2nd Battalion, Irish Guards**.

Initially formed as a Home Service battalion, the 2nd Irish Guards were transferred to **2nd Brigade, Guards Division** in August 1915. The Guard's Division was a newly created elite formation, assembled in France from experienced Guards units previously scattered among other divisions. It saw continuous service on the Western Front from its inception.

William would have taken part in the Guards Division's first major engagement at the **Battle of Loos** in September 1915, and later in the **Action of Hohenzollern Redoubt**. In 1916, the Division moved to the Somme and fought in the **Battles of Flers-Courcelette** and **Morval**, helping to capture the village of **Lesboeufs**.

In 1917, following the German strategic withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, the Division advanced and later shifted north to Flanders for the **Third Battle of Ypres**. On **31 July 1917**, during the **Battle of Pilckem Ridge**, the opening phase of the Ypres offensive, Private William Fanning was **killed in action**.

He was **29 years old** (approximate), and his body was never recovered.

He is **commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**, which honours more than 54,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave.

Though he resided in **Pembrey**, Private Fanning is **not commemorated locally**, a gap that can now be recognised in his honour.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11992370/william-fanning>

Private Tom Charles Fuller

2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment

- **Born:** 1882, Swansea, United Kingdom
- **Died:** 7 November 1914 (aged ~32) in France
- **Burial:** Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France

Tom Charles Fuller, Private Number 7719 of the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment, was born in Swansea in 1882. He answered the call to serve with unwavering dedication when Britain entered the First World War.

In the autumn of 1914, as the war rapidly escalated across the Western Front, Tom's battalion was engaged in intense and perilous combat in northern France. Although many of the exact details of his last actions remain unknown, it is clear that he sustained fatal wounds during these early and brutal months of the conflict.

On **7 November 1914**, Tom succumbed to his injuries—just one of the countless young soldiers carried away in the opening wave of the war. He now rests at **Wimereux Communal Cemetery** in the Pas-de-Calais region, a rare final resting place among the early fallen who lie buried rather than commemorated on a memorial. May his quiet sacrifice be held in gentle remembrance.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56079503/tom-charles-fuller#add-to-vc>

Private Lawrence Winson Gange

Birth: 1912, Pontypool, Torfaen, Wales

Death: 19 September 1944 (aged 32)

Service: British Army, Welch Regiment

Burial: Gradara War Cemetery, Pesaro, Provincia di Pesaro e Urbino, Marche, Italy —
Grave Reference: I, E, 6

Private Lawrence Winson Gange served with the British Army during the Second World War, as part of the forces engaged in the Italian Campaign. This hard-fought campaign, which began in 1943 following the Allied landings in Sicily and southern Italy, aimed to remove Axis forces from the peninsula and draw German resources away from northern Europe.

By September 1944, Allied troops were advancing through central Italy and engaging in bitter fighting along the Gothic Line — a heavily fortified German defensive line that stretched across the Apennines. It was during this phase of the conflict, amid intense combat in the Marche region, that Private Gange was killed in action on **19 September 1944**.

Lawrence was born in **Pontypool**, Torfaen, in 1912, the **son of Charles and Harriet Gange (née Weaver)**. He later moved to **Burry Port, Carmarthenshire**, where his family had settled. In 1938, he married **Margaret Streeter**, establishing a life together shortly before the outbreak of war.

He now rests in **Gradara War Cemetery** in Italy, which contains the graves of many servicemen who fell during the fierce battles in the region.

His sacrifice is part of the enduring legacy of those who gave their lives in the struggle to liberate Europe from tyranny.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56524520/lawrence_winson-gange

Second Lieutenant Thomas George

Service: 16th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers (attached to 113 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division)

Date of Death: 27 August 1918

Age at Death: 24

Burial: Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France

Thomas, the son of John and Lettice George from Brynhir, Pembrey, was commissioned into the 16th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, attached to the 113 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.

The Division embarked on its journey to France in December 1915 and endured its inaugural winter in the trenches near Armentieres. In June, they marched south to the Somme, achieving renown for the capture of Mametz Wood.

Following the devastating casualties at Mametz, the Division was withdrawn from the front lines and relocated to Ypres for reformation. There, they participated in battles at Pilckem and Langemarck before moving to Armentieres, where they held their position from September 1917 until March 1918, when the German Spring Offensive was launched.

In response to the British retreat on the Somme, the Division was relocated south in April, establishing positions north of Albert. They weathered the storm of the subsequent months until the tide of the war turned during the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918.

With the Germans losing their advantage, the 38th Division crossed the flooded River Ancre on 21 August 1918, launching their successful offensive on Thiepval Ridge and Pozieres. Tragically, Thomas lost his life just six days into the offensive, near Longueval on 27 August 1918, at the age of 24. He rests in eternal peace at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15290804/thomas-george>

Sapper Adam Gillespie

Service Number: 158291

Regiment: 257th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers

Date of Death: 1 March 1917

Age at Death: 38–39 (records vary)

Cemetery: La Gorgue Communal Cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France

Grave Reference: III. C. 4.

Adam Gillespie was born in Campbeltown, Argyllshire, Scotland, in 1878 or 1879, the son of John and Mary Gillespie of Drumlemble, Campbeltown. Prior to the war, he resided at 2 Ysgborwen, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, where he worked as a collier (underground labourer).

He enlisted at Llanelli into the Royal Engineers and was assigned to the 257th Tunnelling Company, which specialized in mining operations beneath enemy lines, particularly in the Neuve Chapelle sector of the Western Front.

Tunnelling companies played a critical role in the war, engaging in the construction of mines to destroy enemy fortifications and counter German mining operations. The 257th Tunnelling Company was actively involved in these dangerous tasks, often working in claustrophobic and perilous conditions. Adam Gillespie was killed in action on 1 March 1917 during these operations, likely due to combat, a mining accident, or enemy shelling.

He was buried in La Gorgue Communal Cemetery, which served as a burial ground for casualties from nearby military hospitals and frontline actions.

His death highlights the often-overlooked contributions of tunnellers, whose work was vital to Allied efforts but carried extreme risks. Gillespie is commemorated on the Burry Port & Pembrey Memorial, reflecting his connection to the Welsh community despite his Scottish origins.

The inscription on his grave, "PEACE PERFECT PEACE," underscores the personal tragedy of his loss.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37787320/adam-gillespie#add-to-vc>

Lieutenant Montague Beaumont Glover

Royal Artillery – United Kingdom

Service Number: 159476

Date of Birth: Unknown (c. 1894)

Date of Death: 11 August 1941 (aged 47)

Home Address: Herne Hill, London

Lieutenant Montague Beaumont Glover served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War. He was the son of **Beaumont and Louisa Vernon Jane Rigby Glover**, and the devoted husband of **Vera Annette Elizabeth Glover**, of Herne Hill, London.

By 1941, Lieutenant Glover was posted to **RAF Pembrey** in Carmarthenshire, Wales—a strategic Royal Air Force station vital for both pilot training and home defence. His role was believed to be within an **anti-aircraft unit**, providing protection against German air raids at a time of intense enemy activity over Britain's western approaches.

On **11 August 1941**, Lieutenant Glover tragically lost his life while on active duty at RAF Pembrey. Though specific details of his death are not recorded in open sources, his service and sacrifice are acknowledged by the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**. He was approximately **47 years old** at the time of his death.

Lieutenant Glover is remembered for his dedication to duty and the vital part he played in the home defence of the United Kingdom during a critical stage of the war.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180500/montague-beaumont-glover>

Private Joseph Gower

Service Number: 72989 (King's Liverpool Regiment); 48155 (Labour Corps)

Regiment: 1st Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment); later transferred to Labour Corps

Date of Death: 25 August 1918

Age at Death: 21

Memorial: Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Hautcourt, Pas-de-Calais, France

Memorial Panel: 3 and 4

Joseph Gower was born on 23 October 1896 in Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales, to David and Hannah Gower of 4 East Cottages, Burry Port. He enlisted in the British Army during the First World War, initially serving with the 1st Battalion of The King's (Liverpool Regiment) under the service number 72989.

He was later transferred to the Labour Corps (service number 48155), a unit often tasked with support roles such as digging trenches, constructing roads, and handling logistics, though soldiers in these units were still exposed to frontline dangers.

Private Gower was killed in action on 25 August 1918 during the later stages of the war, a period marked by the Allied Hundred Days Offensive that ultimately led to the end of the conflict. This offensive involved intense fighting across the Western Front, including the Somme and Arras sectors, where the Labour Corps frequently operated under hazardous conditions. His death occurred near Calais, Pas-de-Calais, France, though the exact circumstances are not detailed in available records.

As his grave was not identified, Joseph Gower is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, which honours over 9,000 British and South African soldiers who fell in the region from August to September 1918 and have no known grave. His name appears on Panels 3 and 4 of the memorials.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56673727/joseph-gower>

Kapitan Roman Grzanka

Service Number: P/0191

Rank: Kapitan

Unit: Polish Air Force, 307 Squadron

Age: 31 years old

Date of Birth: 1 May 1912

Date of Death: 27 June 1943

- **Name:** De Havilland Mosquito Mk II DD644
- **Squadron:** No. 307 (Lwowskich Puchaczy) Squadron PAF
- **Form:** Aircraft
- **NGR:** SS5667588144
- **Community:** Pennard
- **Description:** The aircraft crashed at Fair Acres Farm, Pennard, Gower. The location was provided and visited by SH Jones, along with the daughter of the engine mechanic, Flight Sergeant Waclaw Oyrzanowski, who died in the crash alongside pilot Flight Lieutenant Roman Grzanka.

Flight Crew:

Flight Lieutenant Roman Grzanka

- **Role:** Pilot
- **Personal ID:** P.0191
- **Status:** Killed
- **Burial:** St Illtyd's Churchyard, Pembrey
- **Biography:** Born on February 8, 1903, in Ujma Duża, Poland. Grzanka exhibited a strong sense of duty and adventure from a young age, leading him to join the Polish Air Force. He quickly earned a reputation as a skilled and determined pilot.
- [Find A Grave Memorial](#)

Flight Sergeant Waclaw Oyrzanowski

- **Role:** Observer
- **Personal ID:** P.793495
- **Status:** Died of Injuries
- **Burial:** St Illtyd's Churchyard, Pembrey
- **Biography:** Born on September 18, 1903, in Zawady, Poland. Oyrzanowski's early dedication to his country led him to join the Polish Air Force. His service continued across Europe during World War II, marked by unwavering commitment despite the challenges he faced.
- [Find A Grave Memorial](#)

Able Seaman Frederick Gravell

Service No. D/JX 165666

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Gloucester

Born: 1923

Died: 22 May 1941 (aged 18)

Joined: 6 March 1940

Commemorated at: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth, Devon, England

Able Seaman Frederick Gravell was a young sailor in the Royal Navy, serving aboard **H.M.S. Gloucester** during the Second World War. Born in 1923, he enlisted at just 17 years old and was tragically killed in action on **22 May 1941**, at the age of 18.

On that day, *H.M.S. Gloucester* was sunk by German dive bombers during the **Battle of Crete**, in the Mediterranean Sea. The ship had been ordered into a dangerous zone with little air cover and was overwhelmed by successive air attacks. Of her crew of over 800 men, only around 85 survived.

Frederick was the beloved son of **John and Hetty Gravell**, of Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales. Though his body was never recovered, his name is engraved in honour on the **Plymouth Naval Memorial**, alongside thousands of Royal Navy personnel who have no known grave but the sea.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13293571/frederick-gravell>

Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle

Service: Royal Naval Reserve

Date of Birth: 1908, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Date of Death: 24 February 1941 (aged 32)

Memorials:

- Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England
- https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56694505/arthur_charles-gravelle
- Family grave, St. Illtyd's Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales
- https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261844234/arthur_charles-gravelle

Biography:

Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle was born in 1908 in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, the son of **David John Gravelle** and **Agnes Mildred Gravelle**. Following the early death of his father in 1917, his mother relocated with the family to Cheam, Surrey.

Arthur maintained strong ties to his Welsh roots, and his name is still remembered locally. Arthur dedicated a number of years to service in the **Royal Naval Reserve**, displaying steadfast commitment well before the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the war, he served as an officer aboard **H.M.S. Manistee**, a defensively equipped merchant ship fitted with four guns to protect Allied convoys from submarine attacks. On **24 February 1941**, while sailing with **Convoy OB-288** in the North Atlantic, **H.M.S. Manistee** was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **U-107**, under the command of Günter Hessler.

The vessel was lost with **all 141 hands**, including Lieutenant Gravelle. He was **32 years old** at the time of his death.

Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle is commemorated with honor on the **Portsmouth Naval Memorial**, which bears the names of Royal Navy personnel lost at sea with no known grave.

He is also remembered on the **Gravelle family grave** at **St. Illtyd's Churchyard** in his hometown of **Pembrey**, preserving his connection to the community he came from.

Private Benjamin Griffiths (Service No. 3963640)

4th Battalion, Welch Regiment – British Army

Date of Death: 2 July 1940 (aged 33)

Commemoration: Brookwood 1939–1945 Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Panel 12, Column 2 • Memorial ID: 56076132

Private Benjamin Griffiths served with the 4th Battalion of the Welch Regiment; a Territorial unit associated with West Wales. Although his place of birth and date remain unrecorded, his wartime service and ultimate sacrifice are memorialised with dignity.

At just 33 years old, Private Griffiths died **at sea** on **2 July 1940**, under circumstances not definitively confirmed but consistent with known losses—either by air bombing or submarine attack—during convoy operations of early wartime movement. His name is listed among the many whose bodies were never recovered and are honoured on the Brookwood 1939–1945 Memorial.

The **Brookwood 1939–1945 Memorial** memorialises nearly 3,400 Commonwealth soldiers with no known graves—many lost at sea, missing in action, or buried at sea following ship sinkings or aerial attacks.

Designed by Ralph Hobday and unveiled in 1958, the memorial stands within **Brookwood Military Cemetery**, the UK's largest Commonwealth war cemetery.

Benjamin's inscription on **Panel 12, Column 2** ensures that, though his body was not recovered, his service and sacrifice remain recorded and honoured for posterity.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56076132/benjamin-griffiths>

Sapper Frank Gibson Griffiths

Service No.: 204515

Regiment: 134th Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers

Date of Death: 4 October 1917

Age: 20

Burial: Canada Farm Cemetery, Belgium

Sapper Frank Griffiths was born in Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, the son of **David John Gibson Griffiths and Caroline Griffiths** of 32, Hedley Terrace, Llanelli 2. He enlisted at Llanelli on 7 November 1916 into the Royal Engineers and landed in France on 14 May 1917.

Posted to the 134th Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers, Frank specialized in critical behind-the-lines infrastructure work, including bridging and water supply operations. He was stationed in the Ypres sector during the Battle of Passchendaele, where he was killed in action on 4 October 1917, aged 20.

Frank is buried at Canada Farm Cemetery in Belgium. Though not commemorated on the Burry Port Memorial, his sacrifice reflects the vital and perilous work of the Royal Engineers during the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11154503/frank-gibson-griffiths>

Gwynfryn James Griffiths

Birth: 1921

Death: 10 July 1940 (aged 19)

Place of Death: Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

GPS Coordinates: Latitude 51.6873887, Longitude -4.2738684

Memorial ID: 230048044

Gwynfryn James Griffiths was the beloved son of **William and Louisa Griffiths** of Pembrey, Carmarthenshire. As a young man, he worked at the **Royal Ordnance Factory, Pembrey**, a vital wartime facility responsible for producing **TNT for military munitions**.

On **10 July 1940**, during the early stages of the **Second World War**, the factory was targeted in an aerial bombing raid by the **German Luftwaffe**. The attack caused significant damage and numerous casualties among the workers. Gwynfryn was critically injured in the explosion and transported to **Llanelli Hospital** for emergency treatment. Despite efforts to save him, he sadly succumbed to his injuries later that same day.

At just **19 years old**, Gwynfryn lost his life in service to the war effort, though as a civilian worker. His role in the production of ammunition placed him directly in harm's way, and his death is a solemn reminder of the many civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice supporting the armed forces from the home front.

He was laid to rest with dignity at **St. Illtyd Churchyard** in his home village of **Pembrey**, where his memory endures.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230048044/gwynfryn_james-griffiths

Gunner Trevor Griffiths

Service: Royal Garrison Artillery, 133rd Siege Battery

Service Number: 161221

Born: c.1899, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire (exact birth date unknown)

Died: 24 September 1917, Belgium (aged 18)

Son of Lewis and Elizabeth Anne Griffiths, of Stepney Road, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire.

Trevor enlisted at Llanelli into the **Royal Garrison Artillery**. He was posted to France and served with the **133rd Siege Battery**, a heavy artillery unit providing long-range fire support on the Western Front.

In September 1917, the Allies launched a major offensive during the **Third Battle of Ypres**. One of its most intense phases was the **Battle of the Menin Road Ridge** (20–25 September 1917). It was during this fighting that Trevor Griffiths was **killed in action** on **24 September 1917**, just 18 years old.

Burial:

Trevor rests in **Menin Road South Military Cemetery**, Ypres, West Flanders, Belgium.

- **Grave Reference:** I. S. 44
- **CWGC Memorial ID:** 13806876
- **GPS:** 50.849675, 2.9047833

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13806876/t-griffiths>

Private Frederick George Hallett

Private Frederick George Hallett

Service Number: 3220

Rank: Private

Unit: 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards

Date of Death: 27 September 1918

Age: 32

Burial: Louverval Military Cemetery, Doignies, Nord, France

Frederick George Hallett was born in Plymouth, Devon, the son of **George and Ellen Hallett** of 5 Wyndham Street. Before the outbreak of the First World War, he had settled in **Pembrey, Carmarthenshire**, where he was residing when he enlisted at nearby **Llanelli** into the **1st Battalion, Welsh Guards**.

The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, part of **3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division**, had been formed in 1915 and quickly gained a formidable reputation. By the time Frederick likely joined them in **1916**, they were already engaged in some of the most intense fighting on the Western Front.

He saw action during the **Battle of the Somme**, particularly at **Flers-Courcelette** and **Morval**, where the Welsh Guards helped capture the village of Lesboeufs. The battalion endured the harsh winter of 1916–17 before participating in the **advance following the German strategic withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line** in early 1917.

Later that year, they were deployed north to **Ypres**, where they faced brutal conditions during the **Third Battle of Ypres** (Passchendaele). In **November 1917**, the battalion moved south again to take part in the **Battle of Cambrai**, one of the first major battles to employ tanks on a large scale.

They remained in the area through the winter, and on **21 March 1918**, were caught in the path of the massive **German Spring Offensive**. The Guards Division fought a series of desperate rear-guard actions during the retreat.

The tide of war turned in August 1918 with the **Allied counter-offensives**. From the **Battle of Albert** to the **Battle of Bapaume**, the Welsh Guards pushed eastward, playing a key role in breaking through German lines.

Their advance continued into **the Battles of Havrincourt and the Canal du Nord**, which were instrumental in breaching the **Hindenburg Line**.

It was during the **Battle of the Canal du Nord**, on **27 September 1918**, that Private Frederick George Hallett was **killed in action**. He was **32 years old**.

He is laid to rest in **Louverval Military Cemetery**, Doignies, France — a resting place for many of the brave men who fell during the final push towards victory in 1918.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56185222/frederick_george-hallett

Private Thomas John Hawkins

Service No.: 10895

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Date of Death: 19 September 1914

Age: 21

Burial: Braine Communal Cemetery, France

Private Thomas John Hawkins was the son of Harry and Martha Jane Hawkins of 50, Spring Gardens, Burry Port. He enlisted at Pontypridd into the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment, part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division.

The 1st Division was among the first British formations deployed to France in 1914. Thomas saw action in the early battles of the war, including the Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat to the Marne, where the German advance was halted. His battalion then fought at the Aisne and Chivy.

Thomas was killed in action during the Actions on the Aisne Heights on 19 September 1914, aged just 21. He is buried at Braine Communal Cemetery in France, one of the many young men from Wales who made the ultimate sacrifice in the opening months of the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56854017/thomas-john-hawkins>

Leading Aircraftman Harold George Henry

Rank: Leading Aircraftman
Service Number: 1262652
Trade: Wireless Operator/Air Gunner
Service: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died: 24th May 1942
Age: 31 years old

Born in Newport, Monmouthshire on the 21st June 1911 and baptised in All Saints Church, Newport on the 5th July 1911, Harold was the son George Henry and Mabel Francis Henry (née Toogood. They had married on the 26th December 1904 in the Parish Church at Twerton, Bath. Harold had an older sister Mabel. In 1911, the family were living at 11, Pant Road in Newport. Their father was employed as a Compositor by the printing company G. Bell & Co.

In 1939 Harold married Kate Ivy Trumper. In 1939 they lived at 60, West View, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Harold was working as a Printer Compositor and Monotype Operator. In 1941 they had a daughter Glynis.

On the 24th May 1942, Bristol Blenheim L1218, assigned to 1 Air Gunnery School, crashed near Brooklands House in Pined, Carmarthenshire, three miles east of Pembrey, during a forced landing following a fuel leak which caused an engine fire while on a camera gun exercise.

The incident resulted in the tragic loss of four crew members. The aircrew included Leading Airman Harold George Henry and Leading Airman George Alfred Layton, both of whom perished in the crash.

Their bravery and sacrifice are remembered, with both being buried in St Illtyd Church, Pembrey on the 29th May 1942.

Harold's widow did re-marry. In 1945 she wed Christian Hansen in Watford. Kate died in 2002

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180501/harold_george-henry

Private Charles Edward Hewitt

Rank: Private

Service No.: T/3269

Regiment: 5th Battalion, East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)

Date of Death: 27 April 1916

Age: 18

Burial: Amara War Cemetery, Iraq

Private Charles Edward Hewitt was born in Derbyshire, the son of Albert and Elizabeth Hewitt. By 1911, the family resided in Pontardulais before moving to Burry Port prior to the war. Charles enlisted at Llanelli into the 5th Battalion, Worcester Regiment but later transferred to the 5th Battalion, East Kent Regiment (The Buffs).

His battalion embarked for India on 29 October 1914 as part of the Home Counties Division. Upon arrival, it joined the Jubbulpore Brigade in the 5th (Mhow) Division. In November 1915, the battalion transferred to the 35th Brigade, 7th (Meerut) Division, and was deployed to Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).

Charles died in Mesopotamia on 27 April 1916, aged 18. He is buried at Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, far from his Welsh home, yet remembered for his service in a often overlooked theatre of the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56325356/c-e-hewitt#add-to-vc>

Private Alfred James Holt

Service Number: 32901

Regiment: 8th Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

Date of Death: 13 April 1918

Age: 40

Commemorated on: Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium

Alfred James Holt was born in **Brixworth, Northamptonshire**, and baptised on **3 November 1878**, the son of **Thomas Holt (1831–1914)** and **Eliza Holt (née Tidy, 1844–1928)**. He later moved to **Pembrey, Carmarthenshire**, where he enlisted during the First World War.

Alfred served with the **8th Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)**, which was part of **76th Brigade, 3rd Division** of the British Army. The battalion was engaged in numerous key actions on the Western Front throughout the war.

In **1916**, the battalion saw action at the **Actions of the Bluff** and **St. Eloi Craters**, before being transferred south to take part in the **Battle of the Somme**. They endured intense combat and harsh conditions during the prolonged fighting and the following winter. In the **spring of 1917**, Alfred's battalion was involved in the **Battle of Arras**, including the **First and Second Battles of the Scarpe**, the **Battle of Arleux**, and the **Third Battle of the Scarpe**, during which the village of **Roeux** was captured.

Later that year, the division moved north to Ypres, taking part in the **Third Battle of Ypres**, notably at the **Battle of the Menin Road** and **Polygon Wood**. In **November 1917**, they were once again redeployed — this time south to fight in the **Battle of Cambrai**.

In **March 1918**, as part of the German Spring Offensive, Alfred's division faced the ferocious onslaught during the **Battle of St. Quentin**, **First Battle of Bapaume**, and **First Battle of Arras 1918**. After suffering heavy losses, the division was briefly withdrawn to **Flanders** to reorganise.

However, the respite was short-lived. The German High Command shifted the focus of their offensive to **Flanders**, and the **Battle of Estaires** erupted in April 1918. It was during this chaotic and violent engagement that **Private Alfred Holt was killed in action on 13 April 1918**, aged 40.

He has **no known grave** and is commemorated with honour on the **Ploegsteert Memorial** in Belgium, which bears the names of more than 11,000 British and Empire servicemen who died in the area and have no known resting place.

Despite his service and sacrifice, **Alfred James Holt is not commemorated locally** in Pembrey.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12702531/alfred_james-holt

Private William Frank Howe

Service No.: 83080

Regiment: 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

Date of Death: 11 August 1918

Age: 19

Burial: Dive Copse British Cemetery, Sailly-Le-Sec, France

Private William Frank Howe was the son of William Dudley Howe and Ada Amelia Howe of 11, Glanmor Terrace, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli into the Training Reserve before being posted to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

William likely joined the 149th Brigade, 50th Division as a reinforcement after July 1918, following the division's heavy casualties and subsequent reorganization after fighting on the Aisne. He was killed in action during the Battle of Amiens on 11 August 1918, aged just 19.

William is buried at Dive Copse British Cemetery in Sailly-Le-Sec, France. His sacrifice during one of the final Allied offensives of the war reflects the courage of the young men who fought to secure victory.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56425225/william-frank-howe>

Private David Walter Hughes

Service No.: 23531

Regiment: 6th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment

Attached to: 50 Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division

Date of Death: 24 August 1918

Age: 26

Burial: Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval, France

Private David Walter Hughes was the son of John and Margaret Hughes of 25, Old Castle Road, Llanelli. He married Henrietta Howell of Goring Villa, 21, Ellington Road, Burry Port, in 1914. Prior to enlisting, David worked as an ironmonger's assistant. He joined the 6th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment at Llanelli.

The battalion was attached to 50 Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division, which arrived in France on 17 July 1915. After initial trench familiarization in the Ypres salient, the division saw action at the Bluff in February 1916 before moving south to participate in the first day of the Somme offensive, capturing Fricourt at heavy cost.

The division later fought at Arras (First and Second Battles of the Scarpe) and Passchendaele.

In March 1918, the division faced the German Spring Offensive on the Somme, suffering significant casualties. After restructuring, it returned to the front and took part in the Battle of Amiens (8 August 1918) and the subsequent advance.

David was killed in action during the Battle of Albert on 24 August 1918, aged 26. He is buried at Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval, France.

His wife Henrietta resided at Burry Port throughout his service, and his parents remained in Llanelli.

David's service reflects the heavy contributions of Welsh soldiers in English regiments during the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56411871/david-walter-hughes>

Wing Commander John Harvey Hutchinson

Royal Air Force – Photographic Reconnaissance Unit

Date of Death: 8 October 1940

Place of Death: Langley, Slough (formerly Buckinghamshire), England

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Location: Row 1, Grave 10

Memorial ID: 98180502

Wing Commander **John Harvey Hutchinson** was a highly respected officer in the **Royal Air Force**, serving as the **Commanding Officer of the Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (PRU)** during the early stages of the Second World War. He was the son of **William and Asta Hutchinson of Finchampstead, Berkshire**, and the husband of **Beatrice K. Hutchinson**, also of Finchampstead.

On **8 October 1940**, Wing Commander Hutchinson took off from **RAF Pembrey** in South Wales, accompanied by **Flying Officer Cyril Clifford Hicks**, aboard a **Miles Magister I (serial no. P6347)**. They were undertaking a daylight cross-country flight to **RAF Northolt**, a key operational base near London.

Tragically, during the flight, their aircraft struck a **barrage balloon cable**—part of the air defence system used to deter low-flying enemy aircraft—while flying over **Langley**, then part of **Buckinghamshire**. The impact caused the aircraft to crash, killing both men instantly.

At a time when aerial reconnaissance was critical to Britain's survival and success, Hutchinson was at the forefront of intelligence-gathering efforts that informed key strategic decisions. His leadership of the PRU—a highly secretive and dangerous role—involved overseeing daring photographic missions deep into enemy territory.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180502/john-harvey-hutchinson>

Private Sidney Isaac

Service No.: 19871

Regiment: 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 10 July 1916

Age: 19

Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, France

Private Sidney Isaac was the son of James and Lizzie Isaac of 1, Bryn Terrace, Pembrey. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (Carmarthenshire Battalion), part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The division arrived in France in December 1915 and spent its first winter in the trenches near Armentières. In June 1916, it moved to the Somme sector, where it was tasked with capturing Mametz Wood. The initial assault on 7 July 1916 met fierce resistance, leading to days of brutal close-quarters combat.

Sidney was killed in action during the second assault on Mametz Wood on 10 July 1916, aged 19. As his body was never recovered, he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. His sacrifice reflects the heavy losses suffered by the 38th (Welsh) Division in one of the most gruelling battles of the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12442915/sidney-isaac>

Pilot Officer Frederick William Rupert V Jacques

Hawker Hunter Crash at Kidwelly Railway Station – 20 June 1957

Aircraft: Hawker Hunter WT563

Operator: 233 Operational Conversion Unit, Royal Air Force (233 OCU RAF)

Fatalities: 1 (Pilot), 1 (Ground casualty)

Aircraft Status: Written off (damaged beyond repair)

Location: Kidwelly Railway Station, 2 miles north of RAF Pembrey, United Kingdom

Phase: Approach

Nature: Military Training Flight

Departure & Destination: RAF Pembrey

Incident Summary:

Hawker Hunter WT563 was first flown at Dunsfold on 2 November 1953 and delivered on 2 December 1953 for C(A) Ministry of Supply (MoS) trials at Hawker Aircraft, Dunsfold. It was used to test an interim flying tail modification ("Modification 365") before being refurbished for operational service.

The aircraft was later assigned to 233 OCU at RAF Pembrey on 10 October 1956.

On 20 June 1957, during a pair's take-off, WT563 took off as the No.2 aircraft but fell behind and initiated a port turn. The pilot reported that he was flying in manual mode, and while attempting to correct the aircraft's flight path, it began to lose height. This led to an uncontrolled Dutch roll, ultimately resulting in a crash at Kidwelly Railway Station, just two miles from RAF Pembrey.

The pilot, Pilot Officer Frederick William Rupert V. Jacques (Service No. 3520735), aged 27, ejected at low altitude but did not survive. Born on 27 June 1929 in Batu Gajah, Malaya, he served with No. 233 OCU at RAF Pembrey and was tragically killed in the accident.

Pilot Officer Jacques was laid to rest at Pembrey, his service and sacrifice remembered as part of RAF Pembrey's history.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230200782/f-w_r_v-jacques

Private Joseph Henry James

Service No.: 201642

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment

Attached to: 25 Brigade, 8th Division

Date of Death: 2 April 1918

Age: 24

Memorial: Pozières Memorial, France

Private Joseph Henry James was the son of David and Annie James of Castle Street, Steventon, Berkshire. Prior to the war, he worked for the Great Western Railway at Burry Port and married Frances Hannah James in 1914. He enlisted at Abingdon into the 2nd Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

The 8th Division arrived in France in November 1914, reinforcing the battered British Expeditionary Force after the First Battle of Ypres. Joseph saw extensive service, participating in the Battles of Neuve Chapelle and Aubers in 1915, followed by the Action of Bois Grenier. In 1916, his division fought at the Battle of Albert on the Somme.

The division later took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line in March 1917 and fought at the Battles of Pilckem and Langemarck during the Third Ypres offensive. In March 1918, the 8th Division faced the German Spring Offensive at the Battle of St. Quentin, where Joseph was killed in action on 2 April 1918, aged 24.

Having no known grave, he is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. His wife Frances resided in Burry Port throughout his service, and his sacrifice reflects the far-reaching impact of the war on communities across Britain.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16077451/joseph-henry-james>

Private William James

Rank: Private

Service Number: 20755

Regiment: Welsh Regiment, 15th Battalion (Carmarthen Pals)

Died: 11th January 1917.

Age: 39 years old.

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Private William James was the son of George and Ann James, of 2 Sandy Terrace, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire.

He enlisted at Llanelli on 11 March 1915 into the 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, better known as the Carmarthen Pals Battalion—a unit formed primarily of men from west Wales.

After training at Rhyl and then at Winchester, the battalion became part of 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. William landed in France with the battalion on 2 December 1915, as the division entered the trenches for the first time in the Fleurbaix sector, near the Belgian border, for a period of trench acclimatisation.

The battalion later moved to the dangerous Cuinchy sector, an area notorious for mining, sniping, and heavy bombardments. It was here, on 9 March 1916, that William was wounded in action.

He was evacuated to Britain for treatment but succumbed to his injuries at Swansea Hospital on 11 January 1917.

Private James was 39 years old. He is buried at St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, though he is not commemorated on any local war memorial.

His service with the Carmarthen Pals places him among the many volunteers who answered the call during the early days of the Great War, forming battalions based on community ties and shared purpose.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180503/william-james>

Leading Aircraftman Ieuan Jenkins

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service No.: 1379397

Age at Death: 31

Date of Death: 4 February 1944

Leading Aircraftman Ieuan Jenkins was a member of the **Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve** during the Second World War. He was **31 years old**, the **son of William and Margaret Jenkins of Burry Port**, and the **husband of Margaret Anita Jenkins**, also of Burry Port.

On **4 February 1944**, Ieuan was tragically killed in a devastating explosion at **Catterick Bridge Station**, North Yorkshire. He was one of **six servicemen** and **six civilians** who lost their lives in the incident, which also left **102 others injured**.

The Catterick Bridge Station Disaster

It was four minutes to four in the afternoon on what began as a busy but ordinary day. The **station platform** was crowded with people—**schoolchildren heading home, servicemen departing on leave, and passengers waiting for the next train**. A **packed double-decker bus** stood outside the **Railway Hotel**, ready to take RAF and Army personnel to **Darlington** for a night out.

Meanwhile, in the **goods yard**, **nine soldiers** were engaged in the critical task of **loading explosives onto railway trucks**. Unbeknownst to them, they were assembling munitions destined for the **D-Day landings**, just four months away.

There had been local concern about the large volume of ammunition building up. The night before, **Mabel Cockerill**, landlady of the Railway Hotel, voiced her fears:

“I’m worried about having all this ammunition so near.”

To which **Stationmaster Walter Gibson** grimly replied:

“If that lot goes up, none of us will have any worries.”

He would be among those killed the following day.

At around 3:56 p.m., as a lorry driver arrived with a fresh load of munitions from the **Hornby Park dump**, **six 6-ton trucks of anti-tank grenades** exploded, followed by **tons of incendiary bombs**. The blast caused catastrophic damage, setting off a chain of secondary explosions and fires.

The explosion obliterated **seven houses**, a **hotel**, a **café**, and the **goods yard offices**. Shrapnel and fire swept through the station, killing 12 people instantly and injuring more than a hundred others.

Civilian Casualties:

- **William Tindall**, 40, contractor’s labourer
- **Lancelot Rymer**, 41, motor driver

- **Richard Stokes**, motor driver
- **Mrs. Mary Wallace Richmond**, 43, railway clerk
- **Miss Nancy Georgina Richardson**, 19, railway clerk
- **Walter Gibson**, 46, stationmaster

Military Casualties:

- **Leading Aircraftman Ieuan Jenkins**, 31, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
- **Lieutenant Lawrence George King**, 29, radio/telephone operator, St Albans
- **Private David Reed Hopkins**, 23
- **Private Norman Day**, 18
- **Private William Thomas**, 18
- **Private George Stares**, 34, Pioneer Corps

Investigation and Theories

A **military court of inquiry** convened immediately, but its findings remained **classified** and were **not released** to the inquest. The coroner was simply told that **no negligence** was found and that **all precautions had been taken**. The jury returned verdicts of **accidental death** for all 12 victims. The official cause was left an **unsolved mystery**.

While **sabotage was ruled out**, speculation remained. One theory suggested that a **primed grenade**, accidentally loaded with its detonator in place, had detonated due to rough handling. Another theory pointed to **bitumen furnaces** being used by contractors at nearby **Catterick Airfield**

Jane Jenkins

Born: 1899

Died: 18 November 1918

Service: Other Empire Force

Role: Munitions Examiner, Ministry of Munitions

Posting: Pembrey Munitions Factory, Llanelli, Wales, United Kingdom

Jane Jenkins served as a Munitions Examiner during the First World War at the Pembrey Munitions Factory in Llanelli.

Tragically, she lost her life on 18 November 1918 in a factory explosion while performing her duties, highlighting the immense risks faced by women supporting the war effort on the

Sergeant (Pilot) David Alan Vaughan John

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service Number: 1385838

Date of Birth: 1916, England

Date of Death: 28 August 1942 (aged 26)

Place of Death: De Haan, West Flanders, Belgium

Burial: Flushing Northern Cemetery, Vlissingen, Zeeland, Netherlands

Grave Location: Row C, Grave 23

Memorial ID: 14040241

Sergeant David Alan Vaughan John was born in England in 1916 and served as a **pilot in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve** during the Second World War. At the time of his death, he held the rank of **Sergeant** and was actively engaged in operational flying duties.

On **28 August 1942**, at the age of 26, Sgt. John was killed in action during an air operation over **occupied Belgium**. His aircraft came down near **De Haan**, in the **Arrondissement of Oostende, West Flanders**, at a time when the RAF was conducting sustained bombing raids and reconnaissance missions over Nazi-held Europe.

Though the precise circumstances of his loss are not fully detailed in public records, it is likely he was engaged in a mission targeting enemy infrastructure or supporting broader air operations along the Channel coast.

He was later laid to rest in **Flushing Northern Cemetery** in **Vlissingen**, the Netherlands—an area that saw numerous Allied airmen buried during the war. His grave lies in **Row C, Grave 23**, among fellow servicemen who gave their lives in the skies over Europe.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14040241/david_alan_vaughan-john

Private Cadvan Francis Jones

Service No.: 131069

Regiment: 21st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Date of Death: 27 August 1918

Age: 29

Burial: Fienvillers British Cemetery, France (Plot B. 23)

Private Cadvan Francis Jones was the son of David Francis and Ann Jones of Pentre Ystrad (Rhondda), Glamorgan. Prior to the war, he worked as a collier in Burry Port and married Elizabeth Mary Jenkins (later Jones) of 9, Williams Terrace, Burry Port, in 1916.

He originally enlisted at Llanelli into the Welsh Regiment but was later transferred to the **21st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)**, a role that placed him in high-risk frontline positions operating heavy weapons. Cadvan was **killed in action** during the **Battle of Albert** on **27 August 1918**, part of the Allied Hundred Days Offensive.

He is buried at **Fienvillers British Cemetery** in France (Plot B. 23). His widow Elizabeth remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the courage of those who operated machine guns during the final advances of the war. Though not commemorated on local memorials, his details are preserved through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56194319/cadvan-francis-jones>

Stoker 2nd Class Evan Jones

Royal Navy – First World War

Service Number: K/53294

Rank: Stoker 2nd Class

Age at Death: 24

Date of Birth: 1894

Date of Death: 17 September 1918

Burial: Danygraig Cemetery, Port Tennant, Swansea, Wales

Grave Location: Section T, Grave 1099

Memorial ID: 124682758

Stoker 2nd Class **Evan Jones** served in the **Royal Navy** during the **First World War**, assigned to **H.M.S. *Vivid***, the Royal Navy's shore establishment at Devonport, used primarily for training and administrative duties.

Born in **1894**, Evan was **24 years old** at the time of his death on **17 September 1918**, just weeks before the end of the war. Though specific details of his passing are not publicly recorded, it is likely he died due to illness or an incident while in service at home, as was common among those stationed at naval bases during the war years—particularly during the global influenza pandemic of 1918.

Evan was the **husband of Violet White** (formerly Jones), who lived at **Council Houses, Ashburnham Road, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales**. His loss would have been deeply felt in the close-knit community of Pembrey.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124682758/evan-jones>

John Jones

Rank: Second Engineer Officer

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Greenawn* (Goole-registered steamship)

Date of Death: 3 April 1941

Age: 67

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London (Panel 53)

Second Engineer Officer John Jones was born on 6 September 1873, the son of David Jones of Silver Row, Burry Port. He married Clara Jane Spencer on 26 April 1908, and the couple settled at 30, Silver Row. A seasoned mariner, John served at sea throughout the **First World War** before working ashore as a boilerman and stoker in Burry Port.

Tragedy struck on **27 September 1940** when his son, **Stanley Jones**, perished during the sinking of the **SS *Coast Wings***. Soon afterward, John returned to sea as Second Engineer Officer aboard the SS *Greenawn*, a steamship carrying cement from London to Invergordon.

On **3 April 1941**, the *Greenawn* was lost with all hands in the North Sea, likely due to an attack by enemy aircraft. John was 67 years old at the time of his death, making him one of the oldest Merchant Navy casualties of World War II.

He is commemorated on **Panel 53** of the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, alongside his son Stanley, who is also honoured there. Their dual sacrifice epitomizes the profound losses endured by maritime communities like Burry Port during both world wars.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15235682/john-jones>

Sick Berth Attendant Henry James Jones

Royal Navy – Second World War

Service Number: D/MX 80956

Age at Death: 21

Date of Death: 26 March 1942

Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England

Panel: 71, Column 2

Memorial ID: 13296890

Sick Berth Attendant Henry James Jones served in the **Royal Navy** during the Second World War. At the time of his death, he was assigned to **H.M.S. Jaguar**, a J-class destroyer actively engaged in convoy escort duties in the Mediterranean.

Born to **Abraham and Edith Jones** of **Pembrey, Carmarthenshire**, Henry was just **21 years old** when he lost his life in the line of duty on **26 March 1942**.

On that day, while escorting a vital Malta-bound convoy off the coast of Libya near **Sidi Barrani**, **H.M.S. Jaguar** was torpedoed by **German submarine U-652**. The ship was struck twice and sank within minutes, resulting in the loss of **193 men** from her crew of 249. Henry was among those who perished at sea.

Commemoration

As his body was never recovered, Henry James Jones is commemorated on the **Plymouth Naval Memorial**, which honours Royal Navy personnel who were lost at sea and have no known grave. His name is engraved with honour on **Panel 71, Column 2**.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13296890/henry_james-jones

Private Robert Jones

Service Number: 20187

Regiment: 14th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Division: 113th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 11 July 1916

Age: 23

Commemoration: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 4 A

Robert Jones was the son of William and Margaret Jones of 1 Yrdden Cottage, Ashburnham Road, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 14th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which was part of 113th Brigade in the 38th (Welsh) Division.

After arriving in France in December 1915, the battalion spent the harsh winter in the trenches near Armentières.

In June 1916, the division was moved south in preparation for the Battle of the Somme. Their primary objective became the heavily fortified **Mametz Wood**, a key German stronghold. On **7 July 1916**, the initial attack on the wood met fierce resistance and was postponed. A renewed assault began on **10 July**, and fierce combat continued into the following day. During this action, **Private Robert Jones was killed in action on 11 July 1916**. He was **23 years old**.

Robert has **no known grave** and is **commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial** to the Missing of the Somme in France, which honours over 72,000 men who died in the Somme sector and have no known resting place.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/285294335/robert-jones>

Stanley Jones

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: *SS Coast Wings* (London-registered merchant steamer, Wing Line Ltd, Cardiff)

Date of Death: 27 September 1940

Age: 24

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Donkeyman Stanley Jones was born on 18 August 1915, the son of John Jones and Clara Jane Jones (née Spencer) of 30, Silver Terrace, Burry Port. Prior to the war, he worked as a labourer but swiftly followed the family's maritime tradition by enlisting in the Merchant Navy.

Stanley served aboard the *SS Coast Wings*, which departed Gourock for Lisbon in September 1940 as part of **Convoy OG-43**. Falling behind the main convoy due to mechanical difficulties, the vessel was steaming unescorted approximately **250 miles west-southwest of Cape Clear, Ireland**, when it was struck by a torpedo from the German submarine **U-46** (commanded by Engelbert Endrass) in the early hours of **26 September 1940**. The ship sank within minutes, claiming the lives of 16 crew members, including Stanley.

Aged 24, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London. Tragically, his father, **John Jones** (Second Engineer Officer, *SS Greenawn*), also perished at sea just six months later **3 April 1941**, highlighting the immense sacrifices made by the Jones family during the war.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15235743/stanley-jones>

Gunner William Thomas Jones

Royal Artillery – Second World War

Service Number: 1663392

Date of Birth: 14 June 1906

Date of Death: 11 October 1943 (aged 37)

Burial: St. Iltyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Location: Row 2, Grave 2

Memorial ID: 98180504

Gunner William Thomas Jones served in the **Royal Artillery** during the Second World War. Born on **14 June 1906**, he was **37 years old** at the time of his death on **11 October 1943**.

William was the beloved **husband of Gladys May Jones**, of **Pembrey**, Carmarthenshire. Though specific details of his military service and the circumstances of his death are not publicly recorded, his burial in **St. Iltyd Churchyard** suggests he may have passed away while stationed in the UK, possibly due to illness, injury, or while recovering from active service.

His service number and role as a gunner place him among the many artillerymen who played a vital role in Britain's wartime defences whether manning anti-aircraft batteries, coastal defences, or supporting Allied ground operations overseas.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180504/william-thomas-jones>

Porucznik Olech Antoni Kawczyński

Rank: Porucznik
Service Number: P/76734
Unit: Polish Air Force 32 (R.A.F.) Squadron
Age: 25 years old
Date of Death: 8 May 1941

Olech Antoni Kawczyński was born on February 20, 1916, in Wudzyn, Poland. His early life in Poland was marked by a strong sense of duty and patriotism, leading him to join the Polish Army, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant.

With the outbreak of World War II and the subsequent invasion of Poland, Kawczyński, like many of his compatriots, found himself compelled to continue the fight beyond his homeland's borders.

After Poland's fall, Kawczyński made his way to Great Britain, where the Royal Air Force (RAF) was integrating experienced Polish pilots into its ranks. Kawczyński joined the RAF and served with distinction as a Pilot Officer, initially with No. 32 Squadron.

His skills as a pilot were critical in the defence of Britain, contributing to the efforts to thwart the Luftwaffe's relentless attacks.

Kawczyński later transferred to No. 79 Squadron, continuing his brave service in the skies. No. 79 Squadron was actively involved in various operations, and Kawczyński's role as a pilot was vital to the squadron's missions.

His aircraft, a Hawker Hurricane, was a formidable fighter that played a key role in the RAF's defensive and offensive operations.

Tragically, Olech Antoni Kawczyński's service was cut short on May 8, 1941. While on target practice over Cefn Sidan Beach, his Hawker Hurricane, Serial Z2324, crashed, resulting in his untimely death.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228015273/olech_antoni-kawczynski

Kapral Jacek Zygmunt Fran Kinel

Rank: Kapral

Service Number: P/704307

Unit: Polish Air Force, No. 1 Air Gunnery School

Age: 20 years old

Date of Death: 8th May 1944

Jacek Zygmunt Fran Kinel was born on March 28, 1924, in Bydgoszcz, Poland. His early life, like that of many of his generation, was profoundly shaped by the outbreak of World War II. At a young age, Jacek Kinel felt a deep sense of duty to defend his homeland after the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Determined to continue the fight against the Axis powers, he joined thousands of other displaced Polish soldiers and airmen who sought refuge in Britain to contribute to the war effort.

Kinel's journey led him to the Royal Air Force (RAF), where he became part of the esteemed community of Polish airmen who played a crucial role in Britain's air defence. He was closely connected with the Polish 316 "City of Warsaw" Fighter Squadron, one of the many Polish units integrated into the RAF. These Polish squadrons were known for their bravery, skill, and commitment to the Allied cause.

Jacek Kinel quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant Pilot and was stationed at the 1st Air Gunnery School in Pembrey, Wales, where he trained to master the essential skills of aerial gunnery. His training was vital to ensuring that RAF aircrews were prepared for the rigors of air combat and bombing missions. While the school was a training facility, the challenges of mastering aviation and gunnery during wartime were perilous, and many young airmen faced life-threatening risks even outside of active combat.

Tragically, Jacek Kinel's life and promising career were cut short on May 8, 1944, when he died in a crash near Cwrt Malle Farm, a sombre reminder of the inherent dangers faced by servicemen both in training and in combat. His untimely death underscores the sacrifices made not only by those in active service but also by those preparing to serve on the front lines.

Sergeant Pilot Jacek Zygmunt Fran Kinel is remembered as one of the many Polish heroes who gave their lives in the Allied fight against tyranny. Though far from his homeland, he rests in peace in Pembrey, Wales, a place where his dedication and sacrifice are honoured to this day.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228015344/jacek_zygmunt_fran-kinel

Ordinary Seaman Thomas King

Royal Navy – Second World War

Service Number: P/JX 253120

Age at Death: 34

Date of Birth: 12 May 1908

Date of Death: 4 April 1942

Commemorated: Portsmouth Naval Memorial and Burry Port War Memorial

Born on **12 May 1908**, **Thomas King** was the son of **Albert John King**, a dockworker, and **Sarah King**, of **Burry Port**, Carmarthenshire. He was baptised at **St Mary's Church** and attended **Burry Port Council School**, growing up in the heart of a bustling Welsh port town that shaped his early life and maritime aspirations.

Following in his father's footsteps, Thomas pursued work on the docks and eventually entered the merchant marine. In **1935**, he married **Elizabeth Williams** of nearby **Pembrey**, and the couple settled in **Canning Town, Essex**, where Thomas worked as a **stevedore** in the London docks.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Thomas volunteered for the **Royal Navy** in early **1940**, his seafaring experience making him a valuable recruit. He was assigned to **HMS *Penzance***, a sloop engaged in escorting merchant convoys across the treacherous waters of the **North Atlantic**—a crucial front in the **Battle of the Atlantic**.

On **4 April 1942**, during the escort of **Convoy OG 82** en route to Gibraltar, **HMS *Penzance*** came under threat from enemy submarines. Although the ship successfully completed its mission, **Ordinary Seaman Thomas King** was tragically lost overboard during the operation. His body was later recovered from the sea and brought home.

Thomas was laid to rest in **Burry Port**, where over **300 mourners** attended his funeral at **St Mary's Church**. The **Reverend D. Elvet Lewis** led the service and described him as "*a true son of the sea, who gave his life that Britain's lifelines might remain open.*"

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/222175169/thomas-king>

Fourth Engineer Officer John C. Knowles (1921–1941)

Merchant Navy – Second World War

Vessel: M.V. *Darlington Court* (London)

Age at Death: 19

Date of Death: 20 May 1941

Commemorated: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Panel 34

Memorial ID: 15236903

Service: Merchant Navy

Born in **1921** in **Pembrey**, Carmarthenshire, **John C. Knowles** was the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Knowles**, and part of a proud Welsh maritime community. Choosing a life at sea, he joined the **Merchant Navy**, rising to the position of **Fourth Engineer Officer** at a notably young age.

By **1941**, John was serving aboard the **motor vessel (M.V.) *Darlington Court***—a British merchant ship operating in the perilous waters of the **North Atlantic**, supplying vital cargo during the height of the **Battle of the Atlantic**.

Sinking of the M.V. Darlington Court

On **20 May 1941**, while sailing in **Convoy HX-126** south of **Cape Farewell, Greenland**, the *Darlington Court* was torpedoed and sunk by **German U-boat U-556**, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Herbert Wohlfarth. The vessel was hit three times—at 14:48, 14:50, and 15:16—and sank with heavy loss of life.

Of those aboard, only **twelve survivors**—including the ship's master, ten crew members, and one gunner—were rescued by the convoy rescue ship *Hontestroom* and landed at **Reykjavik, Iceland** on **27 May 1941**. Tragically, **22 crew members, three gunners, and three passengers** perished. **Fourth Engineer Officer John Knowles** was among those lost.

Legacy

As John's body was never recovered, his name is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in **London**, which honours the thousands of men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who gave their lives in both World Wars and have no known grave.

A young man with a promising future, John C. Knowles exemplified the courage and quiet dedication of the Merchant Navy, whose dangerous yet vital wartime service sustained Britain's survival during its darkest hour.

*"He is not forgotten, nor ever shall be,
As long as we cherish the freedom of the sea."*

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15236903/john_c-knowles

Leading Aircraftman George Alfred Layton

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service No.: 1376316

Role: Wireless Operator / Air Gunner

Age at Death: 24

Date of Death: 24 May 1942

Burial: St. Iltyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire

Date of Burial: 29 May 1942

Leading Aircraftman George Alfred Layton was the beloved son of **John T. Layton and Elizabeth H. Layton**, of **Ilford, Essex**. At just 24 years old, he served his country as a **Wireless Operator and Air Gunner** in the **Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve**, a role that placed him on the path to becoming part of an operational aircrew during one of the most demanding phases of the Second World War.

On **24 May 1942**, George was aboard **Bristol Blenheim L1218**, attached to **No. 1 Air Gunnery School** at **RAF Pembrey**. The crew was undertaking a **camera gun training exercise**—a vital part of preparing airmen for combat missions.

Tragically, during the flight, a **fuel leak** led to an **engine fire**. As the situation worsened, the pilot attempted a forced landing near **Brooklands House in Pinged**, a small village just three miles east of Pembrey.

The attempt ended in disaster when the aircraft crashed, killing four airmen, including George Layton and fellow crew member **Leading Aircraftman Harold George Henry**.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180505/george_alfred-layton

Driver Gwilym Lewis (1880–1917)

Royal Field Artillery – ‘D’ Battery, 52nd Brigade

Service No.: 118041

Date of Death: 21 July 1917

Age: 37

Burial: Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension, West Flanders, Belgium

Grave Reference: I. A. 19

Memorial ID: 12515143

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12515143/gwilym-lewis>

Driver **Gwilym Lewis** was born around **1880** in **Pwll**, near **Llanelli, Carmarthenshire**, the son of **Thomas and Rachel Lewis**, of *Pantycelyn*, Pwll. A man of quiet determination, Gwilym answered the call to serve during the First World War, enlisting with the **Royal Field Artillery**.

He was assigned to **‘D’ Battery, 52nd Brigade**, one of the vital artillery units supporting infantry movements during the fierce trench warfare that defined the Western Front. Artillerymen like Gwilym endured both the relentless physical demands of handling heavy guns and the constant danger from enemy shelling and air attacks.

Gwilym was killed in action on **21 July 1917**, just days before the launch of the **Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)**. He was **37 years old**. He is now laid to rest in **Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension**, near **Ypres**, Belgium—a quiet corner of Flanders that holds thousands of British and Commonwealth fallen.

Though buried far from home, Gwilym is also remembered on his **family’s memorial in Pwll, Wales** (*Find A Grave Memorial ID: 269174150*), where his name is inscribed as a lasting tribute to his sacrifice.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/269174150/gwilym-lewis>

“He gave his life not in vain, but in the cause of freedom and peace.”

Private Isaac Lewis

Service No.: 12678

Regiment: 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers

Attached to: 3 Brigade, 1st Division

Date of Death: 29 June 1916

Age: 39

Burial: Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension, France

Private Isaac Lewis was born in Pwll, the son of David and Sarah Lewis. After his wife Priscilla died in 1911, he raised their five children alone. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers, part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division.

The 1st Division was among the first British formations deployed to France in 1914. Isaac fought in the early battles of the war, including Mons, the retreat to the Marne, the Aisne, and the First Battle of Ypres. In 1915, he saw action at Aubers Ridge and the Battle of Loos, including the fighting at the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

Isaac was killed in action during trench operations near Loos on 29 June 1916, aged 39. He is buried at Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension, France. His death left his five children orphaned, a testament to the profound personal sacrifices made during the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56444041/i-lewis>

Private Ivor Idris Lewis

Service No.: 20853

Regiment: 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 1 August 1917

Age: 23

Burial: Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Belgium

Private Ivor Idris Lewis was born in Burry Port, the son of Theophilus and Catherine Lewis (later of Rostella, Pontyates). He enlisted at Llanelli into the 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (Carmarthenshire Pals), part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The division arrived in France in December 1915 and spent its first winter in trenches near Armentières. In June 1916, it moved to the Somme sector, where it faced its fiercest trial at Mametz Wood. The week-long battle (7-14 July 1916) to capture the wood resulted in devastating casualties for the Welsh Division.

After rebuilding in the Ypres sector, the division fought at the Battle of Pilckem Ridge (31 July 1917), the opening engagement of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Ivor was wounded during this action and died of his wounds on 1 August 1917, aged 23. He is buried at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Belgium, where many casualties from the Passchendaele offensive were laid to rest. His sacrifice reflects the heavy toll exacted on Welsh units during some of the war's most brutal campaigns.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12323573/ivor-idris-lewis#add-to-vc>

Vernon John Martell Lewis

Rank: Second Radio Officer

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Irene Maria* (London-registered cargo ship)

Date of Death: 28 November 1940

Age: 18

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Second Radio Officer Vernon John Martell Lewis was the son of William John and Mary Margaretta Lewis of Burry Port. He served aboard the SS *Irene Maria*, a cargo ship vital to Britain's wartime supply chain.

On **28 November 1940**, the *Irene Maria* was traversing the North Atlantic when it was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **U-95** (commanded by Gerd Schreiber). The attack resulted in the loss of 25 crew members, including Vernon, who was just 18 years old.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honors merchant seamen with no known grave. His role as a Radio Officer placed him at the heart of communications during the perilous Atlantic crossings, underscoring the bravery of young mariners who maintained critical links amid U-boat threats.

His sacrifice, like so many from coastal communities such as Burry Port, highlights the silent heroism of the Merchant Navy in World War II.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15237817/vernon-john-lewis>

Second Mate Thomas Llewellyn McFadden

Service: Mercantile Marine

Ship: SS Framfield

Date of Death: 24 October 1916

Age: 23

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Second Mate Thomas Llewellyn McFadden was born in Mostyn, North Wales, the son of James and Mary Ann McFadden. The family resided at St Dogmaels before moving to 40, Sandfield Row, Burry Port. Thomas served aboard the merchant ship SS Framfield during the Great War.

On 24 October 1916, the SS Framfield struck a German mine and sank, resulting in Thomas's drowning at age 23. As a merchant mariner whose grave is the sea, he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London, which honors those of the Mercantile Marine who have no known grave. His sacrifice highlights the often-overlooked dangers faced by civilian sailors in wartime waters.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15240254/thomas-llewellyn-mcfadden>

Major Montagu Stanley Melliss

Rank: Major

Regiment: Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), 5th Battalion

Died: 4th March 1919

Age: 67 years old.

Burial: Pembrey (St. Illtyd) Churchyard, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Montagu Stanley Melliss was born in 1852 in Salford, Lancashire, the son of Robert McHattie Melliss and Agnes Melliss. Though born in England, he was raised in Scotland, and later lived with his wife, Margaret Melliss, in Dumbarton.

Montagu had a long and dedicated military career. He was first commissioned into the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Highland Light Infantry in 1878, where he served for many years. He later transferred to the 5th Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

During the First World War, although too old for front-line service, Major Melliss remained active in the war effort. He served in a home service role at the Pembrey Ordnance Factory, where his experience and leadership were of critical importance to munitions production and safety operations.

Major Melliss survived the war, but died shortly afterward at Swansea Hospital on 4 March 1919, aged 67.

He was laid to rest in Pembrey (St. Illtyd) Churchyard, where his wife continued to reside.

Despite his contribution to the war effort, he is not commemorated locally on any official memorial.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180506/montagu_stanley-melliss

Private William John Morgan

Service No.: 73779

Regiment: 14th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Attached to: 113 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 7 October 1918

Age: 18

Burial: Bois-Des-Angles British Cemetery, Crèvecœur-sur-l'Escaut, France 1115

Private William John Morgan was born in Burry Port, the son of David and Easter Morgans. Though the family later resided at The Blue Anchor, Pwll, William was raised by his grandfather, William Morgan, at 33, Sea View Terrace, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli and was posted to France in the summer of 1918, joining the 14th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The 38th Division had been in France since December 1915, participating in significant engagements such as the brutal capture of **Mametz Wood** (1916) and **Pilckem Ridge** (1917). By August 1918, the division was engaged in the Allied offensive on the Somme, fighting at the **Battles of Albert** and **Bapaume**. As the advance continued eastward, the division confronted the formidable **Hindenburg Line**, engaging in the **Battle of Havrincourt** and the **Battle of Épehy** (18 September 1918), where Australian forces achieved a notable breakthrough despite fierce resistance.

After a brief rest period, the division advanced through the breached **Canal du Nord** and fought at the **Battle of Beaurevoir**. It was during this phase that William was killed in action on **7 October 1918**, aged 18. He lies buried at **Bois-Des-Angles British Cemetery** in Crèvecœur-sur-l'Escaut, France. His sacrifice reflects the relentless pace of the final Allied advance and the high cost paid by young soldiers like him in the last weeks of the war.

"There is a discrepancy in the recorded surname; the West Wales War Memorials Project lists it as **Morgans**, while the entry for the Bois-des-Angles British Cemetery is recorded as **Morgan**."

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24487699/w-j-morgan>

Private Luttrell Thomas Morris

Private Luttrell Thomas Morris

Service Number: 13045810

Regiment: Pioneer Corps

Date of Death: 2 March 1945

Age at Death: 29

Burial: Venray War Cemetery, Limburg, Netherlands — Grave Reference: II. F. 13

Private **Luttrell Thomas Morris** was the son of **John and Mary Morris**, of **Burry Port**, Carmarthenshire. He served in the **Pioneer Corps**, a key support arm of the British Army responsible for engineering, construction, and frontline logistics under combat conditions.

Luttrell took part in the **Normandy landings** in June 1944 and played an active role in the Allied advance across **France, Belgium**, and into the **Netherlands**. During the intense fighting of the Allied push into **Germany**, he was **killed in action on 2 March 1945**, aged **29**.

He was **initially buried temporarily in Venray**, then **reburied with honour on 7 December 1945 in Venray War Cemetery**, where he now rests among his fallen comrades.

Private Morris is commemorated for his service and sacrifice in one of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's beautifully maintained cemeteries.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18397599/luttrell_thomas-morris

Also commemorated at Burry Port Cemetery at his parents' grave.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261522939/thomas_luttrell-morris

Leading Aircraftman Wilfred Leonard Morris (c.1916 – 1 August 1941)

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service Number: 1259526

Trade: Wireless Operator/Air Gunner

Age at Death: 25

Date of Death: 1 August 1941

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Reference: Row 1, Grave 18

Memorial ID: 98180507

Leading Aircraftman **Wilfred Leonard Morris**, aged 25, served as a **Wireless Operator/Air Gunner** in the **Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve** during the Second World War. As part of Britain's air defence efforts, his role placed him in the demanding and dangerous environment of operational training flights and active air patrols.

Wilfred was the beloved **son of Frederick Wilfred L. Morris and Gladys Morris**, of **Ealing, Middlesex**. He likely underwent training at or near **RAF Pembrey**, a key airfield on the Welsh coast used extensively during the war for both training and coastal command duties.

Though the exact circumstances of his death are not detailed, it is probable he lost his life during a training mission or operational sortie—a common risk faced by aircrew even outside of combat.

Wilfred was laid to rest with honour at **St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey**, Carmarthenshire—close to where he served. His grave, located in **Row 1, Grave 18**, lies among others who gave their lives in service to their country.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180507/wilfred_leonard-morris

Gunner John S. Moss 13 November 1944

Royal Artillery

Rank: Gunner

Service Number: Unknown

Age at Death: 37

Date of Death: 13 November 1944

Burial: Florence War Cemetery, Florence, Toscana, Italy

Grave Reference: Plot V. G. 13

Memorial ID: 56564238

Gunner **John S. Moss** served with dedication in the **Royal Artillery** during the Second World War. At the time of his death, he was 37 years old—older than many of his fellow soldiers—suggesting he may have been a reservist or volunteered despite his age, reflecting a strong sense of duty.

By late 1944, Allied forces were heavily engaged in the **Italian Campaign**, pushing northward against entrenched German resistance following the capture of Rome earlier that year. Florence had been liberated in August 1944, but fierce fighting continued in the surrounding areas as part of the Allied effort to breach the German Gothic Line.

It is likely that Gunner Moss was involved in artillery support operations during this stage of the campaign—providing essential firepower in difficult mountainous terrain under constant threat from enemy shelling, mines, and counterattacks.

John S. Moss is buried in **Florence War Cemetery**, which serves as the final resting place for over 1,600 Commonwealth servicemen who fell during the fighting in central Italy. His grave in **Plot V. G. 13** is maintained by the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**, ensuring his service and sacrifice are not forgotten.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56564238/john_s-moss

Able Seaman John Mycock

Service No.: R/4176

Division: Nelson Battalion, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division

Date of Death: 31 December 1917

Age: 23

Burial: Marcoing British Cemetery, France

Able Seaman John Mycock was born on 11 March 1894 in Llanllechid, North Wales, the son of William and Margaret Mycock. He married Rachel Ann John of 119 Pencoed Road, Burry Port, in the summer of 1916.

John served in the **Royal Naval Reserve** as part of the **Nelson Battalion, Royal Naval Division (RND)**. The RND initially deployed to Antwerp and Dunkirk in late 1914 to counter German invasion threats but withdrew after Antwerp's fall. Following retraining, the division moved to Egypt and later participated in the **Gallipoli Campaign**, landing on 25 April 1915. On 29 April 1916, the division transferred to War Office authority and was redesignated the **63rd (Royal Naval) Division** on 19 July 1916.

The division arrived in Marseilles in May 1916 and fought on the **Somme**, including the **Battle of the Ancre**. In 1917, it saw action at **Arras** (Second Battle of the Scarpe and Battle of Arleux) and **Ypres** (Second Battle of Passchendaele). John was killed during the **Action of Welsh Ridge** at Cambrai on **31 December 1917**, aged 23.

He is buried at **Marcoing British Cemetery**, France. His widow Rachel resided in Burry Port, and his service reflects the unique role of naval infantry in some of the war's most critical land battles.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56203347/j-mycock>

Gunner Robert Noble

Service No: 1744624

Rank: Gunner

Regiment: Royal Artillery

Unit: 66 Battery, 80th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment

Date of Death: 11 February 1942

Age at Death: Unknown

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Reference: Row 1, Grave 19

Memorial ID: 98180508

Gunner **Robert Noble** served with the **66th Battery of the 80th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery**, during the Second World War. His unit was tasked with the critical role of defending military installations, airfields, and key infrastructure in the United Kingdom from enemy air attack—particularly during the height of the Luftwaffe's bombing campaign.

By early 1942, Britain remained under threat from aerial raids, and anti-aircraft units such as Robert's formed a vital part of the home front defence. These gunners endured harsh conditions, constant readiness, and the ever-present danger of enemy aircraft and unexploded ordnance.

While the exact circumstances of his death are not documented, it is likely that Robert Noble died either in the line of duty or from injuries or illness related to his demanding service.

Sergeant James Northey, DCM

Service No.: 9563

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 3 Brigade, 1st Division

Date of Death: 8 October 1916

Age: 35

Burial: Merthyr Tydfil (Beech Grove) Cemetery

Awards: Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)

"For conspicuous gallantry when he went out four times over the front parapet under heavy rifle fire at about 150 yards range and successfully brought in four wounded men."

Sergeant James Northey was the son of John and Elizabeth Northey of Gelli Ystrad. A pre-war regular soldier, he enlisted at Cardiff into the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment¹. He married Beatrice Jane Allen in 1915.

As part of the 1st Division, James was among the first British forces deployed to France in 1914. He fought in several critical early engagements:

Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat to the Marne

First Battle of Ypres, where he earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for repeatedly venturing into no-man's land under heavy fire to rescue four wounded comrades.

Battle of Aubers Ridge (1915) and **Battle of Loos**, including actions at the **Hohenzollern Redoubt**.

In 1916, his battalion moved to the Somme, participating in the **Battle of Albert, Bazentin, Pozieres, Flers-Courcelette, and Morval**.

James was wounded during these operations and evacuated to the Army Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil, where he died of his wounds on **8 October 1916**, aged 35.

He was buried at **Merthyr Tydfil (Beech Grove) Cemetery**¹. His widow, Beatrice, remarried in 1922 and moved to 9, Colby Road, Achddu, Burry Port. Though not commemorated on local memorials, James's legacy endures through his DCM citation and final resting place.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/221916192/james-northey>

Sub-Lieutenant (A) Stephen John Molyneux Ogilvie

Rank: Sub-Lieutenant (A)

Service: Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR)

Date of Death: 7 October 1943

Age: 29

Burial: St. Iltyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Location: Row 2, Grave 3

Memorial ID: 98180509

Sub-Lieutenant (A) **Stephen John Molyneux Ogilvie** served with distinction in the **Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve** during the Second World War, attached to the Fleet Air Arm — the aviation branch of the Royal Navy. The "A" designation in his rank indicates his role as an **aviator**, part of a generation of naval aircrew trained for reconnaissance, patrols, and anti-submarine operations.

Born into a distinguished London family, Stephen was the **son of William Heanage Ogilvie and Vere Magdalen Ogilvie (née Quilter)** of **St John's Wood, London**. His family background suggests he came from an educated and possibly artistic or intellectual household the Quilter family name being associated with notable figures in British cultural life.

By 1943, Britain's naval air power had become a decisive force in countering the U-boat menace in the Atlantic and supporting Allied operations in North Africa and the Mediterranean. Sub-Lieutenant Ogilvie's training and assignments would have placed him at the heart of this evolving and perilous theatre of warfare.

While details of the specific incident leading to his death remain sparse, it is likely that Sub-Lieutenant Ogilvie died either during a training exercise or operational sortie while stationed at or near **RAF Pembrey**, which at the time was used jointly by both the RAF and Fleet Air Arm units for aircrew training and coastal defence missions.

Aged just 29, he died on **7 October 1943**, a poignant reminder of the many young men whose lives were lost not only in combat but also in the demanding and often dangerous environment of military aviation.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180509/stephen_john_m-ogilvie

Sergeant Elwyn Rees Owen

Rank: Sergeant

Service Number: 975305

Service: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 221 Squadron

Died: 10th April 1941

Age: 20 years old.

Son of Thomas John and Mary Owen, of Burry Port.

(CWGC)

Pilot Officer P. C. Brown, Sergeant F. H. Butterworth, and Sergeant E. R. Owen, all gallant members of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country on 10 April 1941. Their aircraft, the Wellington R1049 of 221 Squadron, was tragically shot down in enemy action.

Among them, Sergeant Elwyn Rees Owen, designated as the Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, played a vital role in the squadron. Born to Thomas John and Mary Owen in Burry Port, Elwyn demonstrated unwavering commitment to the cause.

Serving with 221 Squadron, equipped with the formidable Vickers Wellington IC, based at RAF Bircham Newton, Elwyn faced the perils of wartime aviation. Unfortunately, on that fateful day, 10 April 1941, Elwyn Owen lost his life in an air crash. He was just 20 years old.

Their bravery and sacrifice are forever etched in the annals of history, and we remember them with deep gratitude for their service and dedication to the Royal Air Force during World War II.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180511/elwyn_rees-owen

Private Griffith John Owen

Service Number: 229407

Regiment: 1st Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment

Date of Death: 12 April 1918

Age at Death: 25

Memorial: Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France — Bay 6

Private **Griffith John Owen** was the son of **John and Jane Owen**, of **Tanygraig, Tregarth, Bangor**, North Wales. Before enlisting, he worked at the **Royal Ordnance TNT Factory in Pembrey**, Carmarthenshire, contributing to the early war effort on the Home Front.

He enlisted at **Carmarthen** on **7 December 1915** and was later posted to France on **21 June 1917**, where he joined the **1st Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment**, part of **84th Brigade, 28th Division**.

In early 1917, the 28th Division advanced in pursuit of German forces retreating to the **Hindenburg Line**, and later that year fought in the **Battle of Arras**, including the fierce action at **Hill 70**. By the spring of 1918, the battalion was still stationed in the area when it was caught up in the desperate fighting to halt the **German Spring Offensive**.

Griffith was **killed in action** on **12 April 1918**, during one of the fiercest phases of the battle. He was **25 years old**. With no known grave, he is **commemorated on the Arras Memorial** in France, alongside thousands of comrades who also have no known resting place.

Despite his links to the Pembrey area, **Griffith is not commemorated locally**, but his name and sacrifice live on among the fallen of the Great War.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124745046/griffiths_john-owen

Private Herbert Samuel James Owen

Service No.: 19883

Regiment: 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 7 June 1917

Age: 23

Memorial: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Private Herbert Samuel James Owen was the son of Charles Herbert and Annie Owen of 8, Gors Road, Burry Port. He enlisted in November 1915 into the 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (Carmarthenshire Pals), part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The division arrived in France in December 1915, spending its first winter in trenches near Armentières. In June 1916, it moved to the Somme, where it faced devastating casualties during the week-long Battle of Mametz Wood (7-14 July 1916). After being withdrawn to rebuild, the division transferred to the Ypres sector.

Herbert was killed in action in Flanders on 7 June 1917, aged 23. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, which honours over 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave. His sacrifice reflects the heavy toll exacted on Welsh units in both the Somme and Ypres campaigns.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12044373/herbert-samuel_james-owen#add-to-vc

Flight Sergeant Waclaw Oyrzanowski

Service Number: P/793495

Rank: Starszy Sierzant

Unit: Polish Air Force, 307 Squadron

Age: 39 years old

Date of Birth: 18 September 1903

Date of Death: 28 June 1943

- **Name:** De Havilland Mosquito Mk II DD644
- **Squadron:** No. 307 (Lwowskich Puchaczy) Squadron PAF
- **Form:** Aircraft
- **NGR:** SS5667588144
- **Community:** Pennard
- **Description:** The aircraft crashed at Fair Acres Farm, Pennard, Gower. The location was provided and visited by SH Jones, along with the daughter of the engine mechanic, Flight Sergeant Waclaw Oyrzanowski, who died in the crash alongside pilot Flight Lieutenant Roman Grzanka.

Flight Crew:

Flight Lieutenant Roman Grzanka

- **Role:** Pilot
- **Personal ID:** P.0191
- **Status:** Killed
- **Burial:** St Illtyd's Churchyard, Pembrey
- **Biography:** Born on February 8, 1903, in Ujma Duża, Poland. Grzanka exhibited a strong sense of duty and adventure from a young age, leading him to join the Polish Air Force. He quickly earned a reputation as a skilled and determined pilot.
- [Find A Grave Memorial](#)

Flight Sergeant Waclaw Oyrzanowski

- **Role:** Observer
- **Personal ID:** P.793495
- **Status:** Died of Injuries
- **Burial:** St Illtyd's Churchyard, Pembrey
- **Biography:** Born on September 18, 1903, in Zawady, Poland. Oyrzanowski's early dedication to his country led him to join the Polish Air Force. His service continued across Europe during World War II, marked by unwavering commitment despite the challenges he faced.
- [Find A Grave Memorial](#)

Captain Francis Percy Campbell Pemberton

Rank: Captain

Regiment: 2nd Life Guards, "C" Squadron

Died: 19th October 1914

Age: 29 years old

Burial: Dadizeele New British Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium

Captain Francis Percy Campbell Pemberton served with distinction in 'C' Squadron, 2nd Life Guards, an elite cavalry regiment of the British Army.

He was the only son of Canon and Mrs. Pemberton, of Trumpington Hall, Cambridge — a prominent and well-known family estate — and the husband of Winifred Mary Colegate (formerly Pemberton), of 16 Prince's Gardens, London.

With the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, Francis was among the first to deploy with the British Expeditionary Force to France and Belgium. His regiment, part of the Household Cavalry Brigade, was involved in the early mobile operations on the Western Front, including the Race to the Sea — a series of engagements as both sides attempted to outflank each other northward after the Battle of the Aisne.

Captain Pemberton was killed in action on 19 October 1914, during the First Battle of Ypres, one of the earliest and fiercest battles of the war. He was just 29 years old.

The Life Guards played a crucial role in holding the line against overwhelming German forces in Flanders, and the losses among officers and men were heavy.

He is now buried with honour at Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium — his final resting place among comrades who gave their lives in the early days of the war.

Captain Pemberton's sacrifice is remembered not only on the battlefield but also in the legacy of his family and home at Trumpington Hall.

His name lives on as part of the generation of officers whose bravery shaped the opening chapter of the Great War.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12519372/francis_percy_campbell-pemberton

Gunner William Henry Perrin

Service No.: 203342

Regiment: 505th Battery, 65th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Date of Death: 3 October 1917

Age: 32

Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

Gunner William Henry Perrin was born on 25 October 1894 at St. Lythans Downs, St. George, Glamorgan, the son of James Perrin and Elizabeth Perrin (née Fouracre). After his mother's death in 1896, his father remarried Melita Gunning of The Bungalow, Derwydd, Burry Port, where William was raised.

William enlisted at Pembrey into the Royal Field Artillery and was posted to France, joining the 505th Battery, 65th Brigade. He was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres) on 3 October 1917, aged 32. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, which honors those with no known grave.

His stepmother, Melita Perrin, resided in Burry Port throughout his service. William's sacrifice reflects the critical role of artillery units in the gruelling conditions of the Ypres salient.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11956205/william-h-perrin>

Edwin Henry Persson

Rank: Assistant Cook

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: *SS Port Hunter* (London-registered cargo liner)

Date of Death: 11 July 1942

Age: 25

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Assistant Cook Edwin Henry Persson was the son of Dorothy Persson of Burry Port. He served aboard the *SS Port Hunter*, a cargo liner tasked with transporting vital wartime supplies, including ammunition and depth charges.

On 11 July 1942, the *Port Hunter* was detached from Convoy OS.33 en route from the UK to Auckland, New Zealand, to proceed independently to Durban for refuelling. At 23:45 hours, the vessel was attacked and sunk by the German submarine U-582 (commanded by Werner Schulte) in the Mid-Atlantic. The attack resulted in the loss of all 89 passengers and crew, including Edwin.

Aged 25, he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London, which honors merchant seamen who have no known grave. His role as an Assistant Cook, though non-combatant, was essential to the crew's morale and sustenance during long, perilous voyages.

His sacrifice underscores the relentless dangers faced by civilian sailors in the Battle of the Atlantic, where even auxiliary crew members shared the ultimate risk.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15369068/edwin-persson>

Pilot Officer Stanislaw Piatkowski

Rank: Porucznik

Service Number: P/76618

Unit: Polish Air Force 79 (R.A.F.) Sqdn.

Age 28 years old

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." (Winston Churchill, 20 Aug 1940) Stanislaw was one of these 'Few', who participated in 'The Battle Of Britain' during the Second World War.

Stanislaw Piatkowski was commissioned in the RAF in January 1940, having previously served with the Polish Air Force.

After further training he arrived at 5 OTU Aston Down in August to convert to Hurricanes. On the 25th he crashed at Flax Bourton, Somerset but was unhurt. He completed the course and joined 79 Squadron at Biggin Hill on 11th September.

Stanislaw Piatkowski was killed on 25th October 1940 when he crashed near Carew Cheriton, after a routine patrol in Hurricane N2708. The cause of the crash is not known.

Although buried in St Illtyd's churchyard, he is also remembered on the Polish Air Force Memorial at Northolt and on the Battle of Britain Monument in London.

He was awarded the KW (Polish Cross of Valour). This was announced on the 30th October 1941.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/227995950/stanislaw-piatkowski>

Private Thomas Power

Service No.: 19778

Regiment: 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division

Date of Death: 12 July 1916

Burial: Puchevillers British Cemetery, France

Private Thomas Power was born in Tonypandy and resided in Burry Port with his wife, Mabel. He enlisted at Gelli into the 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which landed in France in July 1915 as part of the 19th (Western) Division.

The division saw early action at the **Battle of Loos** (25 September 1915). In 1916, it moved to the Somme, participating in the assault on **Ovillers-La Boiselle** on 1 July—the opening day of the Somme Offensive. The battalion suffered heavy casualties during the capture of the village.

Thomas was wounded in this engagement and evacuated to the Casualty Clearing Station at Puchevillers, where he died of his wounds on 12 July 1916. He is buried at **Puchevillers British Cemetery** in France. Though not commemorated on local memorials, his sacrifice reflects the bravery of those who fought in one of the war's most devastating battles. His wife Mabel remained in Burry Port.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56578334/t-power>

Private Lemuel Price

Service No.: 201543

Regiment: 19th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Attached to: 110 Brigade, 40th (Bantam) Division

Date of Death: 11 August 1917

Age: 32

Burial: Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, France

Private Lemuel Price was the son of James and Elizabeth Price of 60, Pencoed Road, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli into the Welsh Regiment but later transferred to the 19th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, part of the 40th (Bantam) Division.

Formed in late 1915, the 40th Division was composed of "bantam" units (soldiers below regulation height) and others. It arrived in France in June 1916 and initially served near Loos before moving to the Somme, where it fought at the **Battle of the Ancre** (November 1916). In March 1917, the division participated in the advance to the **Hindenburg Line** following the German strategic withdrawal.

Lemuel was wounded while his battalion held the front lines and died of his wounds on **11 August 1917**, aged 32. He is buried at **Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery** in Manancourt, France. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his service reflects the diversity of units that contributed to the Allied effort on the Western Front.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56581995/lemuel-price>

Private Richard Price

Service No.: 5089

Regiment: 1/4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 159 Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 23 August 1915

Age: 30

Burial: East Mudros Military Cemetery, Greece

Private Richard Price was the son of Richard and Mary Price of Revelfach, Pembrey. He married Margaret Gower in 1903, and the couple resided at 2, Mount Pleasant, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 1/4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment.

The battalion, part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, sailed from Devonport in July 1915 and landed at **Cape Helles, Gallipoli**, on 9 August 1915. It immediately faced chaotic conditions and fierce Turkish counter-attacks. Richard was wounded during this period and evacuated to **Mudros Island** for medical treatment. He died of his wounds on **23 August 1915**, aged 30.

He is buried at **East Mudros Military Cemetery** on Lemnos Island, Greece. His wife Margaret remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the harsh realities of the Gallipoli Campaign, where many Welsh soldiers fought and died far from home.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56470008/r-price>

Aircraftman 2nd Class Alec Frederick Prior

Service No.: 1357325

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Born: c.1913–1914 (exact birth date unknown)

Died: 15 April 1941 (aged 27)

Burial: Row 1, Grave 15, St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Memorial ID: 98180513

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Prior

Husband of Elsie Mary Prior, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Alec Frederick Prior was serving as an Aircraftman 2nd Class in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve during the early years of World War II. On 15 April 1941, he tragically died in the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, as a result of complications from Lysol poisoning.

At the inquest, held in Shrewsbury, his wife Elsie Mary Prior gave evidence of identification and spoke about their brief and troubled marriage. The couple had married on **1 February 1941**, but after a short period of happiness, their relationship became strained by frequent arguments and allegations of infidelity. Elsie denied accusations made by Alec in a letter, suggesting she had been involved with other men and was seen in public houses. She described her husband as “very jealous” and claimed he had previously threatened to take both his own life and hers.

On **7 April 1941**, Alec was found by a market hall attendant, Athert Gwilliam, in a distressed state after consuming Lysol (a disinfectant). Witnesses reported he had entered a public convenience in Severn Square, Shrewsbury, and collapsed moments later, dropping a bottle labelled “Lysol.” When questioned, he handed over a letter before being taken to the Royal Salop Infirmary.

Despite medical efforts, including gastric lavage (stomach pumping), Alec developed **bronchial pneumonia** and **acute peritonitis** as complications from the poisoning, and he passed away on **15 April**.

The initial coroner's finding indicated suicide by poisoning, but the **inquest was adjourned until 25 April** to consider Alec Prior's mental state and to allow a full understanding for the benefit of his family.

Note: Aircraftman 2nd Class Alec Frederick Prior was likely stationed at **RAF Pembrey** at the time of his death, which would explain his burial in **St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey**.

It was common wartime practice for service personnel to be laid to rest near their station if they died while serving, even if the death occurred elsewhere.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180513/alec_frederick-prior

Albert Leslie Putz

Rank: Second Radio Officer

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: MV *Empire Comet* (Greenock-registered cargo vessel)

Date of Death: 17 February 1942

Age: 19

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Second Radio Officer Albert Leslie Putz was the son of Albert Edgar and Margaret Jane Putz of Burry Port. He served aboard the MV *Empire Comet*, a cargo vessel transporting essential wartime supplies, including manganese ore, tea, groundnuts, and linseed oil.

The *Empire Comet* sailed from Bombay on **12 November 1941** as part of **Convoy HX-174** bound for Manchester. On **17 February 1942**, west of Rockall, the ship was intercepted and sunk by a torpedo from the German submarine **U-136** (commanded by Heinrich Zimmermann). Tragically, all hands were lost, including Albert, aged 19.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen who perished at sea and have no known grave. His role as a Radio Officer was critical for communication and distress signals, often requiring him to remain at his post during attacks.

Albert's sacrifice highlights the immense risks faced by young mariners in the Merchant Navy, whose efforts were vital to sustaining Britain's war economy.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15369991/albert-leslie-putz>

Gunner Frederick Thomas Randell

Service No.: 124099

Regiment: 33rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

Date of Death: 14 August 1917

Age: 21

Burial: Noeux-Les-Mines Communal Cemetery, France

Gunner Frederick Thomas Randell was the son of Charles Thomas and Sarah Randell of 82, Elkington Road, Burry Port. He enlisted locally into the Royal Garrison Artillery and was posted to the 33rd Siege Battery, which served on the Western Front.

Frederick was wounded during the **Battle of Hill 70** (part of the larger Battle of Arras) and died of his wounds on **14 August 1917**, aged 21. He is buried at **Noeux-Les-Mines Communal Cemetery** in France. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice underscores the critical role of artillery units in the static and siege warfare that defined the Western Front.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56504801/frederick-thomas-randell>

Private Albert Rees

Service: Pembroke Yeomanry

Service Number: [Unknown]

Died: 19 June 1915 (aged [unknown])

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Plot: On South boundary

Memorial ID: 98180514

Son of W. and Elizabeth Rees, of 37 Cliff Terrace, Ashburnham Road, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire.

Born in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire.

Private Albert Rees served with the **Pembroke Yeomanry**, a cavalry unit of the Territorial Force. At the outbreak of the First World War, the Pembroke Yeomanry was mobilised for home defence duties and later prepared for overseas service.

Although the circumstances of his death are unclear, Private Rees passed away on **19 June 1915**, before the regiment was deployed to Egypt and Gallipoli later that year.

His burial at **St. Illtyd Churchyard in Pembrey** reflects his local roots and connection to the community. His service and sacrifice are commemorated near his birthplace, where he rests in the soil of his homeland.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180514/albert-rees>

2nd Engineer David Edmunds Rees

Service: Mercantile Marine

Ship: SS Minister Tak Van Poortvliet (previously identified as SS Camelata)

Date of Death: 2 May 1917

Age: 24

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Service: Mercantile Marine

Ship: SS Minister Tak Van Poortvliet (Dutch Steamer, 1106 tons)

Date of Death: 24 April 1917

Age: 24

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Second Engineer David Edmunds Rees was the son of David and Mary Rees of 27, Church Road, Burry Port. He served aboard the **SS Minister Tak Van Poortvliet**, a Dutch steamer (1,106 tons) owned by N.V. Stoomvaart Maatschappij Friesland of Amsterdam. The vessel was built in Hull in 1899.

On 24 April 1917, while en route from Hull to Harlingen, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **UB-10** (commanded by Erich von Rohrscheidt) approximately 20 miles off IJmuiden, Netherlands. David was killed in the attack, aged 24.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honors merchant seamen and fishermen who have no known grave. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice underscores the peril faced by civilian mariners during the war, even aboard neutral vessels.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15370432/david-edmunds-rees>

Private George James Rees

Service No.: 40019

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 3 Brigade, 1st Division

Date of Death: 24 August 1916

Age: 24

Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, France

Private George James Rees was the son of Evan and Hannah Rees of 18, Silver Row, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment, part of the 1st Division.

The 1st Division was among the first British formations deployed to France in 1914. George fought in the early battles of the war, including **Mons**, the retreat to the **Marne**, the **Aisne**, and the **First Battle of Ypres**. In 1915, he saw action at **Aubers Ridge** and the **Battle of Loos**, including the fighting at the **Hohenzollern Redoubt**.

In 1916, the division moved to the Somme, participating in the **Battle of Albert**, **Bazentin**, **Pozières**, and **Flers-Courcelette**. George was killed in action on **24 August 1916**, aged 24.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Thiepval Memorial** to the Missing of the Somme. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the heavy losses suffered by Welsh units in some of the war's most brutal engagements.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12561221/george-james-rees>

Lance Corporal John Rees

Service No.: 5297

Regiment: 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Attached to: 22 Brigade, 7th Division

Date of Death: 25 September 1915

Memorial: Loos Memorial, France

Lance Corporal John Rees was born in Burry Port and enlisted at Liverpool into the 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The battalion was stationed in India at the outbreak of war but returned to the UK, landing at Southampton on 3 September 1914. It joined the 7th Division and landed at Zeebrugge on 6 October 1914.

As the first British division to defend Ypres, the 7th Division fought in the **First Battle of Ypres** (October-November 1914), halting the German advance through Belgium. In 1915, the division saw action at **Neuve Chapelle** (March), **Aubers Ridge** (May), and **Festubert** (May).

During the **Battle of Loos** (September 1915), the division assaulted positions north of the Vermelles-Hulluch road, facing the Quarries and German strongpoints. Despite suffering from British gas driftback and heavy machine-gun fire, they captured the Quarries but failed to breach the third German line due to severe casualties. John was killed in action on **25 September 1915**.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Loos Memorial** in France. Though not listed on local memorials, his service reflects the global reach of Welsh soldiers, from India to the Western Front.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15354113/john-rees>

Private Thomas Rees

Service No.: 13157

Regiment: 9th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Attached to: 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division

Date of Death: 25 September 1915

Age: 29

Memorial: Loos Memorial, France

Private Thomas Rees was the son of John and Jane Rees of 15, Williams Terrace, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 9th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, part of the 19th (Western) Division.

The division arrived in France in July 1915 and was deployed near Loos. During the **Battle of Loos**, the battalion attacked German positions north of Givenchy on **25 September 1915**. The assault faced devastating machine-gun fire, resulting in severe casualties. Thomas was among those killed on the first day of the battle, aged 29.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Loos Memorial** in France, which honours over 20,000 Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the brutal reality of early Western Front offensives.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15354116/thomas-rees>

Gunner William Richard Rees

Service Number: 215412

Regiment: Royal Field Artillery

Date of Death: 23 October 1918

Age: [Unknown]

Memorial: India Gate, New Delhi, India

Panel: Face 1

Memorial ID: 18603999

Gunner William Richard Rees served in the **Royal Field Artillery**, a key arm of the British Army responsible for providing artillery support on the battlefield. His death on **23 October 1918**, just weeks before the Armistice, came during the final stages of the First World War. Rees is commemorated on the **India Gate Memorial in New Delhi**, which honours more than 13,000 servicemen of the British Indian Army and British units who died during the First World War and have no known grave. His name inscribed on **Face 1** stands in solemn remembrance of his service far from home.

Although details of his unit's deployment are limited, the presence of his name on the India Gate suggests he likely served in the Indian theatre of the war—possibly in Mesopotamia, Persia, or India itself—where the Royal Field Artillery played a crucial role. His sacrifice is remembered alongside thousands who served and fell across the vast, often overlooked frontiers of the British Empire during the Great War.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18603999/w_r-rees

Staff Serjeant William Richard Rees

Service Number: 7608876

Regiment: Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Date of Death: 9 January 1944

Burial: Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, El Qantarah el Sharqiyya, Egypt

Grave Reference: Plot D. 117A

Memorial ID: 18400139

Staff Serjeant William Richard Rees served with the **Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC)** during the Second World War. As a senior non-commissioned officer in the RAOC, his role would have involved the vital supply and maintenance of weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment essential to the British Army's operations in the Middle East and North Africa.

He died on **9 January 1944**, aged [unknown], and was laid to rest in **Kantara War Memorial Cemetery**, located in modern-day Egypt. This cemetery served as the final resting place for many British and Commonwealth servicemen who passed through the Suez Canal zone and surrounding operational areas during both World Wars.

The presence of RAOC personnel in the region highlights the strategic importance of logistical support during the Allies' campaigns in the Mediterranean theatre. Though not on the front lines, William Richard Rees's service was no less critical to the war effort, ensuring that troops were properly equipped in harsh and demanding environments.

His name is commemorated with honour among those who served and died in the service of their country in one of the war's most challenging operational zones.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18400139/william_richard-rees

Wynford Rees

Rank: Second Engineer Officer

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *The Monarch* (Glasgow-registered merchant vessel)

Date of Death: 20 June 1940

Age: 21

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London (Panel 107)

Second Engineer Officer Wynford Rees was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rees of Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. He served aboard the SS *The Monarch*, an 824-ton steam cargo ship owned by J. Hay & Sons of Glasgow.

On **19 June 1940**, the unescorted *The Monarch* (Master John McNeill) was en route from Tonney-Charente, France, to Falmouth, England, carrying ballast². At **04:57 hours**, the vessel was struck in the stern by a **G7a torpedo** fired by the German submarine **U-52** (commanded by Otto Salman) approximately **60 miles west of Belle Île** in the Bay of Biscay². The ship sank within four minutes, resulting in the loss of all 12 crew members. Wynford was among those killed, aged 21.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London (Panel 107), which honours merchant seamen and fishermen who died during both world wars and have no known grave. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the dangers faced by civilian sailors in the early stages of World War II, when U-boats targeted Allied shipping indiscriminately.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15370430/wynford-rees>

Private David Edward Reynolds

Service Number: 14206549

Regiment: The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

Date of Birth: 21 June 1923

Place of Birth: Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Date of Death: 29 January 1945 (aged 22)

Burial: Forlì War Cemetery, Emilia-Romagna, Italy

Grave Reference: Plot V, Row A, Grave 9

Memorial ID: 21615085

Private David Edward Reynolds, born in the coastal village of **Pembrey, Carmarthenshire**, served with **The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)** during the Second World War. His service number was **14206549**, and like many young Welshmen of his generation, he answered the call to duty in Britain's hour of need.

By 1945, his regiment was engaged in the final stages of the **Italian Campaign**, as Allied forces pushed northward against stiff German resistance through mountainous terrain and harsh winter conditions. The fighting in the **Forlì region of Emilia-Romagna** was particularly intense, with many lives lost during the drive to liberate northern Italy.

Tragically, David was **killed in action on 29 January 1945**, just a few months before the war in Europe came to an end. He was only **22 years old**.

He is buried with honour in **Forlì War Cemetery**, which serves as a resting place for many of those who fell during the latter stages of the Italian campaign. His name is remembered with pride both in Italy and in his native Pembrey.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21615085/david_edward-reynolds

Sergeant William Leyson Rhys

Service Number: 1380898

Rank: Sergeant (Pilot)

Unit: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 1655 Mosquito Training Unit (MTU)

Date of Death: 31 October 1942

Age: 20

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Grave Location: Family grave (flat memorial stone)

Memorial ID: [Insert if known]

Son of Tudor Leyshon Rhys (d. April 1944, aged 70) and Miriam Rhys (d. June 1959, aged 75), of Pembrey, Carmarthenshire. All three rest together in a family plot marked by a flat memorial stone in St. Illtyd's churchyard.

Sergeant **William Leyson Rhys** served as a **pilot** with **No. 1655 Mosquito Training Unit**, a conversion unit based at **RAF Marham, Norfolk**, responsible for training aircrew to fly the **de Havilland Mosquito**, one of the fastest and most versatile aircraft of the Second World War.

On **31 October 1942**, during a training sortie in **Mosquito DZ346**, Rhys and his navigator, **Flying Officer David Hornby**, took off from RAF Marham. While en route, the aircraft encountered **severe weather conditions** and **struck a tree**, crashing approximately **six miles southwest of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk**. Both men were killed in the accident.

Sergeant Rhys was just **20 years old**, his promising RAF career cut tragically short before he could see operational service. His remains were returned to his native **Pembrey**, where he was laid to rest with full military honours. He is remembered for his dedication and sacrifice and is commemorated on his family's grave in St. Illtyd Churchyard.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180515/william_leyson-rhys

Private Owen Richards

Service Number: M/416802

Rank: Private

Unit: Army Service Corps, Mechanical Transport (M.T.)

Date of Birth: 22 May 1890

Place of Birth: Llanddowror, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Date of Death: 22 November 1918 (aged 28)

Burial: Bethel Chapel Cemetery, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Memorial ID: 255910887

Private **Owen Richards** was born on **22 May 1890** in **Llanddowror**, Carmarthenshire. He enlisted in the **Army Service Corps**, serving in the **Mechanical Transport (M.T.) section**, which played a vital logistical role during the First World War, transporting troops, equipment, and supplies under often dangerous conditions.

He died on **22 November 1918**, just **11 days after the Armistice**, likely due to illness—potentially the Spanish influenza pandemic, which swept through military camps and hospitals in the closing months of the war.

Private Richards was laid to rest in **Bethel Chapel Cemetery**, Pembrey, close to his home community. Though he survived the war's end, his death so near to peace underscores the lasting toll of service.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/255910887/owen-richards>

Private William Roberts

Service No.: 202701

Regiment: 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 26 August 1918

Age: 28

Memorial: Vis-En-Artois Memorial, France

Private William Roberts was the son of Thomas and Margaret Roberts of Brynhydref, Park Terrace, Burry Port. He enlisted at Carmarthen into the 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (Carmarthenshire Pals), part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The division arrived in France in December 1915 and saw intense action, including the capture of **Mametz Wood** (July 1916) and **Pilckem Ridge** (July 1917). After a period near Armentières, the division moved south in April 1918 to counter the German Spring Offensive, holding positions north of Albert.

During the Allied **Hundred Days Offensive**, the 38th Division played a key role in the advance on the Somme. On 21 August 1918, the 15th Welsh crossed the flooded River Ancre and helped capture **Thiepval** and **Pozières**. William was killed in action near **High Wood** on **26 August 1918**, aged 28, during this decisive push.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Vis-En-Artois Memorial**, which honors soldiers lost in the Advance to Victory. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the courage of Welsh units in the war's final battles.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56671292/william-roberts>

Lieutenant Allan Whitlock Nicholl Roderick

Regiment: 4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 159 Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 10 August 1915

Age: 19

Memorial: Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Lieutenant Allan Whitlock Nicholl Roderick was born on 23 October 1895, the third son of William and Ella Augusta Buckley Roderick of Goodig, Pembrey. Educated at Rugby School, he intended to join the family solicitors' practice before the war.

He enlisted into the 4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment at the outbreak of hostilities and was promoted to Lieutenant by July 1915. The battalion, part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, sailed from Devonport in July 1915 and arrived at Mudros before landing at Gallipoli on 9 August 1915.

Amid chaotic conditions and fierce Turkish counterattacks, Allan was killed in action on 10 August 1915 while leading his men at Chocolate Hill. He was 19 years old. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, which honours those with no known grave from the campaign.

His family remained in Pembrey, and his sacrifice reflects the tragic loss of young officers who led from the front in one of the war's most challenging campaigns.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56019485/allan-whitlock_nicholl-roderick

Captain Hume Buckley Roderick

Regiment: 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards

Role: Commanding No. 3 Company

Date of Death: 1 December 1917

Age: 30

Burial: Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, France (Plot IX. A. 1)

Memorial ID: CWGC 248689

Captain Hume Buckley Roderick was born on 17 June 1887, the eldest son of William Buckley Roderick (a prominent solicitor and former Welsh rugby international) and Ella Augusta Buckley Roderick of Goodig, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire. Educated at Parkfield School, Hayward's Heath, and Rugby School (where he excelled in cricket), he qualified as a solicitor and joined the family firm, Roderick and Richards, in Llanelli. He also served as a director of Buckley's Brewery and was an accomplished rugby and cricket player for local teams. At the outbreak of war, Hume was a senior Captain in the 4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (Territorial Force), stationed at Pembroke Dock. He deployed to Gallipoli with the 53rd (Welsh) Division but was invalided home due to illness before landing. After recovering, he re-joined his battalion in Egypt in early 1916. Later that year, he returned to the UK to accept a commission as a Lieutenant in the Welsh Guards, subsequently promoted to Acting Captain and given command of No. 3 Company, 1st Battalion.

On 9 November 1916, Hume married Barbara Garnons-Williams, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel R. D. Garnons-Williams, who had been killed at Loos in 1915. The couple settled at Tegfan, Devynock, Breconshire. Hume re-joined his unit on the Western Front in December 1916. He was slightly wounded at Ypres in July 1917 but remained on duty ⁹. During the Battle of Cambrai (November-December 1917), he led his company with distinction. On 1 December 1917, he was killed in action while charging a German machine-gun post at Gouzeaucourt, France. His commanding officer described him as "a good, keen soldier and a sportsman," and colleagues noted his exceptional leadership during the assault. Hume is buried at Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery. His widow Barbara gave birth to their daughter on 30 June 1918. Two of his brothers, Allan and John, also fell during the war ⁶. Hume's sacrifice is commemorated on the Buckley's Brewery War Memorial in Llanelli and through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56493212/hume-buckley-roderick>

Lieutenant John Victor Tweed Roderick

Regiment: 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards

Date of Death: 27 August 1918

Age: 21

Burial: Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery, Baillieulval, France

Lieutenant John Victor Tweed Roderick was the son of Ella A. Roderick of 45 Brunswick Gardens, Kensington, London, and the late William Buckley Roderick. He was the fourth son of the Roderick family of Goodig, Pembrey, and was educated at Rugby School.

John was commissioned into the Pembroke Yeomanry in 1915, serving in Ireland and later defending the Suez Canal in Egypt. In March 1917, he transferred to the Coldstream Guards and was posted to France in December, joining the 1st Battalion, Guards Division.

He fought in the defensive battles against the German Spring Offensive of 1918, including the First Battle of Bapaume and the First Battle of Arras. On 27 August 1918, during the Allied advance on the Somme, John was killed in action while leading an attack near the village of Moyenneville. He was 21 years old.

John is buried at Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery in Baillieulval, France. His mother resided in London, and his sacrifice, alongside that of his brothers Hume and Allan, marks the profound loss endured by the Roderick family during the Great War.

John is buried at Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery in Baillieulval, France. His sacrifice, alongside that of his brothers Hume and Allan, underscores the profound contribution of the Roderick family to the Great War.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56457149/john-victor_tweed-roderick

Gunner John Erasmus Rowlands

Service No.: 150556

Regiment: 101st Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

Attached to: 64th Brigade, Second Army

Date of Death: 8 June 1917

Age: 29

Burial: Hop Store Cemetery, Belgium

Gunner John Erasmus Rowlands was the son of Frank and Mary Ann Rowlands of 63, New Street, Burry Port. He enlisted at Neath into the Royal Garrison Artillery and served with the 101st Heavy Battery, part of the 64th Brigade.

During the summer of 1917, his unit was stationed in the Ypres sector with the Second Army, preparing for the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). John was killed in action on 8 June 1917, aged 29. He is buried at Hop Store Cemetery in Belgium.

His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the critical yet often overlooked role of artillerymen in the prolonged battles of the Western Front.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11158025/j-e-rowlands>

Private John Gwynfor Rowlands

Service No.: 99865

Regiment: 34th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps

Attached to: 34th Division

Date of Death: 21 March 1918

Age: 20

Memorial: Arras Memorial, France

Private John Gwynfor Rowlands was the son of David and Margaret Anne Rowlands of 17, New Street, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli into the Monmouth Regiment but later transferred to the 34th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps.

The 34th Division arrived in France in January 1916 and saw intense action on the Somme, including the **Battle of Albert** (where it suffered severe casualties at La Boisselle), **Bazentin**, **Poizieres**, and **Flers-Courcelette**. In 1917, the division fought at Arras, participating in the **First and Second Battles of the Scarpe** and the **Battle of Arleux**.

On 21 March 1918, John was killed in action during the **Battle of St. Quentin**, the opening engagement of the German Spring Offensive. Aged just 20, he fell as his division resisted the overwhelming enemy advance. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Arras Memorial**, which honours those with no known grave.

His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice underscores the brutal reality faced by machine gun crews during the war's final year.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124934699/john-gwynfor-rowlands>

Private George Edward Scott

Service No.: 3016

Regiment: ¼th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 159 Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 14 August 1915

Memorial: Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Private George Edward Scott was born in Bristol, the son of John and Mary Ann Scott. The family moved to 4, Bank Buildings, Llandeilo, where George was educated, and later resided at 37, Victoria Street, Llandovery. He enlisted at Llandovery into the ¼th Battalion, Welsh Regiment.

The battalion deployed to Gallipoli with the 53rd (Welsh) Division, landing at Suvla Bay on 8 August 1915. George was wounded shortly after the landing and evacuated to a hospital ship offshore, where he died of his wounds on 14 August 1915.

He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, alongside many who have no known grave. His brother, John Scott, was killed in action just three days earlier on 11 August 1915,

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56020079/john-scott>

and their father, John Scott Sr., also died while serving with the 2/5th Battalion, Welsh Regiment.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129843102/john-scott>

The Scott family's profound sacrifice reflects the devastating impact of the war on communities across Wales.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56020061/george-scott>

Sergeant John Scott

Service No.: 3055

Regiment: 1/4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 159 Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 11 August 1915

Age: 29

Memorial: Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Sergeant John Scott was born in Bristol, the son of John and Mary Ann Scott (née Lovell)¹. The family moved to **4, Bank Buildings, Llandeilo**, around 1900, where his father ran a shoe shop before financial difficulties forced its closure. By 1914, the family resided at **37, Victoria Street, Llandovery**. John married Edith Atkins (later recorded as Edith Scott) of Llandebie in 1906, and the couple settled at **59, Gorsddu Road, Penygroes**.

A pre-war territorial soldier, John enlisted at Llandeilo into the **1/4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment**. His battalion deployed to Gallipoli with the 53rd (Welsh) Division, landing at **Suvla Bay on 8 August 1915**. He was killed in action on **11 August 1915** during the **Battle of Sari Bair**. His body was not recovered, and he is commemorated on the **Helles Memorial**.

Tragically, his brother **George Edward Scott** (Service No. 3016) died of wounds three days later on 14 August 1915, and their father, **John Scott Sr.**, died on 3 September 1915 while serving with the **2/5th Battalion, Welsh Regiment**¹. The family's triple loss within weeks epitomizes the devastating impact of the war on Welsh communities. John's widow Edith remained in Penygroes, and his sacrifice is commemorated on the **Penygroes War Memorial**.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56020079/john-scott#add-to-vc>

Private John Scott

Service Number: 20102

Regiment: 1/4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Brigade/Division: 159 Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 3 September 1915

Age at Death: 50

Cemetery: Aberavon (St. Mary) Church Cemetery, Wales

John Scott was born in 1865 to George and Elizabeth Scott of Kingswood, Bristol. He resided in Burry Port prior to the war and was the husband of Mary Ann Scott of 37, Victoria Street, Llandovery. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 1/4th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which formed at Carmarthen in August 1914 as part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division. While the division departed for the Mediterranean in July 1915, Private Scott remained hospitalized at Aberavon due to illness. Already suffering from poor health, he became distraught following the deaths of his two sons, George and John Scott, who also fell during the war. Overcome by grief, Private John Scott died by suicide on 3 September 1915. He is buried in Aberavon (St. Mary) Church Cemetery, a tragic casualty of the war's home front suffering.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129843102/john-scott>

Private Robert Scott

Service No.: 4338

Regiment: Pembroke Yeomanry (attached to 6th Company, Imperial Camel Corps)

Date of Death: 9 January 1917

Age: 37

Burial: Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Private Robert Scott was the son of Robert and Mary Scott of Lazenby, Cumberland, and the husband of Amy Scott of Burry Port. He enlisted at Carmarthen into the Pembroke Yeomanry, which deployed to Egypt in March 1916 as part of the 1st Mounted Division.

Robert was later attached to the **6th Company, Imperial Camel Corps**, a unit engaged in desert operations against Ottoman forces. He was wounded in early January 1917 and died of those wounds on **9 January 1917**, aged 37.

He is buried at **Kantara War Memorial Cemetery** in Egypt, which commemorates Commonwealth personnel who died in the Sinai and Palestine campaigns. His wife Amy resided in Burry Port, and his service highlights the global reach of Welsh soldiers during the Great War, from the deserts of the Middle East to the trenches of the Western Front.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18400236/r-scott#add-to-vc>

Warrant Officer Bernard James Skelly

Service Number: 418189

Rank: Warrant Officer (Pilot)

Unit: Royal Australian Air Force, attached to No. 1 Air Gunnery School RAF

Age at Death: 26

Date of Birth: 5 April 1918

Place of Birth: Flemington, Victoria, Australia

Date of Death: 26 January 1945

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Commemorated on: Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour

Warrant Officer Bernard James Skelly was born in **Flemington, Victoria, Australia**, the son of **Bernard James and Katherine Mary Skelly**, and the husband of **Nancy Pearl Skelly**, of St. Kilda, Victoria. He enlisted in the **Royal Australian Air Force** and trained as a pilot during the Second World War.

On **26 January 1945**, while piloting **Supermarine Spitfire Vb AR320**, W/O Skelly was taking part in a **non-operational air gunnery and cine attack training exercise** with No. 1 Air Gunnery School RAF. At approximately **1200 hours**, the aircraft crashed at **Lodge Farm, New Hedges**, near **Tenby**, Pembrokeshire.

A **Court of Inquiry** into the accident recorded:

“Eyewitnesses stated that at approximately 1200 hours on 26 January, the aircraft was seen to crash around 100 yards from the Tenby–Narberth road near New Hedges. The sky was overcast and hazy following recent snowfall. The aircraft was flying north at a low altitude of 50–100 feet, appearing to be in difficulty. It then dived and struck the ground. The Court concluded that the pilot may have lost his bearings, reduced throttle to reorient himself, and either stalled or was too low to recover from a slip.”

Tragically, Warrant Officer Skelly was killed in the crash. He was **26 years old**.

His body was laid to rest in **St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey**, close to the base where he had been serving. He is remembered with honour both locally and on the **Australian War Memorial’s Roll of Honour** in Canberra.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180516/bernard_james-skelly

Second Lieutenant Alexander MacDonald Smith

Service Number: 99738

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Unit: 7th Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

Nationality: United Kingdom

Date of Death: 12 June 1940

Age: 23

Burial: Houdetot Churchyard, Seine-Maritime, Normandy, France

Grave Reference: II. C. 2

Memorial ID: 65845432

Second Lieutenant **Alexander MacDonald Smith**, aged **23**, served with the **7th Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers**, during the early stages of the Second World War. He was the son of **Alex and Ada MacDonald Smith**, of **Pembrey**, Carmarthenshire.

He was killed in action on **12 June 1940**, during the final phase of the **Battle of France**, a chaotic and desperate period as British and French forces attempted to resist the rapid German advance. Elements of the 7th Battalion were involved in rear-guard actions and defensive operations as part of the British Expeditionary Force's extended engagements beyond Dunkirk.

Alexander is buried in **Houdetot Churchyard**, in **Normandy**, a small communal cemetery where several British soldiers from the 1940 campaign are interred. His final resting place marks both his courage and the far-reaching toll of the early war in Western Europe.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/65845432/alexander_macdonald-smith

Private Thomas Smith

Service No.: 15665

Regiment: 10th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Attached to: 76 Brigade, 3rd Division (transferred from 25th Division)

Date of Death: 16 August 1916

Burial: Guillemont Road Cemetery, Guillemont, France

Private Thomas Smith was born in Burry Port and resided in Pontyberem prior to the war. He enlisted at Mountain Ash into the 10th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, originally part of the 25th Division. The division landed at Boulogne on 27 September 1915, and his brigade later transferred to the 3rd Division in Flanders.

Thomas saw his first major actions in 1916 at **Bellewaarde** and **St. Eloi** before moving to the Somme sector. There, he fought in the **Battles of Albert, Bazentin, and Delville Wood** during the Somme Offensive. He was killed in action on **16 August 1916** during the intense fighting around Guillemont.

He is buried at **Guillemont Road Cemetery** in France. Though not commemorated on the Burry Port Memorial, his sacrifice reflects the courage of Welsh soldiers in some of the war's most brutal campaigns. His connection to Pontyberem and Burry Port remains part of the local history of service and loss.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56045848/thomas-smith#add-to-vc>

Pilot Officer Basil York Sowter

Rank: Pilot Officer
Service Number: 42083
Trade: Pilot
Service: Royal Air Force, 14 Operational Training Unit,
Died: 17th September 1940.

Basil Sowter was one of the the pilots of a Handley Page Hampden I aircraft.

On 17 September 1940, a Handley Page Hampden I bomber (serial number P4311) from No. 14 Operational Training Unit, based at RAF Pembrey, took off for a routine training sortie. During the flight, the aircraft suffered engine failure. The pilot attempted an emergency landing near the Gwendraeth Marshes, close to the airfield, but the aircraft crashed.

Tragically, all four crew members were killed.

Crew of Hampden P4311:

Pilot Officer Basil York Sowter (Pilot)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180517/basil-york-sowter>

Sergeant David Jack Blair (Navigator)

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180495/david_jack-blair

Sergeant John Douglas Laing Cooper (Wireless Operator / Air Gunner)

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180498/john-douglas_laing-cooper

Sergeant George Warden Brown (Wireless Operator / Air Gunner)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180496/george-warden-brown>

Although the crash was not due to enemy action, it occurred during a period of intense RAF operations during the Battle of Britain. The crew's service and sacrifice were part of the critical effort to train and maintain Britain's air readiness during a pivotal moment in the war.

All four men are buried at St. Illtyd's Churchyard in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, near the site of the crash.

"Per ardua ad astra" – Through adversity to the stars.

Leading Stoker Thomas Frederick Styles

Service Number: Unknown

Rank: Leading Stoker

Service: Royal Navy

Date of Death: 12 August 1915

Age: 26

Memorial: Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire, England

Panel: 8

Final Resting Place: Unknown (commemorated at sea)

Memorial ID: 56707279

Leading Stoker Thomas Frederick Styles, aged **26**, served with the **Royal Navy** during the First World War. A stoker by trade, his role was physically demanding and essential—maintaining and operating the steam engines of Royal Navy warships, often in hot and dangerous conditions below deck.

He died on **12 August 1915**, during a critical period of naval warfare in the Great War. Although the exact circumstances of his death are not detailed, many stokers and sailors perished in the Mediterranean and North Sea theaters during this time, frequently in ship losses or engine-room accidents while under fire.

As his body was never recovered or formally buried, **Leading Stoker Styles** is commemorated on the **Portsmouth Naval Memorial**, on **Panel 8**, which honours the thousands of Royal Navy personnel lost at sea with no known grave.

“No known grave but the sea — remembered with honour.”

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56707279/thomas_frederick-styles

Private Archie Styles

Service No.: 45031

Regiment: 14th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Attached to: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 4 May 1918

Age: 21

Burial: Harponville Communal Cemetery, France

Commemorated: Kidwelly Memorial

Private Archie Styles was the son of Charles and Emily Styles of Old Shop, Mynydd y Garreg, Kidwelly. The family later moved to Crawley Down, Sussex, and Archie enlisted at Shoreditch into the 14th Battalion, Welsh Regiment.

The battalion arrived in France in December 1915 as part of the 38th (Welsh) Division. Archie fought in the capture of **Mametz Wood** (July 1916), where the division suffered severe casualties. After rebuilding in the Ypres sector, he participated in the battles of **Pilckem Ridge** and **Langemarck** (1917).

In April 1918, the division was moved south to counter the German Spring Offensive, taking positions north of Albert. Archie was wounded during this period and died of his wounds on **4 May 1918**, aged 21. He is buried at **Harponville Communal Cemetery** in France and is also commemorated on the **Kidwelly Memorial**.

His family's relocation to Sussex and his service with a Welsh unit underscore the widespread contribution of Welsh soldiers, regardless of where they settled.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58918685/archie-styles>

Private Robert Frederick Tate

Service No.: 32861

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment (formerly 8th Battalion)

Attached to: 3 Brigade, 1st Division

Date of Death: 23 October 1918

Age: 19

Memorial: Vis-En-Artois Memorial, France

Private Robert Frederick Tate was born in Burry Port, the son of David and Frances Tate. By 1905, the family had moved to 38, Brynglas, Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil. Robert enlisted at Merthyr into the 8th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, serving with distinction in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia before transferring to the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment in France in early 1917.

As part of the 1st Division, Robert experienced some of the war's most significant campaigns. He fought in the retreat to the Hindenburg Line (1917), the Battle of Passchendaele (1917), and the defensive actions during the German Spring Offensive (1918), including the Battles of Estaires, Hazebrouck, and Bethune. Later, he participated in the Allied counteroffensives at the Battles of Drocourt-Queant and Épehy.

Robert was killed in action on 23 October 1918 during the Battle of the Selle, part of the final advance toward the St. Quentin Canal. Aged just 19, he fell less than three weeks before the Armistice. Having no known grave, he is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, France. Though not listed on Burry Port memorials, his service across multiple theatres reflects the immense scope of Welsh sacrifice.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56672420/robert-frederick-tate>

Gunner David George Roderick Thomas

Rank: Gunner

Service Number: 1704767

Regiment: Royal Artillery, 248 Battery, 79th (The Hertfordshire Yeomanry) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment

Date of Death: 23 February 1941

Age: 36

Gunner David George Roderick Thomas, born in **1906 in Burry Port, Carmarthenshire**, served with distinction in the **Royal Artillery** during the Second World War. He was the son of **Harold and Lucetta Thomas**, both of whom sadly passed away within two years of each other, leaving David to be raised by his grandmother, **Elizabeth Anne Thomas**, at **Brynhafod, Burry Port**.

Enlisting in the **79th (Hertfordshire Yeomanry) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment**, he was posted to **248 Battery**, tasked with defending key military and civilian infrastructure from aerial attack—especially during the height of the Blitz, when Britain's skies were under near-constant threat.

Gunner Thomas was wounded in the line of duty and tragically succumbed to his injuries on **23 February 1941**, at the age of **36**. His sacrifice, like that of so many others in the Royal Artillery, was made in defence of his homeland during one of its darkest hours.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180518/david_george_roderick-thomas

Corporal David Ronald "Ronnie" Thomas

Service Number: 3060026

Rank: Corporal

Regiment: Royal Armoured Corps, 49th (West Riding) Reconnaissance Regiment

Born: 11 October 1919

Died: 12 March 1945 (aged 25)

Burial: Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Gelderland, Netherlands

Grave Reference: 12. H. 5.

Corporal David Ronald "Ronnie" Thomas was born on **11 October 1919** to **Lewis and Selina Thomas**, both aged 24 at the time, and raised in a close-knit and loving family in **Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales**, where his parents later ran the well-known **Monico Café**.

Before the outbreak of war, Ronnie was a gifted musician with a bright future in the arts. He toured with the celebrated entertainer **Hughie Green** and served as **bandleader** of the resident orchestra at the **Excelsior Ballroom in Edinburgh**, earning acclaim for his exceptional musical talent and charismatic leadership.

With the onset of the Second World War, Ronnie answered the call of duty and joined the **Royal Armoured Corps**, serving in the **49th (West Riding) Reconnaissance Regiment**. His unit landed in **Normandy shortly after D-Day** in June 1944 and played a critical role in the **liberation of France, Belgium, and the Netherlands**. He saw action in the **breakout from Normandy**, the fierce fighting in the Low Countries, and the **battles surrounding Arnhem**.

On **12 March 1945**, during the final stages of the Allies' advance into Germany, Corporal Thomas was killed in action near **Nijmegen, Netherlands**. He was just **25 years old**. His body was laid to rest at **Jonkerbos War Cemetery**, among comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice in the closing chapters of the war.

Jonkerbos War Cemetery, situated in a quiet woodland setting known as **Jonkers Bosch**, contains the graves of over **1,600 Commonwealth servicemen**, including many who fell during **Operation Market Garden** and the **Rhineland Offensive**. It stands as a solemn and beautifully maintained tribute, overseen by the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**, to the courage and dedication of soldiers like Ronnie Thomas.

"He exchanged music for duty, and in doing so gave his life for the freedom of others. He is remembered with love, pride, and deep respect."

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13827756/david_ronald-thomas

Private Gwyther Barclay Thomas,

Birth: 1899

Death: 29 October 1918 (aged 19)

Burial: Hermon Wesleyan Chapelyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Memorial ID: 255911106

Private Gwyther Barclay Thomas served with honour in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 9th Battalion, Service Number 75091.

He tragically lost his life at the young age of 19 during the final months of World War I.

He was the beloved son of William Wyn Thomas and Elizabeth Thomas, residing at Pencoed Cottage, Burry Port.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/255911106/gwyther_barclay-thomas

Leading Aircraftman Huw (Hugh) Thomas

Birth: 1916, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Death: 16 February 1938 (aged 21–22), Singapore

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Memorial ID: 272340950

Huw Thomas was the son of Margaret and William Roger Thomas. He served as an airman in the Royal Air Force during the interwar period.

Tragically, Leading Aircraftman Thomas lost his life in a fatal aircraft accident on 21 June 1938 involving two Vickers Vildebeest Mk.II aircraft (serial numbers K2918 and K6372) from No. 100 Squadron, based at RAF Seletar in Singapore. The two planes collided at night and crashed into the sea approximately 10 miles off Cape Rachado, Malaya (present-day Malaysia). All six crew members aboard both aircraft perished in the accident.

The crew comprised:

- Flying Officer George Leslie Arthur Cooper
- Flying Officer Richard Clive Meares
- Pilot Officer Hugh Angus Bethune
- Leading Aircraftman Huw Thomas
- Leading Aircraftman William Stanley Lawrence
- Aircraftman 1st Class George Leonard Walters

The Air Ministry officially reported that all crew members were missing and presumed lost at sea.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/272340950/huw-thomas>

Sergeant John Thomas

Birth: 1871

Death: 31 March 1913 (aged 41–42)

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Memorial ID: 230232445

Sergeant John Thomas passed away at the age of 42. He is laid to rest at St. Illtyd Churchyard in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230232445/john-thomas#view-photo=286406148>

Private John Thomas

2nd Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment

(attached to the South Wales Borderers, Brecknock Battalion)

- **Service Number:** 202060
- **Birth:** 1883
- **Death:** 12 April 1918 (aged 34–35), Flanders
- **Parents:** Son of John and Margaret Thomas, of 23 Morton Terrace, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire
- **Monument:** Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium
- **Panel:** 10
- **Memorial ID:** 12707718

John Thomas enlisted at Carmarthen and served with the **2nd Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment**, which acted as the **Pioneer Battalion of the 29th Division**.

The Division saw heavy service throughout the war. They landed at **Gallipoli** on 25 April 1915, enduring months of fierce fighting before evacuation to Egypt in January 1916. From there, they were moved to the Western Front in March, joining the terrible battles of the **Somme Offensive** later that year. The Division fought at Albert and Le Transloy, suffering severe losses.

In 1917 they were engaged at the **Battle of Arras**, then moved north to the Ypres Salient, taking part in the gruelling battles of **Third Ypres**—Langemarck, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde and Poelcapelle. Later that year, they fought at **Cambrai**, in one of the first large-scale tank attacks of the war.

In early 1918 the Division returned to Flanders. On 21 March the Germans launched their **Spring Offensive** on the Somme, and in April a fresh onslaught began in Flanders. It was during this desperate fighting, on **12 April 1918**, that John was killed in action, aged 34.

As his body was never recovered, John has no known grave. He is commemorated on the **Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 10**, Belgium, which bears the names of over 11,000 men who fell in Flanders but have no known resting place.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12707718/john-thomas>

Sergeant Joseph Robert Taylor

Service No.: 7387

Regiment: 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers

Attached to: 9 Brigade, 3rd Division

Date of Death: 19 September 1915

Age: 42

Burial: Brandhoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

Sergeant Joseph Robert Taylor was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Taylor of County Monaghan, Ireland, and the husband of Ann Taylor of St. Ives, Burry Port. He enlisted at Swansea into the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, part of the 3rd Division.

The 3rd Division was among the first British formations deployed to France in 1914. Joseph fought in the early battles of the war, including **Mons**, the retreat to the **Marne**, the **Battle of Le Cateau**, and the **First Battle of Ypres**. He also participated in the **Christmas Truce of 1914** and the 1915 engagements at **Bellewaarde** and **Hooge**.

Joseph was killed in action at Ypres on **19 September 1915**, aged 42. He is buried at **Brandhoek Military Cemetery** in Belgium. His wife Ann resided in Burry Port, and his service reflects the interconnected sacrifices of soldiers from across Britain and Ireland during the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11181521/joseph-robert-taylor#add-to-vc>

Flying Officer Beverley John Wentworth Thomson

Birth: Unknown

Death: 6 January 1945 (aged 21)

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Plot: Row 2, Grave 23

Memorial ID: 98180519

Flying Officer Beverley John Wentworth Thomson served with distinction in the Royal Australian Air Force (Service No. 421138). He was the beloved son of Harold Wentworth Thomson and Madge Thomson, and the husband of Mary Thomson, of Llanelly.

On 6 January 1945, Flying Officer Thomson was among the crew of a Vickers Wellington X (serial LN553), operated by No. 1 Air Gunnery School (AGS), which crashed during a training exercise.

The aircraft stalled and plunged into the Kidwelly Marshes, near Pembrey Airfield, Cefn Sidan, Carmarthenshire,

The crash site lies within a restricted Ministry of Defence firing range, with the wreckage partially buried in salt marshland. The impact caused extensive damage to the aircraft, and over the years, unauthorized removal of parts has further deteriorated the site.

Of the seven crew members onboard, six—including Flying Officer Thomson—tragically lost their lives. Only the rear gunner survived.

Crew Members Lost in the Crash:

- Aircraftman 2nd Class John Frederick Bartholomew
- Aircraftman 2nd Class Peter Hixon Cain
- Warrant Air Officer (AG) Cecil Gordon Dear
- Aircraftman 2nd Class Cecil Maurice Field
- Aircraftman 2nd Class Barry Campbell Hay
- Flying Officer Beverley John Wentworth Thomson

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180519/beverley_john_wentworth-thomson

Able Seaman David James Thomas

Service No.: 197451

Regiment: Royal Navy, HM Submarine G7

Date of Death: 1 November 1918 (declared)

Age: 36

Memorial: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

Awards: Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Able Seaman David James Thomas was born on 22 December 1882 in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, the son of David Price Thomas and Caroline Fisher Thomas of Bank Cottage Farm, Burry Port. He joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Second Class in January 1898, training on HMS *Impregnable* before serving on armoured cruisers like HMS *Black Prince* and HMS *Minotaur*. He transferred to the submarine service around 1909, serving on vessels based in Dundee and later aboard the depot ship HMS *Forth*.

David married Charlotte Bett McIntosh (also referred to as Charlotte Betty Thomas) in Dundee in 1916, and the couple resided at 7 Hill Street, Dundee. They had a daughter, Charlotte, born in November 1917.

During World War I, David served on HM Submarine *G7*, which operated out of Blyth, patrolling the North Sea. On 23 October 1918, the submarine failed to return from patrol and was declared lost with all hands on 1 November 1918. It was the last British submarine lost in the war, likely due to striking a mine or being hit by a surface ship.

David is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial and in Clepington Church, Dundee. His legacy includes the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and his story is preserved through family accounts and historical records. Though not listed on the Burry Port Memorial, his sacrifice reflects the dangers faced by submariners during the Great War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13306215/david-james-thomas#add-to-vc>

Private Edwin Thomas

Service No.: 24942

Regiment: 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers

Attached to: 3 Brigade, 1st Division

Date of Death: 6 October 1918

Age: 22

Burial: Tincourt New British Cemetery, France

Private Edwin Thomas was the son of Thomas and Margaretta Thomas of 41, New Street, Burry Port. He enlisted at Llanelli into the Royal Army Medical Corps but later transferred to the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers.

As part of the 1st Division, Edwin experienced extensive service on the Western Front. He fought in the early battles of **Mons**, the **Marne**, and the **First Battle of Ypres** (1914), followed by engagements at **Aubers Ridge** and **Loos** (1915). In 1916, he participated in the **Somme Offensive**, and in 1917, he fought during the **German retreat to the Hindenburg Line** and the **Second Battle of Passchendaele**.

In 1918, Edwin endured the **German Spring Offensive** at Estaires, Hazebrouck, and Bethune, before advancing with the Allies during the **Battles of Drocourt-Queant** and **Épehy**. He was wounded during the **Battle of Beaurevoir** and died of his wounds on **6 October 1918**, aged 22.

He is buried at **Tincourt New British Cemetery** in France. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the relentless pace of the war's final campaigns, which claimed many young lives even as victory drew near.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56573226/e-thomas#add-to-vc>

Private Evan Thomas

Service No.: 05197

Regiment: 13th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (formerly Pembrokeshire Yeomanry)

Brigade/Division: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 10 September 1916

Age: 24

Burial: Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, Belgium (Plot II. D. 7)

Private Evan Thomas was the son of William and Margaret Thomas of Llwynheilog, Llanwrtyd Wells. He resided in Burry Port prior to the war but returned to his hometown to enlist at Llanwrtyd Wells into the **Pembrokeshire Yeomanry**.

After initial training in Norfolk, Evan was posted to Dublin with the **3/1st Battalion, Pembrokeshire Yeomanry**, where he saw service during the **Easter Rising of April 1916**. He embarked for France in August 1916 and was transferred to the **13th Battalion, Welsh Regiment**, part of the **38th (Welsh) Division**, which was rebuilding after suffering heavy casualties at **Mametz Wood** in July 1916.

The battalion took over trenches at **Hébuterne** before moving to the **Ypres Salient**, where they held the **Canal Bank sector at Boesinghe**. Evan was wounded during a routine trench rotation near Ypres and died of his wounds on **10 September 1916**, aged 24.

He is buried at **Ferme-Olivier Cemetery** in Belgium. Though not commemorated on the Burry Port Memorial, his service reflects the journey of many Welsh soldiers from home defence duties to the brutal front lines of the Western Front.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11404986/e-thomas>

Private John Thomas

Service No.: 202060

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment

Role: Pioneer Battalion to the 29th Division

Date of Death: 12 April 1918

Age: 35

Memorial: Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

Private John Thomas was the son of John and Margaret Thomas of 23, Morton Terrace, Burry Port. He enlisted at Carmarthen into the 2nd Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment, which served as the Pioneer Battalion for the 29th Division.

The 29th Division saw extensive service, beginning with the **Gallipoli Campaign** (landing 25 April 1915) before evacuating to Egypt and later moving to the Western Front in March 1916. John fought in the **Somme Offensive** (1916), including the Battles of **Albert** and **Le Transloy**, and the **Arras Offensive** (1917), where he participated in the **Battle of the Scarpe**.

Later in 1917, the division moved to Ypres, engaging in battles at **Langemarck**, **Menin Road**, **Polygon Wood**, **Broodseinde**, and **Poelcapelle**, followed by the **Battle of Cambrai**. In 1918, the division faced the **German Spring Offensive** in Flanders. John was killed in action there on **12 April 1918**, aged 35.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Ploegsteert Memorial** in Belgium. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his service reflects the relentless demands placed on pioneer battalions, which combined combat with vital engineering and support work under extreme conditions.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12707718/john-thomas>

Lance Corporal William Eric Thomas

Service No.: 7187

Regiment: 7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

Brigade/Division: 73 Brigade, 24th Division

Date of Death: 31 July 1917

Memorial: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Lance Corporal William Thomas was born in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan. He enlisted at Northampton into the 7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, part of the 24th Division.

The division arrived in France in August 1915 and first saw action at the **Battle of Loos** (September 1915), where it suffered severe casualties. In 1916, it fought on the **Somme** at **Delville Wood** and **Guillemont**.

In 1917, the division saw action at **Vimy Ridge** (April 1917), supporting the Canadian Corps, and later at the **Battle of Messines** (June 1917). William was killed in action on **31 July 1917**, the opening day of the **Battle of Pilckem Ridge** (the first phase of the Third Battle of Ypres, or Passchendaele).

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial** in Belgium. Though he enlisted in England and served with an English regiment, his Welsh origins are noted on memorial rolls, reflecting the widespread contribution of Welshmen across British forces.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12032167/william-eric-thomas#add-to-vc>

Private Martin Tierney

Service No.: 106

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment

Brigade/Division: 17 Brigade, 24th Division

Date of Death: 20 May 1916

Burial: Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe, Belgium

Private Martin Tierney was the son of James and Johanna Tierney of 3, East Cottages, Burry Port. He enlisted at Maryborough (now Portlaoise), Ireland, into the 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment.

His battalion, part of the 24th Division, arrived in France in August 1915. It suffered heavily during its first major engagement at the **Battle of Loos** (September 1915). In 1916, the division fought on the **Somme**, though Martin was killed in action on **20 May 1916** during the period the division was stationed near Arras, prior to the Somme Offensive.

He is buried at **Ration Farm (La Plus Douve) Annexe** in Belgium. Though not commemorated on the Burry Port Memorial, his service with an Irish regiment highlights the diverse backgrounds of those from Welsh towns who served in the Great War. His parents remained in Burry Port.

Note: The date of death (20 May 1916) suggests he was killed during a routine trench rotation or minor engagement near Arras, as the 24th Division was not yet engaged in the Somme Offensive at that time.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11506924/m-tierney>

Writer Gordon Ashton Twyford

Birth: Unknown

Death: 11 May 1942 (aged 25)

Monument: Plymouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth, Devon, England

Plot: Panel 71, Column 3

Memorial ID: 13306896

Coordinates: 50.365734° N, -4.142440° W

Gordon Ashton Twyford served in the Royal Navy aboard H.M.S. Lively, holding Service Number D/MX 64722. He tragically lost his life during World War II at the age of 25.

He was the son of Christopher B. and Mary Twyford, of Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13306896/gordon_ashton-twyford

Unknown Airman

Birth: Unknown

Death: May 1943

Burial: St. Iltyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Memorial ID: 230044991

Coordinates: 51.687209° N, -4.273928° W

The body of an unknown Royal Air Force crewman was tragically washed ashore on 24 May 1943 at Cefn Sidan. He was laid to rest the following day, 25 May 1943, at St. Iltyd Churchyard, Pembrey.

Inscription:

An Airman of the 1939-1945 War

Royal Air Force

Buried 25 May 1943

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230044991/unknown-unknown_airman

Second Lieutenant John David Vaughan, MC

Regiment: 14th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Brigade/Division: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 18 March 1917

Age at Death: 30

Cemetery: Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, Elverdinge, West Flanders, Belgium

Grave Reference: Plot 3. Row B. Grave 11.

Awards: Military Cross (Gazetted 9 January 1917)

Biography:

John David Vaughan was the son of Henry and Rachel Vaughan of 44, Mansel Street, Burry Port. He was educated at Aberystwyth University before commissioning as an officer.

He served with the 14th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, part of the 38th (Welsh) Division. The division landed in France in December 1915 and spent its first winter in the trenches near Armentières.

In June 1916, it marched south to the Somme, where it fought in the famously bloody capture of Mametz Wood, suffering terrible casualties. Following this action, the division was moved to the Ypres sector to rebuild. Second Lieutenant Vaughan was wounded in this area and died of those wounds on 18 March 1917.

He had previously been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action, specifically for carrying out a daring reconnaissance with great courage and determination to obtain valuable information. He is buried in Ferme-Olivier Cemetery.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11405379/john-david-vaughan>

Sergeant Charles Albert Venn

Rank: Sergeant
Service Number: 969799
Trade: Pilot
Service: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 79 Squadron
Died: 24th February 1941
Age: 26 years old.

Born on the 7th December 1914 in Penarth, Charles was the youngest son of Charles Edward Venn and Alice Edith Venn (née Smith) of 22, Dingle Road, Penarth, Glamorgan. They had married in 1904. He had four siblings, Horace, Alfred, Kathleen and Marjorie. Their father was employed as a Goods Guard on the Taff Vale Railway.

By 1938 the family had moved to 106, Cornerswell Road in Penarth. His father now worked as a supervisor for the shipping of coal on the Great Western Railway.

In November 1936, Charles joined the Merchant Navy Service as an Engineer. He was discharged on the 4th September 1939.

He learnt to fly and gained his flying certificate on the 17th November 1938 at Cardiff Aeroplane Club flying a De Havilland Tiger Moth aircraft. On being called up he trained to be a pilot and got his wings in November 1940. He joined 79 Squadron at RAF Pembrey as a Sergeant pilot. The Squadron was equipped with the Hawker Hurricane Mark I.

On February 24, 1941, at 15:20 hours, a training accident resulted in the loss of a Hawker Hurricane P3122 and its pilot, Charles Venn. The incident occurred at Cefn Sidan Beach during an air-to-ground strafing practice session. Charles being a relatively new pilot had only earned his wings the previous November and had accumulated just 12 hours of flight time on Hurricanes.

While practicing strafing techniques, he descended too low and fired his guns for too long, which led to him failing to pull up in time to avoid an obstruction on the beach, likely an anti-invasion pole. As a result, the aircraft crashed into the sea. The cause of the accident was determined to be the pilot's misjudgement during the strafing dive. Charles was 26 years old at the time of his death.

Charles was buried in St Illtyd Churchyard. He is also commemorated on the Roll of Honour at St Augustine's Church in Penarth and on the War Memorial in Alexandra Park there.

Sadly just four months later his older brother Alfred was killed in action. Twenty nine year old Alfred Gordon Venn was an Air Gunner with 218 Squadron. On the 21st June 1941 he took off in a Wellington Bomber R1339 on an operation to the German city of Kiel. The Wellington was last heard of when they were 60 miles off the enemy coast. Alfred has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

The war medal Charles had been awarded was sold at auction for £55 in January 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180520/charles_albert-venn

Private Herbert Wallis

Service No.: 86175

Regiment: 204th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps

Attached to: 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division

Date of Death: 4 October 1918

Burial: Le Cateau Military Cemetery, France

Private Herbert Wallis was born in Kilburn, Middlesex, but resided in Burry Port prior to the war. He enlisted at Carmarthen into the Welsh Regiment and later transferred to the 204th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps.

His unit, part of the 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division, arrived on the Western Front in March 1917. Herbert fought at the **Battle of Poelcapelle** (October 1917) during the Third Battle of Ypres. In 1918, the division faced the **German Spring Offensive** at the **Battle of St. Quentin** and the **Battle of Rosières**, suffering heavy casualties.

After the division was reconstituted, Herbert was killed in action on **4 October 1918** during the **Battle of Cambrai**, part of the Allied Hundred Days Offensive. He is buried at **Le Cateau Military Cemetery** in France.

Though not commemorated on the Burry Port Memorial, his service reflects the movement of soldiers between regiments and the critical role of machine gunners in the war's final battles. His connection to Burry Port remains part of the town's wartime history.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56416187/h-wallis#add-to-vc>

Pilot Officer William Richard Aelwyn Walters

Rank: Pilot Officer
Service Number: 61501
Trade: Pilot
Service: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 79 Squadron
Died: 27th April 1941
Age: 29 years old.

Born on 6 May 1911 in Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset, William Walters was the son of Reverend Canon Thomas William Walters, M.A., and Emmeline Florence Walters (née Cocks). His parents had married in Wales in 1909, after which his father became Rector of St. Michael's Church in Hamworthy. William was one of seven children, with two older brothers, Thomas and David; three younger brothers, Mervyn, John, and Neville; and a younger sister, Enid.

In 1913, the family left Hamworthy when Reverend Walters accepted the position of Vicar of Whitwick in Leicestershire. They lived in the Whitwick Vicarage for many years before eventually retiring and returning to Poole. By 1939, William and his sister Enid were living with their parents at Western House on Western Road, Poole, before the family settled in Branksome Park, Bournemouth.

William spent most of his childhood in Leicestershire and was educated at Stoneygate School in Leicester and Loughborough Grammar School. There, he distinguished himself as a School Monitor and a Non-Commissioned Officer (N.C.O.) in the School Cadet Corps, leaving in 1928.

An enthusiastic aviator, William learned to fly at Tollerton, Nottingham. He earned his Aero Certificate from the Nottingham Aero Club on 23 December 1930, piloting a de Havilland DH.60 Moth. A gifted linguist, William was fluent in German, French, Spanish, and Italian. Before the war, he worked as a freelance journalist specializing in technical subjects. Widely travelled, he contributed numerous articles to aviation journals such as *Flight* and *The Aeroplane*.

With the outbreak of war, William joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was later called to active service and assigned to No. 79 Squadron, stationed at RAF Pembrey in Carmarthenshire, Wales.

On 27 April 1941, while flying a Hawker Hurricane Mk I (serial number P3264) on convoy escort duty, his aircraft suffered engine failure. William successfully ditched the aircraft into Carmarthen Bay near Burry Holms and deployed his dinghy. Tragically, despite surviving the crash, he died later that day from hypothermia.

He was laid to rest with full military honours on 1 May 1941 in **St. Iltyd Churchyard**, Pembrey. His five brothers and his sister were present at the funeral.

William Walters is commemorated on the Roll of Honour at **Loughborough Grammar School**.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180521/william_richard_aelwyn-walters

Podporucznik Leon Jan Watorowski

Polish Air Force, 317 Squadron

Birth: 22 March 1920 – Chełmno, Powiat Kolski, Wielkopolskie, Poland

Death: 8 December 1944 (aged 24) – Kenfig, Bridgend, Wales

Burial: St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Plot: Row 2, Grave 0005

Memorial ID: 228057238

Service No.: P/2583

Rank at Death: Kapral (Corporal), posthumously referred to as Podporucznik (Second Lieutenant)

Leon Jan Watorowski was born in Chełmno, Poland, in 1920. A brave and highly skilled pilot, he served with distinction in the **Polish Air Force in exile** during the Second World War. Initially a member of **No. 316 Squadron**, and later with **No. 317 Squadron**, he played an important role in Allied air operations across Europe.

Both squadrons, formed of Polish pilots who had escaped occupied Poland, were integrated into the Royal Air Force under British command. These units were essential in the defence of Britain during the Blitz and in subsequent offensive missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. Watorowski's duties included bomber escort, aerial reconnaissance, and direct air combat—all of which required courage, precision, and unwavering resolve.

Fluent in the language of aerial warfare, Watorowski contributed significantly to the Allied air campaign. His commitment exemplified the sacrifice made by thousands of displaced Polish servicemen who continued to fight for freedom far from home.

On **8 December 1944**, at the age of 24, Podporucznik Watorowski was piloting a **Supermarine Spitfire LF.IX (serial number MK986)** during a training flight. During the exercise, his aircraft was involved in a **mid-air collision** near **Port Talbot**, Wales. He did not survive the accident.

He was laid to rest on 12 December 1944 at **St. Illtyd Churchyard**, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, with full military honours.

Podporucznik Leon Jan Watorowski is remembered not only for his service to Poland and the Allied cause, but also for the personal courage he demonstrated in the face of war. His name lives on among the ranks of brave airmen who fought under foreign flags, but always with Poland in their hearts.

He is commemorated by the Polish Air Force, and his grave remains a site of remembrance for both Polish and British communities.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228057238/leon_jan-watorowski

Private W. Webber

Welsh Regiment

Birth: Unknown

Death: 18 September 1918

Burial: Doiran Military Cemetery, Doirani, Kilkis, Central Macedonia, Greece

Plot: V. A. 1

Memorial ID: 56485986

Rank: Private

Regiment: Welsh Regiment

Age at Death: Unknown

Private W. Webber served in the **Welsh Regiment** during the First World War. He died on **18 September 1918**, during the final stages of the **Salonika Campaign**, part of the lesser-known Macedonian front in northern Greece.

He is buried with honour at **Doiran Military Cemetery**, which commemorates those who fell during the hard-fought battles in this region. The cemetery overlooks Lake Doiran and is a lasting tribute to those who served and sacrificed far from home.

Though little is known about his personal details, **Private Webber's service and sacrifice are remembered** alongside his comrades who fought with dedication in one of the war's most challenging and overlooked theatres.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56485986/w-webber>

Flight Officer David Howard Williams

Royal Air Force

Birth: 1912

Death: 3 April 1971 (aged 58–59)

Burial: St. Iltyd Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Memorial ID: 262414026

David Howard Williams served as a **Flight Officer in the Royal Air Force**.

He was the beloved son of **David Williams** and **Sarah Williams** of **Cliff Cottage, Pembrey**.

He is buried alongside his parents at **St. Iltyd Churchyard**, Pembrey.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/262414026/david_howard-williams

Private David James Williams

Service No.: 13385

Regiment: 9th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Brigade/Division: 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division

Date of Death: 25 September 1915

Age: 19

Memorial: Loos Memorial, France

Private David James Williams was born in Burry Port, the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Annie Williams. By 1911, the family had moved to 30, Rice Street, Llanelli, where David enlisted into the 9th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The 19th (Western) Division arrived in France in July 1915 and was deployed near Loos. David was killed in action on **25 September 1915** during the division's first major engagement, the **Battle of Loos**. Aged just 19, he fell in the initial assault, which suffered devastating casualties from German machine-gun fire and artillery. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Loos Memorial** in France, which honors over 20,000 Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave. Though not listed on the Burry Port Memorial, his sacrifice reflects the heavy losses endured by Welsh units in one of the war's earliest large-scale offensives. His parents remained in Llanelli, and his name is preserved among the fallen of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188272529/david-james-williams>

Sergeant Edmund Williams

Service No.: 15013

Regiment: 16th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Brigade/Division: 115 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 1 August 1917

Age: 23

Memorial: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Sergeant Edmund Williams was the son of Richard and Margaret Jane Williams of 85, New Street, Burry Port. He enlisted at Pontlottyn into the 16th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The division arrived in France in December 1915 and endured its first winter in the trenches near Armentières. In July 1916, it fought in the brutal **Battle of Mametz Wood** on the Somme, suffering severe casualties. After rebuilding, the division moved to the Ypres sector in 1917.

Edmund was killed in action on **1 August 1917** during the **Battle of Pilckem Ridge**, the opening phase of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Aged 23, he fell in the intense fighting to secure positions east of Ypres.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**, which honors over 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the courage of NCOs who led from the front in one of the war's most costly campaigns.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20734110/edmund-williams>

Sapper Herbert Llewellyn Williams

Service No.: 62352

Regiment: 15th Signal Company, Royal Engineers

Attached to: 15th (Scottish) Division

Date of Death: 3 October 1915

Age: 33

Burial: Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery, France

Sapper Herbert Llewellyn Williams was the son of Richard and Elizabeth Ann Williams of Burry Port. He enlisted at Bristol into the 15th Signal Company, Royal Engineers, which supported the 15th (Scottish) Division.

The division landed in France in July 1915 and quickly saw action at the **Battle of Loos** (September-October 1915). Herbert was wounded during this engagement and died of his wounds on **3 October 1915**, aged 33.

He is buried at **Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery** in France. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his service highlights the vital role of Royal Engineers in maintaining communications under fire, often in the most dangerous conditions. Though not commemorated on local memorials, his contribution remains part of Burry Port's wartime history.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56187650/herbert-llewellyn-williams#add-to-vc>

Private John Williams

Service No.: 38530

Regiment: 12th Battalion, South Wales Borderers

Brigade/Division: 119 Brigade, 40th (Bantam) Division

Date of Death: 25 November 1917

Age: 18

Memorial: Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France

Private John Williams was born in Burry Port, the son of David and Margaret Williams. By 1911, the family had moved to 6, Nevill's Terrace, Dafen, Llanelli. John enlisted at Llanelli into the 12th Battalion, South Wales Borderers, part of the 40th (Bantam) Division, composed of soldiers below the standard regulation height.

The division arrived in France in June 1916 and initially served near Loos before moving to the Somme, where it fought at the **Battle of the Ancre** (November 1916). In March 1917, it participated in the advance to the **Hindenburg Line** following the German strategic withdrawal.

John was killed in action on **25 November 1917** during the **Battle of Cambrai**, specifically in the assault on **Bourlon Wood**, a key strategic objective. Aged just 18, he fell during one of the battle's most intense phases.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Cambrai Memorial** at Louverval, which honors over 7,000 Commonwealth soldiers missing in the Battle of Cambrai. Though not listed on the Burry Port Memorial, his sacrifice reflects the courage of young Welsh soldiers in the Bantam units, who proved their mettle in some of the war's toughest battles. His parents remained in Dafen, Llanelli.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56031127/john-williams#add-to-vc>

Leslie Glyndon Williams

Rank: Fireman & Trimmer

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Ocean Viceroy* (Glasgow-registered Liberty Ship)

Date of Death: 29 March 1943

Age: 25

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Fireman and Trimmer Leslie Glyndon Williams was the son of Evan and Sarah Williams of Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. He served aboard the SS *Ocean Viceroy*, a Liberty Ship built in the United States and operated under the British flag during World War II.

On **29 March 1943**, the *Ocean Viceroy* was part of **Convoy SL-126** (Sierra Leone to the UK) when it was attacked by the German submarine **U-662** (commanded by Wolfgang Hermann) in the Mid-Atlantic. The ship was struck by a torpedo but managed to survive the attack and limp to safety, thanks to the efforts of its crew and damage control. Tragically, Leslie was killed in the initial explosion, aged 25.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen who died at sea and have no known grave. His role as a Fireman and Trimmer involved gruelling work in the ship's engine room, maintaining steam pressure and coal supplies—a critical yet perilous role during wartime voyages.

His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice underscores the bravery of those who served in the Merchant Navy, often facing unseen dangers beneath the waterline.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15378410/leslie-williams>

Private Thomas George Williams

Service No.: 125745

Regiment: 21st Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Attached to: 30th Division

Date of Death: 24 March 1918

Memorial: Pozières Memorial, France

Private Thomas George Williams was born in Burry Port and enlisted at Llanelli into the Monmouth Regiment before transferring to the 21st Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). His unit was attached to the 30th Division, which arrived in France in November 1915.

Thomas saw extensive service on the Western Front:

- **1916:** Fought in the **Somme Offensive**, including the **Battle of Albert** (capture of Montauban) and the **Battle of Le Transloy**.
- **1917:** Participated in the **German retreat to the Hindenburg Line**, the **First and Second Battles of the Scarpe** (Arras Offensive), and the **Battle of Pilckem** (Third Battle of Ypres).
- **1918:** Faced the **German Spring Offensive** at the **Battle of St. Quentin** (21 March 1918).

Thomas was killed in action on **24 March 1918** during the desperate defensive actions near St. Quentin, as the 30th Division resisted the overwhelming German advance. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Pozières Memorial**, which honours over 14,000 Commonwealth soldiers missing on the Somme.

Though not listed on local memorials, his role as a machine gunner placed him at the heart of some of the war's most critical battles, underscoring the bravery of Welsh soldiers in multinational divisions. His roots in Burry Port remain a testament to the town's contribution to the war effort.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16074654/thomas-george-williams#add-to-vc>

Signalman Thomas Henry Williams

**Royal Corps of Signals, 5 Air Formation Signals
British Army – World War II**

Birth: c.1919, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Death: 26–27 August 1943 (aged 24), Middle East

Burial: Ramleh War Cemetery, Ramla, Central District, Israel

Plot: 3. G. 8

Memorial ID: 22751619

Service Number: 2342946

Rank: Signalman

Nationality: British

Signalman **Thomas Henry Williams** served with the **Royal Corps of Signals**, attached to **5 Air Formation Signals**, a key communications unit supporting Royal Air Force operations in the Middle East during World War II.

Born around 1919 in **Carmarthenshire**, he was the son of **David and Harriet Williams**, and the husband of **Marion Kathleen Williams**, of **Burry Port, Carmarthenshire**.

He died in service between **26–27 August 1943**, at the age of 24. The exact circumstances of his death are not detailed, but he was listed as **Killed in Action**, a term typically applied to those lost during combat or in operational zones.

Signalman Williams is laid to rest at **Ramleh War Cemetery** in Israel, among many Commonwealth servicemen who gave their lives in the Middle Eastern theatre of war.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22751619/thomas_henry-williams

Trevor Matthias Owen Williams

Rank: Ship's Surgeon

Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Aguila* (Liverpool-registered passenger steamer)

Date of Death: 19 August 1941

Age: 58

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Ship's Surgeon Trevor Matthias Owen Williams was born in Burry Port in 1883, the son of Dr. Trevor Owen Williams, M.D., and Emily Williams. He qualified with a **B.A. from Cambridge** and **L.A.H. (Licentiate of the Apothecaries Hall) from Dublin** before embarking on a career in the Merchant Navy. He was the husband of Sarah Williams of Devonport, Tasmania.

Trevor served aboard the SS *Aguila*, a passenger steamer tasked with carrying mail and passengers. On **19 August 1941**, the *Aguila* was part of **Convoy OG-71** en route from Liverpool to Gibraltar and Lisbon, carrying **400 bags of mail**. The convoy was attacked by the German submarine **U-201** (commanded by Adalbert Schnee) in the North Atlantic. The *Aguila* was struck by a torpedo and sank within **90 seconds**, resulting in the loss of **152 lives**, including Trevor. Among the lost was also the convoy commodore, **Vice-Admiral Patrick E. Parker, DSO, RN**.

Aged 58, Trevor is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honors merchant seamen with no known grave. His role as a Ship's Surgeon was critical for providing medical care to crew and passengers during long voyages, and his death highlights the indiscriminate nature of submarine warfare.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15378466/trevor_matthias_owen-williams

Sergeant William Henry Winstone

Service No.: 20248

Regiment: 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment

Brigade/Division: 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division

Date of Death: 31 July 1917

Age: 26

Burial: New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium (Plot VIII. L. 2)

Sergeant William Henry Winstone was the son of Reuben and Miriam Winstone of Bristol. Prior to the war, he worked in Burry Port and married Agnes Davies of 8, Park Terrace, Burry Port, in 1912. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 15th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (Carmarthenshire Pals), part of the 38th (Welsh) Division.

The division arrived in France in December 1915 and endured its first winter in the trenches near Armentières. In July 1916, it fought in the brutal **Battle of Mametz Wood** on the Somme, suffering severe casualties. After rebuilding, the division moved to the Ypres sector in 1917.

William was killed in action on **31 July 1917** during the **Battle of Pilckem Ridge**, the opening phase of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Aged 26, he fell in the intense fighting to secure positions east of Ypres.

He is buried at **New Irish Farm Cemetery** in Belgium. His wife Agnes remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the leadership of NCOs in one of the war's most costly campaigns. His grave is a permanent testament to the courage of the Carmarthenshire Pals.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12083131/william-henry-winstone>

Private Frederick George Wotley

Service No.: 27966

Regiment: 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry

Brigade/Division: 61 Brigade, 20th (Light) Division

Date of Death: 7 August 1917

Age: 24

Memorial: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Private Frederick George Wotley was the son of John Henry and Mary Jane Wotley of 56, Richmond Street, Bristol. Prior to the war, he resided in Burry Port, where he worked for the Great Western Railway. He enlisted into the 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry, part of the 20th (Light) Division.

The division arrived in France in July 1915 and saw early action at the **Battle of Loos** (September 1915), participating in a diversionary attack toward Fromelles. In 1916, it fought extensively on the **Somme**, including the Battles of **Delville Wood, Guillemont, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, and Le Transloy**.

Frederick was killed in action on **7 August 1917** during the **Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)**, as the 20th Division advanced in the Gheluvelt Plateau sector. Aged 24, he fell in the mud and chaos that characterized the offensive.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**, which honors over 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave. His connection to Burry Port, through his work and residence, underscores the widespread impact of the war on industrial and railway communities across Britain.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20735441/frederick-wotley>

Private John Edwards Zachariah,

Welsh Regiment

Birth: 1892

Death: 24 November 1917 (aged 25)

Commemorated at: Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France

Panel: 7

Memorial ID: 56031361

Rank: Private

Regiment: Welsh Regiment

Age at Death: 25

Private **John Edwards Zachariah** served with honour in the **Welsh Regiment** during the First World War. He was killed in action on **24 November 1917**, during the **Battle of Cambrai**, a significant and fiercely contested offensive known for the first large-scale use of tanks and intense infantry fighting on the Western Front.

As his body was never recovered or identified, he is commemorated on the **Cambrai Memorial to the Missing** at Louverval, France—one of over 7,000 soldiers with no known grave who fell during the Cambrai operations.

Pembrey & Burry Port Memorials Virtual cemetery

<https://tinyurl.com/PBP-Virtual-Cemetery>



Their Legacy Lives On



As we walk the paths of Pembrey and Burry Port, past chapels, churchyards, and familiar streets, let us not forget those who once walked them too—before duty called them away. These men left behind their homes, families, and futures, and many never returned. Their sacrifice is woven into the very fabric of our community.

This collection of names and stories is more than remembrance—it is a call to honour their memory through our awareness, our gratitude, and our commitment to peace. May we never take for granted the freedom they died to protect.

In remembering them, we keep their spirit alive.
In telling their stories, we ensure they are never truly gone.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

<https://tinyurl.com/PBP-Memorials-Ledger>



IN MEMORY OF THE SEAMEN



WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE
MERCHANT NAVY

WORLD WAR



WORLD WAR II

Merchant Navy Day Memorial

Master David Edmunds **1915**

Second Mate Thomas Llewellyn McFadden **1916**

2nd Engineer David Edmunds Rees **1917**

Ships Steward George Bargewell **1918**

Steward Joseph Emery **1918**

Donkeyman Stanley Jones **1940**

Able Seaman Olaf Dahle **1940**

Second Radio Officer Vernon John Martell Lewis **1940**

Second Engineer Officer Wynford Rees **1940**

Third Engineer Brinley Colwill **1941**

Able Seaman David Owen Davies **1941**

Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle **1941**

Second Engineer Officer John Jones **1941**

Ship's Surgeon Trevor Matthias Owen Williams **1941**

Fourth Engineer Officer John C. Knowles **1941**

Junior Engineer Officer Joseph Elved Daniel **1942**

Able Seaman William David Davies **1942**

Ordinary Seaman Thomas King **1942**

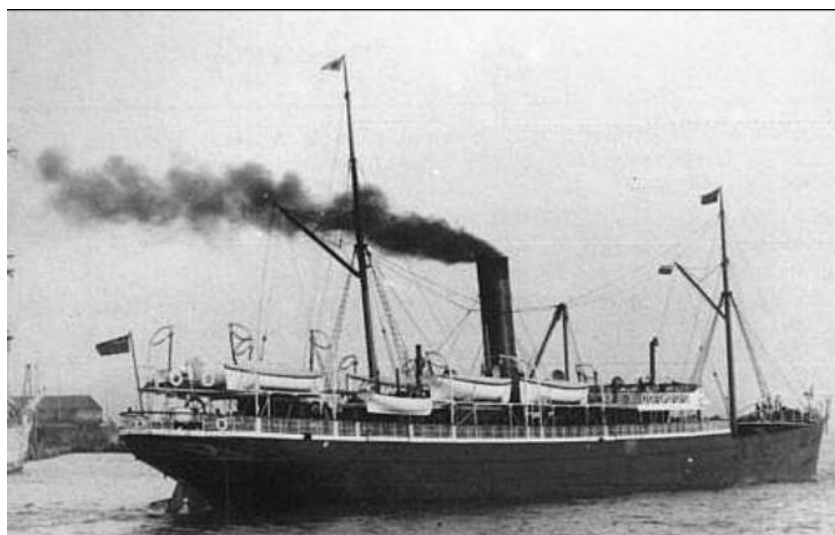
Assistant Cook Edwin Henry Persson **1942**

Second Radio Officer Albert Leslie Putz **1942**

Deckhand John Patrick Collins **1943**

Fireman & Trimmer Leslie Glyndon Williams **1943**

Ships Steward George Bargewell



Service Number: 130104

Rank: Ship's Steward

Service: Royal Navy (Merchant Marine, S.S. *Romeo*) **Date of Death:** 3 March 1918

Age at Death: 48

Birth Year: ~1870

Birthplace: England

Memorial Location:

- **Memorial:** Plymouth Naval Memorial
- **Location:** Plymouth, Devon, England
- **Plot/Panel:** 28

Memorial ID: 13286436

Personal Background

- **Spouse:** Mary L. Bargewell
- **Residence:** 61, Station Rd., Keyham Barton, Devonport, England

Circumstances of Death

George Bargewell died **at sea** on 3 March 1918, likely due to enemy action (common for merchant mariners in WWI, as ships were targeted by U-boats). The S.S. *Romeo* was a merchant vessel, and its crew were often civilian mariners supporting the war effort.

Commemoration

- The **Plymouth Naval Memorial** honours sailors of the Royal Navy and merchant marine who died at sea and have no known grave.
- His name is inscribed on **Panel 28**, ensuring his service is remembered.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13286436/george-bargewell>

Deckhand John Patrick Collins



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Brinkburn* (Sunderland-registered coal carrier)

Date of Death: 21 June 1943

Age: 20

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

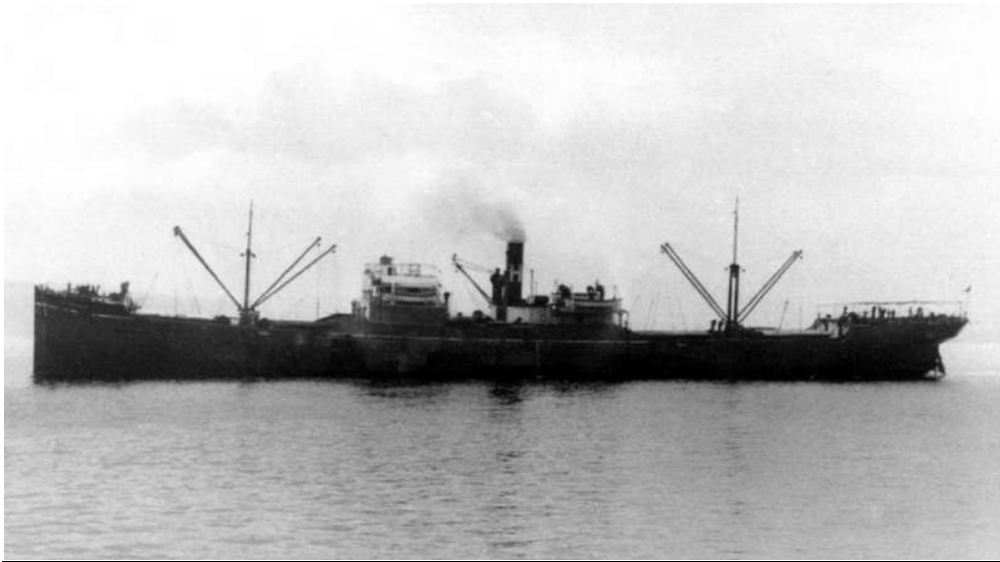
Deck Hand John Patrick Collins was the son of John and Christina Collins of Burry Port. He served aboard the SS *Brinkburn*, a merchant vessel tasked with transporting essential wartime supplies.

On **21 June 1943**, the *Brinkburn* was part of convoy **TE-22**, en route from Swansea to the Mediterranean with a cargo of ammunition and government stores. Off the coast of Algiers, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **U-73**. Only two of the crew survived; John was among those lost.

- **Sinking:** The SS *Brinkburn* was sunk on **21 June 1943** by the German submarine **U-73** (commanded by Horst Deckert) while part of Convoy TE-22. The attack occurred west of Algiers, Algeria, at position 36°53'N, 2°22'E [146](#).
- **Route:** It was en route from Swansea to Gibraltar and then to Philippeville (now Skikda, Algeria)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15224998/john-patrick-collins#add-to-vc>

Third Engineer Brinley Colwill



Service: Merchant Navy

Vessel: S.S. *Treverbyn* (St. Ives)

Date of Birth: 12 May 1918

Place of Birth: Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Date of Death: 21 October 1941 (aged 23)

Place of Death: At sea, southwest of Cape Clear

Commemorated: Tower Hill Memorial, London (Panel 111)

Memorial ID: 15225063

Family: Son of Leonard Henry and Margaret Elizabeth Colwill of Glanymor, Llanelli

Brinley Colwill grew up in the coastal community of **Pembrey**, raised by his parents at **Glanymor, Llanelli**. He joined the **Merchant Navy** as a **Third Engineer**, serving aboard the **S.S. *Treverbyn***, a cargo steamship vital to Britain's wartime supply lines.

Final Voyage and Sinking

Brinley served as a **Third Engineer** in the **British Merchant Navy**, assigned to the steamship **S.S. *Treverbyn***, registered in St. Ives.

In October 1941, the *Treverbyn* was part of **Convoy SL-89**, which had departed **Freetown, Sierra Leone**, on 5 October en route to Britain with vital wartime supplies. On **21 October 1941**, at approximately **22:31 hours**, the ship was struck amidships by a single torpedo fired from the German submarine **U-82**, under the command of Oberleutnant zur See Siegfried Rollmann.

The attack occurred southwest of **Cape Clear**, off the Irish coast, at the coordinates **51°00'N, 19°00'W (Grid AL 9818)**. The *Treverbyn* **sank within three minutes**, giving the crew little chance to escape. Tragically, **all 48 men on board were lost**, and **there were no survivors**. Brinley Colwill was just **23 years old**.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15225063/brinley-colwill>

Able Seaman Olaf Dahle



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Rydal Force* (Whitehaven-registered cargo ship)

Date of Death: 24 April 1940

Age: 20

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Able Seaman Olaf Dahle was the son of August and Margaret Dahle of Burry Port, and the grandson of Mrs. R. A. Thomas, also of Burry Port. He served aboard the SS *Rydal Force*, a cargo ship tasked with transporting essential goods during the early stages of World War II.

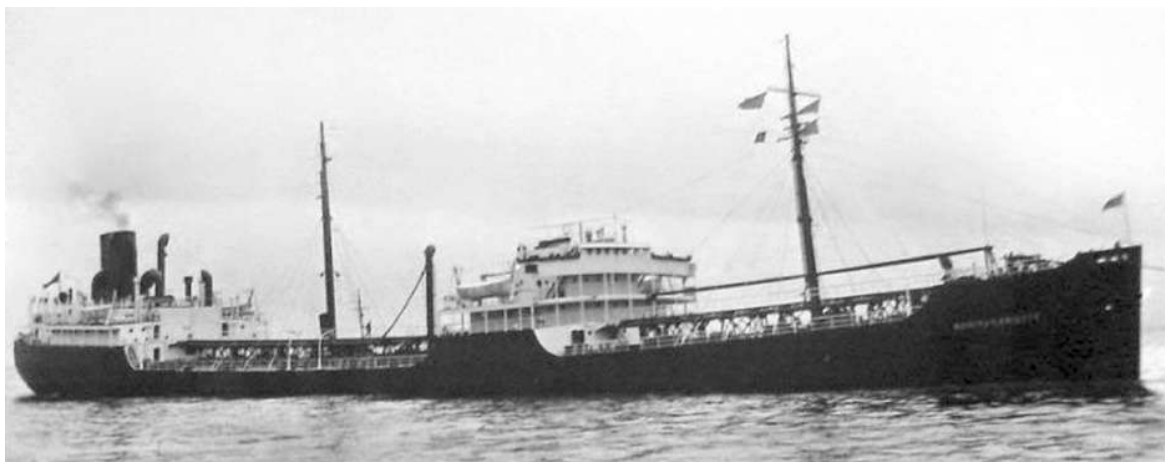
On **24 April 1940**, the *Rydal Force* struck a mine and sank in the North Sea. Olaf was among those lost in the tragedy, aged just 20. The exact location of the sinking and the mine's origin (whether German-laid or otherwise) are part of the broader maritime hazards of the war.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen and fishermen who have no known grave. His sacrifice highlights the perils faced by civilian sailors from the earliest days of the conflict, ensuring Britain's supply lines remained open.

Though his family's roots in Burry Port and his tragic loss reflect the town's connection to the maritime war effort.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15226236/olaf-dahle>

Junior Engineer Officer Joseph Elved Daniel



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: MV *Narragansett* (London-registered tanker, British Petroleum)

Date of Death: 25 March 1942

Age: 26

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Junior Engineer Officer Joseph Elved Daniel was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Daniel and the husband of Ivy Daniel of Burry Port. He served aboard the MV *Narragansett*, a British Petroleum tanker vital for transporting fuel during World War II. On **25 March 1942**, at 06:09 hours, the *Narragansett* was struck by a single torpedo from the German submarine **U-105**, approximately **400 miles east of Hampton Roads, Virginia**. The torpedo hit the stern, causing the vessel to sink rapidly with all hands. Joseph was among the 49 crew members lost, aged 26.

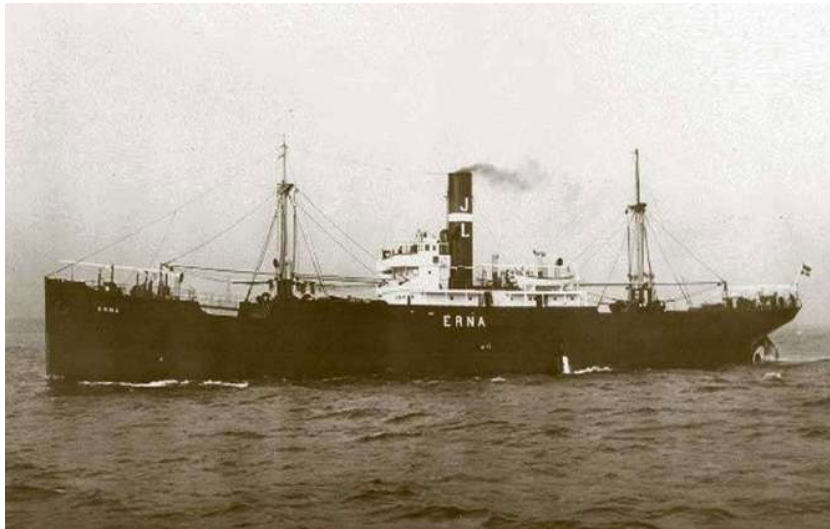
As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen who perished at sea and have no known grave.

His sacrifice underscores the relentless dangers faced by civilian mariners in the Battle of the Atlantic, where U-boats targeted Allied shipping to disrupt vital supply chains.

His wife Ivy remained in Burry Port, and his legacy is a testament to the courage of those who kept wartime Britain fuelled.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15226322/joseph-elved-daniel#add-to-vc>

Able Seaman David Owen Davies



Service Number: D/JX 214757

Branch: Royal Navy (HMS *President III*, attached as DEMS Gunner) **Date of Death:** 25 September 1941

Age: 21

Memorial:

- **Plymouth Naval Memorial**, Devon (Panel 46, Column 3)
- **Aberporth War Memorial**, Cardiganshire
- **Yr Hen Gapel**, Llanbrynmair, Powys

Memorial ID: 13290647

Parents: John Thomas Davies and Martha Davies of Aberporth, Cardiganshire

David was posted as a **Defensively Equipped Merchant Ship (DEMS) Gunner** aboard the steam merchant *SS Erna II*. On 25 September 1941, the ship was torpedoed by **German submarine U-562** while en route from **Swansea to Montreal**, carrying vital wartime cargo. The attack claimed David's life along with other crew members. His body was not recovered, leading to his commemoration on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, which honours sailors with no known grave.

Additional Notes:

- **Name Discrepancy:** The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) erroneously records him as *Edward Owen Davies*, though all other archival and local memorials confirm his correct name as **David Owen Davies**.
- **DEMS Role:** As a DEMS Gunner, David was part of a critical naval initiative arming merchant ships to defend against U-boat attacks during the **Battle of the Atlantic**, one of WWII's deadliest campaigns.
- **Local Ties:** Aberporth's war memorial and Yr Hen Gapel chapel ensure his sacrifice remains remembered in his Welsh homeland.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13290647/david_owen-davies

Able Seaman William David Davies



Service Number: D/JX 291205 **Branch:** Royal Navy

Unit: H.M.S. *President III*

Date of Death: 2 December 1942 **Age:** 21

Able Seaman William David Davies served with the **Royal Navy** during the Second World War and was assigned to **H.M.S. *President III*** — a shore-based accounting establishment responsible for personnel assigned to the **Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships (DEMS)** programme.

These were merchant vessels fitted with defensive armaments and manned in part by Royal Navy gunners to help protect vital convoys from enemy attack.

William's posting suggests he was serving aboard a **merchant or transport ship under the DEMS scheme** when he lost his life on **2 December 1942**, a period marked by intense submarine warfare and heavy losses at sea.

Given the role of DEMS gunners at the time, it's most plausible that **Able Seaman Davies died aboard a merchant ship that was sunk by enemy action—likely a U-boat attack**, although the ship's name and voyage remain unconfirmed. The lack of a clearly recorded ship name could be due to several reasons:

- **Incomplete records** from merchant shipping or DEMS casualties—especially for vessels not part of well-known convoy system losses.
- Possible **misdating or misrecording** in official sources.
- Losses on **independent ships** or those not part of larger convoys sometimes received less detailed public documentation.

He was **21 years old**, the son of **David and Sophia Jane Davies**, of **Pembrey, Carmarthenshire**. His name is commemorated by the Royal Navy among the many sailors who served in silence and at great risk aboard the merchant convoys that were the lifeline of Britain during the war.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13290598/william_david-davies

Master David Edmunds



Service: Master, Mercantile Marine

Vessel: *SS Tangistan*

Born: 1871, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Died: 9 March 1915, at sea, off Flamborough Head (aged 44)

Family:

- Son of Joseph and Mary Edmunds
- Married Elizabeth Ann Randell in 1902
- Lived at Kidwelly with their daughter

David Edmunds served in the Mercantile Marine and became Master of the *SS Tangistan*, a 3,738-ton British merchant ship built in 1906 at Hartlepool by William Gray.

On 9 March 1915, while on passage from Benisaf, Algeria, to the River Tees, *Tangistan* was torpedoed without warning by the German submarine U-12 (commanded by Arno Spindler) and sunk about nine miles from Flamborough Head, Yorkshire.

Out of 38 men aboard, only one, J. O'Toole, survived. David was among those lost, aged 44.

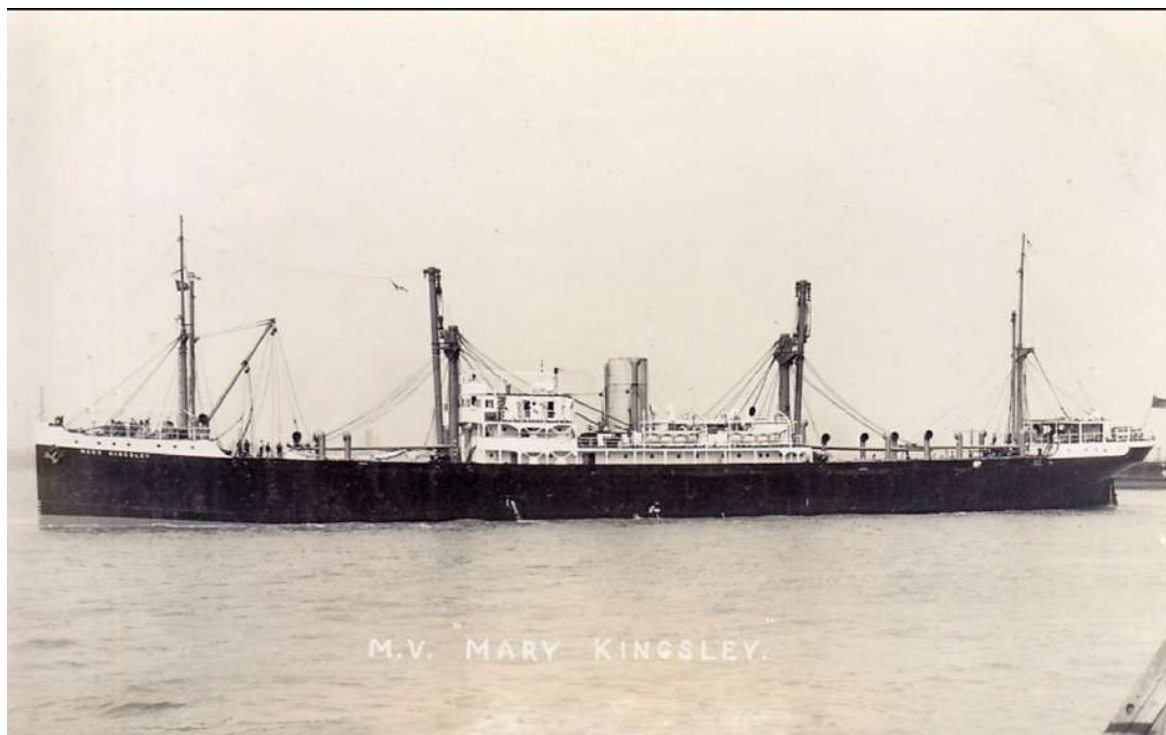
Commemoration:

With no known grave but the sea, David is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London, which honours the men of the Mercantile Marine lost in the Great War.

- CWGC Memorial ID: 15228114
- Memorial Reference: *SS Tangistan* panel

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15228114/david-edmunds>

Steward Joseph Emery



Birth: 1867

Death: 2 January 1918 (aged 50–51) **Rank:** Steward

Service: Mercantile Marine

Vessel: S.S. *Kingsley*

Date of Death: 2 January 1918

Joseph Emery was a devoted sailor and loving husband to Elizabeth Emery, daughter of Anne Evans of Burry Port. His life was marked by dedication, courage, and an unwavering commitment to duty.

As a seasoned mariner, Joseph was serving aboard the S.S. *Kingsley* when disaster struck off the coast of Cornwall on 2 January 1918.

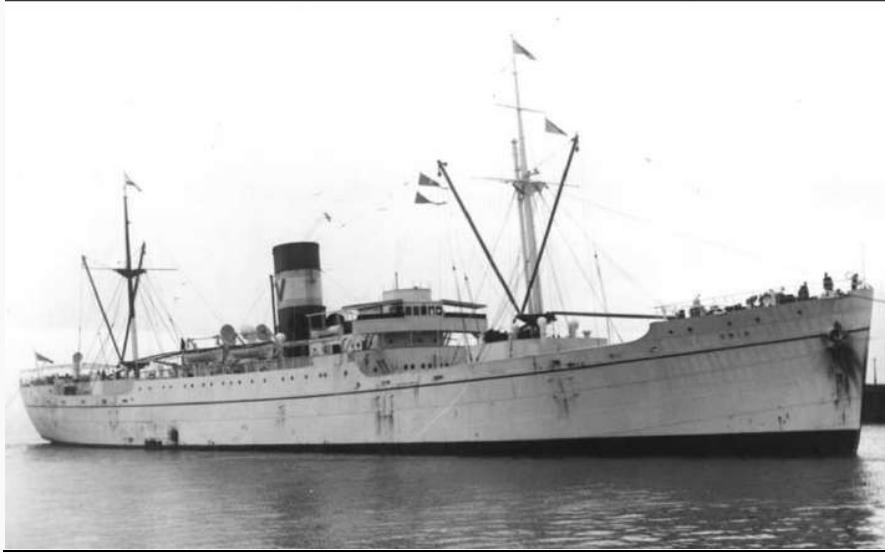
The *Kingsley* came under attack from a German U-boat, which opened fire with its deck gun, causing severe damage to the ship. Despite the ferocity of the assault, the crew managed to steer the vessel to safety at Penzance.

Tragically, Joseph Emery was one of four brave men who lost their lives during this perilous engagement. At the age of 50, he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

Joseph's remains were returned with honour and laid to rest with full military rites at St. Illtyd Churchyard in Pembrey.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180499/joseph-emery>

Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle



Service: Royal Naval Reserve

Date of Birth: 1908, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales **Date of Death:** 24 February 1941 (aged 32) **Memorials:**

Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56694505/arthur_charles-gravelle

Family grave, St. Illtyd's Churchyard, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261844234/arthur_charles-gravelle

Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle was born in 1908 in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, the son of **David John Gravelle** and **Agnes Mildred Gravelle**. Following the early death of his father in 1917, his mother relocated with the family to Cheam, Surrey.

Arthur maintained strong ties to his Welsh roots, and his name is still remembered locally. Arthur dedicated a number of years to service in the **Royal Naval Reserve**, displaying steadfast commitment well before the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the war, he served as an officer aboard **H.M.S. Manistee**, a defensively equipped merchant ship fitted with four guns to protect Allied convoys from submarine attacks. On **24 February 1941**, while sailing with **Convoy OB-288** in the North Atlantic, **H.M.S.**

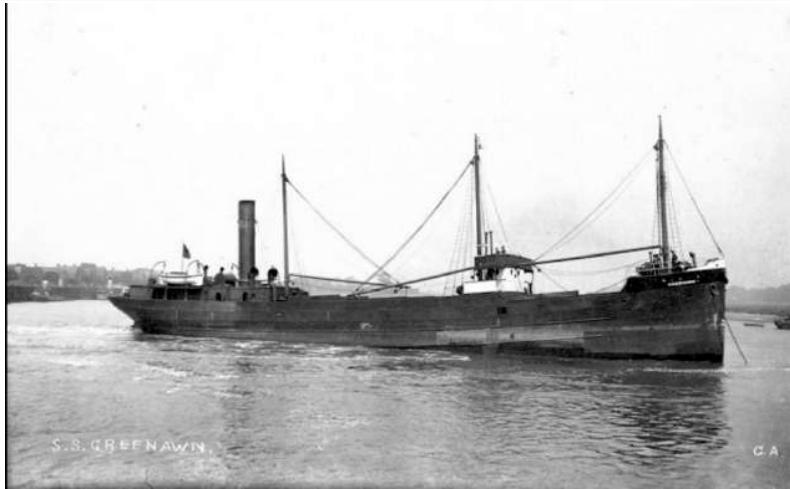
Manistee was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **U-107**, under the command of Günter Hessler.

The vessel was lost with **all 141 hands**, including Lieutenant Gravelle.

He was **32 years old** at the time of his death.

Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle is commemorated with honor on the **Portsmouth Naval Memorial**, which bears the names of Royal Navy personnel lost at sea with no known grave. He is also remembered on the **Gravelle family grave** at **St. Illtyd's Churchyard** in his hometown of **Pembrey**, preserving his connection to the community he came from.

Second Engineer Officer John Jones



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Greenawn* (Goole-registered steamship)

Date of Death: 3 April 1941

Age: 67

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London (Panel 53)

Second Engineer Officer John Jones was born on 6 September 1873, the son of David Jones of Silver Row, Burry Port. He married Clara Jane Spencer on 26 April 1908, and the couple settled at 30, Silver Row. A seasoned mariner, John served at sea throughout the **First World War** before working ashore as a boilerman and stoker in Burry Port. Tragedy struck on **27 September 1940** when his son, **Stanley Jones**, perished during the sinking of the **SS Coast Wings**. Soon afterward, John returned to sea as Second Engineer Officer aboard the *SS Greenawn*, a steamship carrying cement from London to Invergordon. On **3 April 1941**, the *Greenawn* was lost with all hands in the North Sea, likely due to an attack by enemy aircraft. John was 67 years old at the time of his death, making him one of the oldest Merchant Navy casualties of World War II. He is commemorated on **Panel 53** of the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, alongside his son Stanley, who is also honoured there. Their dual sacrifice epitomizes the profound losses endured by maritime communities like Burry Port during both world wars.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15235682/john-jones>

Donkeyman Stanley Jones



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Coast Wings* (London-registered merchant steamer, Wing Line Ltd, Cardiff)

Date of Death: 27 September 1940

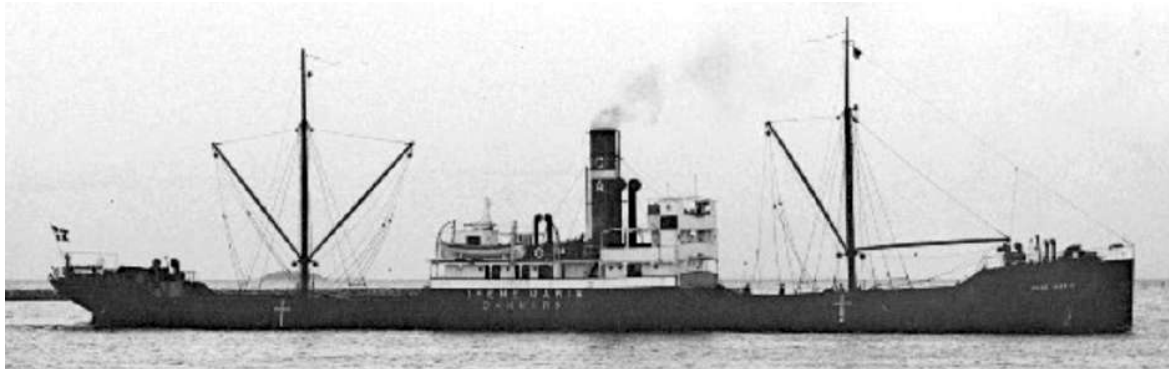
Age: 24

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Donkeyman Stanley Jones was born on 18 August 1915, the son of John Jones and Clara Jane Jones (née Spencer) of 30, Silver Terrace, Burry Port. Prior to the war, he worked as a labourer but swiftly followed the family's maritime tradition by enlisting in the Merchant Navy. Stanley served aboard the SS *Coast Wings*, which departed Gourock for Lisbon in September 1940 as part of **Convoy OG-43**. Falling behind the main convoy due to mechanical difficulties, the vessel was steaming unescorted approximately **250 miles west-southwest of Cape Clear, Ireland**, when it was struck by a torpedo from the German submarine **U-46** (commanded by Engelbert Endrass) in the early hours of **26 September 1940**. The ship sank within minutes, claiming the lives of 16 crew members, including Stanley. Aged 24, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London. Tragically, his father, **John Jones** (Second Engineer Officer, SS *Greenawn*), also perished at sea just six months later **3 April 1941**, highlighting the immense sacrifices made by the Jones family during the war.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15235743/stanley-jones#add-to-vc>

Second Radio Officer Vernon John Martell Lewis



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Irene Maria* (London-registered cargo ship)

Date of Death: 28 November 1940

Age: 18

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Second Radio Officer Vernon John Martell Lewis was the son of William John and Mary Margaretta Lewis of Burry Port. He served aboard the SS *Irene Maria*, a cargo ship vital to Britain's wartime supply chain.

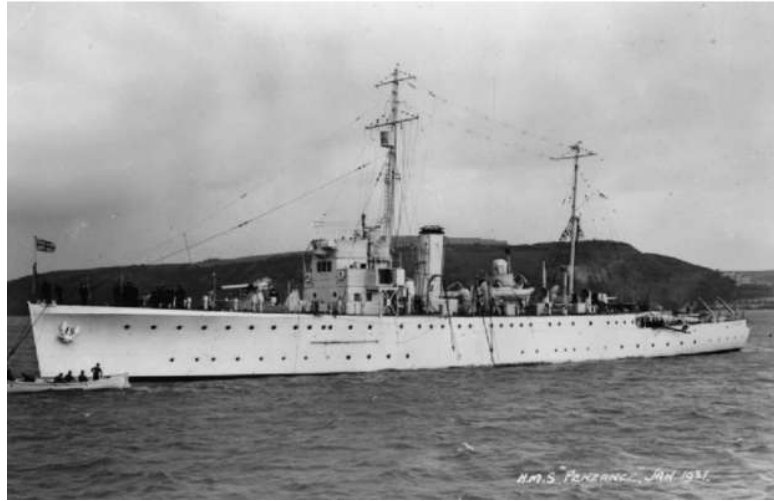
On **28 November 1940**, the *Irene Maria* was traversing the North Atlantic when it was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **U-95** (commanded by Gerd Schreiber). The attack resulted in the loss of 25 crew members, including Vernon, who was just 18 years old.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen with no known grave. His role as a Radio Officer placed him at the heart of communications during the perilous Atlantic crossings, underscoring the bravery of young mariners who maintained critical links amid U-boat threats.

His sacrifice, like so many from coastal communities such as Burry Port, highlights the silent heroism of the Merchant Navy in World War II.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15237817/vernon-john-lewis>

Ordinary Seaman Thomas King



Royal Navy – Second World War

Service Number: P/JX 253120

Age at Death: 34

Date of Birth: 12 May 1908

Date of Death: 4 April 1942

Commemorated: Portsmouth Naval Memorial and Burry Port War Memorial

Born on **12 May 1908**, **Thomas King** was the son of **Albert John King**, a dockworker, and **Sarah King**, of **Burry Port**, Carmarthenshire. He was baptised at **St Mary's Church** and attended **Burry Port Council School**, growing up in the heart of a bustling Welsh port town that shaped his early life and maritime aspirations.

Following in his father's footsteps, Thomas pursued work on the docks and eventually entered the merchant marine. In **1935**, he married **Elizabeth Williams** of nearby **Pembrey**, and the couple settled in **Canning Town, Essex**, where Thomas worked as a **stevedore** in the London docks.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Thomas volunteered for the **Royal Navy** in early **1940**, his seafaring experience making him a valuable recruit. He was assigned to **HMS Penzance**, a sloop engaged in escorting merchant convoys across the treacherous waters of the **North Atlantic**—a crucial front in the **Battle of the Atlantic**.

On **4 April 1942**, during the escort of **Convoy OG 82** en route to Gibraltar, **HMS Penzance** came under threat from enemy submarines. Although the ship successfully completed its mission, **Ordinary Seaman Thomas King** was tragically lost overboard during the operation. His body was later recovered from the sea and brought home.

Thomas was laid to rest in **Burry Port**, where over **300 mourners** attended his funeral at **St Mary's Church**. The **Reverend D. Elvet Lewis** led the service and described him as "*a true son of the sea, who gave his life that Britain's lifelines might remain open.*"

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/222175169/thomas-king>

Fourth Engineer Officer John C. Knowles (1921–1941)



Merchant Navy – Second World War

Vessel: M.V. *Darlington Court* (London)

Age at Death: 19

Date of Death: 20 May 1941

Commemorated: Tower Hill Memorial, London **Panel 34**

Born in **1921** in **Pembrey**, Carmarthenshire, **John C. Knowles** was the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Knowles**, and part of a proud Welsh maritime community. Choosing a life at sea, he joined the **Merchant Navy**, rising to the position of **Fourth Engineer Officer** at a notably young age. By **1941**, John was serving aboard the **motor vessel (M.V.) *Darlington Court***—a British merchant ship operating in the perilous waters of the **North Atlantic**, supplying vital cargo during the height of the **Battle of the Atlantic**.

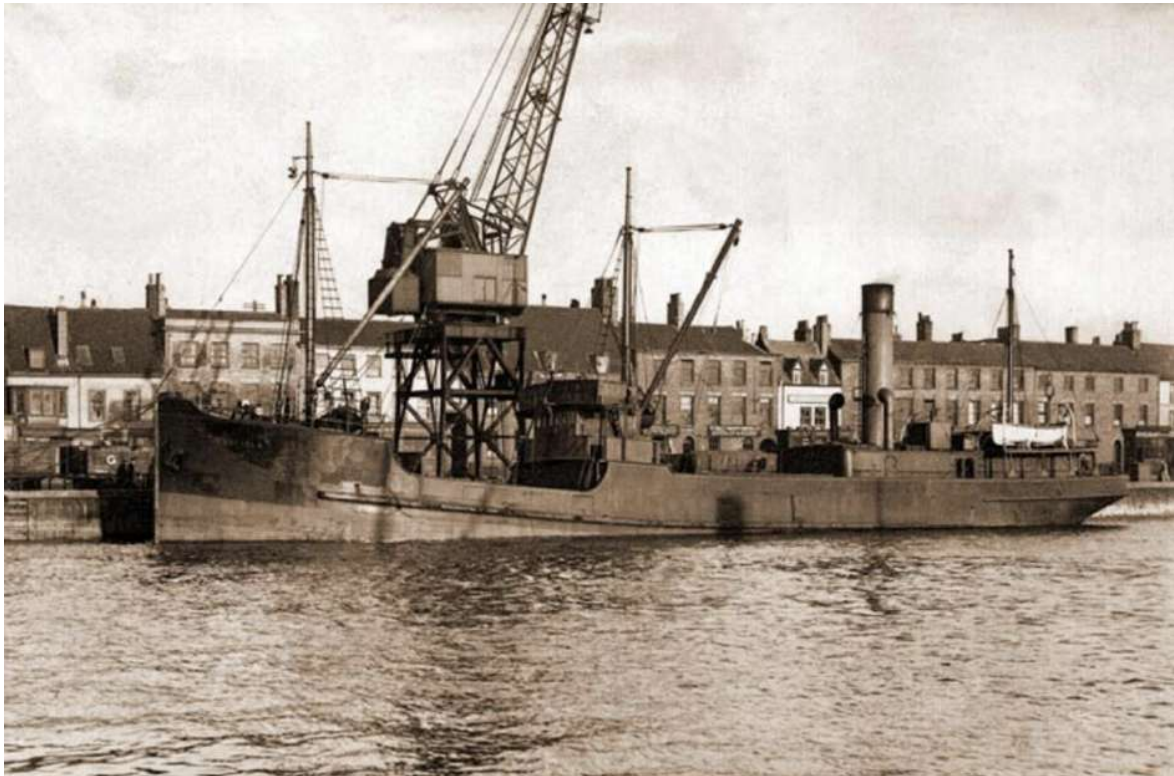
On **20 May 1941**, while sailing in **Convoy HX-126** south of **Cape Farewell, Greenland**, the *Darlington Court* was torpedoed and sunk by **German U-boat U-556**, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Herbert Wohlfarth. The vessel was hit three times—at 14:48, 14:50, and 15:16—and sank with heavy loss of life. Of those aboard, only **twelve survivors**—including the ship's master, ten crew members, and one gunner—were rescued by the convoy rescue ship *Hontestroom* and landed at **Reykjavik, Iceland** on **27 May 1941**. Tragically, **22 crew members, three gunners, and three passengers** perished. **Fourth Engineer Officer John Knowles** was among those lost.

As John's body was never recovered, his name is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in **London**, which honours the thousands of men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who gave their lives in both World Wars and have no known grave. A young man with a promising future, John C. Knowles exemplified the courage and quiet dedication of the Merchant Navy, whose dangerous yet vital wartime service sustained Britain's survival during its darkest hour.

"He is not forgotten, nor ever shall be, as long as we cherish the freedom of the sea."

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15236903/john_c-knowles

Second Mate Thomas Llewellyn McFadden



Service: Mercantile Marine Ship: SS Framfield
Date of Death: 24 October 1916 Age: 23

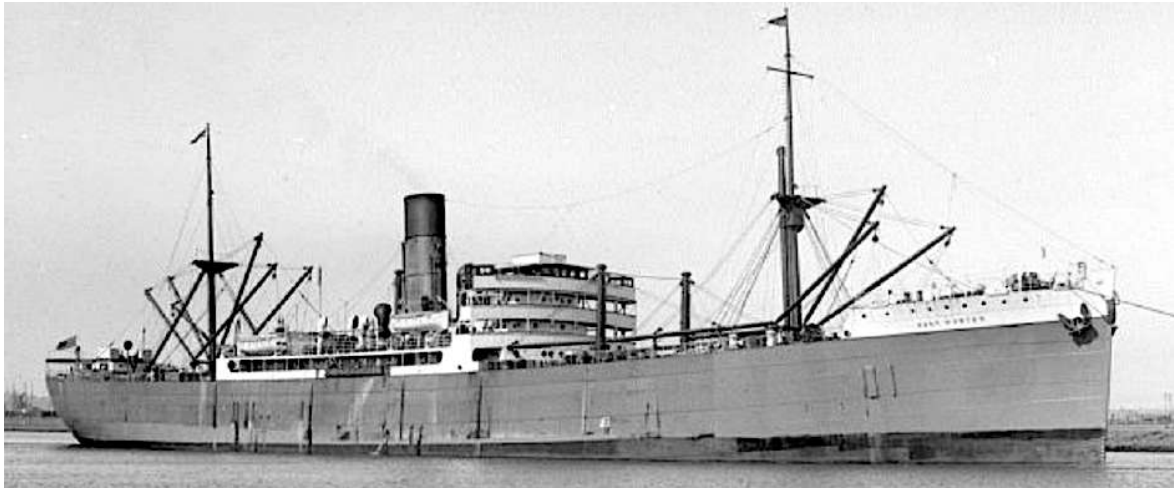
Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Second Mate Thomas Llewellyn McFadden was born in Mostyn, North Wales, the son of James and Mary Ann McFadden. The family resided at St Dogmaels before moving to 40, Sandfield Row, Burry Port. Thomas served aboard the merchant ship SS Framfield during the Great War.

On 24 October 1916, the SS Framfield struck a German mine and sank, resulting in Thomas's drowning at age 23. As a merchant mariner whose grave is the sea, he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London, which honors those of the Mercantile Marine who have no known grave. His sacrifice highlights the often-overlooked dangers faced by civilian sailors in wartime waters.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15240254/thomas-llewellyn-mcfadden>

Assistant Cook Edwin Henry Persson



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Port Hunter* (London-registered cargo liner)

Date of Death: 11 July 1942

Age: 25

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Assistant Cook Edwin Henry Persson was the son of Dorothy Persson of Burry Port. He served aboard the SS *Port Hunter*, a cargo liner tasked with transporting vital wartime supplies, including ammunition and depth charges.

On 11 July 1942, the *Port Hunter* was detached from Convoy OS.33 en route from the UK to Auckland, New Zealand, to proceed independently to Durban for refuelling. At 23:45 hours, the vessel was attacked and sunk by the German submarine U-582 (commanded by Werner Schulte) in the Mid-Atlantic. The attack resulted in the loss of all 89 passengers and crew, including Edwin.

Aged 25, he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London, which honours merchant seamen who have no known grave. His role as an Assistant Cook, though non-combatant, was essential to the crew's morale and sustenance during long, perilous voyages.

His sacrifice underscores the relentless dangers faced by civilian sailors in the Battle of the Atlantic, where even auxiliary crew members shared the ultimate risk.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15369068/edwin-persson>

Second Radio Officer Albert Leslie Putz



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: MV *Empire Comet* (Greenock-registered cargo vessel)

Date of Death: 17 February 1942

Age: 19

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

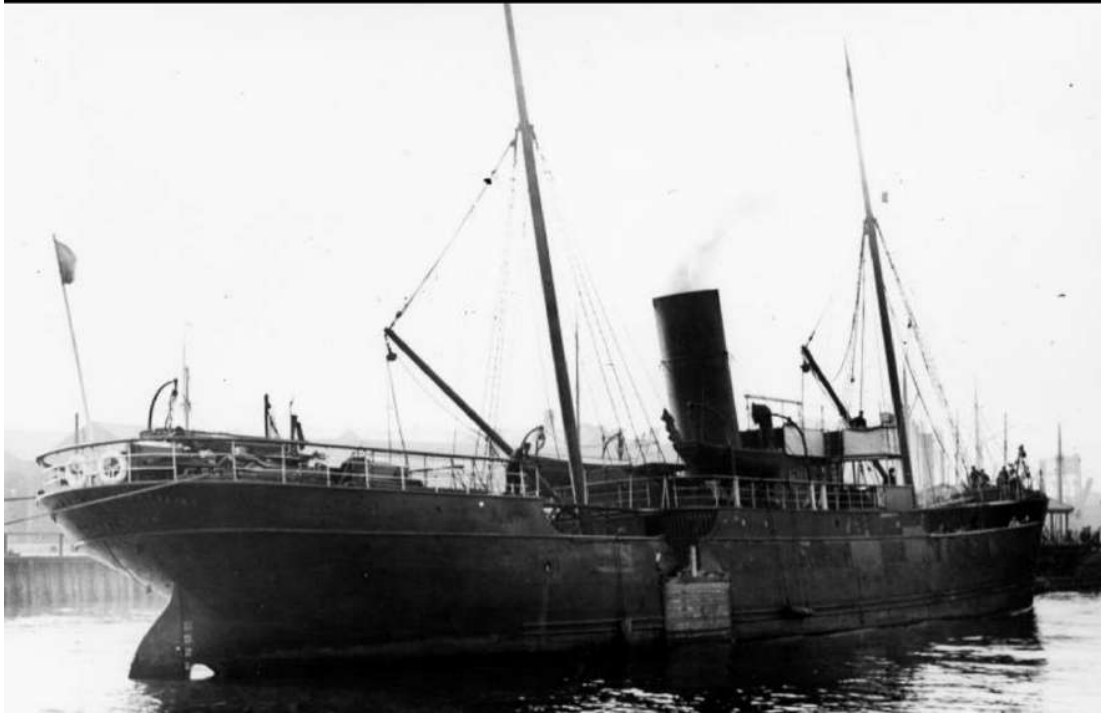
Second Radio Officer Albert Leslie Putz was the son of Albert Edgar and Margaret Jane Putz of Burry Port. He served aboard the MV *Empire Comet*, a cargo vessel transporting essential wartime supplies, including manganese ore, tea, groundnuts, and linseed oil.

The *Empire Comet* sailed from Bombay on **12 November 1941** as part of **Convoy HX-174** bound for Manchester. On **17 February 1942**, west of Rockall, the ship was intercepted and sunk by a torpedo from the German submarine **U-136** (commanded by Heinrich Zimmermann). Tragically, all hands were lost, including Albert, aged 19.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen who perished at sea and have no known grave. His role as a Radio Officer was critical for communication and distress signals, often requiring him to remain at his post during attacks. Albert's sacrifice highlights the immense risks faced by young mariners in the Merchant Navy, whose efforts were vital to sustaining Britain's war economy.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15369991/albert-leslie-putz>

2nd Engineer David Edmunds Rees



Service: Mercantile Marine

Ship: SS Minister Tak Van Poortvliet (previously identified as SS Camelata) Date of Death: 2 May 1917

Age: 24

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

Service: Mercantile Marine

Ship: SS Minister Tak Van Poortvliet (Dutch Steamer, 1106 tons) Date of Death: 24 April 1917

Age: 24

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

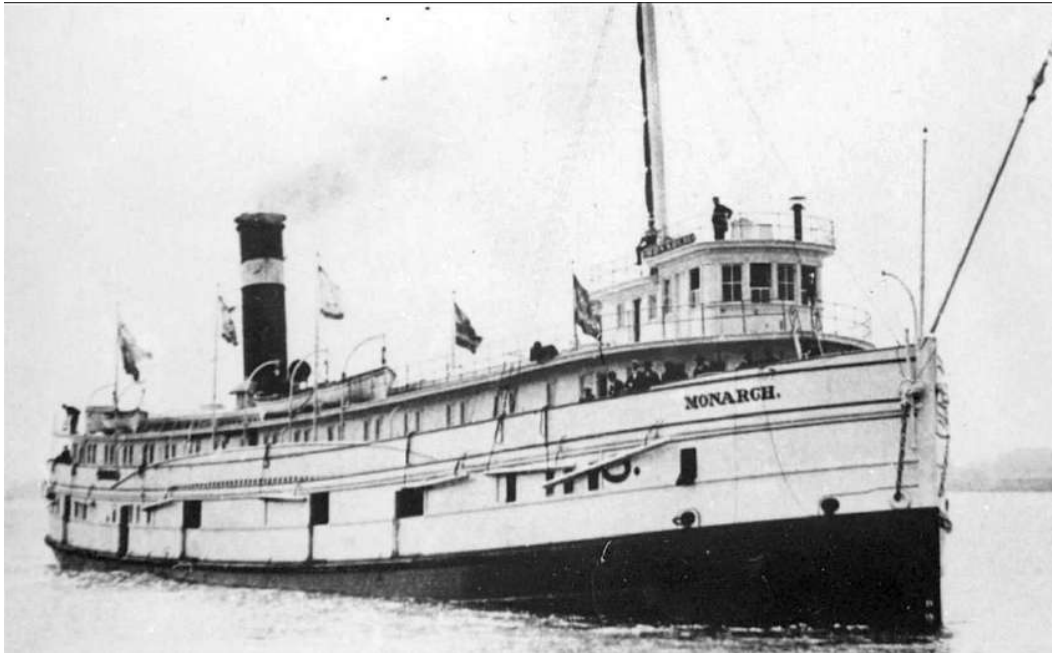
Second Engineer David Edmunds Rees was the son of David and Mary Rees of 27, Church Road, Burry Port. He served aboard the **SS Minister Tak Van Poortvliet**, a Dutch steamer (1,106 tons) owned by N.V. Stoomvaart Maatschappij Friesland of Amsterdam. The vessel was built in Hull in 1899.

On 24 April 1917, while en route from Hull to Harlingen, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine **UB-10** (commanded by Erich von Rohrscheidt) approximately 20 miles off IJmuiden, Netherlands. David was killed in the attack, aged 24.

As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honors merchant seamen and fishermen who have no known grave. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice underscores the peril faced by civilian mariners during the war, even aboard neutral vessels.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15370432/david-edmunds-rees>

Second Engineer Officer Wynford Rees



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *The Monarch* (Glasgow-registered merchant vessel)

Date of Death: 20 June 1940

Age: 21

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London (Panel 107)

Second Engineer Officer Wynford Rees was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rees of Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. He served aboard the SS *The Monarch*, an 824-ton steam cargo ship owned by J. Hay & Sons of Glasgow. On **19 June 1940**, the unescorted *The Monarch* (Master John McNeill) was en route from Tonney-Charente, France, to Falmouth, England, carrying ballast². At **04:57 hours**, the vessel was struck in the stern by a **G7a torpedo** fired by the German submarine **U-52** (commanded by Otto Salman) approximately **60 miles west of Belle Île** in the Bay of Biscay². The ship sank within four minutes, resulting in the loss of all 12 crew members. Wynford was among those killed, aged 21. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London (Panel 107), which honours merchant seamen and fishermen who died during both world wars and have no known grave. His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice reflects the dangers faced by civilian sailors in the early stages of World War II, when U-boats targeted Allied shipping indiscriminately.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15370430/wynford-rees>

Fireman & Trimmer Leslie Glyndon Williams

No Known image this is a close resemblance of SS Ocean Viceroy



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Ocean Viceroy* (Glasgow-registered Liberty Ship)

Date of Death: 29 March 1943

Age: 25

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

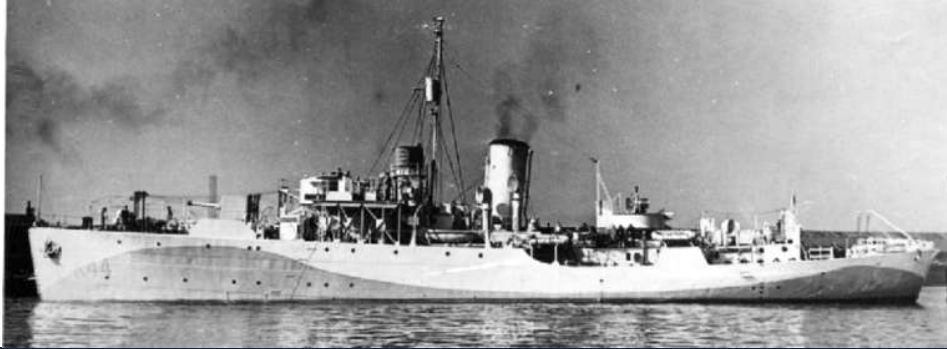
Fireman and Trimmer Leslie Glyndon Williams was the son of Evan and Sarah Williams of Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. He served aboard the SS *Ocean Viceroy*, a Liberty Ship built in the United States and operated under the British flag during World War II.

On **29 March 1943**, the *Ocean Viceroy* was part of **Convoy SL-126** (Sierra Leone to the UK) when it was attacked by the German submarine **U-662** (commanded by Wolfgang Hermann) in the Mid-Atlantic. The ship was struck by a torpedo but managed to survive the attack and limp to safety, thanks to the efforts of its crew and damage control. Tragically, Leslie was killed in the initial explosion, aged 25. As his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen who died at sea and have no known grave. His role as a Fireman and Trimmer involved gruelling work in the ship's engine room, maintaining steam pressure and coal supplies—a critical yet perilous role during wartime voyages.

His parents remained in Burry Port, and his sacrifice underscores the bravery of those who served in the Merchant Navy, often facing unseen dangers beneath the waterline.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15378410/leslie-williams>

Ship's Surgeon Trevor Matthias Owen Williams



Service: Merchant Navy

Ship: SS *Aguila* (Liverpool-registered passenger steamer)

Date of Death: 19 August 1941

Age: 58

Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial, London

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15378466/trevor-matthias_owen-williams

Ship's Surgeon Trevor Matthias Owen Williams was born in Burry Port in 1883, the son of Dr. Trevor Owen Williams, M.D., and Emily Williams.

He qualified with a **B.A. from Cambridge** and **L.A.H. (Licentiate of the Apothecaries Hall) from Dublin** before embarking on a career in the Merchant Navy. He was the husband of Sarah Williams of Devonport, Tasmania.

Trevor served aboard the SS *Aguila*, a passenger steamer tasked with carrying mail and passengers. On **19 August 1941**, the *Aguila* was part of **Convoy OG-71** enroute from Liverpool to Gibraltar and Lisbon, carrying **400 bags of mail**. The convoy was attacked by the German submarine **U-201** (commanded by Adalbert Schnee) in the North Atlantic. The *Aguila* was struck by a torpedo and sank within **90 seconds**, resulting in the loss of **152 lives**, including Trevor.

Among the lost was also the convoy commodore, **Vice-Admiral Patrick E. Parker, DSO, RN**. Aged 58, Trevor is commemorated on the **Tower Hill Memorial** in London, which honours merchant seamen with no known grave. His role as a Ship's Surgeon was critical for providing medical care to crew and passengers during long voyages, and his death highlights the indiscriminate nature of submarine warfare.

<https://tinyurl.com/MNMD-V-MEM-Master>





Five Layers of Remembrance

This ledger is a printed companion to a living digital archive. The Pembrey and Burry Port War Memorials project began as an act of remembrance and grew into something more a systematic attempt to restore names, faces and stories to the fallen of this community, drawing on military records, family histories, burial registers, and the accumulated knowledge of researchers across the world.

Each entry in this ledger represents a verified memorial record on FindAGrave, linked directly to the Pembrey and Burry Port Virtual Cemetery a single digital space in which all 190 individuals are gathered for the first time. The printed page and the digital record are designed to work as one: the QR code beside each name takes any reader with a phone or tablet directly to the full memorial, where photographs, biographical detail, burial coordinates, and further research can be found.

The methodology used here described as Fourth-Generation memorial research moves beyond the static inscription. It combines archival cross-referencing, GPS fieldwork, historical mapping, genealogical databases, and digital publishing to produce a record that is both permanent and continuously accessible. Where a printed document can be shelved or lost, the digital layer endures. Where a screen can be switched off, the printed ledger remains in hand.

For the reader holding this document: every entry is a real person with a real story. The rank, service number and burial location are the dry facts of a life that was anything but dry. Behind each line is a family, a street, a chapel, a name called out at a memorial service in this town for generations. This ledger exists so that those names are not only carved in stone but carried forward into phones, into archives, into the hands of descendants who may not yet know they are looking.

To use the QR codes in this ledger: open the camera app on any smartphone or tablet and point it at the code. No additional application is required. The individual memorial code beside each entry opens that person's FindAGrave page. The virtual cemetery code on the title page opens the full collection of 190 memorials in a single view.

Pembrey & Burry Port War Memorials

FindAGrave Ledger

190 Memorials

Compiled by Graham Tudor Emmanuel

Tudor59 · People's Collection Wales

Vivit Post Funera Virtus

Virtue Lives On After Death

PBP Virtual Cemetery · FindAGrave

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/1752991>



A Virtual Cemetery · 190 Memorials

War Memorials of Pembrey and Burry Port · Tudor59 · People's Collection Wales

Lance Corporal Arthur A. Allen (1911–15 Apr 1944)

Imphal War Cemetery, Imphal, India

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21618887/arthur_a-allen



Private George Leslie Arthur (unknown–28 Mar 1945)

Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12905502/george_leslie-arthur



Private Hugo Robert Arthur (1883–11 Aug 1918)

Heath Cemetery, Harbonnières, France

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56555380/hugo_robert-arthur



Pilot Officer John Raymond Baldock (4 Jan 1932–9 Oct 1953)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230201275/john_raymond-baldock



Corporal Henry Bannell (1884–8 Jul 1916)

Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56420518/henry-bannell>



Private Andrew Barbour (1887–13 Oct 1918)

Haspres Coppice Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56139112/andrew-barbour>



Ship's Steward George Bargewell (1870–3 Mar 1918)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13286436/george-bargewell>



Able Seaman Daniel Charles Bevan (1898–24 Mar 1918)

Bethel Chapel Cemetery, Pembrey

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/252258434/daniel_charles-bevan



Corporal Richard Bevan MM (unknown–15 Sep 1918)

Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56664380>



Pilot Officer Spencer Rhys Bevan-John (11 Mar 1921–30 Sep 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180494/spencer_rhys-bevan-john



Sergeant David Jack Blair (unknown–17 Sep 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180495/david_jack-blair



Trooper Harry Welby Bone (unknown–9 Sep 1944)

Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12905563/harry_welby-bone



Major Hugh Emrys Bonnell (5 Nov 1905–5 May 1941)

Bethlehem Baptist Chapel, Pwll

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209306369/hugh_emrys-bonnell



Hugh Emrys Bonnell (linked memorial) (5 Nov 1905–5 May 1941)

Wickford Memorial Park, Essex

FindAGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/248098951/hugh_emrys-bonnell



Able Seaman Raymond Bowen (10 Feb 1918–26 Jan 1942)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13287502/raymond-bowen>



Ordinary Seaman Sidney Bowen (26 Sep 1898–18 Sep 1917)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13287510>



Private George Bradley (unknown–15 Jun 1918)

Magnaboschi British Cemetery, Italy

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21543108>



Sergeant George Warden Brown (unknown–17 Sep 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180496>



Private Joseph Bulcock (1880–20 Apr 1918)

Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12725135>



Sapper Alan Cuthbert Calvert (1890–8 Sep 1915)

Green Hill Cemetery, Gallipoli

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56414750>



Private Walter Camp (1898–19 Nov 1918)

Terlinthun British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55974499>



Second Lieutenant Frederick Arthur Campbell (1884–22 Mar 1918)

Pozières Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16082011>



Lance Corporal William Johnston Campbell (1892–20 Nov 1917)

Orival Wood Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56051123>



Corporal Ronald David Charles Cant (1921–22 Dec 1944)

Sittard War Cemetery, Netherlands

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13895941>



Lance Serjeant Cecil Richard Trevor Chard (1884–13 Oct 1915)

Loos Memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15341748>



Private John Charles (unknown–16 May 1915)

Le Touret Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15273580>



Lieutenant Colonel David Brynmor Chiles-Evans (1877–23 Apr 1917)

Bethune Town Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56164673>



Third Engineer William Lewis Christie (1889–25 Aug 1917)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180497>



Private Ernest Newton Cole (1888–11 Apr 1918)

Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11970043>



Lance Corporal Victor James Cole MSM (1890–27 Sep 1918)

Llanelli District Cemetery

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24254676>



Deck Hand John Patrick Collins (unknown–21 Jun 1943)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15224998>



Leading Aircraftman Michael Denis Collins (unknown–15 Aug 1943)

Ranchi War Cemetery, India

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21620696>



Private Reginald Lingard William Collins (1892–1 Apr 1917)

Gorre British & Indian Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56488061>



Third Engineer Brinley Colwill (12 May 1918–21 Oct 1941)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15225063>



Third Engineer Officer Brinley Colwill (Bethel Chapel) (1918–21 Oct 1941)

Bethel Chapel Cemetery, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230660188>



Sergeant John Douglas Laing Cooper (unknown–17 Sep 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180408>



Edith Ellen Copham (Munitions Worker) (1899–18 Nov 1918)

Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228656734>



Able Seaman Olaf Dahle (unknown–24 Apr 1940)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15226236>



Junior Engineer Officer Joseph Elved Daniel (unknown–25 Mar 1942)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15226322>



Captain Ralph Picton Daniel (Pembrey) (1882–31 Jul 1917)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/272341912>



Captain Ralph Picton Daniel (Artillery Wood) (1882–31 Jul 1917)

Artillery Wood Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56464615>



Bombardier Frederick Daniell (unknown–1 Oct 1917)

Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No 3, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12321431>



Private Albert Owen Davies (1888–2 Dec 1917)

Tabernacle Baptist Chapelyard, Burry Port

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144041682>



Able Seaman David Owen Davies (unknown–25 Sep 1941)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13290647>



Flight Lieutenant Evan Arthur Davies (unknown–13 Feb 1943)

Gavres Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68284795>



Private James Davies (unknown–10 Jul 1916)

Cimetière Saint Sever, Rouen, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55944827>



Private Samuel John Davies (unknown–21 Jul 1916)

Abbeville Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56467952>



Fusilier Vincent Howell Davies (unknown–6 May 1944)

Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17775086>



Able Seaman William David Davies (unknown–2 Dec 1942)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13290598>



Lieutenant Samuel William Dunn (24 Sep 1876–10 Jul 1918)

Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21624445>



Master David Edmunds (1870–9 Mar 1915)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15228114>



Captain David Gwynne Edmunds (1896–25 Nov 1917)

Cambrai Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56026107>



Steward Joseph Emery (1867–2 Jan 1918)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180499>



Lance Corporal William Evans (1895–15 Jul 1916)

Amara War Cemetery, Iraq

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56324833>



Private William Fanning (unknown–31 Jul 1917)

Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11992370>



Mary Fitzmaurice (Munitions Worker) (1882–18 Nov 1918)

Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228658461>



Private Thomas Charles Fuller (1881–7 Nov 1914)

Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56079503>



Private Lawrence Winson Gange (1912–19 Sep 1944)

Gradara War Cemetery, Italy

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56524520>



Second Lieutenant Thomas George (Caterpillar Valley) (1894–27 Aug 1918)

Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15290804>



Second Lieutenant Thomas George (Pembrey) (1894–27 Aug 1918)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/262411373>



Sapper Adam Gillespie (Mar 1878–1 Mar 1917)

La Gorgue Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37787320>



Lieutenant Montague Beaumont Glover (1894–11 Aug 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180500>



Private Joseph Gower (23 Oct 1896–25 Aug 1918)

Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56673727>



Able Seaman Frederick Gravell (1923–22 May 1941)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13293571>



Lieutenant RNR Arthur Charles Gravelle (Pembrey) (Jul 1908–24 Feb 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261844234>



Lieutenant Arthur Charles Gravelle (Portsmouth) (Jul 1908–24 Feb 1941)

Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56694505>



Private Benjamin Griffiths (1907–2 Jul 1940)

Brookwood 1939–1945 Memorial, Surrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56076132>



Sapper Frank Gibson Griffiths (1897–4 Oct 1917)

Canada Farm Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11154503>



Gwynfryn James Griffiths (1921–10 Jul 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230048044>



Gunner Trevor Griffiths (1899–24 Sep 1917)

Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13806876>



Kapitan Roman Grzanka (1 May 1912–27 Jun 1943)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228015146>



Private Frederick George Hallett (unknown–27 Sep 1918)

Louveral Military Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56185222>



Private Thomas John Hawkins (unknown–19 Sep 1914)

Braine Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56854017>



Leading Aircraftman Harold George Henry (21 Jun 1911–24 May 1942)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180501>



Private Charles Edward Hewitt (unknown–27 Apr 1916)

Amara War Cemetery, Iraq

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56325356>



Private Alfred James Holt (1877–13 Apr 1918)

Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12702531>



Private William Frank Howe (1899–11 Aug 1918)

Dive Copse British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56425225>



Private David Walter Hughes (unknown–24 Aug 1918)

Mill Road Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56411871>



Wing Commander John Harvey Hutchinson (1904–8 Oct 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180502>



Private Sidney Isaac (unknown–10 Jul 1916)

Thiepval Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12442915>



Pilot Officer Frederick William Rupert V Jacques (27 Jun 1929–20 Jun 1957)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230200782>



Private Joseph Henry James (1894–2 Apr 1918)

Pozières Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16077451>



Private William James (1878–11 Jan 1917)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180503>



Leading Aircraftman Ieuan Jenkins (unknown–4 Feb 1944)

Burry Port Cemetery

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144042269>



Sergeant (Pilot) David Alan Vaughan John (1916–28 Aug 1942)

Flushing Northern Cemetery, Netherlands

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14040241>



Private Cadvan Francis Jones (unknown–27 Aug 1918)

Fienvillers British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56194319>



Stoker 2nd Class Evan Jones (1894–17 Sep 1918)

Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124682758>



Sick Berth Attendant Henry James Jones (unknown–26 Mar 1942)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13296890>



Second Engineer Officer John Jones (6 Apr 1873–3 Apr 1941)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15235682>



Private Robert Jones (unknown–11 Jul 1916)

Thiepval Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/285294335>



Donkeyman Stanley Jones (18 Aug 1915–27 Sep 1940)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15235743>



Gunner William Thomas Jones (14 Jun 1906–11 Oct 1943)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180504>



Porucznik Olech Antoni Kawczynski (20 Feb 1916–8 May 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228015273>



Kapral Jacek Zygmund Fran Kinel (28 Mar 1924–8 May 1944)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228015344>



Ordinary Seaman Thomas King (1908–4 Apr 1942)

Burry Port Cemetery

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/222175169>



Fourth Engineer Officer John C Knowles (1921–20 May 1941)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15236903>



Leading Aircraftman George Alfred Layton (unknown–24 May 1942)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180505>



Private George Albert Lewis (unknown–22 Mar 1916)

Brandhoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11181346>



Driver Gwilym Lewis (Dickebusch) (unknown–21 Jul 1917)

Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12515143>



Driver Gwilym Lewis (Bethlehem Chapel) (1879–19 Jul 1917)

Bethlehem Baptist Chapel, Pwll

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/269174150>



Private Isaac Lewis (unknown–29 Jun 1916)

Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56444041>



Private Ivor Idris Lewis (1894–1 Aug 1917)

Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12323573>



Second Radio Officer Vernon John Martell Lewis (unknown–28 Nov 1940)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15237817>



Flying Officer John Mansel-Lewis (1920–4 Apr 1941)

Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56322143>



Second Mate Thomas Llewellyn McFadden (20 Sep 1892–24 Oct 1916)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15240254>



Major Montagu Stanley Melliss (1852–4 Mar 1919)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180506>



Private William John Morgan (unknown–7 Oct 1918)

Bois-des-Angles British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24487699>



Private Luttrell Thomas Morris (Venray) (7 Feb 1916–2 Mar 1945)

Venray War Cemetery, Netherlands

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18397599>



Private Thomas Luttrell Morris (Burry Port) (7 Feb 1916–2 Mar 1945)

Burry Port Cemetery

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261522939>



Leading Aircraftman Wilfred Leonard Morris (1916–1 Aug 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180507>



Gunner John S. Moss (unknown–13 Nov 1944)

Florence War Cemetery, Italy

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56564238>



Able Seaman John Mycock (11 Mar 1894–31 Dec 1917)

Marcoing British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56203347>



Gunner Robert Noble (unknown–11 Feb 1942)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180508>



Sub-Lieutenant (A) Stephen John Maxwell Ogilvie (unknown–7 Oct 1943)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180509>



Sergeant Elwyn Rees Owen (1921–10 Apr 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180511>



Private Griffith John Owen (unknown–12 Apr 1918)

Arras Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124745046>



Private Herbert Samuel James Owen (unknown–7 Jun 1917)

Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12044373>



Starszy Sierżant Waclaw Oyrzanowski (18 Sep 1903–28 Jun 1943)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228015429>



Captain Francis Percy Campbell Pemberton (unknown–19 Oct 1914)

Dadizeele New British Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12519372>



Gunner William Henry Perrin (unknown–3 Oct 1917)

Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11956205>



Assistant Cook Edwin Henry Persson (unknown–11 Jul 1942)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15369068>



Pilot Officer Stanislaw Piatkowski (1 May 1912–25 Oct 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/227995950>



Private Thomas Power (unknown–12 Jul 1916)

Puchevillers British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56578334>



Private Lemuel Price (unknown–11 Aug 1917)

Rocquigny-Equancourt Road Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56581995>



Private Richard Price (unknown–23 Aug 1915)

East Mudros Military Cemetery, Greece

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56470008>



Aircraftman 2nd Class Alec Frederick Prior (unknown–15 Apr 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180513>



Second Radio Officer Albert Leslie Putz (1922–19 Feb 1942)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15369991>



Gunner Frederick Thomas Randell (unknown–14 Aug 1917)

Noeux-les-Mines Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56504801>



Private Albert Rees (unknown–19 Jun 1915)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180514>



Second Engineer David Edmunds Rees (1892–2 May 1917)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15370432>



Private George James Rees (unknown–24 Aug 1916)

Thiepval Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12561221>



Lance Corporal John Rees (unknown–25 Sep 1915)

Loos Memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15354113>



Private Thomas Rees (unknown–25 Sep 1915)

Loos Memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15354116>



Corporal Thomas Eirian 'Taff' Rees (19 Jul 1970–22 May 2003)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/288908110>



Staff Serjeant William Richard Rees (unknown–9 Jan 1944)

Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18400139>



Gunner William Richard Rees (unknown–23 Oct 1918)

India Gate, New Delhi

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18603999>



Second Engineer Officer Wynford Rees (1918–20 Jun 1940)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15370430>



Private David Edward Reynolds (21 Jun 1923–29 Jan 1945)

Forli War Cemetery, Italy

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21615085>



Sergeant William Leyson Rhys (unknown–31 Oct 1942)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180515>



Private Owen Richards (22 May 1890–22 Nov 1918)

Bethel Chapel Cemetery, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/255910887>



Private William Roberts (unknown–26 Aug 1918)

Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56671292>



Lieutenant Allan Whitlock Nicholl Roderick (23 Oct 1895–10 Aug 1915)

Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56019485>



Captain Hume Buckley Roderick (unknown–1 Dec 1917)

Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56493212>



Lieutenant John Victor Tweed Roderick (unknown–21 Aug 1918)

Bac-du-Sud British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56457149>



Gunner John Erasmus Rowlands (1888–8 Aug 1917)

Hop Store Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11158025>



Private John Gwynfor Rowlands (1 Jul 1898–21 Mar 1918)

Arras Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124934699>



Private George Edward Scott (unknown–14 Aug 1915)

Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56020061>



Serjeant John Scott (unknown–11 Aug 1915)

Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56020079>



Private John Scott (1865–3 Sep 1915)

Saint Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Aberavon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129843102>



Private Robert Scott (unknown–9 Jan 1917)

Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18400236>



Warrant Officer Bernard James Skelly (5 Apr 1918–26 Jan 1945)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180516>



2nd Lieutenant Alexander MacDonald Smith (unknown–12 Jun 1940)

Houdetot Churchyard, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/65845432>



Private Thomas Smith (unknown–16 Aug 1916)

Guillemont Road Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56045848>



Pilot Officer Basil York Sowter (1920–17 Sep 1940)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180517>



Private Archie Styles (unknown–4 May 1918)

Harponville Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58918685>



Leading Stoker Thomas Frederick Styles (unknown–12 Aug 1915)

Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56707279>



Private Robert Frederick Tate (unknown–23 Oct 1918)

Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56672420>



Serjeant Joseph Robert Taylor (unknown–19 Sep 1915)

Brandhoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11181521>



Gunner David George Roderick Thomas (1905–23 Feb 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180518>



Able Seaman David James Thomas (22 Dec 1882–1 Nov 1918)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13306215>



Corporal David Ronald Thomas (11 Oct 1919–12 Mar 1945)

Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Netherlands

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13827756>



Private Edwin Thomas (unknown–6 Oct 1918)

Tincourt New British Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56573226>



Private Evan Thomas (unknown–10 Sep 1916)

Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11404986>



Private Gwyther Barclay Thomas (1899–29 Oct 1918)

Hermon Wesleyan Chapelyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25591106>



Huw Thomas (1916–16 Feb 1938)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/272340950>



Private John Thomas (1883–12 Apr 1918)

Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12707718>



Serjeant John Thomas (1913) (1871–31 Mar 1913)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230232445>



Serjeant John Thomas (1915) (1886–3 Sep 1915)

Bethlehem Baptist Chapel, Pwll

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/255919918>



Second Lieutenant William Eric Thomas (1897–31 Jul 1917)

Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12032167>



Flying Officer Beverley John Wentworth Thomson (unknown–6 Jan 1945)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180519>



Private Martin Tierney (unknown–20 May 1916)

Ration Farm La Plus Douve Cemetery Annex, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11506924>



Writer Gordon Ashton Twyford (unknown–11 May 1942)

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13306896>



Unknown Airman (unknown–May 1943)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230044991>



Sergeant Charles Albert Venn (7 Dec 1914–24 Feb 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180520>



Private Herbert Wallis (unknown–4 Oct 1918)

Le Cateau Military Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56416187>



Pilot Officer William Richard Aelwyn Walters (6 May 1911–27 Apr 1941)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180521>



Podporucznik Leon Jan Watorowski (22 Mar 1920–8 Dec 1944)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228057238>



Private W. Webber (unknown–18 Sep 1918)

Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56485986>



Flight Officer David Howard Williams (1912–3 Apr 1971)

St. Illtyd Churchyard, Pembrey

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/262414026>



Private David James Williams (unknown–25 Sep 1915)

Loos Memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188272529>



Serjeant Edmund Williams (1894–1 Aug 1917)

Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20734110>



Sapper Herbert Llewellyn Williams (1881–3 Oct 1915)

Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56187650>



Private John Williams (unknown–25 Nov 1917)

Cambrai Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56031127>



Fireman and Trimmer Leslie Glyndon Williams (15 Nov 1916–29 Mar 1943)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15378410>



Private Thomas George Williams (unknown–24 Mar 1918)

Pozières Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16074654>



Signalman Thomas Henry Williams (unknown–26 Aug 1943)

Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22751619>



Surgeon Trevor Matthias Owen Williams (1883–19 Aug 1941)

Tower Hill Memorial, London

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15378466>



Sergeant William Henry Winstone (Jan 1892–31 Jul 1917)

New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12083131>



Private John Edwards Zachariah (1892–24 Nov 1917)

Cambrai Memorial, France

FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56031361>



We will remember them.

Vivit Post Funera Virtus – Virtue Lives On After Death
Graham Tudor Emmanuel · Tudor59 · People's Collection Wales

What This Represents

The Pembrey and Burry Port Memorial Project

There is not another document like this anywhere in the world.

268 pages of individually researched, verified biographies not copied from a register, not pulled from a single database, but cross-referenced across multiple archives, written in full narrative form, and permanently housed in a national heritage institution. Each biography tells not just who died but where they were, what was happening around them, and why their sacrifice mattered. Including people who were not even officially recognised as war casualties but who were found and restored to history through this research.

And it does not sit in a filing cabinet or on a private website. It is linked by a QR code fired into porcelain and set into granite at the Pembrey and Burry Port War Memorial itself. Anyone who stands there today, in fifty years, in a hundred years can scan that code and this entire archive opens in their hand.

No other community anywhere in the world has achieved this combination. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has not done it. The Imperial War Museum has not done it. The Smithsonian has not done it. A retired heritage researcher in Kidwelly, working alone, with nothing but curiosity, determination, and digital tools available to anyone, did it first.

What has been created here is the Fourth-Generation Memorial a concept now gaining recognition in heritage discourse worldwide. The first generation were the physical monuments. The second, archival lists and registries. The third, online memorial websites. The fourth this a permanently integrated digital-physical system, achieved at community level, well ahead of many national institutions.

The archive is held by People's Collection Wales, the national digital heritage platform of Wales, which guarantees its preservation and accessibility for generations to come. When technology evolves, the platform will adapt. The QR code links to something that will outlast the hand that built it.

Every name in this document was a real person. A son, a husband, a father, a neighbour. Their names were etched in stone and very nearly nothing more. This document gives each of them back something that stone alone can never provide a story, a context, a place in the world, and the certainty that they will not be forgotten.

That is what this is. That is what has been built. And there is nothing else like it anywhere.

A Statement on its Global Uniqueness

The claim that this is a world-first is not made lightly. It rests on what makes this project genuinely distinctive not any single element in isolation, but the combination of all of them together:

A permanent physical memorial — granite and porcelain-inlaid QR tile, weather resistant and built to endure centuries.

A verified biographical archive — not names on a list but fully researched individual narratives, cross-referenced across the CWGC, Ancestry, regimental histories, naval records, and local archives, written in narrative form.

Global geo-mapping — every burial and commemoration location plotted interactively across 14 countries.

National heritage hosting — not a private website or social media page but a nationally validated, publicly funded institution People's Collection Wales guaranteeing permanent preservation.

A virtual cemetery — all individuals gathered in one searchable space on Find A Grave, with verified biographies submitted and accepted.

A complete biographical ledger — 268 pages, 190 individual entries, permanently archived and publicly accessible.

This combination has been cross-checked against the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Imperial War Museums, and the Smithsonian Institution's Stories Beyond the Stone project. None have achieved all six elements simultaneously. Most have achieved two or three. None have achieved this at community level.

To the best of our knowledge, verified by independent analysis and cross-checked against the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Imperial War Museums, and the Smithsonian Institution's memorial projects, no other community anywhere in the world has combined verified biographical research, global geo-mapping, interactive virtual cemeteries, a permanent physical QR memorial, and national heritage archive hosting into a single integrated system. If evidence exists of another community having achieved this combination, we will welcome that information because it would mean the model is already spreading.

That final point matters. If someone can demonstrate that this combination exists elsewhere, it does not diminish what has been built here it proves that the Fourth-Generation Memorial model is already working, already spreading, already changing how communities remember. Either way, the work stands.

Graham Tudor Emmanuel

Burry Port, Carmarthenshire | 2026

Vivit Post Funera Virtus — Virtue Lives On After Death



Virtue Lives On After Death