

*Royal British Legion
Llanelli Branch
Festival of Remembrance*



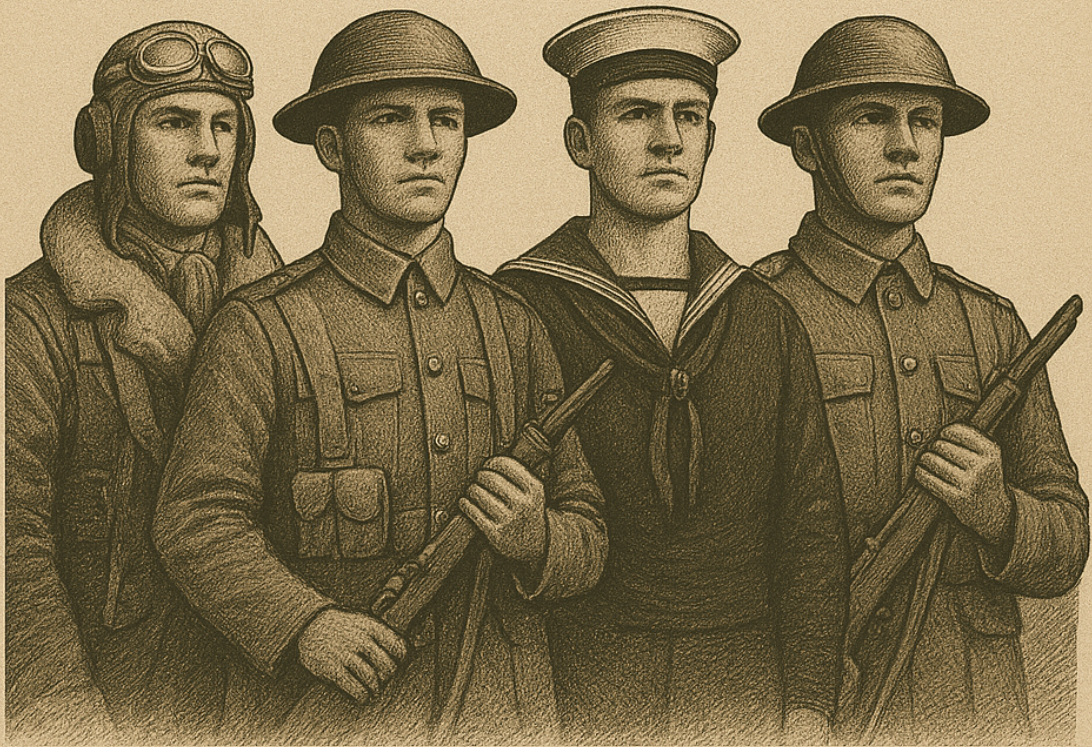
**Royal British Legion
Llanelli Branch**

**FESTIVAL OF
REMEMBRANCE**



16 Nov 2025

LLANELLI MEMORIALS



**WE WILL
REMEMBER THEM**

We will remember them

Memorials – We Will Remember Them



This article is dedicated to commemorating the men of Llanelli who served and gave their lives in the major conflicts that followed the great wars of the twentieth century. From the cold waters of the South Atlantic to the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, these sons, brothers, fathers, and friends made the ultimate sacrifice.

Some rest in distant cemeteries, others in quiet churchyards close to home. Many have no known grave, their names instead inscribed upon memorials so they will never be forgotten.

Over the years, memorials across Llanelli have been carefully researched each one bearing the names of those who fought and died. Together, they tell a story of courage, service, and loss in the Falklands, Iraq, Afghanistan, and here in the United Kingdom.

This work ensures that their memory endures, connecting each name to its memorial so that future generations may honour and remember them.

Memorials

Hugh Emrys Bonnell
Spencer Christian Beynon
David “Duke” Dennis
Ryan Lee Francis
Alwyn Griffiths
Jamie Kirkpatrick
Thomas (Eirian) Rees
Nicholas David Thomas

At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

<https://tinyurl.com/LLanelli-Memorials-BL-VCem>



Hugh Emrys Bonnell, BSc, MRCS, LRCP

Service Number: 91409

Rank: Major

Service: Royal Army Medical Corps

Date of Death: 5 May 1941

Age: 35

Circumstances: Killed in an air raid on Belfast by the German Air Force

Burial: Bethlehem Chapel, Pwll, Carmarthenshire

Memorial: Wickford Memorial Park, Essex



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209306369/hugh-emrys-bonnell>

Major Hugh Emrys Bonnell was born on 5 November 1905 in Llanelli, the son of John and Mary Bonnell. An eminent consultant pathologist, he had practiced at Essex hospitals and maintained a Harley Street practice in London.

During the Second World War, he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps and was sent to Belfast to help treat the high number of casualties from the Belfast Blitz. On the last night of the Blitz, 5 May 1941, he was visiting a boy from Llanelli in the hospital when both were killed during the German air raid.

Major Bonnell was 35 years old at the time of his death. He was brought home to Wales and is buried at Bethlehem Chapel in Pwll. His sacrifice highlights the dangers faced by medical personnel and civilians alike during the air raids on the United Kingdom.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/248098951/hugh-emrys-bonnell>

Spencer Christian Beynon

Rank: Sergeant

Service: Royal Welsh (The Royal Regiment of Wales)

Service Number: 24884871

Date of Death: 14 June 2016

Age: 43



Sergeant Spencer Christian Beynon was a former Army ***Platoon Sergeant*** who had served in ***Iraq*** and ***Afghanistan*** with the ***Royal Welsh*** (the former name of the ***Royal Regiment of Wales***).

Lance Corporal David "Duke" Dennis
Service Number: Not recorded in available sources
Regiment: The Light Dragoons
Date of Death: 4th July 2009-Helmand, Afghanistan
Age: 29
Cemetery: Llanelli District Cemetery, Wales
Born: 16th May 1980



Son of Adele Dennis of Llanelli, and Roger Dennis of Port Talbot.
Fiancé of Lisa Macgregor. Twin brother of Gareth. Stepbrother of Matthew.

David Dennis, known as "Duke," enlisted in the Army on 14 February 2003 as a gunner in the Royal Artillery before joining the King's Troop. He earned his nickname due to his straight-talking character, reminiscent of John Wayne. After serving a six-month tour in Iraq in 2005 attached to The Light Dragoons, he formally transferred to the regiment in February 2006. Despite being the only Welshman in a unit predominantly recruited from North East England, he became a respected and popular soldier. Duke was on his second tour of Afghanistan with NATO forces when he was killed. Serving in the Command Troop of The Light Dragoons Battle Group, he was responsible for maintaining radio communications for the Commanding Officer's tactical headquarters. On 4 July 2009, during Operation PANCHAI PALANG (Panther's Claw) north of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, he was helping secure a helicopter landing site for casualty extraction when he was killed by an improvised explosive device.

He was 29 years old. Described by his commanding officer as "a popular, genuine and heartfelt soldier," Duke was known for his physical strength, professionalism, and strong sense of humour. He was a skilled small arms instructor and fiercely proud of his Welsh roots. His funeral on 28 July 2009 at All Saints Church in Llanelli was attended by over 500 mourners, with 200 more outside, followed by burial at Llanelli Crematorium with full military honours. His sacrifice represents the continued service and loss of Welsh soldiers in modern conflicts, particularly in Afghanistan where British forces were engaged from 2001 to 2014.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/40117743/david-llewellyn-dennis>

Lance Corporal Ryan Lee Francis

Service Number: 25056123

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, The Royal Welsh Regiment

Date of Death: 7th July 2007-Basra, Iraq

Age: 23

Cemetery: Llanelli District Cemetery, Wales

Born: 3rd July 1984, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Wales.



Lance Corporal Ryan Francis, known as "Franky," served with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Welsh Regiment. He had previously deployed on peacekeeping duties in Bosnia and Kosovo before his deployment to Iraq.

On 7 July 2007, just after midnight local time, Ryan was part of a Warrior armoured vehicle patrol in the Tuninah district in northern Basra when the vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED). He was killed instantly in the blast, just four days after his 23rd birthday.

Described as a "proud Welshman and dedicated soldier," Ryan was known for his professionalism, determination, and sharp sense of humour that made him "the life and soul of the platoon." His commanding officers highlighted his commitment under challenging operational conditions.

He is commemorated at Llanelli District Cemetery and the Llanelli Post-WW2 memorial. His sacrifice represents the continued dangers faced by British forces during operations in Iraq following the initial combat phase of the conflict.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/249462972/ryan-lee-francis>

Alwyn Griffiths

Rank: Rifleman

Service: Royal Ulster Rifles, 6th Airborne Division

Date of Death: 24 March 1945

Circumstances: Killed in action during Operation Varsity (Rhine crossing)

Burial: Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Germany



Rifleman Alwyn Griffiths was born in Tunnel Road, Llanelly and worked as a shop assistant before the war. He was a keen pigeon racer in his spare time. He married Megan Norman and they lived at 5 Bowen Terrace, Morfa with their two young children, John, and Patricia.

He enlisted in 1939 and served with the Royal Ulster Rifles, an airlanding unit of the 6th Airborne Division. He was killed in action on 24 March 1945 during **Operation Varsity**. This was the largest single-day airborne operation in history, a massive Allied assault across the Rhine River designed to spearhead the final advance into the heart of Nazi Germany. The operation was a decisive success but was achieved at a high cost, with over 2,000 Allied casualties. The fierce resistance met by the airlanding troops underscored the operation's critical importance in breaking German defences.

Rifleman Griffiths is buried with his comrades in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery. He left behind his wife and two small children, aged four and two. His memory continues to be honoured by his family, who remain proud of his sacrifice and that of all his comrades in this pivotal battle.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56034734/alewyn-griffiths>

Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick

Service Number: 25065548

Regiment: 101 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Corps of Royal Engineers

Date of Death: 27th June 2010-Helmand, Afghanistan

Age: 32

Cemetery: Llanelli District Cemetery, Wales

Born: 1st June 1978, Edinburgh. Raised in Llanelli.



Husband of Heidi Kirkpatrick. Father of Holly.

Son of Ian and Angela Kirkpatrick. Brother of Ross and Claire.

Jamie Kirkpatrick, known as "KP," enlisted in the Royal Engineers in September 1997. He trained as a Combat Engineer and Plant Operator Mechanic, serving with 28 Engineer Regiment in Germany for six years. He deployed to Iraq on Operation TELIC before being promoted to Corporal in 2006.

In 2009, he qualified as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal operator and volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan in April 2010. He served as Number 2 in a Counter-IED Team within the Joint Force EOD Group, operating in Lashkar Gah and Kajaki to clear routes and dispose of IEDs.

On 27 June 2010, while returning to Check Point Kingshill in Nahr-e Saraj, his team came under small arms fire. KP was struck by a single rifle round and killed instantly. He was 32 years old.

Described as "calm under pressure" and known for his catchphrase "E.L.E. (Everybody Loves Everybody)," he was praised for his professionalism and morale-boosting humour. His commanding officer stated his actions had "undoubtedly saved lives in Afghanistan."

He was buried with full military honours at Llanelli District Cemetery on 20 July 2010 and is commemorated on the Llanelli War Memorial. His sacrifice represents the extreme dangers faced by counter-IED operators in Afghanistan.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54300486/jamie-kirkpatrick>

Thomas "Eirian" Rees

Rank: Corporal

Service: British Army, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment

Date of Death: 22 May 2003

Age: 32

Circumstances: Died in a vehicle accident while supervising the unloading of military hardware at Teesport Docks, Middlesbrough

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

Birth Date: 19 July 1970



Corporal Thomas Rees, known to his family as Eirian and to comrades as "Taff," was a soldier from Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, and the son of Bryan and Glynwen Rees. He was a dedicated and decorated member of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, having joined the regiment in 1986. Over his 17-year career, he served in Berlin, Northern Ireland, Belize, Cyprus, and the Falkland Islands.

He was married to Andrea Rees and was a father to two children, Luke and Jessica. On 22 May 2003, while his battalion was preparing for deployment to Iraq, he was supervising the unloading of military hardware at Teesport Docks when an unsecured vehicle rolled down a ramp and crushed him. An inquest returned a verdict of misadventure, and the Ministry of Defence was censured for health and safety failures. He was remembered by his comrades as "the backbone of the platoon." "Censured by the Health and Safety Executive for failing to take adequate precautions to prevent the tragedy.

Corporal Rees's death is a poignant reminder of the dangers faced by service personnel even during pre-deployment preparations. He was remembered by his comrades as "the backbone of the platoon."

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/288908110/thoas-eirian-rees>

Lance Corporal Nicholas David Thomas

Service Number: 24436475

Regiment: 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards

Date of Death: 8th June 1982 Falklands

Age: 25

Died: Sir Galahad in Port Pleasant (No Grave)

Born: 11th May 1957 Llanelli, Wales.



Lance Corporal Nicholas David Thomas, known as Mark, was a soldier of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. He served with distinction, embodying the values of courage and loyalty.

In 1982, his battalion was deployed to the South Atlantic during the Falklands War. On 8 June 1982, Mark was aboard the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Sir Galahad in Port Pleasant, Fitzroy Creek when it was attacked by Argentine Skyhawk aircraft. The ship was struck by three bombs: one detonated in the tank deck where the Welsh Guards were billeted, causing a massive fireball; another exploded in the galley; and the third burst in the engine room. The resulting fires raged for over a week and caused heavy casualties.

Mark was among the forty-eight service personnel killed in the devastating attack. He was 25 years old. The wounded were transferred to HMS Intrepid and then to the hospital ship Uganda. On 25 June 1982, the wreck of Sir Galahad was towed to sea and sunk by HMS Onyx as a war grave at 50°12' S, 56°46' W.

His sacrifice, and that of his comrades, contributed to the eventual liberation of the Falkland Islands. He is remembered as a brave soldier and a beloved son of Wales, whose service represents the continued tradition of Welsh military sacrifice into the late 20th century.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/171365209/nicholas-david_mark-thomas

Their Legacy Lives On



As we walk the paths of Llanelli, 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/Llanelli-Memorials-FV>

