

"A Tribute to Our Servicemen and Women"

Kidwelly, Pembrey & Burry Port



This article is dedicated to remembering the brave men from Kidwelly, Pembrey & Burry Port who served and gave their lives during 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.

Their stories, drawn from headstones, records, and history, are gathered here to ensure their lives and sacrifice are never forgotten. Each name represents not only a life lost, but a promise made to defend freedom, protect others, and stand against tyranny.

This tribute serves as a lasting record for future generations. It is written so that the people of today, and tomorrow, may understand the ultimate sacrifice made by these men, and reflect with gratitude on the peace and liberty we enjoy because of them.

Let us remember them—not as distant names in stone, but as real people whose courage shaped the world, we live in.

We will remember them

Kidwelly Fallen Heroes



The Kidwelly War Memorial, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary soon, was unveiled on May 31, 1924. It commemorates the local men who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The memorial is located on New Street in Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, and is a prominent landmark in the town.

Designed by Glendinning Moxham, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects from Swansea, the memorial features a statue of a soldier with a reversed rifle atop a tall plinth. The plinth, made of Portland stone, is adorned with Greek key motifs and a laurel wreath in relief, bearing plaques with the names of the fallen soldiers.

Among those honoured on the memorial are notable stories such as the three Hughes brothers—David, Samuel, and William—who all died within a year during WWI. Additionally, Royal Marine Delwyn Davies, who drowned in 1943 after a storm off the Pembrokeshire coast, is also remembered.

Kidwelly Town Crucial Role in D-Day Preparations American Forces Gear Up for Operation Overlord

Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire - As the world commemorates the 80th anniversary of D- Day, it is essential to remember the vital preparations that took place far from the beaches of Normandy. The small town of Kidwelly in Carmarthenshire played a significant role in the lead-up to Operation Overlord, hosting American forces as they readied themselves for the monumental invasion that would turn the tide of World War II.

In the months leading up to June 6, 1944, Kidwelly and its surrounding areas became temporary homes to thousands of American soldiers. These troops, part of the extensive build-up for the Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe, were billeted in various locations around the town. Local fields, barns, and community halls were transformed into makeshift barracks and training grounds, while the soldiers prepared for the most significant military operation in history.

Broomhill House

The arrival of the American forces brought a unique dynamic to Kidwelly. The town, which had been relatively untouched by the direct impacts of the war, suddenly found itself at the heart of a crucial military effort. The presence of the soldiers was a constant reminder of the impending invasion and the critical role that Kidwelly would play in its success.



The preparations in Kidwelly were comprehensive and intense. Soldiers engaged in rigorous physical training, honing their skills in marksmanship, tactics, and amphibious operations. The surrounding countryside, with its diverse terrain, provided an ideal setting for the kind of exercises that would be crucial during the landings in Normandy. Training also included the use of mock-ups and simulations to prepare troops for the specific challenges they would face on the beaches of France.

Beyond the physical preparations, the presence of American forces in Kidwelly also required extensive logistical support. Supplies had to be stored and transported, equipment maintained, and communication lines established. The local population played a crucial role in supporting these efforts, often interacting with the soldiers, and providing hospitality. The bond between the American troops and the people of Kidwelly grew strong, creating a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect.

Despite the secrecy surrounding the specifics of Operation Overlord, the townspeople were aware that something monumental was underway. The increased military activity, combined with the presence of high-ranking officers and the visible build-up of men and material, left little doubt that a significant operation was imminent.

On the eve of D-Day, the tension in Kidwelly was palpable. Soldiers wrote letters home, polished their gear, and steeled themselves for the daunting task ahead. The local community, too, felt the weight of the moment, understanding that the success of the invasion could hinge on the readiness of the troops that had been among them.

As the American forces departed Kidwelly for the south coast of England and then across the English Channel to Normandy, the town's role in the grander scheme of the war became clear. The rigorous training and preparation conducted in Kidwelly contributed to the success of the D-Day landings, a pivotal moment in the fight against Nazi tyranny.

Today, as we reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of those who stormed the beaches of Normandy, we also remember the critical contributions of places like Kidwelly. The town's support and the training it facilitated were integral to the success of Operation Overlord. The legacy of this period remains a proud part of Kidwelly's history, a testament to the town's role in one of the most significant military campaigns of the 20th century.

War Memorials Kidwelly

The Hughes Brothers: Stories of Sacrifice

Among the names inscribed on the Kidwelly War Memorial are those of the Hughes brothers—William, Samuel, and David—whose stories of service and sacrifice highlight the profound personal impacts of global conflicts.

William Henry Hughes

Private William Henry Hughes, born in Kidwelly in 1886, was the eldest of the Hughes brothers. At the outbreak of World War I, William enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment and later transferred to the 5th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. His division played a significant role in the Somme Offensive, enduring fierce battles at High Wood, Guillemont, and Le Transloy. Tragically, William was killed in action on April 16, 1917, during the Battle of Vimy, and he is commemorated at the Bois-Carre British Cemetery in Thelus, France.

Samuel Hughes

Private Samuel Hughes, born in 1891, enlisted in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and served with the 8th Battalion. Samuel's division saw extensive action in Gallipoli, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. After falling ill, Samuel returned home but succumbed to sickness on March 12, 1918. He is buried in the Kidwelly St. Mary Churchyard, where his service and sacrifice are remembered.

David Hughes

Private David Hughes, born in 1888, served with the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers. His battalion initially fought in China before joining the Western Front via Gallipoli and Egypt. David was killed in action on April 6, 1916, during his battalion's first spell in the trenches in France. He is buried at the Mesnil Ridge Cemetery in Mesnil Martinsart, France.

Delwyn Davies: A WWII Tragedy

Marine Delwyn Davies, from Llansaint, served with the Royal Marines during World War II. On April 25, 1943, Delwyn was aboard H.M. Landing Craft Gun (L.C.G.) 15 during a tragic incident off the coast of Pembrokeshire. A severe storm caused the landing crafts to sink, resulting in the loss of all hands. Delwyn, only 18 years old, was among those who perished. His body was recovered and buried at Llansaint (Seion) Calvinistic Methodist Cemetery.

To the Glory of God and in memory of the fallen from this Parish.
1914-1919



Private Morgan Morgan 1883-1915

Regiment/Service: Welsh Regiment, 9th Battalion. Morgan Morgan, Private, 13565, Welsh Regiment. Morgan was born in Kidwelly in 1883, the son of David and Amy Morgan. He lived with his wife Sarah Morgan at Bwlch Newydd, Trimaran prior to the war, and enlisted at Llanelli into the 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment. The Battalion was attached to 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division, which had assembled around Bulford during September 1914. Divisional training was completed near Tidworth, from March 1915, and the Butterfly Division crossed to France between 11 to 21 July 1915, moving to positions near Loos. The Division fought during the opening assault at the Battle of Loos, which is where Morgan was killed in action on 25 September 1915. The battalion had taken part in a brave, but impossible charge across No Man's Land, in the face of well positioned German machine guns. Morgan and John Tucker of Kidwelly were killed, and Tom Lewis, Volin Jones, Sid Buist and Charlie Peck of Kidwelly were all wounded in the same charge. Morgan has no known grave and is remembered on the Loos Memorial. His nephew, David, also fell.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15351812/morgan-morgan>

Private John Tucker 1890-1915

John Tucker, Private, 13406, Welsh Regiment. John was born in Llanybri in 1890. He lived with his sister, Sarah George and her husband, at 19, Lady Street, Kidwelly prior to 1911. John enlisted at Kidwelly into the 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was attached to 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division. The Division assembled around Bulford during September 1914. Divisional training was completed near Tidworth, and the Division moved to France during July 1915, taking up positions near Givenchy, north of Loos. The Division fought during the opening attack of the Battle of Loos, which is where John was killed in action on 25 September 1915, alongside his friend Morgan Morgan of Kidwelly. John is buried at Brown's Road Military Cemetery, Festubert, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56454449/john-tucker>

Private David Gower 1895-1915

David Gower, Private, 13462, Welsh Regiment. David was the son of David and Mary Gower, of 38, Gwendraeth Town, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, who were attached to 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division. The Division assembled around Bulford during September 1914. Divisional training was completed near Tidworth, from March 1915, and the Butterfly Division crossed to France between 11 and 21 July 1915, and remained on the Western Front throughout the war. The Division fought at the Battle of Loos, and were still in the area when David was accidentally killed on 23 November 1915, possibly through grenade training. He was 20 years old, and is buried at Chocques Military Cemetery, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56567048/david-gower>

Lance Corporal Ivor Emanuel 1892-1915

Lance Corporal Ivor Emanuel of the Welsh Guards died heroically in the Battle of Loos on September 27, 1915. Born in 1891, Emanuel joined the Welsh Guards, a regiment newly established in February 1915 by King George V.

The Battle of Loos, fought from September 25 to October 8, 1915, in Loos-en-Gohelle, France, marked the first British use of poison gas. Despite harsh conditions and fierce German resistance, Emanuel and his comrades advanced with remarkable courage.

Tragically, Emanuel was killed in action at the age of 24, just two days into the battle. His sacrifice underscores the profound personal losses of World War I. The Welsh Guards suffered significant casualties, but their efforts contributed to the broader war effort.

Lance Corporal Ivor Emanuel's legacy is honoured on memorials dedicated to the fallen of Loos and the Welsh Guards. His bravery and sacrifice remain a poignant reminder of the cost of war and the valour of those who served.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/246243426/ivor-emanuel>

Private William Howard Davies D-1918

Private William Howard Davies, born in Llanelly, Carmarthen, was a dedicated soldier who served with distinction during World War I. Enlisting in Pembrey, Davies began his military career with the South Wales Borderers (regimental number 202062) before transferring to the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), where he served in the 21st Company.

His life was tragically cut short on October 15, 1918, in the fierce battles of France and Flanders, just a month before the Armistice. Davies' death in the Western European Theatre marked him as one of the many who paid the ultimate price in the brutal and relentless conflict.

Private Davies' service number, 116422, stands as a testament to his role in the war. His commitment and sacrifice are a poignant reminder of the bravery and dedication exhibited by countless soldiers. His memory endures, honouring the contributions and sacrifices made by those from his hometown of Llanelly and beyond.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12746715/william-howard-davies>

Private David Hughes 1886-1916

David Hughes, Private, 14762, South Wales Borderers. David was the son of John and Margaret Hughes, of Kidwelly. He married Mary Emily Musk at Seven Sisters in 1907, and the couple lived at 20, Bryndulais Row, Seven Sisters. David worked at the Ynisedwen Tinplate Works at Ystalyfera prior to the war, and enlisted at Ystradgynlais into the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers. The battalion had begun their war in China, where they captured the German Garrison at Tientsin. The Battalion returned to England where they joined 87 Brigade, 29th Division. The Division moved to Gallipoli via Egypt, landing on 25 April 1915. They remained here until evacuation to Egypt on 11 January 1916, and then moved to the Western Front on 15 March 1916. David was killed in action soon after, during the battalions first spell in the trenches, on 6 April 1916, aged 30. He is buried at Mesnil Ridge Cemetery, Mesnil Martinsart, France. Two of his brothers also fell: Sam and Willie Hughes.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58988842/d-hughes>

Private William Henry Hughes 1886-1917

William Henry Hughes, Private, 35648, Machine Gun Corps. William was born in Kidwelly in 1886, the son of John and Margaret Hughes. He married Mary Anne Morgan in 1906, and the couple lived at 52, Water Street, Kidwelly. William enlisted at Carmarthen into the Gloucestershire Regiment. He later transferred into the 5th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, who were attached to the 5th Division. The Machine Gun Corps had been formed prior to the 1916 Somme Offensive which opened on 1 July 1916. The 5th Division fought on the Somme at High Wood, Guillemont, Flers-Courcelette, Moral and Le Transloy. On 5 October 1916, after suffering heavy casualties, the Division moved to Festubert, where they remained until March 1917. They next saw action at the Battle of Arras, fighting at the Battle of Vimy in April 1917, which is where William was killed in action on 16 April 1917. He is buried at Bois-Carre British Cemetery, Thelus, France. His brothers David and Samuel also fell.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56183210/william-henry-hughes>

Private Augustus Edward Hugh

Augustus Edward Hugh, Private, 45307, Welsh Regiment. Augustus was the son of David James and Charlotte Hugh, of Bay View, Station Road, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Haverfordwest into the 8th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, who were attached to 40 Brigade, 13th (Western) Division. The Division concentrated at Blackdown in Hampshire, and on 13 June 1915 left Britain for Alexandria. By 4 July 1915, the Division moved to Mudros, then landed at Gallipoli between 6 and 16 July 1915, relieving the 29th Division. They left and returned to Mudros at the end of the month, and the entire Division landed at ANZAC Cove from 3 August and Hill 60, ANZAC. Soon after 1915, taking part in the Battles of Sari Bair, Russell's Top, and Hill 60, ANZAC. Soon afterwards the Division was transferred from ANZAC to Suvla Bay, and it was evacuated from Suva on the 19th of December 1915, whereupon the infantry moved after a week's rest to the Helles bridgehead, where they faced the last Turkish attacks at Helles. On 8 January 1916, the Division was evacuated from Helles, and by 31 January was concentrated at Port Said, where they held forward posts in the Suez Canal defences. On the 12th of February 1916 the Division began to move to Mesopotamia, to strengthen the force being assembled for the relief of the besieged garrison at Kut al Amara. Augustus was killed in action during the advance into Mesopotamia on 14 January 1917. He was 36 years old and is buried at Amara War Cemetery, Egypt.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56325489/augustus-edward-hugh>

Private Owen Lucius Edwards 1895-1917

Owen Lucius Edwards, Private, 54190, Welsh Regiment. Owen was the son of John and Mary Edwards, of Sea View, New Street, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Kidwelly into the 16th Battalion, the Welsh Regiment, attached to 115 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The Division had landed in France during December 1915 and had spent their first winter in the trenches near Armentieres. In June they marched south to the Somme, where they were tasked with the capture of Mametz Wood. The attack on the wood began on 7 July, but met with fierce resistance, and it took until 14 July to clear the wood. The Division suffered terrible casualties at Mametz, and were taken out of the line, and moved to Ypres to rebuild. Owen was probably wounded at Boesinghe, as he is recorded as having died of wounds at the Norwich Military Hospital on 13 March 1917. He was just 22 years old and is buried at Kidwelly (St. Mary) Churchyard.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232516355/owen-edwards>

Pioneer Charles Wyndham Lewis 1896-1917

Charles Wyndham Lewis, Pioneer, 129892, Royal Engineers was born in Kidwelly in 1896, the son of Charles Rees Lewis and Anne Lewis (née Thomas), of 22 Lady Street, Kidwelly. He enlisted in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Llanelli but was later transferred to the Royal Engineers, serving with their 'P' Special Company. The Special Companies were responsible for gas warfare or chemical warfare and handled the operation of Stokes Mortars. Charles was killed in action during the Third Battle of the Scarpe on 6 May 1917 and is buried at Beaulencourt British Cemetery, Ligny-Thillois, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24760827/charles-wyndham-lewis>

Private James Frederick Stokes 1890-1917

James Frederick Stokes, Private, 267163, Welsh Regiment was born in Smethwick in 1890 and lived in Kidwelly prior to the war. He married Mary Anne Evans early in 1914. James enlisted at Llanelli into the 1/6th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which served as Pioneers to the 1st Division. The Battalion landed in France at Havre on 29 October 1914, initially attached to the 28th Division before moving to the 1st Division on 23 October 1915. They participated in notable actions such as the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the early stages of the Somme Offensive, including battles at Albert, Bazentin, Pozieres, Flers-Courcelette, and Morval. The Battalion followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line in early 1917 and was later deployed to the Flanders Coast during the summer of 1917.

James was severely wounded on 2 July 1917 and was carried on a stretcher to a dressing station, but he succumbed to his injuries before reaching the station. He is buried at Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, Belgium. James left behind his widow, Mary, and two young daughters, Gladys and Violet May.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13961703/james-fredrick-stokes>

Lance Corporal David Morris Davies D 1917

David Morris Davies, Lance Corporal, 18624, Royal Welsh Fusiliers was born in Kidwelly in 1896, the son of David and Ceridwen Davies, of 29 Ferry Road. He enlisted in Llandudno into the 16th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which was part of the 113 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The Division landed in France in December 1915 and gained recognition for their role in the capture of Mametz Wood in July 1916. After their relief from Mametz, the Division moved through Hebuterne to Ypres, where they took up positions north of the city at Boesinghe. David was wounded during the fighting at Ypres and was sent back to Britain for hospital treatment. He died of his wounds in a hospital at Christchurch, Hampshire, on 7 August 1917. He was brought back home and is buried at Kidwelly (Siloam) Welsh Baptist Chapel yard.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232516113/david-morris-davies>

Private William James 1887-1915

William James, Private, 31684, Royal Welsh Fusiliers was born in 1887 and was the eldest son of James and Mary James, formerly of Upper Mill and later of Gwendraeth Place, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 13th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which was part of the 113 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The Division landed in France in December 1915 and spent their first winter in the trenches near Armentières. In June 1916, they moved south to the Somme and were involved in the capture of Mametz Wood in July. The Division suffered heavy casualties during this operation and was withdrawn to Ypres to rebuild. William was killed in action during the Battle of Pilckem on 31 July 1917. He is buried at Dragoon Camp Cemetery, Belgium.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12322577/william-james#add-to-vc>

Guardsman Norman Hadley Williams 1890-1916

Norman Hadley Williams, Private, 3211, Welsh Guards was born in Cradley, Staffordshire, in 1890, the son of Frank and Fanny Williams. The family lived in Kidwelly prior to 1901. Norman married Maria Jane Evans in Kidwelly in September 1916, after enlisting in the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards. The Welsh Guards were formed by Royal Warrant on 26 February 1915. They were stationed at White City before landing at Havre on 18 August 1915, and were attached to the 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division—a formation established in France in August 1915 by consolidating various Guards units. The Division remained on the Western Front for the duration of the war. Their first major engagement was the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915, followed by the Action of Hohenzollern Redoubt. In July 1916, they moved to the Somme, where they fought in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette and the Battle of Morval, capturing Lesboeufs Village. After spending the winter in the area, they advanced with the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line in March 1917. Later that year, the Division moved to Ypres and fought at the Battle of the Pilckem Ridge. Norman was killed in action on 5 August 1917 during this battle. He is buried at Artillery Wood Cemetery, Belgium.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56464772/norman-hadley-williams>

Private Thomas George Roberts D-1917

Thomas George Roberts, Private, 13540, Welsh Regiment known as George, was born in Pembroke, and lived in Kidwelly prior to the outbreak of war, where he worked as a groom for Colonel Young. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was part of the 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division. The 19th Division, known as the "Butterfly Division," assembled around Bulford in September 1914. After completing divisional training near Tidworth from March 1915, the Division crossed to France between 11 and 21 July 1915 and took up positions near Loos. They participated in the opening attack of the Battle of Loos and subsequently moved to the Somme, where they were involved in the second wave of the attack on Ovillers-La Boisselle on 1 July 1916, capturing the village at great cost. They continued to fight through the Somme battles of Pozieres and the Ancre in 1916 before moving north to Ypres to take part in the Battle of Messines. George was killed at Messines on 23 July 1917. He is buried at Locre Hospice Cemetery, Belgium.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12688223/thomas-george-roberts>

Private Samuel Jones 1892-1918

Samuel Jones, Lance Corporal, 14660, South Wales Borderers was born in Kidwelly, the son of David and Margaret Jones. The family later resided at 21 Havelock Street, Llanelli. Samuel enlisted in Llanelli into the 5th Battalion, South Wales Borderers, which was part of the 58 Brigade, 19th (Western) Division. The 19th Division, known as the "Butterfly Division," assembled around Bulford in September 1914 and crossed to France in July 1915, remaining on the Western Front for the duration of the war. The Division fought in the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915, and later participated in the second wave of the attack on Ovillers-La Boisselle on 1 July 1916, capturing the village at significant cost. They continued to fight through the battles of Pozieres and the Ancre in 1916, before moving north to Ypres to take part in the Battle of Messines and subsequent fighting for the ridge. In the spring of 1918, the Division was caught up in the German Spring Offensive near Bapaume, suffering heavy casualties. After being withdrawn to positions near Messines to rest, they faced another German attack the following month. The Division, having endured severe losses, was relocated to the quieter French sector to rebuild, only to be engaged again in the German offensive on the Aisne. Following further rebuilding, the Division participated in the great offensive, fighting in the Battle of the Selle, Valenciennes, the Sambre, and the Passage of the Grand Honnelle. Samuel survived this prolonged and brutal fighting but was accidentally killed on 2 December 1918 while attached to a unit of the Royal Engineers for transport duties at Candas. He was 26 years old and is buried at Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No. 2, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56397051/samuel-jones>

Private William John Morgans 1897-1917

William John Morgans, Private, 53503, Welsh Regiment was the son of Thomas and Ann Morgans, of 26 Ferry Road, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Llanelli into the Pembroke Yeomanry but later transferred to the 14th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was part of the 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.

The 38th Division landed in France in December 1915 and spent their first winter in the trenches near Armentières. In June 1916, they moved south to the Somme, where they famously captured Mametz Wood. The Division suffered severe casualties at Mametz and was withdrawn to Ypres to rebuild. It was during this period that William joined the battalion.

At Ypres, the Division fought in the battles of Pilckem Ridge and Langemarck before moving back to the Armentières sector. William was wounded in this sector and died of his injuries on 11 November 1917, aged 20. He is buried at Estaires Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56142607/william-john-morgans>

Rifleman Willian Evan Davies D-1916

William Evan Davies, Rifleman, 5898, London Regiment was the son of Morris and Elizabeth Davies, of Ferry Road, Kidwelly. Before the war, he worked in London and enlisted there into the 1/9th Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles), London Regiment. The battalion landed in France on 5 November 1914 and became part of the 13 Brigade, 5th Division. The Division had landed at Havre on 15 August 1914 and had already participated in significant battles such as the Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat, including fighting at Le Cateau and the Marne, where the German advance was halted. They then advanced to the Aisne and moved to Flanders, engaging in the Battle of La Bassée and the Battle of Messines in October 1914. The Division fought through the First Battle of Ypres, captured Hill 60, and participated in the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915.

On 10 February 1916, the battalion was transferred to the 169 Brigade, 56th (London) Division. The Division saw action in the diversionary attack on Gommecourt and the battles at Ginchy, Flers, and Morval, where they captured Combles. William was killed during the Battle of Le Transloy on 9 October 1916. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12394327/william-evan-davies>

Sergeant Edward Idris Evans 1890-1919

Edward Idris Evans, Sergeant, 49945, Royal Welsh Fusiliers was born in 1890 to William and Rhoda Martha Evans (née Davies) in Penygare, Kidwelly. He enlisted in Kidwelly on 3 September 1914, joining the 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was attached to the 58 Brigade, 19th Division. The battalion deployed to France on 18 July 1915, where they saw action near Festubert and played a crucial role in the opening attack of the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915. Recognized for his leadership during this challenging assault, Edward was promoted to Sergeant.

In 1916, the Division moved to the Somme, engaging in the second wave of the attack on Ovillers-La Boisselle on 1 July, followed by the Battles of Pozieres and the Ancre. Edward was injured on the Somme, necessitating his return home. After his recovery, he joined the Depot Battalion in Cardiff.

Edward was reassigned to the 9th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, on 11 August 1917, re-joining his unit at Ypres in time for the Battle of Passchendaele. His valour during the Ypres battles earned him the Military Medal, published in the London Gazette on 17 December 1917. In 1918, the division faced the German Spring Offensive near St. Quentin, enduring heavy casualties during a courageous rear-guard action near Bapaume. Edward sustained wounds on 25 March 1918, prompting his evacuation and return home.

While recovering from his wounds in the hospital, Edward developed a persistent cough, which was diagnosed as tuberculosis. He was discharged from the army on 30 August 1918 and succumbed to tuberculosis at 2 Priory Street, Kidwelly, on 1 November 1919, at the age of 29. Edward was laid to rest with full military honours at Capel Sul Chapel yard. His acceptance for commemoration by the CWGC was confirmed on Saturday, 5 April 2014.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261757862/edward-idris-evans>

Master David Edmunds 1870-1915

David Edmunds, Master, Mercantile Marine was born in Burry Port, the son of Joseph and Mary Edmunds. He married Elizabeth Randell in Kidwelly in 1902, and the couple lived at The Grove, Kidwelly. David served in the Mercantile Marine as the master of the SS Tangistan, a steamship built by William Gray in Hartlepool and launched in 1906. The Tangistan had a beam of 14.93 meters and a draught of 4.87 meters.

On 9 March 1915, while nine miles off Scarborough, the SS Tangistan was torpedoed and sunk by the German U-boat U-12, commanded by Arno Spindler. Tragically, David Edmunds drowned in the attack. He was 44 years old. Out of the thirty-eight people on board, only J. O'Toole survived. David Edmunds is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London.

In a photograph, David is seen standing to the right with his parents, wife, and daughter, a testament to the family he left behind.

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

Private Alexander Gilasbie D-1917

Alexander Gilasbey, Private, 285143, Welsh Regiment was born in Kidwelly, the son of Alexander and Frances Gilasbey. In 1902, he married Kate Lane, and the couple lived at 5 St. Mark's Place, Bath. He enlisted in the army at Bath and was posted to France, joining the 10th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was part of the 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The battalion had been stationed in France since December 1915.

Alexander likely joined the battalion at Boesinghe following their withdrawal from the Battle of Mametz Wood in July 1916. The 38th Division then moved via Hebuterne to Ypres, where they rested and rebuilt their strength in preparation for the Battle of Pilckem Ridge, which began on 31 July 1917.

Alexander was killed in action at Ypres on 4 September 1917, following the battles at Pilckem Ridge and Langemarck. He was 35 years old. Alexander Gilasbey is buried at Bard Cottage Cemetery, Belgium.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11556545/alexander-gilasbey>

Samuel Hughes 1891-1918

Samuel Hughes, Private, 12535, Royal Welsh Fusiliers was the son of John and Margaret Hughes of Kidwelly. He married Beatrice Jones in 1912, and the couple lived at 14 Gwendraeth Town, Kidwelly. Samuel enlisted at Llanelli into the 8th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which was part of the 40 Brigade, 13th (Western) Division. The 13th Division had seen extensive action during the war, fighting in Gallipoli, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. It was in Mesopotamia that Samuel fell ill. He was sent home for treatment but, unfortunately, he died of sickness on 12 March 1918, at the age of 27. Samuel is buried at Kidwelly (St. Mary) Churchyard. His grave was photographed by Diane Williams. Tragically, Samuel's brothers David and Willie also fell during the war.

Stephen Sullivan D-1917

Stephen Sullivan, Private, 15773, Welsh Regiment was the son of Christopher and Margaret Sullivan of Neath. The family resided at 5 Gwendraeth Terrace prior to 1911. Stephen enlisted at Llanelli into the 10th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was part of the 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The 38th Division landed in France in December 1915 and spent their first winter in the trenches near Armentières. In June 1916, they marched south to the Somme, where they took part in the capture of Mametz Wood. The Division suffered terrible casualties at Mametz and were subsequently taken out of the line to rebuild in Ypres.

Stephen was killed in action at Ypres on 30 March 1917. He was 24 years old and is buried at Bard Cottage Cemetery, Belgium.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11558052/stephen-sullivan>

Private Oliver Jones 1892-1917

Oliver Jones, Private, 48144, Welsh Regiment was the son of David and Mary Ann Jones of Kidwelly. He enlisted at Llanelli into the Welsh Regiment and was posted to the 24th Battalion. This battalion had been formed from the merger of the Pembroke and Glamorgan Yeomanry Battalions and was part of 231 Brigade, 74th (Yeomanry) Division.

The 74th Division marched into Palestine at the beginning of 1917 and fought in two major battles at Gaza that year. Oliver was killed in action during the Third Battle of Gaza on 6 November 1917, at the age of 25. He is buried at Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel. Tragically, just six months later, his brother Mervyn was also killed on the Western Front.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22729286/oliver-jones>

Private Mervyn Jones 1896-1918

Mervyn Jones, Private, 24316, Royal Welsh Fusiliers was the son of David and Mary Ann Jones, of 33 Lady Street, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 13th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which was part of 113 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The battalion moved to France in December 1915, initially taking up positions near Fleurbaix. They fought in the Battle of Mametz Wood during the Somme Offensive in 1916 and later moved to Ypres, participating in the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917.

On 21 March 1918, the German Spring Offensive shattered the British lines on the Somme, resulting in heavy casualties and the near destruction of many British battalions. The 38th Division was sent from their positions near Armentières to reinforce the lines on the Somme a few days after the offensive began. Mervyn was killed in action on 22 April 1918, at the age of 22. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, France.

Tragically, Mervyn's brother Oliver had been killed just six months earlier in Palestine.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16080856/mervyn-jones>

Lance Corporal Oliver Evans 1888-1918

Oliver Evans, Lance Corporal, 42224, Royal Welsh Fusiliers was the son of William and Lucy Evans, of Greyhound, Lady Street, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Llanelli into the 9th Welsh Regiment and later transferred into the 13th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, which was attached to 113 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.

The 38th Division landed in France in December 1915 and spent their first winter in the trenches near Armentières. In June 1916, they marched south to the Somme, where they famously captured Mametz Wood, suffering terrible casualties. After being taken out of the line, the Division moved to Ypres to rebuild and fought at Pilckem Ridge and Langemarck. They then moved to Armentières, where they remained from September 1917 until the launch of the German Spring Offensive in March 1918.

With the British lines overrun on the Somme, the 38th Division moved south in April 1918, taking up positions north of Albert. It was here that Oliver was killed in action on 22 April 1918, at the age of 30. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16080811/oliver-evans>

Private William Henry Lewis D-1916

William Henry Lewis, Private, 13848, Welsh Regiment 2Bn. was born in Cardiff, the son of Edwin and Fanny Lewis. Before 1906, the family moved to New Town, Kidwelly. William enlisted at Llanelli into the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was part of 3 Brigade, 1st Division.

The 1st Division was among the first to arrive in France during World War I. They fought at the Battle of Mons and took part in the retreat to the Marne, where the German advance was halted. The Division then fought at the Aisne and at Chivy before moving north to Ypres. Here, they participated in the First Battle of Ypres, successfully stopping the German Offensive and wintering in Flanders.

In 1915, the Division saw action at the Battle of Aubers and later moved south to Loos. They fought during the Battle of Loos and the action at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. William was killed in action on 20 April 1916, at Loos. He is buried at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, France. William is not commemorated locally in Kidwelly.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24255014/william-henry-lewis>

Private Archie Styles 1897-1918

Archie Styles, Private, 45031, Welsh Regiment. was the son of Charles and Emily Styles, of Old Shop, Mynydd y Garreg, Kidwelly. The family later moved to Crawley Down, Sussex. Archie enlisted in the army at Shoreditch and was posted to France in the summer of 1916, joining the 14th Battalion, Welsh Regiment.

The Battalion was part of 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division, which had landed in France in December 1915. They spent their first winter in the trenches near Armentieres before marching south to the Somme in June 1916, where they famously captured Mametz Wood. The Division suffered heavy casualties at Mametz and was taken out of the line to rebuild at Ypres. They fought at Pilckem and Langemarck, then moved to Armentieres, remaining there from September 1917 until the German Spring Offensive in March 1918.

As the British were overrun on the Somme, the 38th Division was moved south in April 1918, taking positions north of Albert. Archie was wounded in this area and died of his wounds on 4 May 1918, aged just 21. He is buried at Harponville Communal Cemetery, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58918685/archie-styles>

Private Ernest Wild 1896-1918

Ernest Wild, Private, 108756, Machine Gun Corps was the son of Thomas and Sarah Wild, of Angel House, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Carmarthen into the Monmouth Regiment but later transferred into the 33rd Company, Machine Gun Corps, which was attached to the 11th (Northern) Division.

On 1 July 1915, the Division sailed from Liverpool, landing at Alexandria before moving on to Mudros, completing concentration by 28 July 1915. They landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli on 7 August 1915 and remained there until the evacuation on 21 December 1915, when they moved to Egypt. In July 1916, the Division landed at Marseilles and then spent the remainder of the war on the Western Front.

The Division fought at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette during the Somme Offensive and spent the winter on the Ancre. In June 1917, they took part in the Battle of Messines and then fought at the Battle of Langemarck during the Third Battle of Ypres. At the end of September, they fought at the Battle of Polygon Wood, then at the Battle of Broodseinde and the Battle of Poelcapelle. After the Passchendaele Offensive had been closed down, the Division remained in Flanders for the coming months.

On 21 March 1918, the Germans attacked the British lines on the Somme and days later switched the attack to Flanders. Ernest was killed in action in Flanders on 13 April 1918. He was 22 years old and has no known grave, and so is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12708639/ernest-wild>

2nd Corporal Sidney Morris Jenkins

Sidney Morris Jenkins, Corporal, 139015, Royal Engineers was the son of David and Jane Jenkins, of 24, Water Street, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Llanelli into the Royal Engineers and served with their 180th Tunnelling Company. This company was tasked with the dangerous job of removing unexploded charges and mines from the battlefields.

During the desperate days following the German Spring Offensive of 1918, Sidney was wounded by shell fragments that struck him in the abdomen and left leg. Despite efforts to save him, he succumbed to his wounds on 23 July 1918, at the age of 24. Sidney is buried at Montigny Communal Cemetery, Somme, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56139678/sidney-morris-jenkins>

2nd Lieutenant James Richard Tudor Jones 1894-1918

James Richard Tudor Jones, Second Lieutenant, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was the son of James and Elizabeth Tyson Jones, of Hill House, Kidwelly. He initially enlisted into the Royal Army Medical Corps and served in France from 3 October 1915. On 19 March 1918, he was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, which was attached to the 94th Brigade, 31st Division.

At the beginning of 1918, the 31st Division was stationed in the St. Quentin sector, where they faced the German Spring Offensive starting on 21 March 1918. This offensive included the Battle of St. Quentin, where the division was forced to withdraw west, fighting at the First Battle of Bapaume and the First Battle of Arras. The division suffered heavy casualties and was moved to Flanders to rest.

In April 1918, the Germans launched an offensive in Flanders, and the 31st Division was involved in the battles there, including the Battle of Estaires and the Battle of Hazebrouck, contributing to the Defence of Nieppe Forest. By August 1918, the Allies had gained the upper hand, and the division participated in the Advance in Flanders. It was during this advance that James was killed in action on 23 July 1918, at the age of 24. He is buried at Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire, France.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56414413/james-richard_tudor-jones

Pioneer Frank Davies D-1918

Frank Davies, Pioneer, WR/262339, Royal Engineers was the son of Thomas and Sarah Davies, of West End Street, Kidwelly. He married May Hughes at Kidwelly on 3 November 1908, and the couple had three children, living at Pencastle, Water Street. Frank enlisted at Carmarthen into the Liverpool Regiment but later transferred to the Royal Engineers, where he served with the Railways section in France from 23 December 1916.

The Royal Engineers Railways were responsible for operating and maintaining the rail supply networks on the Western Front, which were crucial for transporting supplies, ammunition, and troops to and from the front lines. On the morning of 10 September 1918, Frank was tragically killed on the railway line between Nuits-St. Georges and Dijon. He was given a full military burial by the French and is interred at Nuits-St. Georges New Communal Cemetery, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67015619/f-davies>

Private Alfred (Fred) Oswald Stephens 1897-1918

Alfred Oswald Stephens, Private, 63510, South Wales Borderers was the son of David and Margaret Stephens, of Kidwelly. He enlisted in September 1918 into the 3rd Battalion, South Wales Borderers. The 3rd Battalion was primarily a training unit for the regular battalions of the South Wales Borderers. Unfortunately, Alfred's time in the army was brief, as he became ill and died on 14 October 1918, just two weeks after enlisting. He is buried at Kidwelly (Siloam) Welsh Baptist Chapelyard.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232516195/alfred-oswald-stephens>

Private William James Anthony 1895-1918

William James Anthony, Private, 54593, Welsh Regiment was the son of John and Ann Anthony, of Llangadog, Kidwelly. He enlisted at Carmarthen into the 13th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was attached to 114 Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division. The Division landed in France during December 1915 and spent their first winter in the trenches near Armentieres. In June 1916, they marched south to the Somme, where they famously captured Mametz Wood in July 1916. The Division suffered terrible casualties at Mametz, and were taken out of the line to rebuild, moving to Ypres. Here they fought at Pilckem and Langemarck in July and August 1917, then moved to Armentieres, where they remained from September 1917 until March 1918 when the German Spring Offensive was launched.

The British had been over-run on the Somme, and in April the Division was moved south, taking up positions north of Albert. They weathered the storm of the coming months until the war turned during the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918. The Germans had now lost the upper hand, and the British regained lost ground on the Somme with an attack that began on 21 August 1918. The 38th Division was in the midst of the attack during the Battle of Albert, then moving east to fight at the Battle of Bapaume.

The advance towards the Hindenburg Line began, and the Division continued their march east, fighting at the Battle of Havrincourt and the Battle of Épehy. After a short rest period, the Canal du Nord was breached, opening a passage through the Hindenburg Line. The Division then fought at the Battle of Beaurevoir, capturing Villers-Outreaux, before advancing to the Selle.

William became ill around the time of the Hindenburg Line battles. He was brought back to a Base Hospital on the Channel coast near Boulogne for treatment, but sadly died on 21 October 1918. He was just 22 years old and is buried at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55974074/william-james-anthony>

Private David John Howells 1886-1918

David John Howells, Private, 202759, Welsh Regiment was the son of Philip and Eleanor Howells, of Maes Gwennllian, Kidwelly. He served with the 18th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, which was attached to 119 Brigade, 40th (Bantam) Division. This Division was formed between September and December 1915 and moved to France in June 1916. Late in 1916, they moved south to the Somme and fought at the Battle of the Ancre, remaining in the area over the winter. In March 1917, the Germans withdrew to their shortened line, called the Hindenburg Line, and the 40th Division was one of the divisions that followed the withdrawal. Later in the year, they took part in the Battle of Cambrai, playing an important role in the attack on Bourlon Wood. They remained in the area over the coming months but were caught here by the German Spring Offensive of 21 March 1918. They fought at the Battle of St Quentin and retreated westwards, engaging in the First Battle of Bapaume. Due to the terrible casualties suffered by the Division here, they were sent north to Flanders to rest and rebuild. However, in April, the Germans launched an offensive in Flanders, and the 40th Division was caught up in the thick of it again, fighting at the Battle of Estaires and then at the Battle of Hazebrouck. The Division was ready for front-line action again by 18 July 1918, when they took part in the Advance in Flanders and the Battle of Ypres, 1918. David was taken ill during the final months of the war and was brought to the Base Hospital near Boulogne, where he died aged 32 on 31 December 1918. He is buried at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55975597/david-john-howells>

William John Lowe D-1919

William John Lowe, Driver, M2/0/8835, Royal Army Service Corps was born in Lampeter in 1887, the son of William and Sarah Lowe, and later resided at 16, Lady Street, Kidwelly. He served with the Motor Transport Section of the Army Service Corps as a Driver.

While on active service in France, William developed an abscess on his left hip following a fall, which necessitated hospitalization. After recovering, he returned to service but was again admitted to hospital in August 1916 due to shell shock, spending almost two months in treatment. Following his recovery, William was posted back to France.

On 28 April 1917, during the Battle of Arras, he suffered gunshot wounds to his face and hands. He was admitted to hospital on 4 May 1917 and spent 41 days recovering from these injuries. After his treatment, he was pensioned off but continued to suffer from the effects of his wounds.

William died at home on 30 March 1919 because of his wartime injuries.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225530361/william-john-lowe>

Private Thomas Miles 1862-1919

Thomas Miles, Private, 27433, Royal Defence Corps was born in Carmarthen in 1862, the son of Moses and Margaret Miles. By 1891, he was employed in Cardiff, and by 1901, he was lodging with the Bish family in Merthyr Tydfil. Later, Thomas worked as a coal hewer in Kidwelly, where he lived before moving to employment at Pembrey Munitions Works.

He enlisted into the Welsh Regiment at Merthyr on 17 December 1915, giving his age as 43 and noting previous military service with the Military Police. In April 1916, he was transferred to the North Staffordshire Regiment. By November 1916, the battalion had been re-designated as the 17th Battalion, Royal Defence Corps, and Thomas was posted to Guernsey, where he remained for the rest of the war.

After the war, Thomas was discharged on 14 December 1918. He returned to Tymawr, Water Street, Kidwelly. He applied for a war pension, claiming that he had developed asthma while enduring harsh conditions at Barry Dock in the winter of 1916, where he had slept without a mattress and with only two blankets. Although the outcome of his pension application is unclear, it is evident that Thomas was suffering from health issues.

Thomas Miles passed away in Kidwelly towards the end of 1919, at the age of 57. Further research may reveal more about his post-war experiences and the circumstances of his death.

Private Joseph Parry 1871-1918

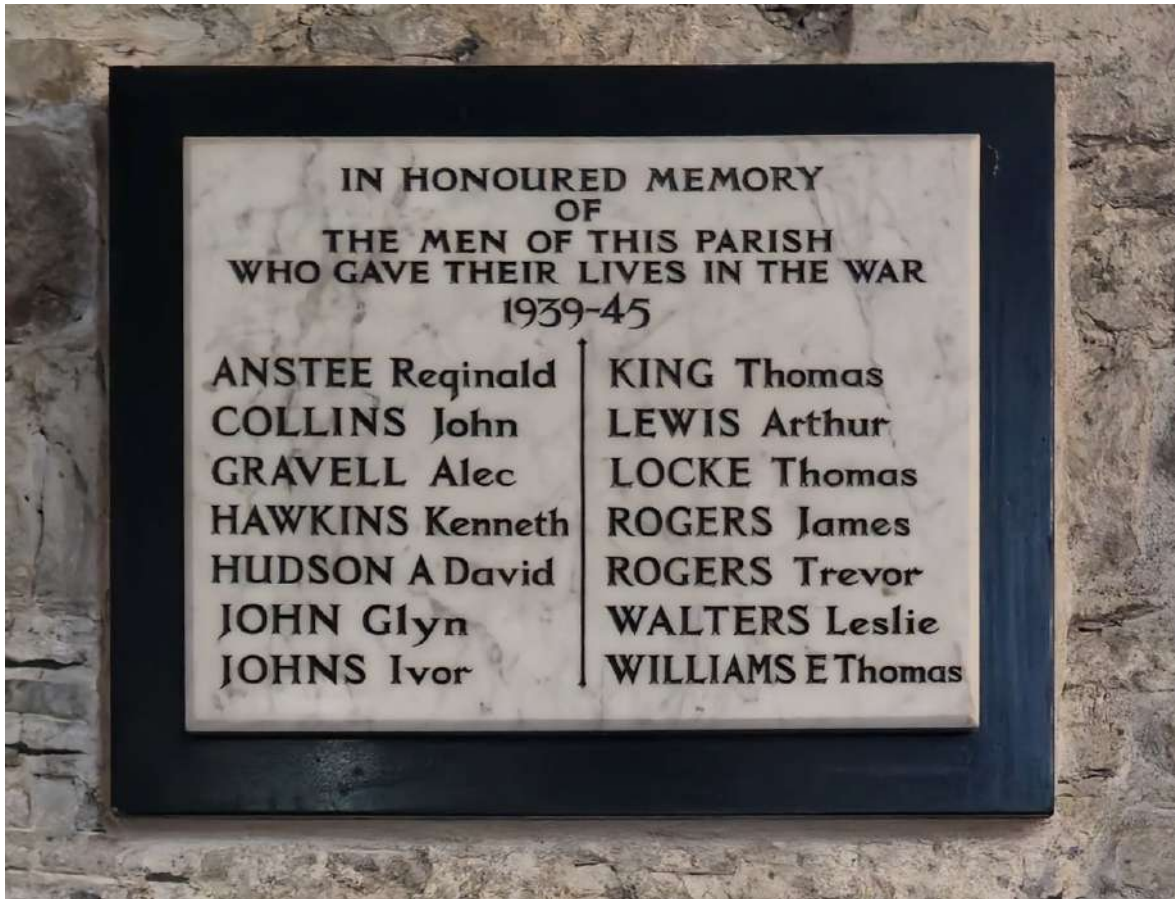
Joseph Parry, Private, 15270, South Wales Borderers was born in Bedwellty, Tredegar. He married Margaret Conniff in Kidwelly in 1906, and the couple settled at 61 Priory Street, Kidwelly. A long-serving veteran, Joseph had previously served in the South African War of 1899-1901. He re-enlisted with the South Wales Borderers in 1914, joining from the reserve.

Joseph deployed to France with the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers, on 26 January 1915. After some time, he returned to Britain and was assigned to the Depot Battalion. Joseph tragically died of illness on 22 September 1918, at the age of 47. He is buried in Kidwelly (St. Mary) Churchyard.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232516317/joseph-parry>

The memorials in St. Mary's Church in Kidwelly serve as poignant tributes to the courage and sacrifice of those who have given their lives in service to their country. Each name etched on these plaques reflects a story of dedication, valour, and selflessness. As we gather here, we remember and honour the legacy of these brave individuals, whose sacrifices ensure that we may live in peace and freedom. Their memory continues to inspire and remind us of the high cost of liberty and the enduring spirit of those who served. May their sacrifices never be forgotten and may their stories of bravery continue to resonate through generations.

IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THIS PARISH
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE WAR
1939-45



ANSTEE Reginald
COLLINS John
GRAVELL Alec
HAWKINS Kenneth
HUDSON A David
ROGERS Trevor
JOHN Glyn

JOHNS Ivor
KING Thomas
LEWIS Arthur
LOCKE Thomas
ROGERS James
WALTERS Leslie
WILLIAMS E Thomas

Sergeant Reginald Arthur Anstee 1916-1945

Sergeant Reginald Arthur Anstee was a distinguished member of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, renowned for his bravery and commitment. Born in 1916 he dedicated his life to military service, ultimately reaching the rank of Sergeant. His role was crucial during the intense final stages of World War II, where his courage and leadership were put to the test in the battle-scarred fields of Europe.

Date of Death: 28 March 1945

Age at Death: 29 years old

Sergeant Anstee's service was marked by his participation in the final Allied offensives that sought to bring the conflict to a close. Tragically, his life was cut short during this period of intense and decisive warfare. His sacrifice came as the Allied forces pressed forward into Germany, working to dismantle the remnants of the Axis resistance.

He is buried at the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Kleve, Kreis Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany—a solemn resting place for many Commonwealth soldiers who fell in the closing months of the war. This cemetery stands as a testament to the countless lives lost and the enduring legacy of those who fought bravely in the name of freedom.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56032194/reginald-arthur-anstee>

Lance Sergeant John Thomas Collins 1917-1944

John Thomas Collins, Lance Sergeant, 4198756, Royal Welch Fusiliers was the son of Alfred and Janet Collins of Kidwelly. He served with the 4th Battalion, which was part of the 158th Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division.

The Battalion landed at Normandy at the end of June 1944, participating in the intense and challenging combat around Caen and the Bocage region. Lance Sergeant Collins was engaged in these fierce battles when he was tragically killed in action on 13 August 1944, at the age of 27.

John Thomas Collins is buried at Brouay War Cemetery in France, a site dedicated to the memory of those who fell during the Normandy campaign. His sacrifice is remembered with deep respect and gratitude.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56396188/john-thomas-collins>

Leading Aircraftman Alec Gravelle 1925-1945

Alec Gravelle, Leading Aircraftman, 1869547, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve a dedicated member of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, was the beloved son of Llewelyn and Mary Ann Gravelle from Kidwelly. Serving with 148 Squadron, RAFVR, Alec was involved in operations with the Boeing B-24 Liberator VI, a key aircraft in the Allied air campaign.

Following the Allied invasion of Italy, 148 Squadron was stationed at Foggia, from where they conducted crucial missions over enemy territory. Tragically, Alec Gravelle's life was cut short when he died in Italy on 9 July 1945, at the tender age of just 20.

Alec Gravelle is interred at Bari War Cemetery, a site that honours the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the Mediterranean theatre of World War II. His courage and service are remembered with great respect, and his legacy endures as a symbol of youthful bravery and dedication.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56107200/alec-gravelle>

Private Kenneth Hawkins 1923-1943

Kenneth Hawkins, Private, 5193672, York & Lancaster Regiment, a valiant member of the York & Lancaster Regiment, was the son of Charles and Mary E. Hawkins from Kidwelly. He served with the 6th Battalion, which played a significant role throughout various theatres of World War II.

The 6th Battalion was deployed to France in 1940 as part of the 46th Infantry Division, where they engaged in intense combat in the St. Omer/La Bassee area. Their bravery continued as they participated in crucial operations in North Africa, joining the First Army in Tunisia in 1942. From 1943 onwards, the battalion fought with the Eighth Army in Italy, taking part in significant campaigns from Salerno to Rimini.

Kenneth Hawkins's service came to a tragic end on 10 September 1943, when he was killed in action at the age of just 20. He is buried at Salerno War Cemetery in Italy, a solemn resting place for those who fell during the Italian Campaign.

Kenneth Hawkins's sacrifice is remembered with deep respect and honour, reflecting his courage and the significant contributions of the 6th Battalion in the liberation efforts across Europe.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56575929/kenneth-hawkins>

Able Seaman David Andrew Hudson 1923-1941

David Andrew Hudson, Able Seaman, D/JX 154807, Royal Navy was the son of Thomas and Mary Ann Hudson of Kidwelly. He served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy aboard H.M.S. Gloucester, a Town-class cruiser. In September 1939, Gloucester was the flagship of the 4th Cruiser Squadron and was stationed in the East Indies, patrolling the Indian Ocean for the remainder of that year. By December, the ship was relocated to Simonstown, South Africa, where she attempted, unsuccessfully, to engage German raiders.

In May 1940, Gloucester was transferred to the Mediterranean. She played a prominent role in several key naval engagements, including Malta convoys and the Battle of Calabria on 9 July 1940. An Italian air attack on 8 July had severely damaged the ship, killing or wounding most of the bridge personnel, including the captain.

During the latter half of 1940, Gloucester operated in the eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean. On 11 January 1941, while supporting Operation Excess, the ship survived a bomb attack that failed to detonate. In March, Gloucester participated in the Battle of Matapan and, in April, conducted several bombardments along the North African coast, sustaining minor damage from a subsequent bomb hit.

On 22 May 1941, while in the Kithera Channel, approximately 14 miles north of Crete, Gloucester was attacked by German Stuka dive bombers. She was struck by at least four heavy bombs and sustained three near-misses before sinking. The attack resulted in the loss of 723 lives, with only 82 survivors. The sinking of H.M.S. Gloucester is considered one of Britain's worst wartime naval disasters.

David Andrew Hudson, only 18 years old at the time of his death, is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon.

Ordinary Seaman Robert Glyn John 1919-1940

Robert Glyn John, Ordinary Seaman, D/JX 167980, Royal Navy was the son of Robert Daniel John and Ida Agnes John of Kidwelly. He served as an Ordinary Seaman in the Royal Navy aboard H.M.S. Hunter, an 'H' Class destroyer. During the First Battle of Narvik on 10 April 1940, Hunter was part of the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla, which engaged German destroyers that had transported forces to occupy Narvik in northern Norway the previous day.

The British flotilla, including Hunter, attacked the German destroyers in the Ofotfjord at the entrance to the harbour. They succeeded in sinking the destroyers Wilhelm Heidkamp and Anton Schmidt, heavily damaging Diether von Roeder, and inflicting lesser damage on two other German destroyers. Additionally, seven German or German-seized transport ships were sunk. As the British flotilla withdrew, they were confronted by three German destroyers emerging from the Herjangsfjord and subsequently by two more from Ballangen Bay. In the ensuing battle, the British flotilla leader, HMS Hardy, was severely damaged and had to be beached in flames. H.M.S. Hunter, after receiving heavy fire and colliding with HMS Hotspur, sank.

Robert Glyn John was killed in the sinking of H.M.S. Hunter on 10 April 1940, at the age of 21. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13296500/robert-glyn-johns>

Sergeant Alfred Ivor Johns 1914-1945

Alfred Ivor Johns, Sergeant (Air Bomber), 1837104, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Alfred was the son of George and Margaret Ann Johns and the husband of Megan Johns of Burry Port. He served with 102 Squadron, RAFVR, flying the Handley Page Halifax III, based at Pocklington in North Yorkshire.

On the night of 5 January 1945, Alfred's squadron participated in a massed bomber raid on Hannover, Germany. During the mission, Alfred's Halifax was shot down over Germany, resulting in his death. He was 31 years old.

Alfred Ivor Johns is buried at the Hanover War Cemetery in Germany.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18584773/alfred-ivor-johns>

Ordinary Seaman Thomas King 1908-1942

Ordinary Seaman Thomas King Royal Navy, Service No. P/JX. 253120

Born on 12 May 1908 to Albert John and Sarah King of Burry Port, Thomas was baptised at St Mary's Church and educated at Burry Port Council School before joining maritime work like his father.

In 1935, he married Elizabeth Williams of Pembrey; they later settled in Canning Town, Essex, where Thomas worked as a stevedore. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940, bringing valuable merchant marine experience.

Serving aboard HMS *Penzance*, he protected Atlantic convoys from U-boat attacks. On 4 April 1942, during the defense of Convoy OG82, Thomas was lost overboard. His body was recovered and returned to Burry Port, where over 300 mourners attended his funeral with full military honours.

He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and Burry Port's war memorial.

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

Private Arthur Lewis 1915-1944

Arthur Hugh Wilson Lewis, Private, 14627373, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Arthur served with the 6th Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), which had initially fought in France during 1939 and 1940 as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). After being evacuated to the UK, the battalion was rebuilt and subsequently moved to North Africa, where they participated in the extensive campaign there. Following the North African Campaign, the battalion took part in the Invasion of Italy.

Arthur was killed in Italy on 8 June 1944, at the age of just 19. He is buried at the Bolsena War Cemetery in Italy.

Marine Owen Thomas Dunn Locke 1914-1942

Owen Thomas Dunne Locke, Marine, PLY/X 101541, Royal Marines

Owen was the son of William James Locke and Margaret Susan Locke of Kidwelly. He served in the Royal Navy aboard H.M.S. Repulse, a battlecruiser built during World War I that had taken part in the Second Battle of Heligoland Bight in 1917. Upgraded during the interwar years, Repulse was stationed in the Mediterranean at the outbreak of World War II. She saw action during the Battle of Norway in 1940 and participated in the chase for the Bismarck. In December 1941, Repulse was sent to the Pacific as part of 'Force Z'.

As the threat of war with Japan loomed, Repulse was detached to the Far East to deter Japanese aggression. This force, which was intended to be a large battle fleet acting as a counter to Japanese intentions, was dispatched to Singapore as an under-strength squadron without the planned aircraft carrier. On 8 December 1941, shortly after the outbreak of war in the Pacific, Repulse left Singapore with the fast battleship Prince of Wales and four destroyers to intercept Japanese invasion convoys heading towards Malaya. Admiral Sir Tom Philips, commanding the fleet from Prince of Wales, knew that air cover could not be guaranteed but proceeded, believing Japanese forces could not operate so far from land and that his ships were immune to fatal air attack damage.

On 10 December 1941, the fleet failed to locate Japanese invasion forces and turned south, where they were attacked by 86 Japanese aircraft from the 22nd Air Flotilla based in Saigon. Repulse initially evaded several torpedo attacks but was eventually hit by four torpedoes in rapid succession, fatally crippling her. Orders were given to abandon ship, and Repulse sank at 12:23. Survivors were rescued and brought to Singapore.

Owen Thomas Dunne Locke died of wounds on 22 February 1942, aged 28, and is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon.

Sergeant Thomas James Rogers D-1944

Thomas James Rogers, Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1852120, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Thomas was born in 1915, the son of Thomas and Mary Rogers of Kidwelly. He served with 424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron, RAFVR, which operated the Handley Page Halifax III and was based at Skipton-on-Swale. On the night of 30 March 1944, the squadron participated in a massed bomber attack over Nuremberg.

During the return journey on 31 March 1944, Thomas was killed when his Halifax was shot down over Germany. He is buried at Hanover War Cemetery in Germany.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18585638/thomas-james-rogers>

Able Seaman Trevor Rogers 1920-1941

Trevor Rogers, Able Seaman, D/JX 178503, Royal Navy

Trevor was born in 1919, the son of Thomas and Mary Rogers of Kidwelly. He served in the Royal Navy aboard H.M.S. Galatea, an Arethusa-class light cruiser. Galatea joined the Mediterranean Fleet upon commissioning and acted as the flagship for the Rear Admiral (Destroyers).

After the outbreak of war, Galatea was ordered home. Between February and March 1940, she participated in operations to intercept Axis merchant ships attempting to break out of Vigo. In April 1940, she was involved in the Norwegian Campaign and in May, she joined the Nore Command as the flagship of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron. On 4 April 1940, the Polish destroyers Burza, Grom, and Blyskawica reached their new home base at Rosyth. That afternoon, they left the harbour with Galatea, her sister ship Arethusa, and three destroyers to conduct a patrol in the North Sea and were later ordered to intercept German invasion groups heading for Norway.

On 1 September 1940, Galatea struck a mine and was under repair until May 1941. After her repairs, she took part in the operations to hunt the Bismarck. In July 1941, she joined the Mediterranean Fleet via the Red Sea and by November, was based at Malta with Force "K", operating against Axis supply convoys to North Africa.

On the night of 14 December 1941, shortly before midnight, Galatea was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-557 off Alexandria, Egypt. Her Captain, 22 officers, and 447 ratings were killed. Approximately 100 survivors were rescued by the destroyers H.M.S. Griffin and H.M.S. Hotspur. Trevor was among those killed when the ship was lost on 15 December 1941. He was 21 years old and is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13303625/trevor-rogers>

Sapper Leslie Walters 1918-1944

Leslie Walters, Sapper, 1905896, Royal Engineers

Leslie was the son of William and Elizabeth Walters of Kidwelly, and the husband of Pat Walters. He served with the 11th Field Company, Royal Engineers, which was part of the invasion force that landed in Normandy in June 1944.

Leslie was killed during the advance through Holland on 19 September 1944, at the age of 26. He is buried at Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12727774/leslie-walters>

Private Thomas Edwin Jones Williams 1926-1945

Thomas Edwin Jones Williams, Private, 14739353, Welch Regiment

Thomas Edwin Jones Williams, known on the memorial as E. Thomas Williams, was the son of Mrs. A. Williams of 51 Lady Street, Kidwelly. He enlisted in the local Territorial unit, the 4th Battalion, Welch Regiment, which was part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division. This division spent much of the war on home service, initially in Northern Ireland, before returning to England to prepare for the Normandy landings. The division landed in Normandy at the end of June 1944 and took part in the operations to break out from Normandy.

The 53rd Division continued the drive through France and Belgium into Holland. By early March 1945, the division had crossed into Germany and was positioned near Issum, preparing to attack Alton to open the advance on the Rhine. The attack began on 4 March and faced heavy opposition from the German 21st Parachute Regiment, which mounted a staunch defence.

Thomas was killed on 7 March 1945, as the 53rd Division was being relieved. He was 19 years old and is buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany.



We will remember them.

To all those from Kidwelly who served during the First and Second World Wars — and especially to those who never returned — we offer our deepest respect and lasting gratitude. Your courage, sacrifice, and commitment to peace and freedom have shaped the lives we live today.

We remember not only the fallen, but the families left behind, the communities forever changed, and the countless quiet acts of bravery carried out in the face of hardship.

Thank you — we honour your memory, today and always.

<https://tinyurl.com/Kidwelly-Fallen-Hero>



Kidwelly War Memorials

World Cemeteries



This map marks the cemeteries and memorials of the war heroes from the small Welsh town of Kidwelly in Carmarthenshire. These brave individuals served during times of global conflict and are now commemorated across 58 locations worldwide. From the deserts of the Middle East to the forests of Europe, and from naval memorials to war cemeteries, each site tells the story of a life given in service.

This map is a poignant tribute, illustrating the far-reaching legacy of sacrifice from one tight-knit community. It connects Kidwelly to a world of remembrance and honour, ensuring that their stories endure.

[From Alexandria \(Chatby\) Military Cemetery to the Tower Hill Memorial in London](#)

We Will Remember Them

<https://tinyurl.com/Kidwelly-War-Cemeteries-Map>



Alexandria Chatby Military Cemetery	Private Frank Picot
All Saints Churchyard	Delwyn Davies
Amara War Cemetery	Augustus Edward Hugh
Artillery Wood Cemetery	Gdsm. Norman Hadley Williams
Awoingt British Cemetery	Pvt John Bidgood Godfrey Ashford,
Bard Cottage Cemetery x 3	Private Stephen Sullivan, Pte. Arthur Jesse Lippiatt, Private Alexander Gilasbey
Bari War Cemetery	Ld Aircraftman Alec Gravell
Basra Memorial	Private Edwin Vaughan
Beaulencourt British Cemetery	Pioneer Charles Wyndham Lewis
Becklingen War Cemetery	Lance Corporal John Dudley Jones
Beersheba War Cemetery	Private Oliver Jones
Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery x 2	Sapper Leslie Walters, Private Thomas Hector Rogers
Bois-Carré British Cemetery	Private William Henry Hughes
Bolsena War Cemetery	Private Arthur Lewis
Burry Port Cemetery	Ordinary Seaman Thomas King,
Brouay War Cemetery	L-Sgt John Thomas Collins
Browns Road Military Cemetery	Pvt John Tucker
Capel Sul Welsh Independent Chapel Cemetery	SGT Edward Idris Evans
Caudry British Cemetery	Private John Elias Morris
Chocques Military Cemetery	Pvt David Gower
Cologne Southern Cemetery	Private W H Davies
Dadizeele New British Cemetery	Captain Francis Percy Campbell Pemberton
Delhi War Cemetery	Lieutenant William Glanville Thomas
Doiran Memorial	L-Corp Edgar James Bish
Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No. 2	Pvt Samuel Jones
Dourlers Communal Cemetery Extension	Pvt T Martin
Enfidaville War Cemetery	Pvt David Daniel Evans
Englefontaine British Cemetery	Albert Edward Ward
Estaires Communal Cemetery Extension	Pvt William John Morgans
Fins New British Cemetery Sorel-Le-Grand	Pvt William John Roberts

Flatiron Copse Cemetery	Pvt William Bowry
Hanover War Cemetery x 2	Sergeant (Air Gnr.) Thomas James Rogers, Sergeant (Air Bomber) Alfred Ivor Johns
Helles Memorial	David John Morgan
Jerusalem War Cemetery	Rifleman Henry George Howells
Kohima War Cemetery	Fusilier Richard Lewis Evans
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery	Private William Stanley Davies
Locre Hospice Cemetery	Private Thomas George Roberts
Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery x 3	Private Morgan Morgan, Private William John Griffiths, Lance Corporal Ivor Emanuel
Mendinghem Military Cemetery	Private David Griffiths
Menin Gate Memorial x 2	Sergeant William Leslie Shenton, Private David Gravel Jones
Mesnil Ridge Cemetery	Private D Hughes,
Montigny Communal Cemetery	2nd Cpl Sidney Morris Jenkins
Nuits-St. Georges New Communal Cemetery	Pioneer Frank Davies
Perth Cemetery China Wall	Corporal Thomas Rogers
Ploegsteert Memorial	Private Ernest Wild
Plymouth Naval Memorial x 6	Able Seaman Trevor Rogers, Marine Owen Thomas Dunn Locke, Able Seaman William Lewis, Ordinary Seaman Robert Glyn Johns, Able Seaman David Andrew Hudson, William Elwyn Evans
Pozières Memorial x 2	Private Mervyn Jones, Lance Corporal Oliver Evans
Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery	Private James Fredrick Stokes
Raperie British Cemetery	2nd Lt James Richard Tudor Jones
Reichswald Forest War Cemetery x 2	Reginald Arthur Anstee, Private Thomas Edwin Jones Williams
Saint Patrick's Cemetery	Private William Henry Lewis
Salerno War Cemetery	Pvt Kenneth Hawkins
Santerno Valley War Cemetery	Guardsmen Adolph Jones
Sardis Welsh Independant Chapelyard	LTC Ivor Emanuel
Siloam Welsh Baptist Chapelyard x 2	Lance Corporal David Morris Davies, Private Alfred Oswald Stephens
St. Mary's Churchyard x 5	PVT Owen Edwards, Samuel Hughes, William John Lowe, PVT Joseph Parry, PVT William Henry Hughes.
Terlincthun British War Cemetery x 2	Private William James Anthony, Pvt David John Howells
Thiepval Memorial x 3	William Evan Davies, Company Sergeant Major Thomas John, Rifleman William Evan Davies
Tower Hill Memorial x 2	Master David Edmunds, Master David Henry Parry

In Honour of Their Sacrifice: The Servicemen of Pembrey and Burry Port



This article is dedicated to remembering the brave men from Pembrey and Burry Port who served and gave their lives during 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.

Their stories, drawn from headstones, records, and history, are gathered here to ensure their lives and sacrifice are never forgotten. Each name represents not only a life lost, but a promise made to defend freedom, protect others, and stand against tyranny.

This tribute serves as a lasting record for future generations. It is written so that the people of today, and tomorrow, may understand the ultimate sacrifice made by these men, and reflect with gratitude on the peace and liberty we enjoy because of them.

Let us remember them—not as distant names in stone, but as real people whose courage shaped the world, we live in.

We will remember them.

Pembrey & Burry Port - Memorials

World War I & II



United Kingdom

Local Chapels

Bethel Chapel

- Bevan, Daniel Charles – Able Seaman (1918) (M)
- Colwill, Brinley – 3rd Engineer (1941) (M)
- Richards, Owen – Private (1942)

Bethlehem Chapel

- Lewis, Gwilym – Driver (1917) (M)

Hermon Wesleyan Chapel

- Thomas, Gwyther Barclay – Private (1918)

Tabernacle Baptist Chapel

- Owen-Davies, Albert – Private (1917)

Cemeteries

Burry Port Cemetery (Dolau Fan)

- Jenkins, Ieuan – Leading Aircraftsman (1944)
- King, Thomas – Ordinary Seaman (1942)
- Morris, Thomas Luttrell – Private (1945) (M)

Danygraig Cemetery

- Jones, Evan – Stoker 2nd Class (1942)

Llanelli District Cemetery

- Cole, Victor James – Lance Corporal (1918)

Churchyards

St Illtyd Church (*Sorted Alphabetically by Surname*)

- Baldock, John Raymond – Petty Officer (1953)
- Bevan-John, Spencer Rhys – Petty Officer (1940)
- Blair, David Jack – Sergeant (1940)
- Brown, George Warden – Sergeant (1940)
- Christie, William Lewis – 3rd Engineer (1917)
- Cooper, John Douglas Laing – Sergeant (1940)
- Daniel, Ralph Picton – Captain (1917) (M)
- Emery, Joseph – Steward (1918)
- George, Harold – Leading Aircraftsman (1942)
- George, Thomas – 2nd Lieutenant (1918) (M)
- Glover, Montague Beaumont – Lieutenant (1941)
- Gravelle, Arthur Charles – Lieutenant R.H.R. (1941) (M)
- Griffiths, Gwynfryn James – Sergeant (1940)
- Grzanka, Roman – Kapitan (1943)
- Hutchinson, John Harvey – Warrant Commander (1940)
- Jacques, Frederick William Rupert V – Petty Officer (1957)
- James, William – Private (1917)
- Jones, William Thomas – Gunner (1943)
- Kawczynski, Olech Antoni – Porucznik (1941)
- Kinel, Jacek Zygmund Fran – Kapral (1944)
- Layton, George Alfred – Leading Aircraftsman (1942)
- Melliss, Montagu Stanley – Major-General (1919)
- Morris, Wilfred Leonard – Leading Aircraftman (1941)
- Noble, Robert – Gunner (1942)
- Ogilvie, Stephen John M – Squadron Leader (1943)
- Owen, Elwyn Rees – Sergeant (1991)
- Oyrzanowski, Waclaw – St Si (1943)
- Piatkowski, Stanislaw – Petty Officer (1940)
- Prior, Alec Frederick – AC 2nd Class (1941)
- Rees, Albert – Private (1915)
- Rhys, William Leyson – Sergeant (1942)
- Skelly, Bernard James – Warrant Officer (1945)
- Sowter, Basil York – Petty Officer (1940)
- Thomas, David George Roderick – Gunner (1941)

- Thomas, Huw – RAF (1939)
- Thomas, John – Sergeant (1913)
- Thomson, Beverley John Wentworth – Flying Officer (1945)
- Unknown Airman (1943)
- Venn, Charles Albert – Sergeant (1941)
- Walters, William Richard Aelwyn – Petty Officer (1941)
- Waterowski, Leon Jan – Podporucznik (1944)
- Williams, David Howard – Flight Officer (1971)

National Memorials

Brookwood Military Cemetery

- Griffiths, Benjamin – Private (1940) (M)

Plymouth Naval Memorial

- Bargewell, George – Ship's Steward (1918) (M)
- Bowen, Raymond – Able Seaman (1942) (M)
- Davies, David Owen – Able Seaman (1941) (M)
- Davies, William David – Able Seaman (1942) (M)
- Gravell, Frederick – Able Seaman (1941) (M)
- Gravelle, Arthur Charles – Lieutenant R.H.R. (1941) (M)
- Jones, Henry James – Sick Berth Attendant (1942) (M)
- Styles, Thomas Frederick – Leading Stoker (1915) (M)
- Twyford, Gordon Ashton – Writer (1942) (M)

Tower Hill Memorial

- Colwill, Brinley – 3rd Engineer (1941) (M)
- Knowles, John C – 4th Engineer Officer (Date Unknown)

International Memorials

World War I & II Service Personnel

France

Artillery Wood Cemetery

- Daniel, Ralph Picton – Captain (1917)

Caterpillar Valley Cemetery

- George, Thomas – 2nd Lieutenant (1918)

Cimetière Saint Sever

- Davies, James – Private (1916)

Dadizeele New British Cemetery

- Pemberton, Francis Percy Campbell – Captain (1914)

Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension

- Lewis, Gwilym – Driver (1917)

Florence War Cemetery

- Moss, John S – Gunner (1944)

Flushing Northern Cemetery

- John, David Alan Vaughan – Sergeant Pilot (1942)

Forli War Cemetery

- Reynolds, David Edward – Private (1945)

Italy

Gradara War Cemetery

- Gange, Lawrence Winson – Private (1944)

Forli War Cemetery

- Reynolds, David Edward – Private (1945)

Netherlands

Flushing Northern Cemetery

- John, David Alan Vaughan – Sergeant Pilot (1942)

Jonkerbos War Cemetery

- Thomas, David Ronald – Corporal (1945)

Venray War Cemetery

- Morris, Luttrell Thomas – Private (1945)

Israel

Ramleh War Cemetery

- Williams, Thomas Henry – Signaller (1943)

Myanmar (Burma)

Rangoon Memorial

- Davies, Vincent Howell – Fusilier (1944)

India

India Gate Memorial

- Rees, W. R. – Gunner (1918) (M)

Singapore

Kranji War Cemetery

Mansel-Lewis, John – Flying Officer (1941)

Honouring the Forgotten: A Digital Tribute to Lost Histories

This project goes beyond a simple roll call of names – it's a vital step in restoring identity and dignity to individuals long memorialised yet often sidelined by history. By blending modern technology with meticulous research, we're ensuring these stories aren't just preserved, but actively engaged with by new generations.

A Living Map of Remembrance

Using **Google MyMaps**, we've plotted each serviceman within a digital landscape, transforming historical records into an interactive journey. This approach moves remembrance beyond static monuments, allowing users to trace connections across time and place. Suddenly, a name on a local war memorial gains context – linking to homes, battlegrounds and final resting places across the globe.

The Virtual Memorial: Find a Grave as a Hub

Every individual now connects to a **centralised Virtual Cemetery on Find a Grave**, creating a respectful digital space that brings together:

- **Service records** (regiments, ranks, enlistment details)
- **Memorial locations** (with geo-tagged gravesites where possible)
- **Personal histories** (photographs, family links, local newspaper excerpts)

This isn't just an archive – it's an invitation to meaningful engagement. Visitors can leave virtual flowers, share stories, or simply spend time with a life story that might otherwise have faded into obscurity.

From Recognition to Understanding

The true power lies in moving past mere visibility. Our **fusion of digital mapping, archival digging and careful curation** helps reconstruct fragmented histories. These servicemen – once just names on weathered stone – now anchor a dynamic, ever-growing resource that challenges how we remember.

This living memorial keeps asking questions: Who were these people? What shaped their lives? How do their stories resonate today? By engaging with these digital traces, we don't just recall the past – we forge new connections with it.

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



Pembrey & Burry Port War Memorials

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

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

Commemoration:

- **Memorial:** Arras Memorial, Bay 1
- **Location:** Arras, France
- **Memorial ID:** [CWGC Listing]

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>

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. Illtyd 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. Illtyd 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**.

Death and Commemoration

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. Though omitted from Pembrey's memorial, he is honoured at:

- **Swansea City FC's memorial plaque** (unveiled in 2014).
 - **Living memorial trees** planted at Swansea's training ground.
-

Historical Context

- **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>

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.

Though omitted from local memorials in Pembrey, Frederick is honoured:

- On the **Pozières 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

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

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

Third Engineer Brinley Colwill

Service: Merchant Navy

Vessel: S.S. *Treverbryn* (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. *Treverbryn***, 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. *Treverbryn***, registered in St. Ives.

In October 1941, the *Treverbryn* 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 *Treverbryn* **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

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>

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

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.

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

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>

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 **Lesboeuufs**.

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 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>

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>

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>

Gwynfryn James Griffiths

Birth: 1921

Death: 10 July 1940 (aged 19)

Place of Death: Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Wales

Burial: St. Iltyd 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. Iltyd Churchyard** in his home village of **Pembrey**, where his memory endures.

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

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](#)

[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 Lesboeuufs. 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 **Louveral 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

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 Pinged, 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 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

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. Iltyd 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>

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 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 Cunchy 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**

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

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>

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>

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. Illtyd 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. Illtyd 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_zygmund_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. Illtyd 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.”

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 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

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.

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. Illtyd 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

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 Iltyd'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 Iltyd'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

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 Iltyd'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>

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

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>

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

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>

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

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

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>

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

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. Illtyd 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. Illtyd 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

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

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. Illtyd 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. Illtyd 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. Illtyd Churchyard**, Pembrey.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/262414026/david_howard-williams

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

Private John Edwards Zachariah, Veteran

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.

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/Pembrey-BP-Memorials-FV>



**IN MEMORY OF
THE SERVICEMEN
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN**



This work stands as a solemn tribute to the men of Kidwelly, Pembrey, and Burry Port who gave everything in service to their country. It is a record not only of sacrifice, but of honour, duty, and the enduring strength of community.

Their stories preserved through headstones, archives, and memory remind us that freedom is never free.

Each life remembered here speaks to the courage of ordinary individuals who faced extraordinary circumstances, and whose legacy continues to shape the world we inherit.

May this collection serve as a lasting reminder for generations to come. Let it encourage reflection, foster understanding, and ensure that these men are never reduced to names alone, but remembered as fathers, sons, and neighbours whose lives mattered deeply.

We honour them. We remember them. We carry their legacy forward.

<https://tinyurl.com/KPBP-Combined-Memorials>

