

Cowbridge & Llanblethian World War 1 Heroes - Commemorating the Centenary 1914 – 2014

As we walk or drive along Cowbridge High Street many of us pass the War Memorial outside the Town Hall quite frequently. But, if we are honest with ourselves, pay it little attention – it's part of our everyday surroundings after all. On a dull wet day we might notice the red of the poppy wreaths from Remembrance Sunday for a moment or two before something else grabs our attention. Occasionally we might give a passing glance to the list of names from WW1 on the memorial, but that's what they are to most of us; just names. There is a similar memorial in Llanblethian Parish Church, containing a further 16 names, commemorating the men of Llanblethian who lost their lives, plus a Roll of Honour at Holy Cross Church.

But do any of us actually know anything at all about these men who lost their lives in the Great War? Generally, little or nothing.

Yet, these men lived in the Cowbridge and Llanblethian area. They led their lives in the same place many of us live in. They walked down the same streets, lived in the very same houses some of us inhabit, used the same shops – though the goods have changed markedly since, and perhaps enjoyed a beer with their friends, after a hard day's work, in the same pubs that we now use. They were mostly very young men, so we can assume many had sweethearts they courted, picnicked with on the banks of the Thaw in summertime, held hands with, and perhaps stole a kiss when no-one was looking. Maybe they talked of getting married and spending their lives together.

These men who joined the military left Cowbridge and Llanblethian, their homes, their loved ones and signed up, voluntarily in most cases, to fight for their country one hundred years ago. This year we are commemorating the centenary of the start of that conflict, World War 1.

They all lost their lives in war, many at a very young age, and deserve recognition for their sacrifice, so let us take this opportunity get to know each one of them a little better.

William Archer. Willie, as he was known, was born in Cowbridge in late 1894. In 1901, aged only 6, he was living in Eastgate in a house to the east of The Shield with his widowed grandmother, Maria Archer, his Uncle John and Aunts Alice and Mary. Was Willie an orphan? His Grandmother died in 1905 when he was only 10.

In 1911, when Willie was still only 16, he was lodging at 7 The Limes with his Uncle William Davies and his wife Alice, and their baby daughter Gwendoline, plus Alice's two daughters Dorothy and Annie John. When he enlisted at Tonypany he was living in Williamstown, Rhondda – possibly working in the coalfield.

In 1914 Willie would have been too young for active service, but was probably at war, as he entered France in December 1915 seeing action at the Somme, High Wood and Flanders. Willie was killed in action and died on 27th August 1918, aged only 23. His name is inscribed on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, south-east of Arras, which also commemorates the lives of 9,000 other men who fell between August and November 1918.

David Robert Bond. Robert was born in Cowbridge in late 1898. He was the second son of John and Margaret Bond who, in the 1911 census, with a family of eight children (four sons and four daughters), lived at 48 Westgate at the foot of Bond's Hill on the Llantwit Major road. (There is some question whether this was Rock House, which was then called Rose Cottage, or whether Rose Cottage was in fact the house next door.) Father John Bond was a general labourer.

Robert enlisted at Bridgend as a driver and landed in France on Christmas Eve 1915, when he was only 17. At the time of his death, on 28th September 1918, he was serving with D Battery of the 15th Brigade of the RFA. Robert had only recently returned to the front after compassionate home leave to attend his mother's funeral. His grave is in the British Extension of the Metz-en-Coutre communal cemetery to the south west of Cambrai. Robert was just about 20 when he died, having served almost 4 years.

Noah Brakewell (correctly spelt Breakwell). Noah was born in Shropshire in 1874. He was living in Shropshire at the time of both the 1881 and 1891 census returns and in 1891 was employed as a stone breaker. He cannot be found in the 1901 census.

In August 1907 he married Sarah Jennet James of Llanblethian at Headley near Southampton. Jennet was born in Llanblethian in 1874 and was the daughter of William James of Llandow and his wife Mary from Coity. Noah and Jennet were living in Blackwood, Monmouthshire with their 11 month old daughter Violet May at the time of the 1911 census when Noah was a labourer in building construction. In 1915 Jennet was living in Market Street Abergavenny. Noah's link with Llanblethian seems to be via his wife's family.

He was listed in the Roll of Honour printed in the Glamorgan Gazette on 23rd October 1914 as T Brakewell and was probably called to the Welch Regiment as a reservist and was sent to serve in France in November 1914.

On 12th October 1915 accurate shelling, by two howitzers, for more than 4 hours, completely demolished 75 yards of Welch trench in which 14 soldiers were killed, including Noah Breakwell aged 40. Noah and eleven companions were buried in the Crucifix cemetery in Loos but have no known graves. They are commemorated on the cemetery memorial at Dud Corner.

William Henry Burley. William was born in Cowbridge around the middle of 1896, and was the third son of George and Elizabeth Burley. The family lived at 44 Westgate in 1911, when father George was a general labourer and young William, aged 14 was working as a grocer's errand boy. In 1918, mother Elizabeth, by now a widow as George died in 1912, was living at 46 Westgate.

William enlisted at Cardiff, joining 15th (Carmarthenshire) Service battalion which, with 13th (2nd Rhondda) and 14th Welch, comprised the 114th Brigade 38th Division. He was killed in action on 29th August 1918 aged only 22 or 23. His grave is in the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval.

The *Glamorgan Gazette* of the 13th September 1918, reports that William was laid to rest by another Cowbridge boy **Pte. W. Bishop**. The report was on the same page as the report of the death of **Tommy Torney**.

Cecil Richard Trevor Chard. Cecil was born in Burry Port (Pembrey), Carmarthenshire in the middle of 1885. He was the eldest son of assistant schoolmaster Harry Chard and his wife Kate who, in 1901, lived with their five children in East Village, Cowbridge. At the time Cecil, aged 16, was an apprentice printer. Father, Harry died early 1905, mother Kate still lived in Cowbridge in 1911.

Cecil married Bertha Govier in Cardiff in 1908. Bertha's father, James Govier, was the landlord of the Commercial Hotel, Eastgate at the time of the 1901 census. At the time of the 1911 census Cecil and Bertha were living with their young son Cecil Stanley in Walsall Staffordshire and Cecil was still in the printing trade.

Cecil joined the 1/5th South Staffordshire Regiment (a territorial battalion) at Walsall, Staffs. He went to France in March 1915 and was killed in action, on 13th October 1915, aged 30. He has no known grave but his name is inscribed on the Loos Memorial.

Cecil & Bertha had a further child Richard Gordon who was born 2 months before Cecil died - did Cecil even know he had a second son?

On the same day that Cecil Chard died another Cowbridge man, Rifleman **Arthur Stuart Miles**, lost his life in the same battle.

Richard Henry Collins. Richard was born in Keynsham, Somerset in mid 1892. He was the third son (one daughter) of John and Ann Collins. Father John was a Carter in the 1901 census and a road mender working for Bath Council in 1911, when Richard appears to have been working as a gardener in Aylesbury. Richard married Alice Maud James, whose father was a blacksmith at Fonmon at the time of the 1911 census, in Bridgend in late 1913.

There is no known direct link with Llanblethian or Cowbridge but perhaps, after his marriage to Alice, they lived and he worked in the area prior to enlistment.

He enlisted in the Army in Cardiff, probably in 1915, and was sent to France on Boxing Day 1915, but nothing is known of his military service. He died on 18th June 1918 aged 26, his grave is in the Antwerp Schoonselhof Communal Cemetery.

Evan Thomas David. Evan or Thomas? When very young he seemed to be known as Evan but later became Tom. He was born in mid 1898, the older of two sons (and two daughters) of David and Elma David and the family lived near The Causie (Causeway) Llanblethian at the time of the 1901 census. By the time the 1911 census took place they had moved a short distance and lived near Kingscombe, Llanblethian. When Tom died they were living at Factory Road, Llanblethian, again only a short step away.

Tom is listed in *Glamorgan Gazette's* Roll of Honour on 23rd October 1914 (T E David). His service record shows he enlisted in the Welsh Regiment and was sent to

France on 17 February 1915, but there is no information of his service available other than the announcement of his death.

He is not recorded by the CWGC as he had been discharged from the Army before his death at home in Llanblethian on 4th April 1917. A report in the *Glamorgan Gazette* (13th April 1917) refers to the burial of Tom David in Llanblethian Church, confirm his age as only 18.

The dates above strongly suggest that Tom David enlisted in mid 1914, when he was only just 15 and was sent to war before his 16th birthday. The *Gazette* report describes him as "been through the thick of ithome from the front, suffering from shrapnel wounds as well as being gassed."

Tom was interred at Llanblethian Church and a white cross to his memory is behind the choir stall on the south side of the chancel of Llanblethian church. However, the actual site of his grave could not be located in a recent survey.

Bassett James Davies. Born in Cowbridge in mid 1895, Bassett was the only son of Mathias Davies, a decorator, and wife Jane Davies, who lived with Bassett's younger sister Elsie at 16 High Street in 1901. By 1911 the family had moved to 34 Westgate St., Cowbridge and Bassett and Elsie attended the town's grammar school. Before the war he worked at the offices of Evans & Reid, coal merchants, Cardiff.

Bassett enlisted at Cardiff, joining 10th Welch (1st Rhondda) Service battalion which was assigned to 38th (Welsh) Division. He was probably in action near the town of Ypres when he received wounds from which he died, only aged 22, on 6th August 1917. His grave is at Dozinghem Military Cemetery.

John Robert Collard Dunn and Francis William Morgan Dunn. Born early 1885 and mid 1886 respectively. Jack and Frank were the second and third of five sons of Frederick William and Jennet Dunn of *The Cross*, Llanblethian. Frederick Dunn died in 1911 and his wife, Jennett in 1915 both, perhaps fortunately, before the death of three of their five sons.

They had moved from Kent in 1884 to live at *The Cross*, just below Llanblethian church. Frederick was recorded in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns as a mining engineer; he was born in Carmarthen whereas Jennet was born in Llantrisant. The 1911 census records Jack as a law student and Frank as an engineering student. The brothers were educated at Cowbridge Grammar School, were keen cricketers and, with older brother Fred who survived the war, were listed in *Glamorgan Gazette's* Roll of Honour on 23rd October 1914.

Jack and Frank were both commissioned in the 1/5th Welch, which formed part of the 53rd (Welsh) TF Division. 5th Welsh embarked on SS *Huntsgreen* for grueling voyage to Port Said and eventually the British base at Mudros in the Aegean sea. On the night of 8/9th August 1915 5th Welsh landed at Sulva bay with no artillery support, transport, maps or signalers.

On the morning of 10th the battalion was ordered to take Scimitar Hill. An attack on the previous day had been repulsed and wounded men, British and Turks, still lay on the hillside when shell-fire during this second attack ignited the ground cover and fanned by strong wind swept across the face of the hill. The attack floundered in complete confusion with many casualties which included Frank who was killed in action on 10th August 1915, aged 30, and Jack, who died 10 days later, aged 29. The two brothers have no known graves but are commemorated on the Helles Memorial at the end of the Gallipoli peninsular, as also, is **Arthur Wynne Jones** from Cowbridge

Hugh Aubrey Fairfield Dunn. Hugh Aubrey Fairfield Dunn, born early 1888, is listed as Tom Dunn on the Roll of Honour in Holy Cross Church. He was the fourth of five Dunn brothers and he joined the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (RMRE) after the deaths of Jack and Frank. The youngest brother Augustus (Guy) who would survive the war also joined the RMRE.

Like all his brothers Tom was a keen sportsman; he played cricket and hockey and was an excellent swimmer. His death by drowning in the river Monnow was both tragic and inexplicable. On the afternoon of Sunday 21st May 1916, Tom Dunn with a fellow officer, David Williams went for a bathe in a river pool behind a weir and which was about 17 feet deep. They rowed out to the pool in a boat, from which they entered the water; David Williams going first. He swam to the bank saw Tom enter the water feet first but, as he rose to the surface, he appeared to be in difficulties. David tried to help but failed and Tom Dunn died during the 15 minutes it took to retrieve him.

At an inquest the following day it emerged that David Williams said he had heard Tom was very much subject to cramp. The Coroner, in summing up his verdict of "accidentally drowned," said that the river Monnow was of very ill repute and always exceptionally colder than the river Wye.

Tom Dunn was buried, aged 28, with full military honours at Llanblethian churchyard

Thomas Albert John Edwards. Thomas was born in Ystradowen in late 1891. At the time of the 1891 census earlier that year his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Edwards, were living with her parents Thomas and Mary Sant at Talyfon Castle. Thomas's father Samuel worked for his father-in-law who was a farmer.

By 1901 father Samuel was a farmer himself and Tom lived at the family farm at Bryndafod in Welsh St Donats. In the 1911 census the family was living at Clawdd-Coch, Pendoylan but now Samuel describes himself as an "estate labourer" and Tom was working as a haulier. Samuel died in early 1917, just before his son.

Tom was Corporal in the Somerset Light Infantry when he first entered the war in France on 1st June 1915 in France. There is little other information available on his military service other than that he was a Sergeant when he died and was awarded the 1915 Star along with the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He was killed in action on 9th April 1917, aged 25, during the 1st Battle of the Scarpe which opened the major offensive launched from a system of tunnels beneath the

town of Arras. He has no known grave but his name is recorded on the Arras Memorial.

Tom's name also appears on the Pendoylan War Memorial.

Owen Evans. Born Welsh St. Donats in mid 1892. He was the fourth son of seven (plus 1 daughter) of the Rev William Edgar Evans, minister of Carmel Congregational Church in Bonvilston, and wife Mary Evans. They lived at The Manse in Llanbethery. Owen worked for John Hopkins & Sons, builders and monumental masons in Cowbridge, and, aged 18, is described as a sculptor in the 1911 Census.

Owen was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Cowbridge with **Aubrey Lloyd Morgan**. Both men are listed in *Glamorgan Gazette's* Roll of Honour of 23rd October 1914.

The Royal Sussex Regiment 7th Battalion, was part of the 12th Eastern Division 36th Brigade. Owen landed at Boulogne in June 1915 and was probably involved in the Battle of Loos at the end of September 1915. He died in the 1st Battle of the Somme on 7th July 1916 aged 24, and is buried at Ovillers Military Cemetery.

Two years later Edgar and Mary Evans suffered the tragic loss of Owen's younger brother Lance Corporal Emrys Morgan Evans. Apparently, as Emrys had neither lived or worked in Cowbridge, he was not included with Owen on the town memorial.

David Fitzgerald, Born in Llanblethian in mid 1892, David was the second son of John Fitzgerald who was born in Cork, Ireland. John worked as a railway platelayer in 1901 and lived near the Farmers Arms in Aberthin with his Welsh wife Elizabeth and their four children. By 1911 the family had moved to 5 Aubrey Terrace and David, still living at home, was employed as a mason. The family home was still in Aubrey Terrace in 1918 when David died.

David may have considered himself Irish for he served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers from November 1914 and was stationed at Cork. He transferred to the Royal Welsh Regiment in April 1916 so that he could be with his elder brother William. He also seems to have served in the 2/3rd Cheshire Regiment for a short period before being transferred back to the Welsh Regiment. Confusingly the Cowbridge war memorial places him in the South Wales Borderers even though his headstone shows him to have been in the Royal Welsh Regiment.

The German spring offensive of 1918 was fought in Picardy over the old battlefield of the Somme, but petered out before reaching the major and vital railway town of Amiens. David was killed on the first day of the Battle of Lys on 9th April 1918, aged

25, and his grave is in an extension to the communal cemetery at Beuvry a town about 3km east of Bethune.

William James. William was born in Cowbridge in 1892. He was the only son of John James of Llysworney and his wife Harriet from Bath Somerset; William had an older sister, Maud. The family was living close to the Edmondes Arms in East Village Cowbridge at the time of the 1901 census and had moved to Glebe House Llanblethian by the time of the 1911 census; William and Maud were still living with their parents in 1911. In both the 1901 and 1911 census returns father John describes his employment as haycutter, William being similarly employed in 1911.

William enlisted for 3 years in the Welsh Regiment (2nd Welch) at Cowbridge on 6th November 1914. He left for France on 17th February 1915. The 2nd Welch was involved in an attack on Aubers Ridge which opened on 9th May 1915. The German defenders were securely entrenched, artillery bombardment failed to reach its targets and machine-gun fire was deadly and accurate. Within two hours many of the soldiers had been cut down or drowned in the marsh and stream in the area.

William was killed in action on 9th May 1915, aged 23. He has no known grave and his name is engraved on the Welch Regiment panel on the Le Touret Memorial. Over 13,000 names are listed on the memorial of men who died before 25th September 1915.

Albert and Arthur Gibbs. Albert was born in Cowbridge in mid 1896 and he and brother Arthur were the fourth and sixth of nine sons and two daughters of Joseph and Florence Gibbs. Joseph, who was from Birmingham, was a printer for the Glamorgan Gazette and had moved to Cowbridge in 1895 to set up a printing business with his assistant David Brown at 43 High Street.

In 1901 the Gibbs family was living at 23 Eastgate, Joseph being recorded in the census as a printer, stationer and Shopkeeper. In 1911, Albert aged 14, was working in the family business as a Printers Compositor, along with his older siblings Ethel, Walter and Frederick, 12 year old Arthur was still at school.

Albert enlisted in Bridgend on 1st November 1915, joining the 7th Welsh Cyclists Regiment. At some stage he transferred to the 16th (Cardiff City) Service Division which was raised in November 1914, and entered France on 29th July 1916. Albert was killed in action, hit in the head as he was leaving his dug-out, near Ypres on 14th September 1916. He was just 20 years of age and had served only 48 days in France. His grave is in Essex Farm Cemetery, only 2 rows away from that of **William Lane** who was killed in action less than a month earlier.

Arthur was born on 24th April 1899 and enlisted at Bridgend into 9th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on 2nd March 1917, a little over 5 months after Albert's death, when he was 17 years 10 months old. He was first posted on 21st October 1917 and was reported missing in action on 8th June 1918.

In July 1918 a brief report in the *Glamorgan Gazette* stated "After being missing for a considerable time news has been received that Pte Arthur Gibbs is a prisoner of war in Germany." The Gazette listed six Cowbridge men, all living in Eastgate, as

prisoners: J Oakley and his brother A Oakley, brothers Fred and Arthur Gibbs, E Lloyd and Jack Conway. Sadly, Arthur died of dysentery at the Worms POW hospital in Germany on 24th October 1918; he was only 19 years old. His grave is in Worms (Hochheim Hill cemetery).

Arthur's regiment were part of five extremely unfortunate divisions which faced a series of German Spring Offensives, in 1918 and suffered such heavy losses that the survivors were ordered back to England on 30th June and the battalion was disbanded shortly afterwards.

After the war Frederick returned home and settled in Maesteg. Albert and Arthur's brother Harry also served.

Ralph Goulden is not listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as he died a civilian but was as much a casualty of the Great War as all the other men on the memorial. He was born in Bridgend in late 1893 and was the third son (of a family of 6 sons and 3 daughters) of Henry and Jane Goulden. Henry ran a bakers and confectionery shop at 17 High Street in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns. At the time of the 1911 census Ralph was a postman.

Elder Brother Richard had a very distinguished war-time career being awarded both the Distinguished Conduct Medal and a Military Medal. Younger brother Edgar served in the Royal Navy and older sister Alice served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

The *Glamorgan Gazette* in October 1918 carried the report "*Edgar Goulden RNR was handed a token of appreciation from the Mayor of Cowbridge to convey to his brother, Ralph Goulden, who lies in a precarious state in his home suffering severely from gas Poisoning.*"

Ralph died in Bettws, Ammanford on 26th June 1919 aged 25.

Ralph's name is on the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour.

Benjamin Hayward & Sidney Abraham Hayward. Benjamin and Sidney Hayward were the third and youngest sons of the eleven children of George and Elizabeth Hayward. George of Cricklade, Wiltshire married Elizabeth Jones of Cowbridge in 1873. In 1881 they were living with their 4 youngest sons, including Benjamin who was born in late 1877, at the Causeway, Llanblethian. By 1891 they had moved to Eastgate, Cowbridge when father George was working as a painter and decorator, Elizabeth a dressmaker; young Benjamin a general labourer. By this time the family were seven sons and two daughters all living at home.

By 1901 the older sons had moved away and George declared in the 1901 census that he was a coffee house owner as well as a decorator. Benjamin enlisted in the Royal Navy in September 1897, signing on for 12 years.

Benjamin was stood down to the Royal Naval Reserve after his 12 years service in 1909 and worked at the power station at Upper Boat. He was recalled from the Reserve in August 1914 to serve on *HMS Challenger*. By September 1914 Challenger was stationed off the west coast of Africa and played a major part in the successful Franco/British invasion of the German colony of Cameroon. In January 1916 Benjamin was discharged from the navy on grounds of ill health. He returned to his wife, Ida Margaret Williams, whom he had married in 1914 and who lived at the Broughton shop near Wick. Benjamin died of malaria on 25th January 1916, aged 38, and was buried in the graveyard attached to Wick Unitarian Chapel.

Sidney was born in mid 1892. By 1911 Sidney was the only one of the children still living at home and Elizabeth, still at Eastgate, was running a sweet shop. Sidney is described as in service with a doctor. Strangely, George does not appear on the 1911 census although he was still alive and did not pass away until March 1917.

Sidney also worked at Court Herald colliery near Neath Abbey and lodged at 99 Old Road, Skewen, the address which is also given for his parents at the time of his death in June 1917, although father George died some 3 months before.

In January 1915 Sidney enlisted at Neath joining the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and crossed to France in December that year. Sidney's division went into action in the Battle of the Somme in July. There were six days of murderous fighting before they captured the Mametz wood, which resulted in huge casualties. The division was then withdrawn from Picardy to Flanders.

Sidney was killed in action on 24th June 1917, aged 25, before the start of the 3rd Battle of Ypres during a German barrage on trenches in front of the Yser canal. His grave is in the Bard Cottage cemetery near Boezinghe, in the northern sector of the Ypres salient.

All eleven Hayward siblings served their country in the Great War. Eight of the brothers enlisted in the army, Benjamin served in the Royal Navy, and the two sisters Beatrice and Bertha served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

William Morgan Jenkins. Morgan was born in Llanblethian in mid 1899 and was the son of William and Margaret Jenkins who in 1901, were living with Morgan and his two sisters at the *Malthouse*, Llanblethian; father William worked as a builders labourer. By 1911 the family, now with an additional daughter had moved to 23 Westgate Street Cowbridge and father William worked as a malster.

Morgan enlisted in the 9th Welch and after training at Salisbury he sailed for France on 18th July 1915 with the 58th Brigade. He would have been just 16 at the time. Morgan was quite likely involved in action at Loos in September 1915, the battle of the Somme in 1916 and the Menin Road in 1917. The long anticipated German Spring offensive began in March 1918 and between then and 29th May, when Morgan was reported missing, the British troops were under massive pressure and conceded a considerable amount of territory; the 9th Welch suffering heavy casualties.

Morgan was one of many thousands who had been taken prisoner although his anxious parents would not know this until more than two months later when they received a postcard to say that he had been wounded and was a POW. In October

they received the tragic news that their son had died on 9th August 1918, aged only 20, through wounds received in action. His grave is in Niedierzwehren cemetery near Kassel in Hesse.

On 8th December 1918 a memorial service was held in Ramoth chapel for Morgan Jenkins and a tablet was later placed in his memory on the west wall of the chapel.

Arthur Morgan Jones. Arthur was born in mid 1893 in Llantrisant. He was the third of four sons, and three daughters, of William and Maria Jones. In 1901 the family was living in Llanerch, Pendoylan with Maria's father Harry Hike; a farmer. By 1911 they had moved to Paradwys, Aberthin where they were still living in 1918. Father William was a joiner and Arthur a butcher's assistant.

Arthur enlisted in the Welsh Horse, a yeomanry regiment of mounted territorial's in June 1915 but they sailed without horses in February 1916 to Alexandria and the Suez Canal Defence Zone. Arthur was in action in Third battle of Gaza and the successful advance on Jerusalem.

At sometime during the year Arthur, who was now a Sergeant, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. This medal was originally awarded only to senior NCO's for long and meritorious service. However, the conditions were redefined as "for devotion to duty in a theatre of war and for gallant conduct such as saving life." Arthur received it for gallantry.

The situation on the Western Front became critical in 1918 and Arthur's division was transferred there in May 1918 and, after a short training period, Arthur was in action again. He was fatally wounded and died on 20th September 1918, aged 25, his brother Sgt-Major William Jones being with him at the end and at his burial in Peronne Communal Cemetery.

Arthur and all three of his brothers served with the Colours.

Arthur Wynne Jones. He was born in Llanfyllin in Montgomeryshire and may have moved to South Wales to work in the Glamorganshire coalfield. He enlisted in Pontypridd where 1/5th Welch Regiment had its headquarters. Arthur was probably involved in building coastal defences in readiness for an anticipated German invasion in East Anglia. His connection with Cowbridge is yet to be discovered.

Along with the **Dunn brothers** Arthur subsequently left on the *SS Huntsgreen*, and with 8 other grossly overloaded troopships spent three sweltering hot weeks to steam across the Mediterranean Sea, via Malta and Egypt to arrive on 5th August at Mudros in the Aegean Sea. Here they prepared for an assault landing at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli peninsular. On the morning of 10th the battalion was ordered to take Scimitar Hill. An attack on the previous day had been repulsed and wounded men, British and Turks, still lay on the hillside when shell-fire during this second attack ignited the ground cover and fanned by strong wind swept across the face of the hill. The attack floundered in complete confusion with many casualties which included Arthur and the **Jack and Frank Dunn** of Llanblethian.

Arthur Wynne Jones and the two Dunn brothers have no known graves but are commemorated on the Helles Memorial at the end of the Gallipoli peninsular.

William Eaton Lane was born in mid 1893 in Cowbridge. He was the eldest of five sons (and one daughter) of Sidney and Mary Lane who lived at 6 Westgate Street Cowbridge in 1901 and 1911 where father Sidney was a storekeeper. In 1911 William was working as a railway clerk.

William enlisted at Newport joining the South Wales Borderers, trained at Colwyn Bay and arrived in France on active service on 4th December 1915. He was involved in action at the Somme the following July.

The Welsh Division, of which the SWB was part, suffered enormous casualties at Mametz Wood and was withdrawn from the front line and transferred to Flanders. Welsh troops were not involved in any major offensive near Ypres, but normal trench duty was always dangerous and William was killed in action on 23rd August 1916 aged 23. His grave is in Essex Farm cemetery north of Ypres.

Charles Lewis. Charles was born in Cowbridge in the latter part of 1898. He was the only son of Alfred and Elizabeth Lewis and the family lived at Croft Street (then known as Taff Street) in 1901. By 1911 the family had moved to Aberthin Road and Charles was older brother to Florence and Esther. Father Alfred was a plasterer.

Charles enlisted at Bridgend, joining the Royal Field Artillery but later transferred to the "Tanks" which was originally the Heavy Section of the Machine Gun Corps before being renamed the Tank Corps in June 1916. These new caterpillar tracked vehicles first came into action in September 1916.

Charles Lewis died of wounds on 23rd July 1916 aged only 17. His grave is in the British cemetery at Roye, south east of Amiens.

Frederick Charles Lord. Fred was born at Brooke, a Norfolk village about 5 miles south of Norwich on 10th July 1891 and Christened, along with younger brother Alfred who was born that year, on 10th September 1893. He was the second of three sons of Henry John and Maria Lord who in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns were living in Norfolk.

It appears that prior to enlisting in the army at Cardiff, probably in 1914, Fred was Police Constable 634 in the Glamorgan Constabulary and was based in Cowbridge.

He was following in father's footsteps as father Henry was a Superintendent of Police in 1911.

His army record shows he was sent to France on 5th October 1914, but other information indicates his division landed at Zeebrugge on 7th October, suggesting he was in 1st Battalion. They saw action at Ypres with the loss of all but 4 officers and 200 men.

Fred died of wounds on 14th September 1916 and is buried in an extension to Corbie Communal Cemetery about 15km east of Amiens.

The *Glamorgan Gazette* wrote about him on 29th September 1916 "*When stationed at Cowbridge he won the respect of everyone, his attention to duty, his unassuming disposition and genial personality made for him a host of friends.*"

His name appears on the Roll of Honour of the Glamorgan Constabulary.

Morris James Marsden. Morris was born in Silian Cardiganshire in mid 1895. He was youngest of three sons of John and Mary Ann Marsden. There were also 6 daughters and the family lived a Rhydybannau a large farm south of Cribyn in both 1901 and 1911.

There is no known record of his living in Cowbridge but a member of the Marsden family has confirmed that before his enlistment he had been employed at one of the three banks then flourishing in Cowbridge; the London provincial (now Barclays), the Metropolitan Bank of England & Wales (HSBC) or the National Provincial (Nat West), so in all probability he did live in Cowbridge .

Little is also known of his military career. He was a member of the Glamorgan Yeomary, and embarked for France in March 1917. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Menin Road on 25th September 1917, aged 22, but has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Tyne Cott memorial north east of Ypres.

Arthur Stuart Miles. Arthur was born in Cowbridge in early 1896. He was the third son of four (and one daughter) of Frederick Augustus and Wilmot Agnes Miles. In 1901 the family lived at either 4 or 6 High Street where Arthur's father had a grocery shop. Father Frederick died in 1905 but Mrs. Miles continued managing the business and was still doing so in 1915. Arthur was assisting her in the business at the time of the 1911 census.

Only just eighteen when war was declared, Arthur must have volunteered for the army almost immediately; he enlisted at Newport, choosing to join 1st Monmouthshire, - maybe because uniforms, rifles and training were acquired more

quickly by enlisting in a territorial battalion than in one of Kitchener's New Army battalions.

Arthur was sent to France in June 1915. He may have been a member of a Pioneer battalion, assigned responsibility for trench maintenance, drainage, road building and light railway construction. Pioneers were trained soldiers and in addition to this work were used in both attack and defence. Arthur was killed in action near the Hohenzollern Redoubt on 13th October 1915, aged 19. His grave is in the Arras Road cemetery in the village of Roclincourt between Lens and Lille.

David Miles. David was the eldest of the ten children of David and Angelina Miles. He was born on 15th December 1897 in Cadoxton, Barry where David attended school. After leaving school at fourteen he worked at *Ysguborgoch* farm St Andrews Major, moving a year later with the farmer, Mr Jones, to *Hollybush* farm on Stalling Down just to the east of Cowbridge. Early in 1913 the Miles family moved from Eastbrook, Dinas Powis, where they lived at the time of the 1911 census, to live at *Rock House* and then to *The Malthouse*, Llanblethian from where David enlisted on 4th September 1914. He was three months short of his seventeenth birthday, still only a boy, whose prize possessions were his Raleigh bicycle and a mouth organ.

David went to France on 11th January 1915, just seventeen, and when he was killed in action on 9th May 1915 was two years under the age for military service overseas. He died at Richebourg St Vaast probably in the same failed attack on Aubers ridge in which **William James** died. David has no known grave his name is on Le Touret Memorial.

Edward Miles. Ted Miles, born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire in 1896, was a cousin of **David Miles**, his mother being a sister of David Miles senior. His mother died young and Ted, after some years living in a children's home, lived with his uncle, David Miles and his family in Dinas Powys changing his name from Brown to Miles. He worked as a chauffer for a Dr. Costello in Dinas Powys before enlisting in Carmarthen.

He was sent to France in December 1914 and served in Flanders. No information is available of his service in France until 1917. The 3rd Battle of Ypres officially ended on 10th November 1917 after the capture of Passchendale ridge, but the Ypres salient continued to be hazardous and Edward Miles died of wounds on 31st December 1917 at one of three casualty clearing stations at Dozinghem. His grave is at Dozinghem Military cemetery.

Aubrey Lloyd Morgan. Aubrey was born early in 1894 in Cowbridge. He was the older of two sons and two daughters of Thomas Morgan, a master mariner from Llandaff, Cardiff and his wife Emily Ann from Llandoverly. At the time of the 1901 census they lived at *the Bridge*, 5 High Street, and in 1911 at *Glanthaw House* 1 High Street, Cowbridge. By 1915 the family was living at *Cusop* at the junction of Love Lane and Broadway, having previously also lived at *Greenfield*.

Aubrey was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment Cowbridge with **Owen Evans**. Both men are listed in *Glamorgan Gazette's* Roll of Honour of 23rd October 1914.

The regiment trained in England until May 1915 and landed in Boulogne on 1st June 1915, going into action on 30th September north east of Loos. After initial success the Battle of Loos had resulted in small gains of territory but continued with heavy casualties until 4th November 1915. Aubrey was one of those casualties and was killed in action on 21st October 1915, aged 21. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Richard Thomas Morgan. Richard, born in Penarth in September 1886, was the son of a railway signalman, also named Richard, from Llysworney, and his wife Mary from Llancadle. By 1888 the family had moved to Cowbridge and in 1901 the parents, with 7 children including Richard, were living at 10 Eastgate. The younger Richard was working as a railway clerk. By 1911 he had left home and was still working on the railways and lodging in Barry. Later that year he emigrated to Australia.

On 6th January 1916 Richard enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland. His trade was noted as mechanic. Six months later he sailed for England, via Cape Town – where Richard overstayed his shore leave by 6 hours, which cost him a day's pay! The ship reached Plymouth at the end of July, and he then spent 4 months training in England. Hopefully was able to be reunited with his family and friends in Cowbridge before he went to France in November 1916.

Throughout 1916 preparatory action had taken place south of Ypres in undermining the Messines and Wystschaete ridges where twenty-one long mining galleries were driven from the British lines towards the ridges, ending in chambers which were filled with a million pounds of highly explosive ammonal. At 3.10am on 7th June 1917 nineteen mines were detonated followed by intensive artillery bombardments – it is said the explosion was so powerful it was heard in London. Richard was involved in a second wave attack and the ridges were captured, He died on 12th June 1917 from wounds he received in the action. His grave is in the Trois Arbres cemetery east of Bailleul.

At the time Richard died his parents still lived in Cowbridge at The Apiary.

Harold Otto William Moynan. Harold was the younger of the two sons of Dr Richard Moynan and his wife Emma and was born in Newport Mon in mid 1886. Dr Moynan was the medical officer of health for the borough of Cowbridge and at some date between 1901 and 1911 moved from Llwynceilyn in Eastgate to Woodstock House in the High Street.

Harold and older brother Richard enlisted before October 1914. Harold joined the South Wales Borderers (Brecknockshire) territorial battalion and although it is

unlikely he was serving with this battalion at the time of his death as the Brecknockshires spent almost the entire wartime years in India.

Harold was killed in action on 31st July 1917, aged 30, on the first day of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, a offensive which would grind on for a further three months. He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

William David Owen. William was born at 15 Mackintosh Place Cardiff in August 1887. He was one of twin sons of William Owen and Sarah Jane (nee) Jones, his brother being Richard Austin. William's father was a lead miner in Llanbrynmair and the family had migrated south when the work dried up. Sarah was from Merthyr Tydfil, the daughter of a fairly wealthy building contractor David Jones. Father William began life as a teenager in South Wales working in the pit, attended evening classes and by aged 21 was working as an accountant in Cardiff.

Shortly after William David's birth the family moved to Park Street Treforest where a further son, Maldwyn Hugh, and daughter Morfydd were born. Tragically, just 16 days after Morfydd was born Maldwyn died of meningitis.

Prior to joining the army William David was a bank clerk at the London & Provincial bank in Cowbridge High Street from 1913 to 1916 having previously worked in branches at Ruthin and Portsmouth. He was in the OTC (Officer Training Corps) and in October 1917 the London Gazette announced his promotion from Cadet to Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Welsh Regiment.

William married Ivy Keturah Hutchings in Portsmouth in mid 1917 and they lived with her parents at Southsea. When he left for service in France, in December that year, Ivy was expecting his baby; his daughter, Megan Morfydd Owen, was born 6 months later.

The circumstances surrounding his death is a little confusing. The book "*Carmarthen Pals: A History of 15th Battalion the Welsh Regiment*" records his battalion in action in northern France close to the Belgian border and that William died of his wounds on 11th October 1918. However, other information indicates he was en route to fight in Salonika when he contracted influenza and died in a French military hospital. His grave is in the communal cemetery of St. Germain-au-mont-d'or, about 8 miles north of Lyon, some 370 south of the Belgian border, which tends to support the influenza version.

Sister Morfydd (Llwyn) Owen was very famous in music as a composer, pianist and mezzo-soprano and during her short career composed some 180 works. Sadly, she died, aged only 26, a month before William due to complications when operated on for appendicitis.

William's David Owen's death made it triple tragedy for father William who lost his wife, only daughter and the second of his three sons in just six months.

Alexander Pate(s) Alexander was born in 1887 in Aberdeen, the son of an Irish father, George Holden Pate. He was either the second or third of twelve children, as he was one of twins. By 1891 he was living with father George and 3 elder brothers in Alphington near Tiverton in Devon. Father George was well known in Plymouth as a marine recruiting sergeant. George married Emily Gitsham, who was some 30 years younger in 1889 and the family moved to Cardiff around 1894/5. In 1901 they were living in 17 Ferry Road, Canton, Cardiff. Alexander by this time had a further two younger brothers and two younger sisters.

He was in the Welsh Regiment, and at the time of the 1911 census and was stationed in the Abbassia Barracks, Cairo, Egypt. At the same time twin brother, Archibald, was in the Royal Navy and was on board ship in China and the East Indies.

Alexander joined the Post Office as a postman in May 1913 in Cardiff. He appears to have been attached to the Barry office and an entry in the South Wales Echo on 10th December 1914, indicates he was a postman at Cowbridge.

Alexander, a bandsman as well as a soldier, was probably called up as a reservist and entered France on military service on 27th August 1914. In late October the British Expeditionary Force was forced into desperate defence against the Germans near Ypres. They suffered heavy losses when attacked on 23rd October, (on the very day his name was published in the Glamorgan Gazette Roll of Honour) when Alexander was wounded and he died of his wounds on 26th October 1914, aged 27. His grave is located in Poperinghe old cemetery which is located 10.5 km west of Ypres.

In addition to the Cowbridge memorial Alexander's name appears on the Barry PO memorial, the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour, the Grangetown (Cardiff) memorial, the Grangetown Roll of Honour and the Scottish National War memorial.

James William Payne - recorded as Joshua Payne on the Cowbridge memorial. James, the eldest son, of seven sons and one daughter, of William James and Francis May Payne was born in early 1893 in South Shields Co. Durham, where father James was a Housebuilder. In the 1911 census James, only 18 years old at the time, is described as a "pupil/teacher" at Cowbridge Grammar School. He, like **Ronald Wall** who died in 1915, had been an assistant master at Cowbridge Grammar School.

James enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry, which was a territorial battalion, and which was mobilized on 4th August 1914 at Bishop Auckland as part of the 50th (Northumberland) Division 151st Brigade. They landed at Boulogne in April 1915 and suffered very heavy casualties in the 2nd Battle of Ypres (22nd April 25th May 1915).

50th Division was involved in the 1st Battle of the Scarpe. James was killed in action on 14th April 1917, aged 24, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Arras memorial.

David Robert Spencer. One of only two men commemorated on the Cowbridge memorial, who did not wear an army uniform. David was born in mid 1883 in Cowbridge, he was the youngest of three sons of Thomas and Margaret Spencer. In 1891 Thomas was recorded as a brewer and innkeeper and the family was living at the *Duke of Wellington*. Thomas died in 1894 and Margaret took over the running of the *Duke* with eldest son Arthur and will still there in 1901. David had left home and was living in Neath and was employed in engineering. David married Laurie Glaister Bradbury in 1912 in Cardiff. Laurie is recorded as living at Lake Road East, Roath Park, Cardiff

David joined the merchant Navy and was Second Engineer on the *SS Portloe*, registered at Cardiff. 1917 was the worst year of the war for British merchant shipping losses due to enemy submarine attacks, and *Portloe* was torpedoed, west of Ireland, on 20th April 1917 and David died at sea, aged 39.

In addition to the Cowbridge Memorial, David's name is inscribed on the Tower Hill Memorial in London to the men of the merchant marine and fishing fleets.

John Arthur Stockwood. Arthur Stockwood was born in Cowbridge in mid 1878. He was the eldest of five sons of John and Rachel Stockwood who in 1891 lived at *Woodstock House* in Cowbridge High Street. Father, John Stockwood, was a solicitor and Arthur, after attending the grammar school, also qualified as a solicitor. Arthur married Beatrice Ethel Davies in Carmarthen in late 1905 and in 1910 was living next door to his parents at 81 High Street. In the 1911 census he is shown as living in Park Street Bridgend and was in practice as a solicitor with his uncle S H Stockwood.

Despite his age, mid-thirties, and family responsibilities - Arthur was married and the father of three children, he enlisted in Cardiff, joining the Rifle Brigade, soon after Kitchener's appeal for volunteers. He was rapidly promoted to corporal then sergeant and had applied for a commission in the Welch Regiment at the time of his death.

By September 1916 Arthur had served in France for fourteen months; but his luck was due to run out. On 3rd September Arthur's division launched a successful attack and captured the ruined village of Guillemont, which had been one of the strongest fortified villages in the German line and a major British objective since the opening of the Somme offensive.

Arthur was killed in action on 3rd September 1916 aged 48, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Battle of the Somme Memorial at Thiepval.

Thomas Frederick Hastings Torney. Tommy Torney was born early in 1898 and was the only son of Dr. Richard Hastings Torney and his wife Jessie, who in 1901 all lived at Sorrento in Cowbridge High Street. Father Hastings, who would be

commissioned as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps.early in 1917, was born in Ireland.

According to the *Glamorgan Gazette* of 13th September 1918, Tommy was commissioned on his 17th birthday and had been in France for 2 years when he died, which implies that he joined his battalion, aged 18, in September 1916 after it had been transferred from the Somme battlefield to Flanders for rest, refit and reinforcement with fresh drafts from South Wales.

Tommy was killed in action on 3rd September 1918 aged 20. His name, like William Archer's is inscribed on the Vis-en- Artois Memorial. The report of his death in the *Glamorgan Gazette* was on the same page as that of **William Burley**.

William Trew. Willie was born in early 1895, the eldest of four sons and two daughters of James Trew of St. Athan, and his Llanblethian born wife Catherine. In the 1901 census father James is recorded as an agricultural labourer and the family, including Willie, were living near The Mill in Llanblethian. By 1911 they were living in Pretoria Cottage Llanblethian, Willie being employed as a colliery labourer. The family had moved to Westgate, Cowbridge, before Willie's death and had another son serving in France to worry about whilst a third had been discharged badly wounded.

Willie was living in Cowbridge when he enlisted in Cardiff and joined the Welch Regiment. He probably transferred to the 1st Leicesters during the February 1918 army reorganization and was serving with the machine-gun section when he was killed on 21st July 1918 aged 23. His grave is in the Nine Elms British cemetery near Poperinghe, west of Ypres.

A report in the *Glamorgan Gazette* 2nd August 1918 contains the following "He was in the Machine Gun Section and while engaged in a hot fight was fatally struck. His CO, in a sympathetic letter, speaks of him as a splendid soldier, and states that just before he received his death blow, had accounted for a number of the enemy and silenced one of their machine guns."

Ronald Sinclair Wall. Ronald was born in the second half of 1891 in Hampstead, Middlesex. His second name was registered as Shackell in the birth register, military records have it as Schockell but it is also recorded as St Clair and Sinclair.

The 1901 census shows him at the Llandow school where his grandmother, Emma Wall from Ipswich, Suffolk was the school mistress. He was educated at Cowbridge Grammar school where he was also, for a short period an assistant master. The 1911 census describes him as a schoolmaster student.

Ronald Wall enlisted in Cardiff so it is somewhat strange that he should have served with the Northumberland Fusiliers "Tyneside Irish" battalion which mobilized in Newcastle-on-Tyne on 9th November 1914. After basic training the battalion moved at the end of August 1915 to Salisbury Plain, where Ronald died, aged 23, on 15th October 1915. The cause of his death is unknown but he probably died in the very large (1200 beds) hutted military hospital at Sutton Veny, near Warminster, Wiltshire. His grave is in St John's churchyard in Sutton Veny.

Herbert Dudley Williams. Herbert was born in Cowbridge towards the end of 1896. He was the only son of John and Morfydd Williams who also had two daughters. Herbert also had two half brothers and a half sister by his father's previous marriage. In 1901 the family of seven was living in 89 Eastgate. Father John Williams also owned the adjoining property, known as *London House*, where he had a thriving business as a draper with workshops for tailoring and millinery. The family was still resident in 89 Eastgate and the business continued in the 1911 census. Herbert was born in Cowbridge and attended the grammar school.

In 1914, at just 18, he enlisted in Bristol joining the 12th Glosters (Bristol) Service battalion. He landed in France towards the end of 1915.

Herbert Williams died of wounds on 3rd September 1916, barely 20 years of age. His grave is in Dive-Copse British cemetery about 20kms north of Amiens.

William Henry Williams. William probably died as a result of his war service on 4th February 1919 and his grave is in Llanblethian churchyard. However, the actual site of his grave could not be located in a recent survey.

The birth of a William Henry Williams was registered at Bridgend in the second quarter of 1899, as was the death of a William Williams, aged 19, during the same quarter of the year William is known to have died. (Registration information is only publically available for quarters.) William Henry Williams, was the only son plus five daughters, of Henry and Emily Williams, Factory Road, Llanblethian is recorded in the 1901 and 1911 census returns, aged two and twelve respectively. William was still living there at the time of his death.

The service record for William H Williams gives no date information but shows service commencing in the Welsh Regiment with a transfer to the Royal Army Medical Corps and his progression to Acting Sergeant.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour in Holy Cross church with no further details and no records were kept by the CWGC of soldiers who had left the army due to their injuries.

It's so sad that we know so little of this young man who sacrificed his life.

William Willment (correctly recorded as Willmott by the CWGC). William was born in Llantrithyd in 1888. He was the son and eldest child of Fred and Margaret Willmott who still lived in Llantrithyd at the time of the 1891 census. By 1901 the family had moved to St Hilary and William had gained a younger brother and sister. William married Ethel May Firman Ward in St Saviour's Church in Paddington in late 1909. In the marriage banns, he gives his residence as St. Illtyd's Parish Llantwit Major. In the 1911 census he is living at *The Court*, Llantwit Major and he and his wife have a two month old daughter, Eleanor May Firman Willmott. He was working as a haulier.

William joined the Royal Sussex Regiment and was sent to France on 11th January 1915. The British Expeditionary Force, of which his regiment was part, suffered heavy casualties in the action at Aubers ridge during the 2nd Battle of Ypres in May 1915. William's regiment was involved in an attack at Loos on 25th September 1915 and William was killed in action that day, probably in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. His grave is in St Mary's advanced dressing station cemetery near Haisnes.

Acknowledgements

Much of the groundwork for this article was carried out by Jose Rawlins and is included in her book "The Great War: Memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian by Jose Rawlins and published by the Cowbridge Record Society and printed by Keith Brown and Sons Ltd in 2008." The publication is available via the Cowbridge History Society.

I must congratulate Jose on her book, it is a very informative publication and I have found it a great base with which to work. I consider myself fortunate that records and sources not available to Jose when she carried out her research, plus much improved computing power, were available to me at this later date and, probably made my task much easier than hers.

As a couple of names appear on both the Cowbridge and Llanblethian memorials I took the approach of combining the two. I have also produced the list in straightforward alphabetical order and tended to ignore rank which seems somewhat inappropriate some 100 years on.

Asides

Some thoughts/observations/conjecture, they cannot be substantiated.

Robert Bond and William Burley lived just yards apart in Westgate, Cowbridge and, considering their ages, almost certainly played together as children; they lost their lives within a month of each other in France in 1918.

Evan Thomas David, William Morgan Jenkins and David Miles. Tom David and Morgan Jenkins were two young boys who were born in Llanblethian within a few months of each other in 1898. At the time of the 1901 census they lived very close to one another in Llanblethian in the Causie (Causeway) and the Malthouse (Factory Rd), and there can be little doubt they knew each other well. At the time of the 1911 census Tom David had moved to near Kingscombe, Llanblethian, again very close to the *Malthouse*, although by this time Morgan Jenkins had moved to *23 Westgate* Cowbridge.

In 1913 David Miles, aged about fifteen, moved to the Malthouse, Llanblethian and assuming Tom David still lived at Kingscombe, they are quite likely to have met and, being of a similar age, got to know each other. So, we have 3 boys of a similar age living in a very small area.

Subsequently it would appear all three enlisted when underage at the very start of the war in 1914. We don't know the actual date of enlistment, other than for David Miles on 4th September 1914, but we do know that Evan Thomas David had enlisted prior to the Gazette's Roll of Honour on 23rd October 1914, and that David Miles was also included on the Roll. The omission of Morgan Jenkins's name from the Gazette's Roll of Honour on 23rd October 1914 would need to be explained, but an R Jenkins was included, and we know from the incorrect recording of other names that it was not entirely accurate.

Is it a possibility that all three knew each other and decided to go off to war together in response to Lord Kitchener's Appeal of August 1914?

To take it a stage further is it conceivable that William Henry Williams, of whom we know so little, but is of the same age group and from Llanblethian was also a member of this little group?

Owen Evans and Aubrey Lloyd Morgan Two young men of very similar age, perhaps they were friends. Why the Royal Sussex Regiment recruited around Cowbridge is a mystery, unless the two men William Willment and David Miles who were serving with the 2nd battalion, were very persuasive spokesmen for their regiment, and convinced Owen and Aubrey to join them.

David Howell, [REDACTED]

3rd November 2015

Arthur Wynne Jones. He was born on 23 March 1880 in Llanyfyllin, Montgomeryshire, the third and youngest son of Thomas Jones, solicitor, Town Clerk and Clerk to the County and Borough Magistrates.



Arthur Wynn Jones.

Arthur was educated at The Grammar School, Oswestry in April 1897, when he was 17 years old, he went to work for National Provincial Bank of England as apprentice at its Denbigh branch. He transferred to Llandudno branch as a clerk in December 1901; to Hartlepool in March 1903; and to Bristol Stokes Croft in January 1904. In January 1912 he was appointed to Cowbridge branch as pro accountant, and two years later he was formally promoted to accountant grade. His manager there called him 'a good tempered hard worker.'

He enlisted at Pontypridd in the 1/5 Welch Regiment soon after the declaration of war and was soon promoted to L-Cpl.

Along with the **Dunn brothers** Arthur subsequently left the UK on 18th July 1915 on the *SS Huntsgreen*, and with 8 other grossly overloaded troopships spent three sweltering hot weeks to steam across the Mediterranean Sea, via Malta and Egypt to arrive on 5th August at Mudros in the Aegean Sea. Here they prepared for an assault landing at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli peninsular. On the morning of 10th the battalion was ordered to take Scimitar Hill. An attack on the previous day had been repulsed and wounded men, British and Turks, still lay on the hillside when shell-fire during this second attack ignited the ground cover and fanned by strong wind swept across the face of the hill. The attack floundered in complete confusion with many casualties which included Arthur and the **Jack and Frank Dunn** of Llanblethian.

Arthur Wynne Jones and the two Dunn brothers have no known graves but are commemorated on the Helles Memorial at the end of the Gallipoli peninsular. Arthur was awarded (posthumously) the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Commemorating the centenary of the First World War WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

AS this year's particularly significant Remembrance Sunday approaches – significant because it marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War One – the experiences of a typical Vale town such as Cowbridge offer a chance to put a human face on the unimaginable fatality statistics that are a tragic feature of the 'Great War'.

Last week, the GEM published the first part of an article detailing the brief lives of the men who are recorded on the town's Cenotaph. The primary source material for this is a historical book, *The Great War: Memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian* by JOSÉ RAWLINS, published by the Cowbridge Record Society and printed by Keith Brown & Sons of Cowbridge. The book was the result of extensive and painstaking research over five years by the author.

David Howell, the Cowbridge Poppy Appeal organiser, has included sections of the book in the course of compiling the article.

This account of ordinary men, who were transported around the world as the battles raged, and who came to meet their end in foreign fields, was replicated around south Wales, and provides a deeply sobering backdrop to the forthcoming Remembrance ceremonies.

The GEM hopes that telling the story of just a few of the men who fought and died, will inspire residents in the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs to support their local Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion was formed in the aftermath of World War One, but its work continues today, helping men and women who made the same sacrifice as those remembered in this centenary year of the Great War.

Thomas Albert John Edwards

Thomas was born in Ystradowen in late 1891. At the time of the 1891 census his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Edwards, were living with her parents Thomas and Mary Sant at Talyfon Castle.

Thomas's father Samuel worked for his father-in-law, who was a farmer.

By 1901, father Samuel and Tom lived at the family farm at Bryndafod in Welsh St Donats. In the 1911 census the family was living at Clawdd-Coch, Pendoylan but now Samuel describes himself as an "estate labourer" and Tom was working as a haulier. Samuel died in early 1917, just before his son.

No records are available of Tom's military service. He was killed in action on April 9, 1917, aged 25, during the 1st Battle of the Scarpe which opened the major offensive launched from a system of tunnels beneath the town of Arras. He has no known grave but his name is recorded on the Arras Memorial.

Owen Evans

Born in Welsh St. Donats in 1892, he was the fourth son of seven (plus one daughter) of the Rev William Edgar Evans, minister of Carmel Congregational Church in Bonvilston, and wife Mary Evans. They lived at The Manse in Llanbetherly.

Owen worked for John Hopkins & Sons, builders and monumental masons in Cowbridge, and, aged 18, is described as a sculptor in the 1911 Census. Owen was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Cowbridge with Aubrey Lloyd Morgan. Both men are listed in Glamorgan Gazette's Roll of Honour of October 23, 1914.

The Royal Sussex Regiment 7th Battalion, was part of the 12th Eastern Division 36th Brigade. Owen landed at Boulogne in June 1915 and was probably involved in the Battle of Loos at the end of

September 1915. He died in the 1st Battle of the Somme on July 7, 1916, aged 24, and is buried at Ovillers Military Cemetery.

Two years later Edgar and Mary Evans suffered the tragic loss of Owen's younger brother Lance Corporal Emrys Morgan Evans.

Apparently, as Emrys had neither lived or worked in Cowbridge, he was not included with Owen on the town memorial.

David Fitzgerald

Born in Llanblethian in mid-1892, David was the second son of John Fitzgerald who was born in Cork, Ireland. John worked as a railway platelayer in 1901 and lived near the Farmers Arms in Aberthyn with his Welsh wife Elizabeth and their four children.

By 1911 the family had moved to 5 Aubrey Terrace and David, still living at home, was employed as a mason. The family home was still in Aubrey Terrace in 1918 when David died.

David may have considered himself Irish for he served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers from November 1914 and was stationed at Cork. He transferred to the Royal Welsh Regiment in April 1916 so that he could be with his elder brother William.

He also seems to have served in the 2/3rd Cheshire Regiment for a short period before being transferred back to the Welsh Regiment. Confusingly, the Cowbridge war memorial places him in the South Wales Borderers even though his headstone shows him to have been in the Royal Welsh Regiment.

The German spring offensive of 1918 was fought in Picardy over the old battlefield of the Somme, but petered out before reaching the major and vital railway town of Amiens. David was killed on the first day of the Battle of Lys on April 9, 1918, aged 25, and his grave is in an extension to the communal cemetery at Beuvry, a town about 3km east of Bethune.

William James

William was born in Cowbridge in 1892. He was the only son of John James of Llysworney and his wife Harriet

from Bath, Somerset; William had an older sister, Maud.

The family was living close to the Edmondson Arms in East Village, Cowbridge, at the time of the 1901 census and had moved to Glebe House, Llanblethian, by the time of the 1911 census; William and Maud were still living with their parents in 1911.

In both the 1901 and 1911 census returns father John describes his employment as haycutter, William being similarly employed in 1911.

William enlisted for three years in the Welsh Regiment (2nd Welch) at Cowbridge on November 6, 1914. He left for France on February 17, 1915. The 2nd Welch was involved in an attack on Aubers Ridge, which opened on May 9, 1915.

The German defenders were securely entrenched. Artillery bombardment failed to reach its targets and machine-gun fire was deadly and accurate. Within two hours many of the soldiers had been cut down or drowned in the marsh and stream in the area.

William was killed in action on May 9, 1915, aged 23. He has no known grave and his name is engraved on the Welch Regiment panel on the Le Touret Memorial. Over 13,000 names are listed on the memorial of men who died before September 25, 1915.

Albert and Arthur Gibbs

Born in Cowbridge in mid 1896 and mid 1899 respectively, they were the fourth and sixth of nine sons and two daughters of Joseph and Florence Gibbs.

Joseph, who was from Birmingham, was a printer for the Glamorgan Gazette and had moved to Cowbridge in 1895 to set up a printing business with his assistant David Brown at 43, High Street.

In 1901, the Gibbs family was living at 23, Eastgate, Joseph being recorded in the census as a printer, stationer and shopkeeper. In 1911, Albert, aged 14, was working in the family business as a printer's compositor, along with his older siblings Ethel, Walter and Frederick;

12-year-old Arthur was still at school.

Albert enlisted in Bridgend, joining the 16th (Cardiff City) Service Division which was raised in November 1914. Alongside 11th SWB the 'Cardiff Pals' fought their way into Mametz Wood.

They lost so many men that after the action the battalion was transferred away from the Somme battlefield to Flanders. Albert was killed in action near Ypres on September 14, 1916. His grave is in Essex Farm Cemetery, only two rows away from William Lane, who was killed in action less than a month earlier.

Arthur – probably after brother Albert's death – enlisted at Cardiff into 9th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The regiment was part of five extremely unfortunate divisions which faced a series of German spring offensives, in 1918 and suffered such heavy losses that the survivors were ordered back to England on June 30, and the battalion was disbanded shortly afterwards.

In July a brief report in the Glamorgan Gazette stated: "After being missing for a considerable time news has been received that Pte Arthur Gibbs is a prisoner of war in Germany."

The Gazette listed six Cowbridge men, all living in Eastgate, as prisoners: J Oakley and his brother A Oakley, brothers Fred and Arthur Gibbs, E Lloyd and Jack Conway.

Sadly, Arthur died in Germany on October 24, 1918. The cause of his death is not known and his grave is in Worms (Hochheim Hill cemetery). Frederick returned home and settled in Maesteg.

Albert and Arthur's brother Harry also served.

Ralph Goulden

Ralph Goulden is not listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as he died a civilian but was as such a casualty of the Great War as all the other men on the memorial.

He was born in Bridgend in late 1893 and was the third son (of a family of six sons and three daughters) of Henry and Jane



Cowbridge cricketers in uniform – J Foulkes, Frank Dunn*, Charlie Morgan, Albert Gibbs*, Harold Moynan*, I Pell, BS Bird, Lyn Llewellyn, Jack Dunn*. (* – denotes 'killed in action').

Goulden. Henry ran a baker's and confectionery shop at 17 High Street in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns. At the time of the 1911 census, Ralph was a postman.

Elder brother Richard had a very distinguished war-time career being awarded both the Distinguished Conduct Medal and a Military Medal.

Younger brother Edgar served in the Royal Navy and older sister Alice served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

The Glamorgan Gazette in October 1918 carried the report "Edgar Goulden RNR was handed a token of appreciation from the Mayor of Cowbridge to convey to his brother, Ralph Goulden, who lies in a precarious state in his home suffering severely from gas poisoning."

Ralph died in Bettws, Ammanford on June 26, 1919 aged 25.

Ralph's name is on the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour.

Benjamin Hayward and Sidney Abraham

Benjamin and Sidney Hayward were the third and youngest sons of the 11 children of George and Elizabeth Hayward.

George of Cricklade, Wiltshire married Elizabeth Jones of Cowbridge in 1873. In 1881 they were living with their four youngest sons, including Benjamin who was born in late 1877, at the Causeway, Llanblethian.

By 1891 they had moved to Eastgate, Cowbridge. Father George was working as a painter and decorator, Elizabeth a dressmaker; young Benjamin a general labourer. By this time the family were seven sons and two daughters all living at home.

By 1901 the older sons had moved away and George declared in the 1901 census that he was a coffee house owner as well as a decorator. Benjamin enlisted in the Royal Navy in September 1897, signing on for 12 years.

Benjamin was 'stood down' from the Royal Naval Reserve in 1909 after his 12 years' service and worked at the power station at

Upper Boat. He was recalled from the Reserve in August 1914 to serve on HMS Challenger.

By September 1914, Challenger was stationed off the west coast of Africa and played a major part in the successful Franco/British invasion of the German colony of Cameroon. In January 1916, Benjamin was discharged from the navy on grounds of ill health.

He returned to his wife, Ida Margaret Williams, whom he had married in 1914 and who lived at the Broughton shop near Wick. Benjamin died of malaria on January 25, 1916, aged 38, and was buried in the graveyard attached to Wick Unitarian Chapel.

Sidney was born in mid 1892. By 1911, Sidney was the only one of the children still living at home and Elizabeth, still at Eastgate, was running a sweet shop. Sidney is described as in service with a doctor.

Strangely, George does not appear on the 1911 census, although he was still alive and did not pass away until

March 1917. In January 1915, Sidney joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and crossed to France in December that year.

Sidney's division went into action in the Battle of the Somme in July. There were six days of murderous fighting before they captured Mametz Wood, which resulted in huge casualties. The division was then withdrawn from Picardy to Flanders.

Sidney was killed in action on June 24, 1917, aged 25, before the start of the third Battle of Ypres during a German barrage on trenches in front of the Yser Canal. His grave is in the Bard Cottage cemetery near Boezinghe, in the northern sector of the Ypres salient.

All 11 Hayward siblings served their country in the Great War. Eight of the brothers enlisted in the army, Benjamin served in the Royal Navy, and the two sisters Beatrice and Bertha served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)

Writer's acknowledgements

Extensive research for this article was carried out by José Rawlins and is included in her book *The Great War: Memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian* by José Rawlins and published by the Cowbridge Record Society and printed by Keith Brown and Sons Ltd in 2008. The publication is available via the Cowbridge History Society.

I must congratulate José on her book, it is a very informative publication. A number of passages from the book have been included in this work and others have been paraphrased. I am grateful for the opportunity to quote her excellent text.

I consider myself fortunate that records and sources not available to José when she carried out her research, plus much improved computing power, were available to me at this later date and, probably made my task much easier.

As a couple of names appear on both the Cowbridge and Llanblethian memorials I took the approach of combining the two. I have also produced the list in straightforward alphabetical order and tended to ignore rank, which seems somewhat inappropriate some 100 years on.

DAVID HOWELL

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 29)

Edward Miles

Ted Miles, born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in 1896, was a cousin of David Miles, his mother being a sister of David Miles senior.

His mother died young and Ted, after some years living in a children's home, lived with his uncle, David Miles and his family in Dinas Powys changing his name from Brown to Miles. He worked as a chauffeur for a Dr Costello in Dinas Powys before enlisting in Carmarthen.

He was sent to France in December 1914 and served in Flanders. No information is available of his service in France until 1917.

The 3rd Battle of Ypres officially ended on November 10, 1917, after the capture of Passchendaele ridge, but the Ypres Salient continued to be hazardous and Edward Miles died of wounds on December 31, 1917, at one of three casualty clearing stations at Dozinghem. His grave is at Dozinghem Military cemetery.

Aubrey Lloyd Morgan

Aubrey was born early in 1894 in Cowbridge. He was the oldest of two sons and two daughters of Thomas Morgan, a master mariner from Llandaff, Cardiff and his wife Emily Ann from Llandoverly. At the time of the 1901 census they lived at the Bridge, 5 High Street, and in 1911 at Glanrhaw House, 1 High Street, Cowbridge.

By 1915 the family was living at Cusop at the junction of Love Lane and Broadway, having previously also lived at Greenfield.

Aubrey was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment Cowbridge with Owen Evans. Both men are listed in Glamorgan Gazette's Roll of Honour of October 23, 1914.

The regiment trained in England until May 1915 and landed in Boulogne on June 1, 1915, going into action on September 30, north east of Loos. After initial success the Battle of Loos had resulted in small gains of territory but continued with heavy casualties.

Aubrey was one of those casualties and was killed in action on October 21, 1915, aged 21. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Richard Thomas Morgan

Richard, born in Penarth in September 1886, was the son of a railway signalman, also named Richard, from Llysworney, and his wife Mary from Llandcalle.

By 1888 the family had moved to Cowbridge and in 1901 the parents, with seven children including Richard, were living at 10 Eastgate. The younger Richard was working as a railway clerk.

By 1911 he had left home and was still working on the railways and lodging in Barry. Later that year he emigrated to Australia.

On January 6, 1916, Richard enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland. His trade was noted as mechanic. Six months later he sailed for England, via Cape Town - where Richard overstayed his shore leave by six hours, which cost him a day's pay!

The ship reached Plymouth at the end of July, and he then spent four months training in England. Hopefully, he was able to be reunited with his family and friends in Cowbridge before he went to France in November 1916.

Throughout 1916, preparatory action had taken place south of Ypres in undermining the Messines and Wustschaete ridges where 21 long mining galleries were driven from the British lines towards the ridges, ending in chambers which were filled with a million tons of highly explosive ammonal.

At 3.10am on June 7, 1917, 19 mines were detonated followed by intensive artillery bombardments. Richard was involved in a second wave attack and the ridges were captured.

He died on June 12, 1917, from

wounds he received in the action. His grave is in the Trois Arbres cemetery east of Bailleul.

Harold Otto William Moynan

Harold was the younger of the two sons of Dr Richard Moynan and his wife Emma and was born in Newport Mon in 1886.

Dr Moynan was the medical officer of health for the borough of Cowbridge and at some date between 1901 and 1911 moved from Llwynycelyn in Eastgate to Woodstock House in the High Street.

Harold and older brother Richard enlisted before October 1914. Harold joined the South Wales Borderers (Brecknockshire) territorial battalion, although it is unlikely he was serving with this battalion at the time of his death as the Brecknockshires spent almost the entire wartime years in India.

Harold was killed in action on July 31, 1917, aged 30, on the first day of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, an offensive which would grind on for a further three months.

He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

William David Owen

William is something of a mystery. Little has been discovered about him, especially any link with Cowbridge.

He was in the OTC (Officer Training Corps) and on October 17, 1917, the London Gazette announced his promotion from Cadet to Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Welsh Regiment. He appears to have held a temporary commission in the 38th (Welsh) Division, 114th Brigade.

The book *Carmarthen Pals: A History of 15th Battalion the Welsh Regiment* records the battalion in action in the vicinity of the Premont to Esnes Road, in northern France close to the Belgian border on October 9, 1918, and William died of his wounds on October 11, 1918.

Mysteriously, his grave is in the communal cemetery of St Germain-aumont-d'or, a village about eight miles north of Lyon, some 370 miles away. The inscription on his grave records him as being a member of the 15th battalion Welsh Regiment, but does not include his army number.

His army record has his widow's address in Southsea, Hants. An Ivy Keturah Hutchings lived at that address with her parents in 1911 and a marriage is recorded in Portsmouth in 1917 of a William David Owen and an Ivy K Hutchings. Unfortunately, there is no access to information which might help trace his origins.

His name appears on the Pontypridd memorial as well as that of Cowbridge; the criteria for inclusion suggests he must have had some connection with that area.

Alexander Pate(s)

Alexander was born in 1887 in Aberdeen, the son of an Irish father, George Holden Pate. He was either the second or third of 12 children, as he was one of twins.

By 1891 he was living with father George and three elder brothers in Alphonston near Tiverton in Devon. George married Emily Gitsham, who was some 30 years younger, in 1889 and the family moved to Cardiff around 1894/5.

Alexander was in the Welsh Regiment, and at the time of the 1911 census was stationed in the Abbassia Barracks, Cairo, Egypt. At the same time his twin brother, Archibald, was in the Royal Navy and was on board ship in China and the East Indies.

Alexander joined the Post Office as a postman in May 1913 in Cardiff. He appears to have been attached to the Barry office and an entry in the South Wales Echo on December 1, 1914, indicates he was a postman at Cowbridge.

Alexander, a bandsman as well as a soldier, was probably called up as a reservist and entered France on military service on August 27, 1914.

In late October the British Expeditionary Force was forced into

desperate defence against the Germans near Ypres. They suffered heavy losses when attacked on October 23, when Alexander was wounded, and he died of his wounds on October 26, 1914, aged 27 - just three days after his name was published in the Glamorgan Gazette Roll of Honour on October 23. His grave is located in Poperinghe old cemetery which is 10.5 km west of Ypres.

In addition to the Cowbridge memorial, Alexander's name appears on the Barry PO memorial, the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour, the Grangetown (Cardiff) memorial, the Grangetown Roll of Honour and the Scottish National War memorial.

James William Payne (recorded as Joshua Payne on the memorial)

James, the eldest son, of seven sons and one daughter, of William James and Francis May Payne, was born in 1893 in South Shields, County Durham, where father James was a housebuilder.

In the 1911 census James, only 18 years old at the time, is described as a 'pupil/teacher' at Cowbridge Grammar School. He, like Ronald Wall who died in 1915, had been an assistant master at Cowbridge Grammar School.

James enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry, which was a territorial battalion, and which was mobilized on August 4, 1914, at Bishop Auckland as part of the 50th (Northumberland) Division 151st Brigade. They landed at Boulogne in April 1915 and suffered very heavy casualties in the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

50th Division was involved in the 1st Battle of the Scarpe. James was killed in action on April 14, 1917, aged 24, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Arras memorial.

David Robert Spencer.

One of only two men commemorated on the Cowbridge memorial, who did not wear an army uniform. David was born in 1883 in Cowbridge, the youngest of three sons of Thomas and Margaret Spencer.

In 1891, Thomas was recorded as a brewer and innkeeper and the family was living at the Duke of Wellington.

Thomas died in 1894 and Margaret took over the running of 'the Duke' with eldest son Arthur and was still there in 1901. David had left home and was living in Neath and was employed in engineering.

David married Laurie Glaister Bradbury in 1912 in Cardiff. Laurie is recorded as living at Lake Road East, Roath Park, Cardiff.

David joined the Merchant Navy and was Second Engineer on the SS Portloe, registered at Cardiff. The year 1917 was the worst of the war for British merchant shipping losses due to enemy submarine attacks, and Portloe was torpedoed, west of Ireland, on April 20, 1917 and David died at sea, aged 39.

In addition to the Cowbridge Memorial, David's name is inscribed on the Tower Hill Memorial in London to the men of the merchant marine and fishing fleets.

John Arthur Stockwood

Arthur Stockwood was born in Cowbridge in 1878. He was the eldest of five sons of John and Rachel Stockwood who in 1891 lived at Woodstock House in Cowbridge High Street.

Father, John Stockwood, was a solicitor and Arthur, after attending the grammar school, also qualified as a solicitor. Arthur married Beatrice Ethel Davies in Carmarthen in late 1905 and in 1910 was living next door to his parents at 81 High Street.

In the 1911 census he is shown as living in Park Street, Bridgend, and was in practice as a solicitor with his uncle S H Stockwood.

Despite his age, mid-thirties, and family responsibilities - Arthur was married and the father of three children - he enlisted in Cardiff, joining the Rifle Brigade, soon after Kitchener's appeal for volunteers.

He was rapidly promoted to corporal then sergeant and had applied for a

commission in the Welch Regiment at the time of his death.

By September 1916, Arthur had served in France for 14 months; but his luck was due to run out. On September 3, Arthur's division launched a successful attack and captured the ruined village of Guillemont, which had been one of the strongest fortified villages in the German line and a major British objective since the opening of the Somme offensive.

Arthur was killed in action on that day, aged 48, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Battle of the Somme Memorial at Thiepval.

Thomas Frederick Hastings Torney

Tommy Torney was born early in 1898 and was the only son of Dr. Richard Hastings Torney and his wife Jessie, who in 1901 all lived at Sorrento in Cowbridge High Street. Father Hastings, who would be commissioned as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps early in 1917, was born in Ireland.

According to the Glamorgan Gazette of September 13, 1918, Tommy was commissioned on his 17th birthday and had been in France for two years when he died, which implies that he joined his battalion, aged 18, in September 1916, after it had been transferred from the Somme battlefield to Flanders for rest, refit and reinforcement with fresh drafts from south Wales.

Tommy was killed in action on September 3, 1918 aged 20. His name, like William Archer's is inscribed on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. The report of his death in the Glamorgan Gazette was on the same page as that of William Burley.

William Trew

Willie was born in early 1895, the eldest of four sons and two daughters of James Trew of St Athan, and his Llanblethian born wife Catherine. In the 1901 census, father James is recorded as an agricultural labourer and the family, including Willie, were living near The Mill in Llanblethian.

By 1911 they were living in Pretoria Cottage, Llanblethian, Willie being employed as a colliery labourer. The family had moved to Westgate, Cowbridge, before Willie's death and had another son serving in France to worry about, whilst a third had been discharged badly wounded.

Willie was living in Cowbridge when he enlisted in Cardiff and joined the Welch Regiment. He probably transferred to the 1st Leicesters during the February 1918 army reorganization and was serving with the machine-gun section when he was killed on July 21, 1918 aged 23. His grave is in the Nine Elms British cemetery near Poperinghe, west of Ypres.

A report in the Glamorgan Gazette August 2, 1918 contains the following "He was in the machine gun section and while engaged in a hot fight was fatally struck. His CO, in a sympathetic letter, speaks of him as a splendid soldier, and states that just before he received his death blow, had accounted for a number of the enemy and silenced one of their machine guns."

Ronald Sinclair Wall

Ronald was born in the second half of 1891 in Hampstead, Middlesex. His second name was registered as Shackell in the birth register, military records have it as Schockell but it is also recorded as St Clair and Sinclair.

The 1901 census shows him at the Llandow school where his grandmother, Emma Wall from Ipswich, Suffolk, was the school mistress. He was educated at Cowbridge Grammar school where he was also, for a short period, an assistant master. The 1911 census describes him as a schoolmaster student.

Ronald Wall enlisted in Cardiff so it is somewhat strange that he should have served with the Northumberland Fusiliers 'Tyneside Irish' battalion which mobilized in Newcastle-on-Tyne on November 9, 1914.

After basic training the battalion moved at the end of August 1915 to Salisbury Plain, where Ronald died,

aged 23, on October 15, 1915. The cause of his death is unknown but he probably died in the very large (1,200 beds) hutted military hospital at Sutton Veny, near Warminster, Wiltshire. His grave is in St John's churchyard in Sutton Veny.

Herbert Dudley Williams

Herbert was born in Cowbridge towards the end of 1896. He was the only son of John and Morfydd Williams, who also had two daughters.

In 1901, the family of seven was living in 89 Eastgate. Father John Williams also owned the adjoining property, known as London House, where he had a thriving business as a draper, with workshops for tailoring and millinery.

The family was still resident in 89 Eastgate and the business continued in the 1911 census. Herbert was born in Cowbridge and attended the grammar school.

In 1914, at just 18, he enlisted in Bristol joining the 12th Glosters (Bristol) Service battalion. He landed in France towards the end of 1915.

Herbert Williams died of wounds on September 3, 1916, barely 20 years of age. His grave is in Dive-Copse British cemetery about 20kms north of Amiens.

William H Williams

William probably died as a result of his war service on February 4, 1919, and his grave is in Llanblethian churchyard. It's so sad that we know so little of this young man who sacrificed his life.

The birth of a William Henry Williams was registered at Bridgend in 1899, as was the death of a William Williams, aged 19, during the same quarter of the year William is known to have died. (Registration information is only publically available for quarters).

In addition, a William Henry Williams,

the only son plus five daughters, of Henry and Emily Williams, Factory Road, Llanblethian, is recorded in the 1901 and 1911 census returns, aged two and twelve respectively. The dates of his birth, his death and his burial at Llanblethian Church strongly suggest this is our man.

The service record for William H Williams gives no date information but shows service commencing in the Welsh Regiment with a transfer to the Royal Army Medical Corps and his progression to Acting Sergeant.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour in Holy Cross church with no further details and no records were kept by the CWGC of soldiers who had left the army due to their injuries.

William Willment (correctly recorded as Willmott by the CWGC)

William was born in Llantrithyd in 1888. He was the son and eldest child of Fred and Margaret Willmott who still lived in Llantrithyd at the time of the 1891 census.

By 1901, the family had moved to St Hilary and William had gained a younger brother and sister. William married Ethel May Firman Ward in St Saviour's Church in Paddington in late 1909.

In the marriage banns, he gives his residence as St Iltyd's Parish, Llantwit Major. In the 1911 census he is living at The Court, Llantwit Major, and he and his wife have a two-month-old daughter, Eleanor May Firman Willmott. He was working as a haulier.

William joined the Royal Sussex Regiment and was sent to France on January 11, 1915. The British Expeditionary Force, of which his regiment was part, suffered heavy casualties in the action at Aubers ridge during the 2nd Battle of Ypres in May 1915.

William's regiment was involved in an attack at Loos on September 25, 1915, and William was killed in action that day, probably in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. His grave is in St Mary's advanced dressing station cemetery near Haisnes.